

**/Poornaganyagunodharamoorthaye Punyakeerthaye
Namha Sripathaye Baktadattasvaanandamoorthaye//**

**/Lokabhiramam Sriman MoolaRamam
Booyobooyo Namamyaham//**

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PRESENTS

//SRI GURU RAGHAVENDRA DARSHANA//

[A Spiritual Sequel on Sri Raghavendraswami Aaradhana 2003]

By : Sudheendrachar.

{Not a Blade of Grass moves in this Universe Without the Will of Sri Hari}

One of the chapters of the Srimadh Baghavata elucidates the ‘Gajendra Moksha’ Episode, successfully bringing out the Supremacy and Infinite Qualities of Sriman Laxmi Narayana!! The hapless elephant Gajendra was saved from its life threatening predicament from the cruel jaws of the crocodile and was ‘saved’ by none other than Sriman Narayana ! The elephant had fought unsuccessfully to try and extract itself from the razor sharp jaws of the crocodile! The despaired elephant called out in vain for help from its kith and kin!. In the end, Gajendra, called out to Sri Hari, the Sole Savior of His devotees.!! The Supreme Lord heeding to His devotee’s call, arrived on His Celestial ‘Vahana’ Lord Garuda Deva and slew the crocodile with the famed ‘Sudarshana Chakra’! In fact some scholars quote with extempore that the Lord ‘arrived so fast’ that even His celestial ‘Vahana’ Lord Garuda could not keep pace with the Lord!! This particular episode emphasizes the need for True Bakti & all encompassing devotion towards Sri Hari, our ultimate redeemer! Many eminent scholars opine that Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha was always immersed in deep study of this particular chapter of the Srimadh Baghavata!

At the end of the Kurukshetra war, Lord Krishna goes to meet Kunti Devi, the mother of the victorious Pandavas, to bid adieu to her. Lord Krishna meets Kunti who was also His aunt, in her enclosure and informs her of His intention to leave for Dwaraka! On hearing the Lord’s words, Kunti Devi weeps uncontrollably!! Lord Krishna consoles her by saying that she should not grieve too much, now, that her sons have been crowned as Emperors, unchallenged by anyone in the Three Worlds and she was the Raja Mata of Hastinapura! But Kunti Devi informs the Lord that she is grieving since He (the Lord) will take leave of her by going back to Dwaraka and her clan will be no longer under the protective umbrella of Lord Krishna!! She also pleads with Lord Krishna to always bestow only ‘insurmountable troubles’ upon her, which would enable her (Kunti) to always think of the Lord (Krishna) and nothing else!! Being an enlightened soul, Kunti wishes for more adversity in her Life rather than enjoy a life free from peril, lest she

looses the Grace of Lord Krishna! For, Kunti knew that a easy life free from any peril will only result in endless rebirths but a life full of perils, traversed till the end with the Lord's Holy Name (Sri Krishna) on one's lips', will surely end in total liberation from the endless cycle of births & rebirths! This is in short the very essence of all the Vedas! Most devotees of Raghavendra Theertha who have happened to listen to that immortal song 'Indhu Yenagey Govindaa Ninnaya Paadaravindava Thoro Mukundaney.....' penned by the Great Saint under the Pen Name of Dheera Venugopala would find a similar vein of Ultra-Pure Devotion like the one shown by Kunti Devi!!

The 'Glorious Path' in the Realization of the Supremacy of Sri Hari over everyone and everything else is the 'One and Only Path' shown by the Lord Himself in the Form of Baghawan Veda Vyasa and ably 'complimented in the fullest sense' by none other than Acharya Madhwa Himself! This is the True Path, the Path of The Lord Himself and the Path of "The Triumphant Dwaitha" propounded by Madhwacharya and His long line of illustrious followers!! No one else succeeded in imbibing fully, the essence of the Bramha Sutras, than Sri Ananda Theertha Muni! And no one else was more successful in igniting nascent minds and unleashing the intellect than the Great Acharya!! Such unleashed minds were also successfully 'reigned in' by His path breaking 'Bashyas'! With forceful and decisive arguments, the Dwaita successfully pulls out the rug from underneath all competing (unsuccessfully) Philosophies!! Other Philosophers argued that the Supreme Lord created an 'illusory world' where every thing is 'magic' and unreal! Whereas the Dwaita propounds with deafening clarity & purpose that the entire world we see including the unseen Cosmos and yonder is True and Real and this is so only because of the Infinite Sovereignty and Supremacy of Sri Hari!! The Entire Universe (BOTH MICRO COSMIC AND MACRO COSMIC) exists in 'Real Time & Space' with 'graded differences' between living beings & non living beings & individual objects (both animate & inanimate) and the 'permanent non-bridgeable' 'difference' between the above and the Supreme Lord!!! Hari Sarvothama Vayu Jeevothama!

The very 'meaning' of the Eternal Vedas was languishing in the ignorant hands of usurpers who were unaware of the 'weight' that they bandied about, just like priceless jewels in the hands of born-blind!! Baghwan Veda Vyasa, in order to redeem the World, wrote 'Sutras' on those Precious Vedas !! Such a Lord's hierarchy is higher than any other Devtas, He is the foremost Guru amongst all Gurus'!!; He does not need a Guru!! Everyday I bow to that Form of The Supreme Lord.- Bhagwan Veda Vyasa, pleading that by His Grace I can come to understand 'Madhwa-Tatvas'! Madhwacharya 'came' to this World only in order to show us the correct path through the medium of His 'Bhasyas' on 'Bramhasutra' and drove away the 'masqueraders' who had 'falsified the Eternal Vedas' based on their ignorance & utterly laughable logic!! The Holiness that emanates from Acharaya Madhwa and His Philosophy is more Holier than the 'Waters of the Ganga', owing to the fact that The Dwaitha is completely in tune with the Words of Eternal Wisdom that originated from the Mouth of Lord Veda Vyasa and Acharya Madhwa was the 'Chosen One' by Lord Laxmi Naryana to uphold the Supremacy of the Bramhasutras!! That is why we find the 'Tatva' of Madhwacharya to be updated for all

Time to come! This Universal Truth of His 'Tatva' is the same everywhere, be it 'Booloka' or 'Vaikunta'!!!

The works and deeds of countless eminent Parama Hamsa Sanyasis who have ascended the 'Veda Samrajya Peeta' is truly mind boggling!! The Galaxy of Holy Pontiffs have indeed upheld in toto the Divine Dwaitha Philosophy! Amongst them one 'Holy Name' that readily comes to mind most easily is none other than Sri Raghavendra Theertha, a household Name in many parts of the World and affectionately known as Raghavendra Swamigalu, Gururayaru or simply Gurugalu! One Most Unique and Most Outstanding "Pre-ordained Quality" of Sri Gururayaru is the complete harmonious bonding of both Knowledge and Bakti!! And most relevantly His Existence in the 'Moola Brindavana' to disperse the 'Mountain of Merit' thus gained by His outstanding prowess for the benefit of entire Mankind!! And Mantralaya, the Holy Pilgrim Centre where Sri Gururayaru is present in the Moola Brindavana is more Holier than many Holy places like Kashi and Kurukshetra due to the 'Guaranteed Presence' of the Supreme Lord in Four Forms of 'Narasimha, Rama, Krishna and Veda Vyasa' ! The 'lofty adage' 'Dharmo Rakshati Rakshitaha' (Dharma will Uphold all those who in turn Uphold Dharma) has over the Centuries (and more to come) proved to be 'Spectacularly True' in the case of Kaliyugada Kalpavruksha, Kamadhenu, Chintamai, Jagadguru, Devamshasambootharadha Yati Sri Sri Raghavendra Theertha!!

Lord Sri Krishna has extrapolated in The Gita, about the Need for all those who have embraced asceticism to strictly follow their 'Duty' without any letup!! The foremost Duty of any ascetic is to follow the tenets of 'Dharma' and see that the populace who come under their 'sphere of influence' also practice 'Dharma'! All 'hindrances' that might arise during the 'Performance' of such action aimed at upholding the 'Dharma', however, are the 'Sole Responsibility' of the Lord (Sri Krishna) alone, similar to the 'fruits of action' which belong ONLY to the Lord !! The performance of one's Duty alone is ours while the end effects (merits & demerits) are His alone! The 'Fruits of Action' gained by adhering to the 'Dwaitha' propelled many great Madhwa Pontiffs towards 'Eternal Fame', coupled with their own individual brilliance and all encompassing 'Parama Hari Bakti'!!! Each and every Pontiff without any exceptions, declared themselves as Hari Baktas and nothing else with utter humility, even though a majority of them were 'Born Geniuses' with Divine Insights, in their own right! Devtas jostled with each other to bathe in 'Ganga Of Knowledge' that The Dwaitha symbolized and willingly 'took birth' in this World in order to 'serve' Sriman Narayana, by ascending the Parama Hamsa Peeta! Such 'twice born' Devtas became utterly intoxicated and totally mesmerized while imbibing the Universal Grandeur of Sriman Narayana!! Many feats (if it might be called so) were accomplished with 'silken ease', which seemed extraordinary to ordinary laymen! But those eminent Pontiffs most humbly, called it as the 'Will & Command of Sri Hari' and not 'their' achievements!

It is said that Sriram Madhwacharya's Holy Feet were always tinged with a fine layer of gold dust!! This was due to the golden powders that 'came off' due to the 'clash of ornaments and crowns' of numerous Devtas (invisible to ordinary mortals) who constantly bowed before the Acharya with deep awe and veneration!! Many high ranking

Devatas themselves arrived to listen to the ‘Divine Pravachanas’ of Acharya Madhwa in rapt attention, in the ‘hope’ that they might learn some more “Unknown” Divine Qualities about Sriman Narayana from Acharya Madhwa! Indeed, the entire Galaxy of Illustrious Madhwa Pontiffs who followed in the Hoary Footsteps of Sriman Madhwacharya, have indeed succeeded in lighting the ‘Lamp of Divine Knowledge’ in the Souls of millions of followers over the Centuries! Titans of Madhwa Pontiffs have profusely added their own ‘Gem Studded Literary Compilations’ to the already bursting Treasure Chest of the Eternal Dwaitha! One interesting fact that emerges from the study of the Sri Rayara Mutts is that all the Pontiffs who succeeded SriGurugalu right from Sri Yogeendra Theertha to the present Holy Incumbents, themselves were very great devotees of SriGurugalu, and also authored many Holy Works’ and dedicated it to Their Eminent Pontiff, Sri Sri Raghavendra Theertha!!

One stupendous incident highlights the Magnitude and Greatness of the Incarnations of Sri Prahladarajaru as Vyasa Theertha and Raghavendra Theertha!. Once, Vyasa Theertha was deeply engrossed in the study of Holy Canonical Texts of Sri Madhwacharya, in His enclosure, when a huge multi-headed serpent came from nowhere and quickly coiled around Vyasa Theertha ! But Vyasa Theertha took no notice of the serpent since He was completely immersed in the study of the Holy Texts! Some bewildered inmates of the Gurukula who happened to see this strange sight, ran to Sripada Raja the ‘Vidya Guru’ of Vyasa Theertha and brought Him to the spot ! Sripadaraja, Himself an ‘Amsha’ of Sri Hari’s Greatest Devotee, Dhruva, quickly realized the ‘enormous significance’ of this event and with hands folded bowed in front of the coiled serpent with utmost respect and veneration and began talking to the ‘serpent’ in its own language!!. Later, Sripada Raja explained to everyone that the ‘serpent’ was none other than Padmanabha Theertha (an ‘Amsha’ of Sesha Deva), the first disciple of Sriman Madhwacharya ! Padmanabha Theertha carrying within Him the Grace & Blessings of Acharya Madhwa Himself, had taken the form of a ‘serpent’ and coiled around Vyasa Theertha to Bless him.!! After this incident, Vyasa Theertha would be immune to all forms of poisons’ and none would be able to defeat him in any form of debate on ‘any subject’ under the Sun!! This was a pointer of the forthcoming great deeds and achievements of Vyasa Theertha and Raghavendra Theertha!! The ‘Complete Scholastic Achievements’ of Vyasa Theertha & Raghavendra Theertha simply cannot be elaborated in a single life time!! Indeed, it is most apt to recollect here that Srigurugalu was honored with the title of ‘MahaBashyakara’ when He was a young understudy during His ‘Purvasharama’ days by His Guru Sudheendra Theertha, after proving to be victorious against entire clans of eminent scholars!!

