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Welcome to Chicago Chautari Times - 95th Edition

A Discussion on the Rational of Murti Puja

What is God or where is God or who knows God? This is the first and fundamental question everyone raise or likes to know at one time or other.

Is it true that eye cannot see it, ear cannot hear it, tongue cannot taste it, nose cannot smell it and skin cannot feel it? While, our senses seem incapable and so may disregard or ignore the matter about God apparently because the senses together seem incapable to provide an answer that can satisfy, the quest to know God remains in our mind and our mind contemplate this matter or converse with each other? Does God exists so that we can settle on this matter? But our unsettled mind continues to find an acceptable answer. Based on influence of the environment and personal experience, ideas of Gods' form and attributes develops in our mind, perhaps except to some theist.

The problem with the ideas or thoughts is that these are only our individual ideas and opinions and hence they differ from person to person. It is not possible to generally convince other with one person idea on a matter of such importance and significance. It is almost impossible to make everybody agree upon one person idea generally speaking, although there lies some partially agreeable features. One of the possible reason to disagree or doubt on others idea is that ideas are simply our thoughts and our opinions based on our experience gathered by our senses and how we experience and feel in the environment we live in. So some features or attributes of our idea about God may be incorrect too.

There are more important reasons also. Since ideas and opinions are only thoughts and not everyone are equally thoughtful or are capable to derive thoughtful rational conclusions. We also remain unable to be completely satisfied ourselves as we know even our own idea on God and our opinion and thoughts upon it changes over time, let alone convince other with our ideas. So we tend to stuck and then continue asking these simple question over and over again, never completely self-satisfied.

While everyone wants to know God or know as much as possible or everyone want to know how to attain God, this quest lingers long. It is important at least to convince ourselves that we have individual answers that can at least satisfy us. Until this matter is settled, our mind wanders and seeks to find answer by all means so that we may begin taking next step of following the right path to make our life meaningful and possibly help others' too.

To find an answer, we may also ask a second question - are there certain principles and path that one can follow or practice certain routines to get the answer to know God and move on in our life?

We will explore several practices which exist in different societies. Attempts will be made to offer possible rationales of the methods and practices with focus on the rational of Murti puja found in Hinduism and its parallelism in other religions and societies. We will also discuss the life experiences derived from the synthesis of our senses actually help realize what God is. (To Be Continued ..)

- Dr. Bishnu Phuyal

NEWSLETTER TEAM :

Ankur Sharma
Bishnu Phuyal
Yagna Pant

For birthday
announcements, articles,
success stories,
quotations, poems, write
to us at
peopleofnepal@gmail.com



A Trick to Happiness

A few weeks ago, during class, students were asked to write down things they do every day. It could be as simple as eating waffles before going to school or watching your favorite movie for the second time. There was a time limit of one and a half minutes, and I barely managed to fit twenty five things on my paper. Then, we were asked to circle the things we wrote down that made us genuinely happy. Unfortunately, I could only mark five of my answers, for the rest, I was not so fond of. At the end of this exercise, I realized that less than half of what I do on a daily basis I actually enjoy.

For this reason, I was aware when I was unhappy and thought only of the positives of what I was doing. This outlook has made the necessities, such as studying and managing time, much easier for me to handle. Soon, I started to notice that I was a much more optimistic person than before. I was actually enjoying math homework and writing essays. Receiving feedback on my work wasn't as awkward and waking up wasn't just struggles anymore.

A couple of days ago, I did the exercise, again, by myself. This time, I had circled a majority of my list. My views had changed so much in such a short amount of time. It went from "you get what you get and you don't throw a fit," to "you want what you get and you're happy with it." Lives can change in a matter of days if you take away the foggy lens and look at it with a clear perspective. This is a lesson that people of any age should know, and I intend to use it as a reference in my future.

- Shikha Adhikari

Article



Article, article, so long you are,
So many words, that are miles long,
Longer and longer, and longer you get,
Spreading knowledge, that some may regret,
Words, words, so hard to write, making sense is a hard fight,

Writing and reading, both difficult tasks,
But if only, it wasn't at last,
So hard to read, article, article,
Can't you be shorter, not so long,
So that we can read, more and more articles

And have more and more knowledge,
Article, article, you can be just as you want,
Article, article, you can be just as you want,
And have more and more knowledge

So that we can read, more and more articles
Can't you be shorter, not so long,
So hard to read, article, article,
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- Arya Rimal

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चौतारीको छाहारिले
न कम्युनिष्ट काँग्रेस

र पञ्च भन्छ !

न बाहुन क्षेत्र वैश्य

र सुद्र नै भन्छ !

राजा रंक देखि हिमाली

पहाडी र मधेसीसम्म

कसैलाई भेदभाव गर्दैन !

देउराली भन्ज्यांग

बेसी टार र

तराईका फाँटबाट

हिमालतिर हेर्दै सितल दिने

चौतारीहरु कति निशपक्ष छन् !

अनि कति पबित्र छन् !

यी चौतारहरु निर्माण गर्ने

धन नभएका तर....

मन ठुलो भएका र

दृढ इच्छा शक्ति भएका

खेतीपाती गरेर जीवन धानेका

ती महान बा आमाहरुलाई.....!

