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Srimathe satakopaya nama: Srimathe Ramanujaya nama: Srimathe Vara vara munaye nama:

Azvar Acharya Thirunakshatra Mahotsavam Celebration Report

(Muthal Azvars, Svami Pillailokacharya and Svami ManavalaMamunikal) Thula Sarvadhari (1, 2 Nov- 2008)



Held at **Sri Venkatesvara Lotus Temple**

12501 Braddock Road, Fairfax, VA, 22030. Phone: 703-815-4850 The month of Aippasi boasts many holy events like Deepavali and the Avatars of many Azhwars and Acharyas whose contributions are the concrete foundations for Sri Vaishnavism. It is a privilege to celebrate their birth and contributions. At Sri Venkatesvara Lotus Temple in Virginia bagavatas celebrated the Thirunakshatrams of *Sri Pogai Azhwar, Sri Bhuthath Azhwar* and *Sri Pey Azhwar*, the first three of ten Azhwars and *Svami Pillai Loka:charyar*, *Svami Manava:la Ma:munikal* on November 1st and 2nd. 2008.

This time around "bala vagamrutha varshi" *Sri U.Ve.Velukkudi Krishnan svami* graced the occasion with two great lectures. On day 1 evening on svami Pillailokacharyar (sri ulagariyan) and the second day morning on Sri Ramyajamatru muni (sri vara vara muni, sri Manavala mamuni). Svami also took part in the second day morning Gosti. The bagavatha samruddhi during the occasion left all spell bound and made them think of the taniyan "ramanujarya divyagya vardadham abi vardadham". There were so many srivaishnavas in one place that, the feeling amongst bagavatas that they were in one of the dhivya desam participating in the utsavam. It was beautiful to watch more than 60 bagavatas in proper attire attend the function. Bagavatas came in from many parts of the mainland US and Canada to attend this function. The local bagavatas hosted them in their houses and as their own family.

November 1, 2008 Saturday

The day started with kalasandhi thirupallandu, thirupalliezuchi and Thiruppa:vai goshti and Sattrumurai followed by Theertha goshti. The morning prasadam was distributed as bala bogam to bagavatas.



Thirumanjanam:

Then the Navakalasa Thirumanjanam to sri Rama, Seetha, lakshmana and Hanuman along with azvar acharyas started. Archaka Sri Seethramacharyulu svami did the anugya and started the proceedings. the gosti chanted Thaitteriya Upanishad when during thirumanjanam. Ksheera, dadhi, madhu, rasa, thirumanjanam was done to perumal gosti. Then perumal was decorated with manjal kappu with flowers and was followed by Sahasra Dharai Thirumanjanam of Peruma:l. goshti chanted Purusha Suktham during the sahasra dharai thirumanjanam. During the ekantha thirumanjanam goshti chanted Vennai Alaintha Kunungum and the Thirumanjana kaala paasurams.

Iyal Goshti:

After a short break The gosti chanted Muthal thiruanthathi sung by poigai Azvar and Irandam thiruvanthathi sung by Booddaththazvar during the alankarasanam of Peruma:I saththupadi (Alanka:ram) was going on . This is a part of Mudhal (First three) Azhwar Thirunakshatram celebration. They reserved the moonram thiruvanthathi by pey Azvar for the purappadu (procession) of the azvar acharyas. After few minutes, the curtain was opened and Peruma:I, along with Azhwars and Acharyas gave a wonderful darsan to all the gathered Bha:gavathas.

Purappadu:

The initial thiruvaradhanam was done to perumal and azvar acharyas. Then the azvars and acharyas were ready to go on the street around the temple for the purappadu. Ubaya samara, alavattam(visiri/fan), chatram, gandham, kaivilakku was taken. The azvar acharyas came out of the temple on the shoulders of bagavatas. Just after the azvar acharyas came out of the temple doors, iyal gosti started with the chanting of podhu thaniyan and moonram thiruvanthathi. The veda gosti chanted taittriya Upanishad behind the azvar acharyas. The entire procession took three circumbulations around the temple. The prabhanda gosti completed with the 98th pasuram of moonram thiruvanthathi and reserved the last two paasurams for sattrumurai inside the temple. The veda gosti completed their sattru by chanting the final panchathi of thaittriya Upanishad (thasyaivam vidhuso....)





Sattrumurai:

After arriving inside the kaikarya paras (sripadham thangis, chatram, samaram, kaivilakku, visri) received sri sadakopa honours. The screen was put and azvars took back their yatastanam. Then rajabogam was offered to Peruma:l, along with Azhwars and Acharyas. Once done they received a grand Sa:ttrumurai. **Arulappa:du was done to Mudal Azhwars** and Iyal Sattru (a group of tamil slokas made together by Svami Manavalamamunikal to be chanted after any iyal prabhandam) took place. Sambavanai to Muthal azvars was done. Later, theertha viniyogam and delicious prasa:da viniyogam took place.

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