The ‘Earthly Sojourn’ of Sri Gurugalu during the period 1598 to 1671 A.D. is too well known by all to be contemplated here! But the most relevant purpose of the ‘Avatara’ of Sri Gurugalu started after His entry into the Moola Brindavana on the banks of the river Tunghabadra at Manchale Grama on Shravana Bahula Bidhige day in the year 1671 A.D.! From then on till date after nearly 332 years, Srigurugalu in His ‘Yoga Nidhre’ has continued to ‘Serve’ countless generation of devotees in a manner that is without parallel anywhere else!. As is quite well known during His ‘Purvashrama’ days at Kumbakonam, Vidyalakshmi graced a reluctant SriGurugalu to take up ‘Sanyasa’, and had convinced

Him by clearing all His latent doubts and also most interestingly, had foretold that She (Vidyalakshmi) would be with Him for Seven Generations to come!! This Prophecy has proved to be true in toto and is still in force even as this article is being written, mailed, read and forwarded!! What can one ever hope to write and tell about such a Gurugalu ‘within’ whom even Vidyalakshmi Herself has sought refuge!!? All one can do is to raise our hand in silent prayer and chant – Mookopi Yath Prasaadena Mukundashayanayathe Rajarajayaterikto Raghavendramtamashraye!!!

Moola Brindavana of SriGurugalu happens to be the very ‘site’ where Prahlada Raja had conducted His famous Yagnas.! Later during the Dwapara Yuga this place witnessed epic battle between King Anusulva and the heroic Pandava Prince Arjuna.! Arjuna could not defeat King Anusulva however much he tried, since the latter stood on the ‘very site’ where Prahlada Raja had conducted His famous Yagnas.! Later on Lord Sri Krishna (who else?) came to the help of Arjuna and ‘tele-ported’ King Anusulva from that particular ‘site’ using His ‘Maya’ and enabled Arjuna to defeat King Anusulva!.. Thus this ‘site’ turned more Holier with the Imprints of Lord Sri Krishna! Later, Vibhudendra Theertha, another Titan in the Galaxy of Holy Pontiffs’ of the ‘Rayar Mutt’ conducted severe penance at this very ‘site’.! The Moola Brindavana ‘Site’ thus enhanced with ‘Great Sanctity and Spiritual Value’ beforehand , now shines forth as a “Vaikunta Kshethra” with the ‘Guaranteed Presence’ of Sri Gurugalu and His Antharyami Mukya Prana Devaru and Sriman Moola Rama Devaru and the ‘Immense Sanctifying Holiness’ of the 1200 Maha Vishnu Saligramas and the Sarvanmoola Grantha of Sriman Madhwacharya, present therein, !!! Thus Parimalacharya (SriGurugalu) Continues to Uphold ‘Sathya’ and ‘Dharma’, the two ‘Most Important Corner Stones’ of ‘Sanyasashrama’ embroidered in the Dazzling Mosaic of The Dwaitha of Sriman Madhwacharya, as per the Supreme Will of none other than Gitacharya (Lord Sri Krishna)!!!

/Naham Kartha Harihi Kartha// This ‘small but Infinitely Deep’ saying epitomizes the Eternal Omnipresence of SriGurugalu, the ‘Divine custodian of ‘Dharma’ in KaliYuga in the Moola Brindavana erected with ‘Sri Rama Sparsha Shile’ at Mantralaya in front of the Idol of Pranadevaru and in the Divine Midst of Jagathjanani Sri Manchalamma, the Kuladevtha of Prahlada Rajaru! Just like Hanumantha ‘helped’ the search party of King Sugreeva to locate Mother Seetha and protected them against all failures in their stupendous tasks, likewise SriGurugalu protects ‘Dharma’ against all failures!! Just like Lord Narasimha Who graced His greatest devotee Prahlada, likewise SriGurugalu is gracing all His devotees!! And like Pranadevaru , The Greatest Remover of all obstacles in this Kaliyuga, SriGurugalu removes ‘all’ obstacles in front of a devotee’s path, and makes the devotee ‘qualified enough’ to get the Grace and Blessings of Sriman Madhwacharya and His Antharyami Sriman Lakshmi Narayana!!!! Hayagreeva Devaru slew the evil demon Hayagrivasura and destroyed his evil body and retrieved the Eternal Vedas and gave them to Brahma Deva the Rightful Custodian!.. In Kali Yuga the Veda Samraja which encompasses the Entire Spectrum of Dharma has indeed found safe refuge in SriGurugalu at the Moola Brindavana at Mantralaya.! Metaphorically speaking, The very ‘Chariot of Dharma’ with Sriman Narayana and Lakshmi Devi as the Divine Occupants, is being driven forth by the Unceasing Cosmic Energy arising from the

deeply resonating Powerful Hymns of the 'Pranava Mantra' being uttered by SriGurugalu! Each and every passing year of SriGurugalu's Omnipresence in the Moola Brindavana marks the demise of Kali and Heralds the Victory of 'Dharma' and the Sole Dharmadhikari Sriman Narayana!! The 'Lofty Virtues' emanating from the 'Yagnas' conducted by Prahlada owes its magnificent success primarily to the fact that it was dedicated to Sriman Narayana alone and to no one else!!! The 'Mountain of Merit' that flows unendingly from that Epochal Yagna is so Great, that it is still being distributed to all those who visit the Moola Brindavana of SriGurugalu!! The Yagnakartha, Prahlada, was the person who initiated this Epochal Yagna!! Prahlada acted as a 'Cause' effecting the 'Terrifying Incarnation" of Ugra Narasimha from within a stone pillar from the Courtyard of His own House and 'instantly' succeeded in 'getting Mukti' for his entire clan of forefathers who preceded him to Vaikunta, just by the 'Stupendous Force' and 'Infinite Sanctity' of the Incarnation of Narasimha Devaru in the palace premises!!! Likewise now, in a later Incarnation as SriGurugalu all the latent sins of those who come to His Fold are being abolished and replaced with Hari Bakti and the devotees are being sent on their way towards the Path of 'Dharma'!

Dharma VS Adharma – this is what the entire Mahabharatha is all about!! The fierce Kurukshetra battle was fought only to Defend and Uphold 'Dharma' under any circumstances and at all costs!! The Kurukshetra battle was 'WON' at the very moment when Arjuna requested ONLY for the 'Presence' of Lord Sri Krishna on his side (Pandavas) compared to the request of his rival Duryodhana who asked for the eight battalions of the Lord's Invincible Akshohini Army!! Lord Sri Krishna Himself led from the front as the 'Divine Charioteer' of Arjuna and commanded him to finish off all those who tormented Dharma, even though they happened to be his (Arjuna's) blood relations!. The Pandavas were subjected to all sorts of torments by their cousins, the Kauravas!!. Some scholars opine that even Yama's torment would pale in comparison to the amount of torment that the Pandavas were subjected to by the Kauravas!! Knowing well that Yudhistira would not stray even an inch from the Path of Dharma, the Kauravas tied him up by his own 'Dharma'! Bhimasena, known for his mighty prowess and strength was specially targeted more !! He was tied with strong ropes while asleep and thrown into rivers full of crocodiles – but he (Bhimasena) went to Patalaloka, drank nectar and emerged still more stronger!! Poisonous snakes were let loose on him, the snakes broke their teeth trying to bite him!!. Bhimasena was offered poisoned sweets, but he easily digested all those poisons!! The 'House of Wax' where Bhimasena slept along with his mother and other siblings was set afire by the Kauravas, but they managed to escape from the raging inferno unscathed!! In the midst of all these, Bhimasena even managed to marry twice, with the Blessings of Lord Sri Krishna!! The evil Kauravas blinded by their lust for land and pelf could not 'see' the Permanent Presence of Lord Sri Krishna behind the Pandavas, who 'Saved' them from all sorts of perils day in and day out!!! The Pandavas with the ablest of help from Lord Sri Krishna were able to overcome every obstacle in their path!! This they acknowledged openly as only due to the 'SriRakshe' of Lord Sri Krishna !! Without that "Divine Umbrella of Protection" the Pandavas were aware that they would be decimated in no time by their tormentors! Lord Sri Krishna sided them since 'Dharma' was with the Pandavas and vice versa!! Lord Sri Krishna proved in a Magnificent manner (as Only He Can) that Ultimately 'Dharma' is the

Victor in all ages and under all circumstances.!! This is in short the essence of the Great Epic Mahabaratha and the Fifth Veda – The Bhagavat Gita! It would be very apt to recall here, the Powerful Hymn of Bramha Devaru in praise of His Father, Sriman Narayana: -
/NamosthAnathaya Sahasramoorthaye Sahasrapaadakshishirorubahave
Sahasranamne Purushaya Shaswathe Sahasrakotiyugadharine Namaha//

‘Dharma’ is the greatest casualty in Kali Yuga.!! Under such trying circumstances just to utter the Holy Name of Sriman Naryana in itself is a path to Moksha! Due to the evil effects of Kali, the world today is reeling with great adversity, diseases, wars, famine, floods and frequent natural calamities.!! Wanton slaughter of livestock, violence at the drop of a hat is the order of the day.! At the same time the Dharmic principles are being given the go by all and sundry.! It is at this juncture that one gets Great Hope and Faith when one learns and hears about the Infinite Relevance of the Presence of SriGurugalu in the Moola Brindavana! Come let us once again participate in Aaradhana of such a SriGurugalu!! But before that I request all devotees to first anoint your very Souls with the Holy Symbols of Sriman Narayana and pray to Him thus:

O! Lord, the Eternal Bearer of SUDHARSHANA, I bow to the Fierce Flames burning in Your Awesome Discuss, Equivalent to a trillion Suns bursting forth all at once, and by Your grace let me also traverse the Path of Truth and Dharma!

O! Lord just by hearing the Sounds arising from your Holy Conch Shell PANCHAJANYA, is in itself enough to abolish all my latent sins gathered from countless past births!

O! Lord, the Carrier of the Might Mace ‘KOUMODHAKA’, You Are the very bedrock of this Entire Universe, and I humbly bow to that Supreme Form of the Lord with His Invincible Mace!

O! Lord Holding The Sacred PADMA Flower in Your Hands, You extend Your Infinite Grace to all those who come seeking for it!!

O! SRIMAN NARAYANA, Your Very Name is in itself enough to abolish the sins of even those who have committed grave acts such as Bramha Hatya!!

O! Lord SURYA NARAYANA, Omnipresent in the GAYATRI Mantra! Cut away all the darkness of ignorance clogging my path towards the True Realization of ONLY Your Path of Truth and Dharma!!!!