बैशाख जेठको धुपमा

चौतारीको छहारी मुनि

सितल ताप्रे बटुवा

खेताला भरिया

गाई भैंसी भेडा बाख्रा

र हाँगामा बसेर चिरबिर गर्ने

चरीहरुको आत्मा.....!

मुरी मुरी आशिर्वाद

दिई रहेका छन् ...!

जुग जुग सम्म दिई नै.. रहने छन् !

टाउकामा अबिर घसेर

जिन्दाबाद... मुर्दाबाद भन्दै

यिनै चौताराको बाटो

बर्षौं बर्ष हिंडीरहने गफाडीहरु ... हो

तिमीहरुले केहि बुझ्नेनौ हगि..

चौतारा सार्ने बाआमाको मर्म

र चौताराको पबित्र कर्मलाई... ?

लाज सर्मा हराएका...?

लुच्चा... गफाडी हो ...

तिमीहरुको मुख हेर्न पनि लाज लाग्छ !!!

चौतारा निर्माण गर्ने बा आमाहरु ..

अमर रहनु... अमर रहनु ..!

मातृभूमी नेपालको.....

जय होस्.... जय होस् !!!

- सत्यदेव न्यौपाने

Athena Accidentally Impales her Friend with a Spear



When Athena was born, Zeus took her to Africa because the nymphs there were all about warfare. There, Athena found the nymph Pallas and they soon became the best of friends. Pallas was the only nymph who could ever beat Athena in one-on-one combat. One day while Athena and Pallas were sparring, Zeus wanted to see how Athena was getting along with the nymphs. He saw Athena and Pallas and he soon reacted, they fought with much speed and intensity that he wanted to punish the nymph. He put the severed head of Medusa in the sky. The nymph froze in fear. Right at that moment Athena thrust her spear at Pallas, but she still froze. Because of that Pallas got impaled in the gut and died. After that Athena made a life-sized statue of Pallas and put it in the Palladium (meaning the place of Pallas). Women would go there to worship her, but the statue was not to be harmed. Men on the other hand were not even allowed to look at the statue. The penalty for doing so is death. Soon people began to call the statue Pallas Athena, then they called the god Pallas Athena, which is why in some texts you will find that it says Pallas Athena.

- Simran Adhikari

News Flash : Honoring Dr. Bishnu Phuyal and Mrs Sharmila Phuyal for community service



January 7th 2017, Radhey Shyam Temple, Bloomington - Nepali American Center is very happy to report that January Pooja sponsoring team and family members honored Dr. and Mrs. Phuyal for their

tireless community services and presented them with Dosalla and other items during our January monthly puja at Radhey Shyam Temple, Bloomington. Dr and Mrs Phuyal moved to Chicago in 1998 and since then, both of them have been very active and continually and unconditionally supporting the Nepali and other communities irrespective of their personal commitments. Please join me in congratulating them and thanking them for their continued support and dedication to our community.

News Flash : Distributing Prizes to the young kids for Deusi-Bhailo Participation



Jan 7th 2017, Radhey Shyam Temple, Bloomington - Like in the past years, Nepali American Center (NAC) executive board and volunteers organized Deusi-Bhailo program on Sunday Oct 30th 2016 in the Northwest suburbs of Chicago. Accompanied by their parents, several young children participated in the Nepalese traditional Deusi-Bhailo visited different homes in the Chicagoland suburbs. There were two groups of children, Group 1 in Niles, Des Plaines and Glenview and Group 2 in Elk Grove Village, Schaumburg and Rolling Meadows. Names of the participating children are:

Group 1: Jaylen Kunwar, Jaina Kunwar, Rahul Bikram Thakur, Bishesh Shrestha, Aaren Thapa, Aanya Thapa, Arya Rimal

Group 2: Reena Pokhrel, Tara Pokhrel, Alisha Pokhrel, Alok Das, Anjali Das, Rohit Joshi, Pares Pradhan, Pramsu Parajuli, Prisha Parajuli, Aadi Sharma, Anya Sharma, Aarya Rayamajhi, Vani Rayamajhi, Naman Pant

Per our tradition, Group 2 Children were presented with \$30 cash award during our January monthly Puja as a token of appreciation. We thank all our volunteers, and participants for their participation and for making this event a grand success.



सरस्वती माता

सरस्वती माता मलाई असल विध्या देऊ।
अन्धकारको सागरबाट मुक्त गराई देऊ।।

सानालाई माया गर्ने ठुलालाई आदर।
ज्ञान पाउँ माता अब सुधानु छ संसा
असलको पछि लाग्ने गुण मलाई देऊ।
चाकडी र चाप्लुसीको मोह हटाई देऊ।

साना साना नानीलाई राम्रो सिकाउन।
बुद्धि देऊ माता अब उज्वल बनाउन।
माफि माग्छु माता म त शिर नुगाएर।
सबै गल्ती सुधार गर्न चित्त लगाएर।

सरस्वती माता मलाई असल विध्या देऊ।
अन्धकारको सागरबाट मुक्त गराई देऊ।।

- सत्यदेव न्यौपाने

Best Wishes to our Birthday Stars

Submit your birthday Information with the pictures by via email to peopleofnepal@gmail.com by 20th of the month, to be included in our next edition.