

**HIS HOLINESS, SRI GANAPATI SACHCHIDANANDA  
SWAMIJI WITH GUEST ARTIST, DR. L. SUBRAMANIAM &  
CELESTIAL MUSIC TROUPE OF DATTAPEETHAM, MYSORE,  
INDIA TOUR OF UK FROM 12<sup>TH</sup> - 15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2008**

<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2008 Morning 9:30 am to 12:30 pm</b>	<b>Sri Chakra Puja Sri Swamiji birthday celebrations</b>	<b>Teddington School, Broom Road, Teddington</b>
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The birthday celebrations started with beating of drums, singing and playing of cymbals and chanting of veda hymns by Jitu Dave in chorus with other devotees. P.P. Sri Swamiji was received at 10:11am by board of trustees carrying *poorna kumbha* and *matru mandali* with garlands. The atmosphere was electric and very charged. Simhaasana, a special chair specially flown from India was placed in the middle of the stage, the latter had a backdrop of Tower of London with number 66 carved on either side. Board of trustees requested Sri Ganapati Sacchidananda Swamiji to ascend the Sacchidananda Simhaasana. The 66<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations according to lunar calendar began with prayers

The board of trustees and *matru mandali* performed *pratyaksha paada puja* i.e offered prayers to the lotus feet of *Sri Sadgurudeva*, supreme master with sixteen different rituals. Sri Swamiji looked radiant and was happy to receive the love of all the devotees. NYC UK presented Sri Swamiji with a number of silver items which are needed during *Sri Chakra puja*, holy prayers to mother.

Sri Swamiji was presented with 108 Rudraksha maala (Rosary beads) mounted in gold along with two special gold rings for the ring fingers. A beautiful silk *saree* (Indian silk) and other birthday gift was given. Finally a model house representing Guru Nilayam was handed over to Appaji. The moment had arrived and Sri Swamiji became very emotional. He blessed all and said that he was overwhelmed by the love and devotion of all the devotees who have gathered to celebrate his birthday. He said that sages do not have birthday but to share joy, love and to establish peace, higher beings descent on earth.

Sri Swamiji asked Jitu to recite *Maha mrutyunjay mantra*. Leaflets were distributed and the audience recited the mantra 66 times. Sri Swamiji sat in meditation reciting mantra and performing mudras (hand gestures) to bless one and all. It was a most unique experience with chanting by devotees and 66 *mudras* by P.P. *Sadgurudeva*

Sri Swamiji gave a discourse on different worship of lord

- Abhisheka priya Shiva , Lord Shiva loves water abulation
- Alankaara priya Vishnu, lord Vishnu loves ornaments & decorations
- Mantra priya Brahma, lord Brahma loves chanting of sacred precepts
- Archanaa priya bhagavati, mother loves prayers and rituals.

'Dear devotees, lord Datta needs none of the above' said Sri swamiji.

Devotees sing ' Sadguru Maharaja ki Jaya '. What does it mean? Asks Sri Swamiji. It is not a victory for master but in essence victory for devotees. When the master imparts knowledge to a devotee, they are successful in their search for the truth. It is a progress from ignorance to knowledge. That is what it means and the credit of it all goes to the master. As such it is a victory for a devotee.

In Datta Stavan (prayer), we recite ' Jaya, Laabha, Yasha, Kaama ' meaning give us victory, favour (advantage) , fame & glory, and fulfil desires is the sum total of worship to Datta. A master takes physical form to help devotees reach supreme abode, (*Jivaatma and Parmaatma*). Guru teaches disciple to burn out karma (actins) and break free from bondage of birth and death. Sri Swamiji quoted famous stanza' *Brahmaanandan parama sukhadaam..'* A master is always in bliss giving happiness to all. He is the abode of happiness. The physical

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body may suffer ailments and pains but not the *Atmanam*, inner consciousness is always in bliss.

Guru is your reflection. When master laughs, devotees laugh. When master expresses pain, devotees suffer pain. When master acts, devotees act. Do not get attach to your body but learn to detach from pains and pleasures. A mother loves her baby in all states, sick or healthy, happy or sad. She knows when baby is hungry. She knows when baby is unhappy. Likewise a master knows the state and stages of a devotee. A master knows what knowledge to impart and what actions are to be performed. There is no limit to a master and disciple relationship. It may last for many births. Eventually victory is yours when you merge with *Brahman*, the highest truth

She Swamiji gave examples of three types of devotees.

- Cat. – Mother cat carries her kitten by mouth. She nurtures and feeds kitten. Some devotees are like kitten where a master has to carry them all the time. They may be senior devotees but the growth is slow and even after 30 years they are like kitten.
- Monkey – A baby monkey grips mother tightly. Where ever mother hops, baby is carried along. Some devotees are like baby monkey who holds on to a master for every need. They never seem to grow and cling to a master. Their growth is slow and need constant attention.
- Fish - baby fish follows mother fish all the time. Mother fish glances at baby fish and rest is up to the baby fish to follow instructions. Some devotees are like baby fish who follow movements of their master. Again eventually they progress in their spiritual growth.

Sri Swamiji proclaimed that today he takes away karma (actions of life) of all devotees present in the hall. By reciting the *Mrutyunjaya* mantra, may all of you be blessed. May you all have a happy, healthy & long life. May lord Datta protect you and grant you success. May your wishes fructify. Sri Swamiji invited representative from each group to come and offer their prayers. It was a unique occasion. Young and old, male & female, little and large, sick & healthy queued up to touch the lotus feet of Sri Swamiji. Sri Swamiji not only received gift from all but blessed each and everyone. Long live Sri Swamiji.

Sri Swamiji was presented a beautiful cake by Matru mandali. Sri Swamiji was surrounded by children from Baal datta group. Devotees sang happy birthday chorus and Sri Swamiji cut the cake and started feeding children. Again Sri Swamiji has his own way to celebrate and enjoy the festival. Kids were singing, dancing, screaming. What an atmosphere. All of a sudden Sri Swamiji announces, 'This is the best birthday he ever celebrated!'

Sri Swamiji blessed the different food items that were cooked for the day, Ladoos, Barfi, Savories, three different vegetables, Lassi, Sambhaar, Salads, Chappatis, Pakoras to name a few of the items

Free food was distributed to all

JAYA GURU DATTA. Report compiled & condensed by Jitu Dave