/Ananyaschinthayantho Maam Ye Janaha Paryupaasathe
Theyshaam Nithyabhiyuktanaam Yogakshemam Vahamyaham/
Parithranaya Sadhunaam Vinaashaya Cha Dhuskrutaam
Dharmasamsthaapanaarthaya Sambhavaami Yughe Yughe//

The annual ‘Aaradhana’ celebrations of SriGurugalu is celebrated with great pomp and gaiety all over the World for Three Days! Millions of Devotees celebrate this occasion when SriGurugalu ‘entered’ the Moola Brindavana and will stay therein for another Seven Centuries to come! Mantralaya the place where the Moola Brindavana is situated is virtually transformed into the famed Indraloka on these days!! A Sea of Humanity converges on Mantralaya to have a fleeting glimpse of the Moola Brindavan! Just days old infants clinging feebly to their mothers, elderly persons walking around with wooden staffs rub shoulders with well heeled family members of Governmental Ministers!! The

young and healthy, the old and infirm, the rich and the poor, the learned and the unlettered, - all driven by one all consuming fire of Sri Guru Bakti! Every inch of space and then some are taken up by the devotees who arrive from all parts of the country braving wind, rain and searing Sun and are driven with just one aim of having a 'Darshan' of their beloved SriGurugalu! But even that 'fleeting glimpse' will be forever be embedded in the very Soul of the Devotees till the end!! Witnessing such poignant scenes, one's heart swells with Pride, in the fond guarantee that the 'Dharma' that Lord Sri Krishna has made mandatory for all ascetics to uphold is 'Gloriously Well' in the 'Ablest Hands' of The Supreme Lord's Greatest Devotee, Moola Ramara Aaradhaka Sri Sri Raghavendra Theertha!!

Come, let us all Clean our Souls with Waters of the Ganga, wear 'Madi Panche' (angavastrams), draw colorful Rangoli across our Minds, tie fresh green mango leaves across our computer screens, lit lamps with wicks dipped in ghee, hold silver plates full of fresh Tulasi leaves and bowls full of sandal paste and coconuts, get ready with 'Aarathi' in golden plates and wait for the arrival of Parama Hamsa Kula Thilaka Yatishresta Gursarvabhoma Sri Sri Sri Raghvendra Theertha!! Be ready with your 'Guru Kanike', for who knows, SriGurugalu "might ask" this from each one of you for the sake of 'old acquaintance', just like Lord Sri Krishna asked his old friend Sudhama!!!!

Before stepping onto the Holy Soil of Mantralaya, let us all pray to our individual family Deity so that ONLY by His Supreme Grace and Will, we can have a 'Lasting Darshana' of SriGurugalu!!

Kalyanadbhutatagathaya Kaamitharthapradhayine SrimadhVenkantanathaya Sri Srinivasayathe Namaha!!!!

/Ishvaakuvamsha Nrupamouthika Bhooshithaathman
SriBramhahastha Nalinaarchitha Paadapadma
Aandatheethamukhatheetha Nisheyvamaana
SriMoola Rama Bhagavan Thava Suprabatham
Sri Raghavendra Gururaat Thava Suprabatham//

Maasa : Shravana ; Year: 1671 A.D

Panchamukhi and its surrounding lay enveloped in thick curtains of mist!. It had been raining very heavily for the past several days and the entire plateau lay blanketed with thick fog and the River Tunghabadra was in spate! The Sun was just visible, beginning to rise in the Eastern Horizon, and the skies were taking up a faint color of orange!! Scores of birds filled the air with their morning chatters eager to take off in their feathered flight towards nowhere! A Hallow of Light enveloped the Sanctum of Panchamukhi temple owing to the streams of positive energy emanating from the 'Powerful Mantras' being chanted from within! Below the temple premises, in several make shift camps which carried huge silver placards that read : "Sri Sri Vijayeendra Theertha Moola Mahasamstanam Kumbakonam", scores of Vedic Scholars chanted from Holy Scriptures, the Notes from which 'rose and fell' in a wave like crescendo! In one of the camps Dewan Venkanna Panth gets ready to meet His Gurugalu, Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha!! The Brindavana Pravesha of Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha was just days

away! Dewan Venkanna's small World had collapsed when he had heard from SriGurugalu about His Intention to enter Brindavana on the banks of the River Tungabhadra on the very spot where Prahlada Rajaru had performed MahaYagnas!! SriGurugalu had meditated on Devi Manchalamma and had been Supremely Blessed by the Goddess Herself thereby sanctioning 'His Stay' within Her Divine Midst! A crestfallen Venkanna had pleaded with his Gurugalu not to 'orphan' an Ocean of Devotees'! But SriGurugalu had pacified Venkanna by convincing him about the 'Need to Bow' before the Supreme Will of Sri Hari!!

SriGurugalu's words still rang in his ears: "Venkanna, do not grieve too much! It Is the Will of Sriman Moola Rama'!! I cannot stay with you all with this temporary Body of Mine, but with the Will of Sri Hari I can stay with you all for many Centuries to come from within the Brindavana!! Go to Madavaram village nearby and get the bluish 'Brindavana Shile' that you will find there.! It has got the Holy Foot Imprints of Sri Rama Who Rested there! Also, please make arrangements for the immediate ascension of My next Successor to this Holy Peeta! And on the Day of Shravana Bahula Bidige, I shall enter the Brindavana! I shall occupy the Brindavana and Meditate with the Japa Mani in My Hands! When the Japa Mani falls off from My Hands I shall transcend into 'Yoga Nidhre'! Please finish building the Brindavana around Me! Also, Cover the top of My Brindavana with a 'Samputa' containing Saaligramas and spread 'Sanctified Mruthika' over it! I shall continue to Bless you all from within the Brindavana! Even if I want to 'go away' I cannot do so! It is the Supreme Will of Sri Hari! He wants me to stay with You all in this 'Manner'! I am only following HIS Command !!"

As per his Guru's command Dewan Venkanna had brought the 'Brindavana Shile' from Madhavaram and had laid foundations for a magnificent Brindavana at the very spot that SriGurugalu had shown him! Curiously SriGurugalu had also earmarked another 'spot' very near to 'His' Brindavana and foretold that another Brindavana should be erected there for the fifth Pontiff who would ascend the Parama Hamsa Peeta! Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha Himself had anointed his next successor as Yogeendra Theertha! O! What a sight that was to Behold!! The 'Veda Samrajya' inherited from the likes of eminent Pontiffs such as Surendra Theertha, Vijayeendra Theertha and Sudheendra Theertha was now in the 'Hands' of Yogeendra Theertha! Later on, Yogeendra Theertha was to consecrate an Idol of Pranadevaru facing the Moola Brindavana! Dewan Venkanna hurriedly climbed up the steps of the Panchamukhi temple with a heavy heart and a big lump in his throat! His eyes were wet and blinded by the tears that kept flowing unceasingly! How could he (Venkanna) ever forget the Infinite Grace and Blessings of SriGurugalu which had enabled him, a unlettered boy engaged in grazing cattle to rise to the position of Dewan of Advani Province!!? How could he ever hope to repay this ' Huge Debt' to SriGurugalu? How many births would he have to take to 'pay-back' this debt!? With a sigh of resignation, Dewan Venkanna summoned an attendant and instructed him to inform SriGurugalu that he wished for an audience!

Inside Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha was seated in a Padmasana Posture in deep meditation of Mukya Pranadevaru, next to the Devara Pettigey containing the Holiest of Holy Icons of Sriman Moola Rama, DighVijaya Rama and Jaya Rama!!! O! What Radiance! O! What Serenity! O! What Holiness O! What Sanctity!!! The Saffron clad Parama Hamsa Sanyasi seated inside easily outshone the rising Sun! Fifty years of continuous 'Seva' to Sriman Moola Rama Devaru and the 'Jyothi' that came off from the

wholesome fructification of the Dwaitha of Acharya Madhwa and the 'Truth' radiating from numerous 'Granthas' had left a 'Permanent Hallow of Light' on the Personae of Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha!! The Magnificent Radiance emanating from the Divine Face Glowing with Keshavadhi Namaskaras and Mudras outshone even the lighted oil lamps that glowed brightly from within the temple Sanctum!! The huge beads of Kamalaksha Thulasi Mala that cascaded from the Neck of the Holy Pontiff itself shone like 'Treasure Houses' of every Holy Scripture that was ever written in the Praise of Sriman Lakshmi Narayana!! The Danda and Kamandala that lay beside SriGurugalu itself 'looked' like the Rays of the Rising Sun that brightened the entire Horizon!!

The attendant with utmost caution slowly came towards SriGurugalu and held one of his hand toward his mouth and spoke softly: Sreegale, Dewan Venkanna has come to see Your Holiness...shall I....?!!

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha taking a Tulasi tendril in His hands offers it with Utmost Devotion at the Feet of Pachamukhi Pranadevaru.!

Then slowly turning towards His disciple: Narayana..... What is it that you say? SriGurugalu's Voice sounded like the melodious strumming of the Hamsa Veena of Goddess Saraswathi Devi!!

Attendant: Sreegale, Dewan Venkanna Panth wishes for an audience with Your Holiness!
Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha: O! Venkanna has come here! Is it? Yes, Please send him in!

The attendant beckons towards Dewan Venkanna to enter. Dewan Venkanna is immediately energized into action!! He rushes in and sees the Holy Paaduka of SriGurugalu first and collapses on it weeping inconsolably!! The Holy Paaduka looked as if it was the 'Very Source' of every Holy river from Ganga, Yamuna, Saraswathi, Narmada, Sindhu, Godavari, Kapila to Kaveri!! He then gets up and goes inside and falls full length in front of Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha! Gurugale, Gurugale...! Pahi...Pahi...Pahi... Maam...!!!.....!

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha: Venkanna Panthare, Please get up! Why do you cry so much!? Wipe your tears, now....tell Me why you have come here!?!?

Venkanna still sobbing and utterly emotional at the Divine Sight of His Gurugalu...stammers falteringly....Gurugale, I have finished all the works that Your Holiness had assigned me to do at Manchale Grama, I have arranged for everything.....weeps once again....for your 'Brindavana Pravesha' weeps once again!!! Ubhaya Sripadangalu Sri Yogeendra Theertha has sent me here to accompany Your Holiness to Manchale Kshetra!

A Radiant Smile dances on the ever glowing face of SriGurugalu.!

Narayana! Yes! My Time of Departure has Indeed Come! I am ready Venkanna, come let us go!

So saying Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha picks up the sacred Tulasi leaves offered to Pranadevaru and with Utmost Devotion places it on His Head all the while uttering invocations to Baghwan Veda Vyasa and all the Moola Yatis of His Parampare ! Then invisible to those present there, Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha Accepts 'Holy Sanctified Water' from Pranadevaru Himself and bows before Him 'full length' with Utmost Devotion! Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha then gets up with the Name of Lord Srinivasa on His Lips!! The attendant comes forward to carry the 'Devara Pettigey' to be kept in the palanquin!

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha replies: Vatsa.... I shall carry the Devara Pettigey myself!!

