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Sri Satyanarayan Maratheji rendering the Bhagwat Katha.

Bhagwat Saptah Held at Balaji Temple

Staff Report:

Sunnyvale, CA: The Bhagwat Gita is the great epic that continues to reach beyond the limitations of time and place. It is the great teachings and advice of Lord Krishna.

To commemorate the spiritual texts and instill religious truths among devotees in the Bay area, Narayana Swamiji of Balaji Temple arranged a Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah from the 16th – 22nd of September consisting of a weeklong discourse on this sacred text. Shri Sathyanarayana Maratheji, rendered the Katha with great oration skills and authority on this set of scriptures. A number of devotees attended the discourses and benefited from the divine nectar of the teachings. With the grace of Lord Vishnu, the discourses took place for the week from 7:00-8:30 pm followed by aarti and mahaprasadam at the temple. Shri Maratheji conducted the teachings in such a heartfelt manner that bhakti tears would fill his eyes. At the end of each daily discourse, Swamiji gave a summary using moral stories to further illustrate Lord Krishna's teaching.

The dialogue opened with "Vishad Yoga" and ended with "Prasad Yoga" wherein the mind is awakened and assumes its true identity. Maratheji started off with the scene on the battlefield where Arjuna does not want to go to war against his own relatives and is in a confused state of mind. Lord Krishna slowly and patiently guides his dejected mind into a state of clarity, peace and happiness. Swamiji spoke about envy and the damage it does to us and others. He said not to compare ourselves with others, do not compare what others have or their abilities. God alone knows best so accept what He has given to you. You do not need to know. That is part of surrendering to the Lord. If you feel jealous of someone, look at it in yourself and see what change you can make and God will help you. You will learn to see others as part of yourself, so jealousy is unnecessary. Be happy for the blessings God has given to all of us. It is the separate ego self that wants answers. The paramatma just rests in the silence of God.



On the last day Maratheji spoke about the birth and beautiful life of Lord Krishna. Sri Krishna tells Arjuna that there is nothing in the world that becomes totally lost and loses its essence. Everything continues to exist in one form or the other. The entire universe is constantly evolving. It is only spiritual insight that helps the individual to understand the continuity of life from the past to the present and into the future. To the person who remains grounded in the truth of the deepest awareness, the transmigration of the soul is merely like changing garments. Maratheji told the story of Krishna's school friend Sudama to illustrate



the point that God never forgets those who love him. Krishna also explained the principle of Karma Yoga where the action itself becomes its reward when it is performed intelligently, diligently and devotedly. Then he spoke of inner unity that initiates into self-surrender, self-realization and God

R to L is N. Swamiji, S. Martheji and Devotees of Balaji Temple.

realization. Maratheji also brought to the attention of the devotees that Sri Krishna is not mentioned in the Mahabharata at all until the Gita.

On the last night Swamiji spoke eloquently about God's grace. He said when you pray, simply glorify the Lord. Do not ask for boons, miracles or signs. After all, God gives these to the demons, also. Just praise His holy name and that will bring you to Him. Our humility is the greatest protection because the Lord never forgets those who love Him. And loving Him means trusting Him. So, surrender to Him and he will provide what you truly need. The Lord only wants us to love Him and to see Him in all His creations. God is simple, we make it complicated. Swamiji told two stories about Hanumanji to illustrate his points.

With gratitude on behalf of the devotees, Swamiji then honored Mr. Sathyanarayana Maratheji with a shawl and flowers and prayers for a long life and more opportunities to speak of the glory of God.

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