Dewan Venkanna comes out first holding The Holy Paadukas of SriGurugalu on His Head and waits for the Pontiff near the palanquin! Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha constantly uttering the Infinitely Supreme and Powerful name of Sriman Moola Rama slowly gets down from the Panchamukhi temple carrying with Him the Devara Pettigey and puts His Holy Feet on the ground below! Immediately as if to welcome the Holy Pontiff a light shower of rain starts to fall on the plains.! It seemed as though Nature itself was paying its respects to the Great Pontiff in this manner! Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha then places the 'Devara Pettigey' inside the palanquin and walks alongside the palanquin deeply immersed in Chanting The Glory of Sriman Moola Ramachandra and moves towards Manchale Grama on the other side of the river Tunghabadra accompanied by Dewan Venkanna and a host of other dignitaries and devotees! Scores of disciples walk in front holding aloft the Heritage Insignias and banners accompanied by the notes arising from auspicious musical instruments heralding the Advent of Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha! Those walking close by to SriGurugalu were accustomed to hear the 'Gejje Naadha' arising from the Feet of Sri Vidya Lakshmi who constantly accompanied Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha where ever He went! The 'Divine'claps of sound arising from the wooden 'Paadukaas' of SreeGurugalu and the 'Gejje Naadha' of Sri Vidya Lakshmi produced an 'Unique Sound' unheard of even in Indra's Amaravathi and Brahma Deva's Satya Loka!!

On the way the Holy Entourage cross numerous hamlets with Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha Blessing scores of people en route! Entire villages had been colorfully decorated with numerous flower buntings, bright colors of Rangoli and people had lit up bright lamps that glowed in the morning twilight Sun like tiny stars!! After walking for nearly half a day, the Holy Contingent arrives at the banks of the River Tunghabadra! On the other side lay Manchale Grama teeming with huge crowds of people who had arrived from far off places hearing about the impending news of 'Brindavana Pravesha', which had spread like wild fire! Many Royal representatives from the Court of Mysore, Tanjore & Maratha Kingdoms had arrived with their weary travelers! Every where one could see only people, they had camped on every available spot on the river bank!! Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha arrived at a spot where the width of the crossing was at its narrowest and holding aloft the 'Devara Pettigey' started crossing the river, followed by Dewan Venkanna and the rest! The minute Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha set His Holy Foot in the River, a huge wave of water arose as if from nowhere and came towards the Holy Pontiff! It looked as though Mother Tunghabadra Herself had come to pay her 'respects' to the Holy Pontiff by washing His Holy Feet! The crowd went out of control when they spotted Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha on the other side! Cries of 'Hari Sarvottama Vayu Jeevothama' rent the Air in all directions!" Even small children shouted with joy and joined their parents in shouting 'Jaya Jaya Rajadhiraja Guru Sarvabhoutama!! O! What a sight that was! For people watching this crossing it looked as though Acharya Madhwa Himself was crossing the River Ganga along with His disciples en route to Badari for a Darshan of Sri Badari Narayana!

Sri Sri Yogeendra Theertha stood with folded hands on the other side awaiting the 'Arrival' of His Guru, Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha! As Raghavendra Theertha came up on the banks of the river, Sri Yogeendra Theertha rushed forward and prostrated full

length in front of the Holy Pontiff and 'took' the 'Devara Pettigey' and with utmost devotion, placed it on His Head and led Sri Raghavendra Theertha towards a small make shift dwelling place near the 'Exalted Spot' where a magnificent Brindavana would come up on the morrow!! Huge waves of devotees surged forward towards SriGurugalu!! Those who rush forward enthusiastically to touch the Holy Feet of SriGurugalu are promptly admonished by the attendant staff of SriGurugalu! But SriGurugalu cautions His disciples by saying that they should not be too harsh on those who are much too eager to seek His Blessings!!

SriGurugalu spoke : Please allow these people to come to me! Was I not allowed to touch The Holy Feet of Panduranga and Rukmini Devi at Pandrapur? Did they not allow me to touch The Feet of Sri Krishna Devaru at Udipi?, I was also allowed to touch the Feet of Sri Srinivasa Devaru at Tirupathi.!! At Srirangam, I meditated at the Feet of the Supreme Lord Ananthashayana undisturbed! Sri Hari Himself is sending these people towards Me! Why should I not welcome them?! Who are we to stop them from coming? It is the Will of Sri Hari!!

Soon hundreds of people besiege SriGurugalu with their requests. One person laments at the Feet of Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha explaining that 'timely rains' had failed in his province and people were forced to migrate in their hundreds to other areas in search of livelihood!

Srimadh Raghvendra Theertha cries out aloud: O! Gangadhara! , O! Jatadhara! Why do you need two wives in Paravati Devi and Ganga Devi! Please allow your Ganga to flow down to this parched lands!! O! Mahadeva, do help all those who are in distress...!

Immediately every one could hear loud thunder claps in the distance!

One person pushes his only son forward towards SriGurugalu and cries: O! Guruvarya ,This only son of mine is mentally retarded. Please cure him!!

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha: O! Ramachandra....!

Another person comes forward: Swamigale, I have lost vision in both my eyes! Please help me...!!...I am the only bread winner in my family...Restore my vision...Gurudeva!!

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha: Sri Hari...Sri Hari.....!!

Later the Royal Representatives from many Royal Courts offer their 'gifts' towards SriGurugalu and beseech Him to accept their offerings!

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha says: I do not have any 'use' for your offerings. All my wealth is Sri Moola Rama Only!. Please distribute all your offering amongst the needy who have assembled here!!

After what seemed like an Eternity, attending upon hundreds of devout folk and listening patiently to their worries and Blessing Them with His 'Abhayahastha', Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha slowly gets up and prays to The Supreme Lord!!

O! Lord! Let the tears of all these devotees of Yours flow from My Eyes, instead! If this Life Time of Mine is not enough for this task, let Me be amongst them for Centuries to come! Let Me be with Your devotees removing their sins and banishing their troubles and replacing them with Supreme Devotion towards You! Allow me to distribute all My Merits gathered in all my previous incarnations to the needy, to Your Devotees! Please allow me to do this humble service to your devotees. O! Sri Hari!! This is the Only Boon that I have always wished for from You!!

Later in the day, SriGurugalu calls forward eminent scholars who were waiting to 'Dedicate' their literary works to Him! With a truly amazing Zest and Vitality that belied seventy two years of 'God Ordained' Lifetime, Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha dazzles amongst the scholars, removing many of their 'latent' doubts in complicated topics encompassing Acharya Madhwa's 'Tatva' and spreads the Eternal Fragrance of 'Sudha Parimala' everywhere! Many scholars, totally swept away by the 'Sheer force and Content' of Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha's Scholastic Brilliance, shed tears of joy and prostrate before the Pontiff! They later disperse after receiving the 'Theertha' and Blessings from the Holy Pontiff!

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha calls forward one of His disciples and enquires: Where is Appanna?!....He is not to be found here....Is he here or in Bijjale.....!?

PART – 5

/Madhvaakhyavidhinirmitha Roupyamoorthe
Ramyanghripeetavilastwadashaavatara
Shreershangrishobitha Sudarshanadarshaneya
Sri Rama Dighvijayenasthava Suprabhaatam
Sri Raghavendra Gururaat Thava Suprabhaatam/

[NOW] Maasa : Shravana Year: 2003!

Stepping onto the Holy Soil of SreeGurugalu's Mantralaya, one's very Soul rejoices in the 'Guarantee' that Sri KurmaRoopi Baghavantha 'Upasthith' in AnandaTheertha Baghavatpada Himself Holds Aloft The Dwaitha Siddhanta equivalent to Mount Meru afloat in the Milky Ocean of Parama Hari Bakti! Over the Centuries, hundreds of eminent Madhwa Pontiffs have churned this Mount Meru (The Dwaitha) by holding onto the ropes of Their 'Saadhane'! Countless Priceless Gems, akin to those that Adorn The Famed Vyjayanthi Mala of Lord Sri Krishna, comprising of Eternal Classical Texts such as 'Sriman Nyaya Sudha' of Shree Jayatheertha Shreepadar and 'Parimala' of Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha are few of the Many 'Divine Treasures' that have arisen out of this Epic Churning!!!! Over the Centuries, millions of followers have partaken in this Divine Nectar Of Knowledge that oozes ceaselessly from this relentless Churning of The Dwaitha!!

Acharya Madhwa, as is quite well known, Consecrated the Idol of Sri Krishna, that was found in a 'Mound of Gopi Chandana' along with another Idol, that of Balarama, which was Consecrated at Malpe. Together with these Idols, a Magnificent Rajatha Peeta (Silver Pedestal) was also found in the Gopi Chandana, by Sriman Madhwacharya! In order to 'Adorn' this Silver Pedestal, Acharya Madhwa Himself Handcrafted the Icon of DighVijaya Rama in Silver with Iconic Engravings of the Supreme Lord's Ten Incarnations (The Dashavatara!) around the base of the Icon!! It is said that those Madhwa Pontiffs' Who Worship this Icon regularly will 'Gain Immense Merit' equivalent to that gained by Sovereign Monarchs' (Chakravathy) in the course of Their 'Royal Duty' to Uphold Dharma! Thus The DighVijaya Rama Icon along with the Sriman Moola Rama Icon (handcrafted by Lord Bramha) and the JayaRama Icon (handcrafted by Sri JayaTheertha Shreepadar) has come to represent the Iconic Heritage of the Rayara Mutt and is being worshipped in strict accordance to stipulated modes of

rituals as laid down by Acharya Madhwa Himself! The Existing Brilliance of these Three Icons is Gloriously Complimented by the Immensely Sanctifying Presence of Vyasa Mushti and Vyasa Saaligramas! It would not be an exaggeration to state that the Three Holy Lines on the Neck of the Eminent Pontiff, Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha, itself symbolizes the Three Icons of Sriman Moola Rama, Dighvijaya Rama and Jaya Rama, reigning Supreme over the 'Natya Mandira' of Goddess Vidya Lakshmi so Magnificently and Divinely Personified by the Holy Pontiff!! Lord Padmanabha 'Virajman' in the Very Soul of SreeGurugalu, Himself Appears to be 'Totally Swayed' by His Own Supreme Creation, His Own Divine Messenger, His Own Greatest Devotee, Parama Baghavathothama Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha!

Of all the 'Colossal Disappearances' none is more Divine and Awesome than that of Acharya Madhwa who "Disappeared" while Imparting Lessons from the 'Aitereya Upanishad' in the Premises of the Anatheshwara Temple at Udipi ! While so engaged in imparting Lessons from the Aitheraya Upanishad, The Acharya was Completely Covered in a "Heavenly Shower" of Flowers and Vanished.! The Acharya's 'Colossal Presence', though, is still in Badari with Bhagawan Veda Vyasa!! Also, The Nava Brindavana with the Moola Brindavanas' of an entire Galaxy of Madhwa Pontiffs' is also a Testimony to the Irreversible Finger Prints of Time in tune with The Supreme Will of Sri Hari!

The 332nd Aardhana Mahotsava of Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha had started in right earnest!. The reigning Pontiffs' had already conducted the Dhawajaarohna and performed GoPooja, GajaPooja, Lakshmi Pooja and Dhanya Pooja. Thousands upon thousands of saffron flags with the Holy Emblems of the SreeMutt fluttered proudly atop from every vantage point! Devotees' were beginning to arrive in their thousands! The heart thumping drum beats heralding the commencement of Aaradhana Mahotsava re-vibrated in all directions! After a most fulfilling bath in the River Tunghabadra and during the Shodashopachara Pooja of Sriman Lakshmi Narayana, as the Holy Sanctified Waters from the 'Abhisheka' of the Lord and His Divine consort flowed down from the silver pedestal and into the silver plate, I just could not but think about the Divine Sojourns of Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha! The Pontiff's entire Sojourn was similar to the Sodashopachara Pooja of the Supreme Lord Himself! And remarkably this worship still continues from within the Moola Brindavana! The Holy Pontiff still utters The Purusha Sookta and performs the 'Abhisheka' to Sriman Moola Narayana Omnipresent in Him!! No invocation of Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha is complete without the prayers to His Parama Guru, Sri Vijayeendra Theertha! Any devotee can 'Experience' the Total Ethos and Greatness of Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha by studying 'The Works and Deeds' of His Parama Guru Sri Sri Vijayeendra Theertha! That Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha should 'Ascend' the Parama Hamsa Peeta was pre-ordained in a way by none other than Sriman Moola Rama Devaru to Vijayeendra Theertha and His successor Sudheendra Theertha! Sri Vijayeendra Theertha, A Witness to The Two 'Avataras' of Prahlada Rajaru, His Guru Sri Vyasa Raja and a young Acharya (Srimadh Raghvendra Theertha), stands out as Truly Blessed by Sriman Moola Rama !

Likewise, Invocation of Vaadheendra Theertha is also essential before a devotee can 'hope' to get a Darshana of SreeGurugalu! Vaadheendra Theertha, an outstandingly Great Scholar, was the fifth Pontiff in line after Srimadh Raghvendra Theertha. When Vaadheendra Theertha was presenting His Truly Unique Composition,

‘Gurugunasthavana’ before the Moola Brindavana of Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha, the entire Moola Brindavana swayed before an astounded gathering of devotees and the garland of Tulasi that adorned the Moola Brindavana ‘fell’ on the ‘Gurugunasthavana’ compositions that Vaadheendra Theertha held in His hands!! In a way Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha Himself had ‘nodded’ from within the Moola Brindavana and ‘indicated’ His Divine Approval of the ‘Gurugunasthavana’ of Vaadheendra Theertha!! Vaadheendra Theertha’s Moola Brindavana is situated very next to the Moola Brindavana of Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha, as ‘ordained’ by SreeGurugalu Himself before His Brindavana Pravesha!!

The “Cutting Edge” of The Dwaitha propounds ‘Graded Differences’ amongst all souls during a never ending Cosmic Journey entrapped in endless cycle of birth and re-birth! Knowledge and awareness of one soul differs from the next soul, likewise Bakthi of one soul also differs from the next! This Graded Difference also exists when a soul attains Salvation! Salvation of one soul is ‘different’ from the Salvation of another soul! In order to better one’s Salvation, it is of paramount importance to ‘Gain Knowledge’ and ‘Show’ Total Unalloyed ‘Devotion’ towards Sri Hari through the Medium of Vayu and Guru Only! Mulling over all these ‘Thought-Streams’ I step into the temple of Goddess Manchallama! O! Mother! It is Only by Your Divine Concurrence that I am able to come this far into Your Divine Mist! Please Bless Me and allow me to have a ‘Darshan’ of The Yati Shresta who Dwells In Your Eternal Protection! As I step into the ‘Praakaara’ around the Moola Brindavana continuously reciting the Sri Raghavendra Stotra torrential tears well up in my eyes -

O! Gurugale! How utterly ‘meaningless’ my life seems now! I have not indulged in practicing Dharma, Nor have I practiced Charity, I have not offered continuous Worship to Your Lord (Sri Krishna) due to total ignorance, I have not been in the midst of Scholars and Pundits, Neither do I have any semblance of austerity within me!! I have failed to hear any of the Shruthi, Shashtra or Purana extolling Your Lord Sri Krishna! I find no satisfaction with food, nor by wearing fine clothes, I have not even tried to serve an iota of Your Legion of Devotees!! I have not undertaken any pilgrimage like eminent Pontiffs’, I have only been roaming around like a nomad both in the minds of people and wanton destinations! Belittling all these latent weaknesses You have invited me to be with Your Devotees! Indeed I am overwhelmed! How will I stand in front of You! My entire soul itself is afloat in the tears streaming down from my eyes, O! Gurugale! How can I elaborate all the sins that I have committed knowingly or unknowingly? Will I not be committing sacrilege by standing before You!

Eminent Pontiffs’ such as Yogeendra Theertha, Surindra Theertha, Sumatheendra Theertha, Upendra Theertha, Vaadheendra Theertha, Vasudhendra Theertha, Varadendra Theertha, Dheerendra Theertha, Bhuvanendra Theertha, Subhodendra Theertha, Sujanendra Theertha, Sudharmendra Theertha, Sugunendra Theertha, Supragnendra Theertha, Sukruteendra Theertha, Susheelendra Theertha, Suvrateendra Theertha, Suyameendra Theertha and Sujayeendra Theertha Themselves stand with ‘Folded Hands’ in front of You waiting to Perform Your Seva! Hundreds of Haridaasas’ sing and dance in the Parikrama immersed in Pure Bliss Present in The Glory of Your Sri Hari!! Thousands upon thousands of fresh Tulasi tendrils grown in Your Own Garden are bursting forth from their wooden baskets in their eagerness to pay Homage to You! Elephants belonging to the SreeMutt strain at their chains in their eagerness to carry Your

Utsava Murthy (Prahlada Rajaru) and Your Eternal Granthas' in grand processions! Priced cows belonging to the SreeMutt have flooded the 'Goshala' with their copious fresh white milk in their eagerness to partake in the Maha Abisheka of Your Moola Brindavana! Millions of Bees have been busy collecting tones of nectar to partake in the Maha Abisheka of Your Moola Brindavana! Tones of Sandalwood birches have offered Holy Sandal wood paste to adorn Your Moola Brindavana! Hundreds of plants have offered their fresh golden flowers to adorn Your Moola Brindavana! Thousands of fresh mango fruits have allowed themselves to be squeezed into sweet pulps so that they can also partake in the Maha Abisheka of Your Moola Brindavana! Hundreds of coconut trees have yielded tender coconuts so that their waters can be used in the Maha Abisheka of Your Moola Brindavana! Waters collected in scores of Silver Pots wait patiently for Your Holy Touch that would instantly transform them into Holy 'Tirtha' more Holier than even the Ganga! Thousands of paddy crops have given up their harvest in the form of rice grains so that they too can do Your 'Seva' in the form of Holy Mantrakshate ! Thousands of sugarcane crops have allowed themselves to be twisted and dried into sugar so that the inherent sweetness in them could be used in Your Parimala Prasada! Mother Tungabhadra Herself flows full with undue haste offering Her crystal clear waters to wash the 'Paada Kamala' of Your Sriman Moola Rama, Your Santhana Gopala Krishna and Your Lakshmi Narasimha! Countless devotees with countless requests in their hearts have queued up right from Sunrise to have Your Darshana! Thousands of Sankalpas and Paada Poojas to Prahalada Rajaru are being performed by thousands of devotees! Do Grace Us all O! Guru, Do Bless Us all! Do Give us Your "DARSHANA BHAGYA"!! Fresh and New Saffron Reshme Madi Panche flutters wildly from the Sacred washing lines in its eagerness to drape Your Holy Brindavana! The Giant Wheels of the Wooden Chariot, the Silver (Rajata) Chariot and the Golden (Suvarna) Chariot are under tremendous stress get rolling so that they can carry Your Utsava Murthy Prahlada Raja, in Grand Processions! Heaps of cotton wicks soaked in pure ghee oil are eager to be lit up so that they can perform Your Maha Mangalaarathi!! On all of our behalf do ask Your Hanuma and Rama to extend their Grace to Us also! "Annha Bramha" Himself stands in deep reverence waiting to get His Hunger quenched through the quenching of Hunger of Lakhs of Devotees who will sit for Lunch to partake in Your Maha Prasada!! Do permit me to do Your 'Seva' in this life time of mine! Allow me to be with You and Your Devotees in future lifetimes also! As I step into the Inner Sanctum within a few feet from the Moola Brindavana of Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha, I am instantly transported to the Inner Sanctum of The Lord of Seven Hills at Tirumala and it seems as though I am standing in front of my Family Deity Akhilaanda Koti Bramhanda Nayaka, Srinivasa Devaru!! My Soul automatically resonates with The Sri Venkatesha Astakam:

/Kamalajaarchitham Kaamitapradham Vimala lochanam Vidyamaadharam
Varakireetanam Vaarijaanamam VaradahaVenkataadheeshwaram Bhaje
Nayanasundaram Neelakuntalam Bhayanivaaranam Baaghyadhaayakam
Karnakundalam Kaanchanaambaram VardhaVenkaadheeswaram Bhaje
Vrajavaneecharam Venuvaadhinam Nijasuradhrumam Nirjaraadhipam
Sharanapaalakam Shaantharoopinam VaradhaVenkataadheeshwaram Bhaje
Ghamithakesareem Ghandhacharchitam Ramanamandhira Raadhithammudha
Varavimohakam Haarabhooshanam VaradhaVenkatadheeshwaram Bhaje
Janakakaamitham Jaanakipathim Sanakavandhithaam Saadhuposhanam

Sharanadhanurdharam Shaamasundaram VaradhaVenkataadheeshwaram Bhaje
Raghukulothamaam Raavananthakam Mrugamrudhaarjitham Mukthidhaayakam
Suraparaadhipam Sooktabhaaskaram VaradhaVenkataadheeswaram Bhaje
Bujaparaakramam Bhaaskarangadham Vajravihaarinam Maajyakaashubam
Charananoopuram Chaarubhaashanam Varadha Venkataadheeswaram Bhaje
Karivarodharam Kamsaghaathukam Garudavaahanam Gokulalayam
Varavibhooshanam Dhenupaalakam Varada Venkatadheeshwaram Bhaje
JagathiVenkataadheeshwarastakam Sakalabhagyadham Santhathipradham
Patathiyonaraha Pratyahammudha DayadhiVenkateshthuthyasarvadhah//

/TeekakurtheerdhaJayatheerthaSamarthithaaghrya
ShvorasthaseethaJayaramaJanganniyanthaha
ShreebaadhipaashvaparishobithaVaasudeva
ShreeVyasadhevathalayaThavaSuprabaatham
ShreeRaghavendraGururaatThavaSuprabaatham//

[THEN] Maasa : Shravana Year : 1671 A.D.

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha is Seated along with Yogeendra Theertha and both are completely immersed in the study of the Holy Canonical Texts of Poornaprajnya! From afar it looked as though Sriman Narayana Himself was imparting Vedic lessons to Bramha Deva! Yogeendra Theertha Sits silently before His Guru, Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha, eagerly grasping every Word that the Senior Pontiff was uttering, wonder struck by the Unceasing Mastery and Divine Meanings that kept Flowing Infinitely!! Every Word Uttered, Shed New Light on already “Established and mutually agreed Meanings”!! Every sentence that Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha Spoke, Invoked ‘Veda Narayana’ Omnipresent in The Eternal Texts of Poornaprajna, Teekaacharya and Vijayeendra Theertha! The “SadhGuruVaani” flowed on rapidly in torrents, eager to merge with the “Shastra Saagara” of AnandaTheertha Muni’s Tatva Vaada!!!

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha Addresses His Successor : “ Yogeendra Theerthare, The Responsibility of carrying forward this Kingdom of Knowledge is now Bestowed Upon You! Always Worship Vidya Lakshmi! It is Only by Her Divine Grace, that the Supreme Awareness of Sriman Narayana Will Dawn Upon All Her Followers”!!

Yogeendra Theertha: “Sreepaadhare, I Shall Strive to Uphold This Kingdom of Knowledge! But for that I Seek Your Divine Blessings!

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha: “Narayana, Yogeendra Theerthare, My Blessings Will Always Be Upon You ! May Sri Moola Rama Bestow Upon You His Infinite Grace!!”

Dewan Venkanna is seen walking briskly escorting a group of scholars towards this spot where the Two Holy Pontiffs are seated!! The motley group bows with deep respect before the Two Holy Pontiffs!!

After a while, Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha Speaks: “Sri Hari, Dewanare, Who are all these people? They seem to have come from far off places!”

Dewan Venkanna says: “Gurugale, As per the Wish of Your Holiness, I had requisitioned these persons to bring the Maha Vishnu Saaligramas found in the River Gandaki! These

Holy Saaligramas are to be placed in the Moola Brindavana! Also en route they have been joined by many scholars from Kaashi who are eager to meet Your Holiness and seek Your Divine Blessings!!!”

So saying, Dewan Venkanna gestures towards the leader of the group to come forward with the precious box containing the Saaligramas!

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha Gets Up and Bows before the Box of Saaligramas : “Trivikrama!, Padmanaabha!, Daamodhara!, Pradhyumna!, Naarasimha!, Janardhana!, Chakrapaani, Hayagreeva!, O! Sri Hari!....I salute Your Immense Form Omnipresent in These Saaligramas! I Worship This Eternal Form of Yours with The Sacred Tulasi tendrils! Thus by the Presence of Lakshmi Devi , Your Divine Consort, and By Your Own Presence, Let Me Also Be Thoroughly Sanctified For Ever!!”

Then turning towards His Incumbent, Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha Says: “Yogeendra Theerthare, Please take custody of these Holy Saaligramas and ‘place’ it in My Brindavana in the manner as I have already explained!.”

Yogeendra Theertha: “Sreepaadhare, Your Wish Is my Command! I am indeed Blessed on being Bestowed with this Most Sacred of all Duties by Your Holy Self!!”

Then turning towards the weary travelers, Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha Says: “I am really indebted to you all for this Seva of yours!

The leader of the travelers says: “Gururajare!, It is we who are indebted to Your Holiness for identifying us to do this most humble service! Many scholars comprising of Astrologers and Ayurvedic Pandits have also accompanied us from Kaashi and they are very eager to meet Your Holiness and seek Your Able Guidance!”

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha: “Sri Krishna! How can I be of any help to You All?”

An Ayurvedic Pandit comes forward and prostrates fully before the Holy Pontiff and says: “Gururajare!, Please Bless us By Sanctifying all our herbal preparations and manuals that we have brought along with us! By Your Holy Touch, years of painstaking work would fructify fully due to the Omnipotent Power of Lord Dhanvantari Always Present In You! “

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha closes His Eyes for a while and Utters: “Sri Hari!...Dhanvantari!... Achutanantha Govindaa!.... Achutanantha Govindaaa! Am I so Worthy so as to Bless these people and their noble works? O! Lord Dhanvantari, Just by uttering Your Most Powerful Name in itself eradicates thousands of malfunctions in Your DevoteesO! Govindaa!.....!”

The Ayurvedic Pandit continues his plea: “O! Yathi Varenayare, During Your Holy Self’s earlier Incarnation as Vyasa Theertha You Smeared the Holy Camphor on the Forehead of Lord Srinivasa at Tirumala to lessen the Lord’s Headaches from the blows received from the axe of the cowherd of AakaashaRaaja, and Performed His Seva for 14 long years? With such a Holy Contact With The Supreme Lord’s Forehead, Your Hands Themselves Glow Forth as The Branches of the Immortal ‘Sanjivini’ Herb and The Holy Lines and Markings on Your Palm are permanently embedded with the Supreme Marks of the ‘Shanka’ and ‘Chakra’ of Lord Srinivasa are in itself more Holier and more Sacred than even the Sanjivini Herbs! O! Yathi Shrestha, Only Your Holy Touch can Energize all our Ayurvedic medications! Please do Bless us all!”

So saying the group leader put forth all his herbal preparations and manuals at the Feet of the Holy Pontiff!!

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha is completely overcome by His earlier Incarnation as Vyasa Theertha: “Srinivasa!, Govinda!, Venkatesha!, Lakshmi Pathi!, Indhira Ramana!...Prabhu!... What Seva Did I do to You? O Lord! You Are The Supreme Lord of This Entire Universe and Beyond! Great Souls Themselves are not able to fully understand Your Infinite Qualities! Such being the case, How can I Understand You? O Lord! As these people say, If I have truly performed Your Seva, please do pardon all My shortcomings if any during the Performance of Your Seva and Bless these medications! Let this be My Seva to the Needy O! Lord!, Let this be My Seva to Your Devotees, always!”

Then Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha With His Abayahastha sprinkles some Holy Sanctified Water on the medical preparations and touches them with His Holy Hands and Speaks softly : “Pandithaganyare, Please do get Up! All My Blessings are always there with You all! Now, please go around this place and meet the people who have gathered here from far off places! They must be really tired and infirm! They might need your immediate attention!!”

The leader replies: “Gururajare!, Indeed I have already gone around this place, but I have found everyone to be hale and hearty.! This is only due to your Holy Presence and nothing else!!”

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha: “Sri Ramachandra....!”

Next a group of Astrologers stand in front of the Holy Pontiff with folded hands!

The leader speaks : “Gururajare!, according to our computations, from the morrow, all Inter Stellar movements will be stupendously aligned around Your Moola Brindavana! This is a truly significant incident! Please do enlighten us!!”

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha Replies with utmost Humility: “Sri Hari, Sri Hari...What can I instruct you! All this is being done by Him! All the Supernatural Powers that You all attribute to me is His! Nothing is Mine! I do not have any control over anything! Everything is being done by Sri Hari only to prove that He is Supreme and Independent of Everything and Everyone else! Such being the case, I can only instruct all of you to show devotion towards Sri Hari and strive to get His Blessings!!”

Soon, the group of scholars depart feeling thoroughly energized by the Words of the Holy Pontiff and totally speechless by the Depths of Humility and Heights of Devotions of the Holy Pontiff!

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha beckons Dewan Venkanna and instructs him to look after the needs of those people who had assembled and to arrange for their food and shelter! Dewan Venkanna informs the Holy Pontiff that he had made all arrangement for feeding the thousands of people who had come from far off places. Scores of cows had been herded from Adhavani province to supply fresh milk and butter! Cartloads of provisions were also fetched from surrounding provinces to feed the hungry! Huge temporary kitchens had been set up and food was cooked in big cauldrons and served to the needy! Dewan Venkanna himself had taken part in serving food to thousands of people! He did not feel any hunger, all his hunger was satiated while serving His Gurugalu’s devotees!.. They had all eaten well, so be it thought Venkanna! Just to be with His Gurugalu was enough for him now.! Dewan Venkanna just could not but keep thinking of his Gurugalu! How Divinely Noble, how Divinely Serene and how Divinely Saintly the Holy Pontiff looked! Venkanna’s eyes turns moist.! He stands in a corner and watches SreeGurugalu talking to an old man and inquiring about his health! Suddenly Venkanna

notices the Holy Pontiff gesturing towards him! He runs towards the Holy Pontiff and bows before Him in full devotion and respect.!

Dewan Venkanna: “Appaney, Gurugale!...”

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha: “Venkanna Panthare, have you sent word for Appanna! Why has he still not arrived?”

Venkanna replies: “Gurugale, I have sent one of my messengers to bring him here! The river is in full spate and there is no let up in the rains!”

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha: “O! Pranadeva....!”

The Holy Pontiff then gestures towards a particular spot and tells Venkanna thus: “I shall sit near the spot and meditate for a while!”

Immediately Dewan Venkanna himself cleans the spot and spreads the Krishnanjana, the Holy mat made out of Sacred Deer skin on the ground!

There, Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha sits next to a young Banyan sapling and soon is deeply immersed in invoking “Ashwatha Narayana” Omnipresent in the sapling! Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha could foresee that the site around this sapling would house the Moola Brindavanas’ of many a Holy Pontiff who would succeed Him in the distant future!

It was well past evening and a light shower of rain begins to fall rapidly! Thousands upon thousands of people who had arrived from far off places sit huddled in their make shift tents. With the rain beginning to lash heavily, most people stay inside to ward off the incessant rains! Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha, on the contrary, Sits unmoved in deep meditation of Ashwatha Narayana! The attendants of SreeGurugalu along with Dewan Venkanna rush towards the Holy Pontiff with a Huge White Silver Umbrella embossed with the Holy Insignias of The Shree Mutt! Dewan Venkanna in his enthusiasm in performing ‘Sevas’ to the Holy Pontiff totally forgets that all the vagaries of Nature like Sun, Wind and Rain did not affect such a Holy Pontiff like Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha in any manner, Who Himself Was Born to Protect millions of people from just such excesses!!!

Himself, Awakened by the sudden commotion of rushing feet and shouts of His disciples, Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha slowly opens His Eyes and smiles at the anxious faces of Dewan Venkanna and His attendants!

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha Speaks slowly in a Voice that is perfectly in tune with the fast flowing waters of Mother Tunghabadra and the patter of rain falling rapidly all around!!

“What is it Dewanare? You seem to be in a hurry ?”

Dewan Venkanna: “O! Gurugale, I have come to offer You this Umbrella so that You might not be affected from this heavy rains!”

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha: “Venkanna Panthare, thousands of poor people, many of them with young children have come to see Me! They are all suffering without proper shelter to protect them from this rain. Go to them first, make arrangements for their comfort first! This rain is a auspicious sign for Me! You Know, Mother Nature is Herself drenching Me in this rain, so that I might stay with You all from within the Moola Brindavana without being affected by constant interaction between the five elements Present in My Body! Let Me also accompany you!. Come let Us all go and see how the devotees are faring in this rain!”

Immediately Dewan Venkanna comes forward and offers the Paaduka at the Feet of the Holy Pontiff! Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha Walks towards the numerous settlements where thousands of devotees are huddled inside! But some Haridasas' braving even the rains are singing and dancing totally over awed by the Name of Lord Krishna! Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha moves towards them! Soon, unmindful of the lashing rains, people begin to follow the Holy Pontiff as He Walks around amongst His devotees!. The trickle of small groups slowly grows into a big group and all of a sudden the entire populace who had assembled are awakened and follow the Holy Pontiff in huge crowds!! Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha stands before a group of Haridasa's intently hearing their song :

Ranga Baaro Paanduranga Baaro SriRanga Baaro Narasingha Baaro
Kandha Baaro Yenna Chinna Baaro Indhiraramana Mukunda Baaro
Appa Baaro Thimappa Baaro Kandharpanayane Kanchi Varadha Baaro
Anna Baaro Yenna Chinna Baaro Punyamoorthe Mahishapuriya Chenna Baaro
Vishnu Baaro Udupi Krishna Baaro Yennishtamoorthe Purandhara Vittala Baaro
Ranga Baaro Paanduranga Baaro SriRanga Baaro Narasingha Baaro!!!

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha is 'carried away' by this eternal composition and tunes of this lilting song! The group of Haridaasas' themselves unaware of the Presence of the Holy Pontiff sing and dance in pure Joy! After the song ends they are all surprised to see the Holy Pontiff standing amidst them ! They all fall at His Feet and ask for His Blessings! Shouts of "Hari Sarvotama, Vaayu Jeevotama" can be heard in all directions! Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha replies: "Please get up, How can I Bless You! In fact You should Bless Me instead! The Very Name of the Supreme Lord that You Utter continuously day in and day out makes Your Presence most sanctifying and fruitful! Please show Me Your Sri Krishna !"

The Haridaasas' vehemently nod their head : "Yathigale!, All of us have come here only to find Lord Sri Krishna in You! You have to show us Your Krishna!!!"

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha: VenuGopala!!

The Holy Pontiff then calls forward the leader of the group and requests him thus:

"Daasare, Can You sing 'Krishnaa Nee Begane Baaro...!' for Me?!!

The leader replies: "Mahadhaagne!.....Swamigale!.....Mahadhaagne!...."

Then the group begins to sing the song which was composed by none other than the Holy Pontiff in His previous Incarnation as Vyasa Theertha.!

The Holy Pontiff appears to be completely swayed by his own timeless composition! O! What a scene to behold! The Haridaasas' singing way as best as only they can to the beats of 'Taala' and 'Gejje'! The whole populace who had assembled to witness the Brindavana Pravesha also dancing and singing to the tunes of the song and Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha standing in their midst with folded hands as if in a trance and completely immersed in the Glory of Lord Krishna !!

After the song ends there is a pin drop silence.!! Everyone's eyes' are on Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha! The Holy Pontiff does not move for some time! Suddenly a young child breaks free from the clasp of its parent's hands and rushes towards the Holy Pontiff by shouting 'Thaatha!....Thaatha!....!!

The whole gathering looks on stunned by this sudden turn of incident!

The child first trips and falls at the Feet of the Holy Pontiff and gets up and tugs at the Parama Pavana Saffron Madivasthra that drapes the Holy Body of the Pontiff all the while calling out - “Thaatha!...Thaatha!!”

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha slowly Opens His eyes and Beholds the tiny child that was looking up and smiling at Him with Godly Innocence!

The Pontiff speaks: “BaalaKrishna!, Govinda!, Mukunda! NandaKishora!! ”

Then slowly lifting the little child up in His arms He speaks : “Maagu, Who are you? What is Your Name? Your face is as Divine and Brilliant like that of My BaalaKrishna! Who are your parents? Are they here?”

The child continues to smile at the aged Pontiff and points out towards its parents in the crowd! The attendant staff of the Pontiff then beckons towards the parents, who happen to be humble woodcutters, of the child to come forward !

Both the parents shivering with fright, rush forward and fall at the Feet of the Pontiff!!.

The father of the child stammering with fear of having committed sacrilege says: “Budhi!, Budhi!, I seek pardon from Your Holiness for this insolent act of my infant son! Please do pardon him! Please do pardon us all!”

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha replies: “Krishna....Krishna...Please get up! What is there to forgive when You have not committed any fault at all? What is the name of Your son?”

The father replies falteringly : “Budhi, Please pardon me, Due to utter poverty that I suffer, I have still not performed his naming ceremony even though he is three years old!

The Holy Pontiff closes His Eyes for a while. “Sri Hari, O! Lord Please do Send Your Lakshmi Devi to Extend Her Infinite Grace in the humble Huts of these poor devotees of Yours, too !”

Then the Holy Pontiff begins to console the humble woodcutter: “Do not worry, Sri Hari always adorns His Devotee first with the Ornament of Poverty and Only Then Blesses Him with His Infinite Grace! Shall I suggest a name for your child?!!”

The parents are overjoyed! O! What a good fortune! The Holy Pontiff Himself has come to name their child! The weeping parents once again fall at the Feet of the Holy Pontiff and give their concurrence!!

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha beckons his staff and says: “Please bring me some Mantrakshate”

Then as the astounded gathering looks on, The Holy Pontiff asks the father to whisper the name of ‘Gopala’ thrice in the ears of the child! The overjoyed parents then follows the Pontiff’s Command! Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha Himself Blesses the child, now named as Gopala, and its parents!

Cries of Jaya Jaya Rajadhiraja GuruSarvabhouta!!...rent the air as the Holy Pontiff moves forward towards the next group of people who are eagerly waiting with folded hands to receive His Blessings!

One devout Orthodox Bramhin couple fall at the Holy Feet of Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha !!

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha: “Narayana! Please get up! Acharya? How are you serving your God given Intellect? Are you indulging in the ‘Vidhya Dhaana’ to the needy?”!

The Man replies: “Shreegale!, Shreegale!, What intellect can I boast of? What Vidya do I possess to enlighten others? Though my body has aged my Knowledge is still in a state

of infancy!! All I can boast of is Devotion to Your Pontificate and Your Parama Paavana Paadukaas! I find all my needs at Your Holy Feet Only and no where else!!”

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha: “Moola Ramachandra...!”

The Man continues: “Shreegale, With Your Blessings and Sri Hari’s Blessings I have earned everything that a person would desire in Gruhasthaashrama!...But!!!...but!!!.”

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha: “Acharya please Continue...what else do you need?”

The Man falters :” Sri Hari....Sri Hari.....and wipes the tears from his eyes!!..

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha: “Acharya! Tell Me, ...What else do you need?”

Suddenly the devout couple fall at the Feet of the Holy Pontiff and cry inconsolably!!

“Shreegale, Shreegale, You Know everything...! We are still not Blessed with the Good Fortune of having children yet!!! I am still not able to repay the familial debts to my forefathers due to this!!!”

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha : “O! BalaKrishna !, O! Mukunda! Why this torment to Your true devotees? O! Lord Just like You toddled around in the house of Yashoda, could You also not toddle in this householder’s house!?”

“O! Srinivasa Why is there so much sadness with those devotees who Worship You so much!?”

So saying Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha Blesses the couple and smilingly says: “Acharya!, Why do You need anything else when the Name of the Lord plays constantly on your lips!?! Also, the Merit that you have gained by imparting Knowledge to others would have by now satiated all the debts that you owe to your forefathers’!!

The Man replies struggling to control his tears: “Shreegale, I do not know of anything other than Your Holy Name! And now I utter Your Lord’s Name just by the force of uttering Your Holy Name.!!!!” So saying the devout couple once again fall at the Feet of the Holy Pontiff and receive sugar cubes and Mantrakshate as Blessings!!

The Man says: “Dhanyosmin! Dhanyosmin!”. He then ties the sacred Mantrakshate in a tight knot in a corner of his ‘Angavastram’! The devout wife then smears the Holy Mud on her head from the ground where the Holy Pontiff had Stood !

“Shreekaaras and Jayakaaras” rent the air as the Holy Pontiff thus moves around amongst His followers’ comprising of ordinary country folk, eminent scholars and Royal representatives, removing the darkness from ‘clogged minds’ and brightening it with His Divine Presence!!

Later, Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha speaks to Yogeendra Theertha : “Yogeendra Theerthare, From now on You are the Custodian of this enormous ‘Grantha Bhandara’ of Mine! I Shall Always Be Present in Them! Tomorrow, well before Sunrise I Shall Take My Customary Bath in the river Tunghabadra, and I shall Perform the Moola Rama Pooja!! After the Prasaada Viniyoga I shall address all those who have assembled here and in Accordance with The Supreme Will of Sri Hari I shall enter the Brindavana and Be There in Yoga Nidhre! I Shall Continue to Dwell in the Brindavana and Bless all those who come in Search of My Grace!!

Turning towards a grief stricken Dewan Venkanna, Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha says: “Venkanna Panthare, Please arrange to bring My Hamsa Veena here!!”

/ShreeRamachandraparishhevakaBhoHanuman

BhoBheemaBheemaKrushithoshithaKrishnaJishno

BhoMadhwaMadhwaHitadhevasuthathvanethaha

ShreeBaratheeshaSumatheThavaSuprabaatham
ShreeRaghavendraGururaatThava Suprabaatham//

[N O W] Maasa : Shravana Year : 2003!

‘Yatha Deva Thatha Gurou’, The Eternal Truth embedded in this lofty saying wafted in my mind the very moment after I had recited the auspicious Sri Venkateshastakam in the Inner Sanctum near the Moola Brindavana!! As I behold the Idol of Pranadevaru in front of the Moola Brindavana I am totally swept away by the tides of devotion towards the Three Incarnations of Vaayu – Hanuma, Bheema and Madhwa! Standing in front of the Idol of Pranadevaru I am reminded of the legendary events that enabled Trivikrama Panditha to compose ‘The Vaayu Stuthi’ after he ‘peeped’ through the closed doors on the Inner Sanctum at Udipi, (some say that it was at Badari) while Acharya Madhwa was immersed in the Performance of ‘sacred ritualistic offerings’ and was taken aback to ‘See’ The Three Incarnations of Vayu : Hanuma - Worshipping Lord Rama, Bheema - Worshipping Lord Krishna and Madhwacharya - Worshipping Lord Veda Vyasa! On seeing this Stupendous Spectacle, Trivikrama Pandita started uttering the Vaayu Stuthi spontaneously, totally glorifying the Three Incarnations of Vaayu! Later, Acharya Madhwa Himself added the Nakha Stuthi, a Hymn Invoking Lord Narasimha! Regular ‘Punascharana’ of the Hari Vaayu Stuti Guarantees The Supreme Grace of Hari, Vaayu and Guru!

/Stuthimakrutha HarerVaayudhevasya Cha/ - one small(!) verse at the end of the Hari Vaayu Suti, in short, describes the Glorious Splendors of Sri Hari and Vaayu in this most Divine Composition and underlines the prolific literary skills of its author Trivikrama Panditha! Sriman Madhwacharya many a times ‘Instructed’ Trivikrama Panditha to write commentaries on His Works, a ‘Task’ that had eluded even His Principle Ascetic disciples! Also, most significantly, though Trivikrama Panditha was not an ascetic, he was the most fortunate recipient of an immensely significant and awe inspiring Icon known as “ShreeVatsaNarayana” from Sriman Madhwacharya Himself, which validates his ‘All Time’ Outstanding Mastery in the Ocean of Vedanta ! This Glorious Icon of the Lord is still being Worshipped by the descendants of Trivikrama Panditha! Similar to the manner in which Trivikrama Panditha Witnessed The Three Incarnations of Vaayu while observing Acharya Madhwa Performing rituals and composed the Vaayu Stuthi, likewise ShreeGurugalu (Blessed with the Hoary Heritage Icon of Sriman Moola Rama) “Sits” in The Moola Brindavana and “Sees” The Idol of Pranadevaru and is ‘Continuously Engaged’ in the Rendition’ of a ‘LIVE’ Vaayu Stuthi!!! Also similar to the Nakha Stuthi in the Praise of Lord Narasimha, the Crown Jewel Adorning the Vaayu Stuthi, likewise the Icon of Lakhmi Narasimha “Atop” the Moola Brindavana, Infinitely vouchsafes for ‘This Live’ Vaayu Stuthi of Sreegurugalu as “NaraHari Vayu Stuthi”!!!

Hanumantha after Performing His Most Unique Seva to Sri Ramachandra by ‘delivering’ the Message of Sri Rama to Seetha Matha was Himself most Uniquely Blessed by Sri Ramachandra! The Lord Himself Placed His Hands on the Head of Hanumantha and thereby elevated Haumantha to the lofty Bramha Padhavi!! Hanumatha proved to be “The” Nemesis for a host of invincible demons like Raavanasura, bloated with the Boons

received by Bramha and Rudra, whose thick armor was shattered to pieces just by the faintest touch of Hanumantha! Bheemasena also Performed Staggering Service to Lord Krishna by destroying entire clans of Kauravas who were tormenting Mother Earth by their evilness and utter depravity! Thus, when Bhimasena slew the evil Jarasandha by snapping his evil body into two halves, like snapping a twig, and threw the body at the Feet of the Lord Krishna, Who Stood Watching nearby, the Lord, the Sole Recipient of Countless Yagnas, was so Pleased that even a million Rajasuya Yagnas could not have satisfied the Lord more!!! None were able to follow the Path of Baghwan Veda Vyasa like Sriman Madhwacharya! Acharya Madhwa wrote 'Bhaashyas' on the Brahma Sutras, a Stupendous Task that none could Achieve and Served Lord Veda Vyasa ! The Divine 'Pravachanas' of the Acharya sounded like unbearable roars of Lion to the ears of his contemporaries and made them to scatter like jackals unable to withstand the force and content of His Divine Genius!! Acharya Madhwa's Extraordinarily Exemplary Service in 'Validating' the Bramha Sutras of Baghwan Veda Vyasa, Stands out as Truly Unparalleled for all Times to Come!!.

Standing in the Sanctum, near the Moola Brindavana, my life seemed to float in front of my eyes like a dream! As I look towards Pranadevaru consecrated by Yogeendra Theertha, I raise my Hands in silent prayer! O! Pranadeva, it is only by Your Divine Grace that I have come this far to be in front of The Holiest of all Holy Pontiffs! Though I have visited Mantralaya countless number of times in these three decades of my existence, this particular visit is truly extraordinary! Years had been spent only in studying, writing and talking about the Extraordinary Works of SreeGurugalu! What a good fortune! Thousands of strange thoughts resonate in my Mind! How many births has this soul of mine taken in its infinite journey? How many parents' has it seen? How many places did it dwell in? How many wives and how many children did it come about? Who caused my demise earlier? Who caused my up prosperity now? Who stands as a barrier for my further enlightenment? O! Pranadeva I do not know anything at all! I have come as a refugee to be with Eternal "Sevakartas" of Sriman Narayana like You and ShreeGurugalu! Only with Your Blessings that I can ever Hope to Understand the Dualistic Doctrine of Acharya Madhwa! O! Pranadeva the Dwaitha Philosophy that You so Magnificently expounded as Poornaprajna exemplifies the 'Quality of Life' to be led by a person! A person needs to waft through his life time like the Breeze!, lead one's life patiently like Mother Earth!, Be Aloof and distant like the unreachable Sky!, Stand apart like a 'guard' waiting outside the Sanctum Of the Lord, Keep flowing ceaselessly forward like the Sanctified Waters flowing into the container after Bathing the Feet of Lord LakshmiNaryana, Reject all false paths and Traverse the Only True Path shown by the Dwaitha!! I also feel that the pilgrimage to the Moola Brindavana of Varadendra Theertha at Poona was fully justified!! Just as I stand here with a heavy heart, likewise I had stood most humbly before the Moola Brindavana of Varadendra Theertha at Poona. O! What a good fortune I had thought then, not knowing about the still greater fortune of being in Your Own Divine Presence, now! I was dumbstruck by the awe inspiring sight of the Moola Brindavana of Varadendra Theertha that seem to dazzle forth with The Omni Presence of the Immense Scholastic Merit and Holiness of the Holy Pontiff, one of the Greatest of all Scholarly Ascetics to succeed Your Holy Peeta! Now, I rejoice with the same feeling of elation when I see the 'Child Like' Innocence of His Holiness Sri Sri

Sushameendra Theertha and I remain dumbstruck hearing to the rapid Pravachanas of His Holiness Sri Sri Suvidyendra Theertha! I am forever energized by the Junior Pontiff's speech extolling the Sriman NyayaSudha.! I am totally convinced about the famous adage about the NyayaSudha - "Sudhava Pataniya Vasudha va Paalaniya"!! (One should study the Sudha or otherwise Rule The World) I mutely followed, in deep reverence and awe at the Titans of Madhwa Pontiffs' and their Eternal Works, with hands folded, behind the huge elephant bedecked with garlands that carried the 'Eternal Compositions of Sriman NyayaSudha'! My very Soul rejoices with excitement on hearing The 'Tulasi Mahime' from the Junior Pontiff who extols the Virtues of the sacred Tulasi Plant! One gains merit just by looking at a 'Tulasi Plant'. Plucking a Tulasi tendril doubles that "Punya" and offering the same to the Lord multiplies that 'Punya' a million times! Likewise just holding the hoary composition of Sriman Nyayasudha itself would lead to Punya, browsing through the pages would triple that Punya and a person who has finished Sudha Paata would indeed be considered duly meritorious in all respects of the term, worthy and fit enough to Rule the World! It is said that the entire clans of forefathers of a person who holds the Sriman NyayaSudha in his hands would dance in pure ecstasy with the unalloyed joy that at least one person in their familial line is 'Worthy Enough' to Study the Sudha! The assembled elite audience explodes in raptures of joy when the Senior Pontiff Questions - "Which is more Sacred? The Vishnu Sahasranaama or the Sriman NyayaSudha?" I silently pray to SreeGurugalu to allow me to be in the midst of such Holy gatherings, Always, in every lifetime! I rejoice with unbridled happiness when I happen to be the very first person ahead of lakhs of devotees to witness the "Kanakabhisheka" of Sri Prahlada Rajaru performed by the Senior Pontiff at the newly opened marble Pooja Mandira! I rejoice when I undergo "Mudra Dharane" at the Holy Hands of the Pontiffs'!

As I turn to face the Moola Brindavana of SreeGurugalu, I am reminded of the Epochal Blessings of Sudheendra Theertha in the year 1621 A.D at Tanjavur, while anointing Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha to the ParamaHamsa Peeta -

***/Thasya Naama Sa Dhadhe Sadhasisha Rajaraja Iva Raajithaha Sreeya
Ramabhadra Iva Badrabaajanam Thatkrupeva Jagataam Hitherathaha//***

Sudheendra Theertha Himself had Blessed His Disciple to Gain Fame equivalent to the Wealth of Kubera, Shine forth Most Auspiciously like Sree Ramachandra, Scale Lofty Heights of Penance like Surendra Theertha, Achieve Everlasting Fame and Success like Vijayeendra Theertha, Surpass debating skills of His Guru (Sudheendra Theertha)!!. Sudheendra Theertha Himself had Performed the 'Pattaabhisheka' by Pouring Sanctified Waters from Holy Rivers along with Lotus Petals, Priceless Pearls and Gems filled in Holy Conch Shell and had 'Passed On' the Icon of Moola Rama along with two Holy Vyasamusthis and Holy texts and "Named" the New Pontiff as "Raghavendra Theertha"! Now, after three Centuries, each and every Word of Guru Sudheendra Theertha's Blessings' stands Vindicated as True in TOTO! The Inner Sanctum has 'Become' the Very Abode of "Dharma Devathe" Herself! Drawing a historical parallel one can quote a stupendous event when Acharya Madhwa found the Idol of Krishna in the mound of Gopi Chandana! Before the Acharya 'Touched' the Idol, even children could easily lift

the Idol, but when once the Acharya ‘Touched’ the Idol (Instantaneously Invoking Lord Sri Krishna), huge elephants could NOT move the Idol even an inch , while The Acharya Carried the same ‘effortlessly’ inland ! Likewise, the Blessings of Guru Sudheendra Theertha on His Disciple, Raghavendra Theertha, has fully fructified in a Magnificent Manner in unsurpassed Grandeur!! As I stood before the Moola Brindavana, my knees gave way, and I bowed full length in front of the Holiest of Holy Madhwa Pontiff Raghavendra Theertha!!!

AgjnaanaNaashaaya VigjnaanaPoornaya SugjnaanaDhaathre Namasthe Guru
Sri Raghavendraarya Sri Raghavendraarya Sri Raghavendraarya Paahi Prabho!!!

/SrimadhSudheendraKaraPankajaSevyaveesha
SandhaadhirudaKamaleshaSurvarnaMoorthey
ShreeRaghavendraSukaarchitaSarvadhaShree
SanthanaKrishnaBavathaathThavaSuprabaatham
ShreeRaghavendraYatiraathThavaSuprabaatham//

[T H E N] Maasa: Shravana Day: Bidhigey Year: 1671 A.D.

The Messenger sent by Dewan Venkanna hurriedly climbs a small hillock on the other side of the River Tunghabadra and walks towards the humble dwelling place of Appannacharya, a great disciple of Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha, surrounded by a huge garden full of sacred Tulasi plants!! There, in the faint glow of light given off from burning embers, the Messenger sights an orthodox scholar clad in simple white Dhoti wrapped around in a frail frame, with knotted tuft of hair and intently studying what appeared to be some manuscripts engraved on copper inscriptions! By his side lay many notes carefully jotted down on palm leaves!! The atmosphere inside was totally serene and peaceful, in stark contrast to the raging Nature’s fury outside! The utter simplicity of the man was breath taking! Probably all disciples of Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha were like this, thought the Messenger!!

The Messenger approaches Appannacharya and begins to speak: “Sir, I have come to convey a message from Dewan Venkanna Panthji about the impending..... !

Appannacharya was fully immersed in studying the “Parimala”, a Gloss on the Sriman Nyaya Sudha! O! What an erudite description of the Teeka of Sri JayaTeertha, thought Appannacharya! He closes his eyes for a while and is soon over come by the ever green memory of the past when he was fortunate enough to be with Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha! The Holy Pontiff had visited the tiny hamlet of Bijjale on the other side of the River Tunghabadra many a times! Appannacharya was constantly by the Side of The Holy Pontiff and was thoroughly Enlightened with prolonged conversations on many topics encompassing The TatvaVaada of the Great Acharya! The Holy Pontiff had Sat in the middle of a small island on the River Tungabhadra, near Bijjale, then known as “Rayara Katte” and Appannacharya had listened with rapt attention to the Divine Pravachanas’ that flowed with astonishing ease, overshadowing the rapidly flowing river waters’ all around!!

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha had Spoken thus: “Appanna! Even though the Performance of ‘Rituals’ and ‘Charities’ in line with Dharmic Practices are Most

Auspicious at all times and during all Epochs, in this Kali Yuga, 'Only The Service' that is rendered to the needy is Most Sacred and Most Pleasing to the Lord! Also, The More Service that One Performs to the Devotees' of the Lord, The More it becomes clear about the sheer enormity of the task that is yet to be achieved!!"

The Holy Pontiff had explained further to an awe struck Appanacharya : "Just before Lord Krishna 'Gave' His VishwaRoopaDarshana to Arjuna on the battlefield of Kurukshetra, He(The Lord) Had 'Enabled' Arujna to be Worthy Enough to "View His VishwaRoopa", first by Blessing Arjuna with Divine Eyesight, without which Arjuna would never have been able to View The Lord's VishwaRoopa in All Its Glory and Splendor, and would have been reduced to cinders in no time!! Likewise, Lord Krishna enables Me to 'Be' Worthy Enough to Churn the Lofty Tatva of Acharya Madhwa and thereby Empowers Me to 'See Him' amongst His Needy Devotees by Serving them! All My Strength Originates Only by adhering to the True Path Shown By Sriman Madhwacharya!"

Later, the Holy Pontiff had Worshipped the Icon of Lord Lakshmi Narasimha on the stone platform! Unforgettable!!..... Simply Unforgettable... thought Appannacharya!!! Appanacharya had also wished to accompany the Holy Pontiff to PanchaMukhi Kshetra, but for some unknown reason the Holy Pontiff had replied: "Appanna!, Please be here at Bijjale and continue your scholastic pursuits! I shall send word for you at the right moment"!! For the first time, Appannacharya had felt strangely uneasy and uncomfortable! But then he had kept quite! Now, a messenger sent by Dewan Venkanna Panth stood in front of him.! Perhaps the Holy Pontiff had sent word for him!! O! How fortunate, thought Appannacharya.! Now he would "Be" with the Holy Pontiff on all his sojourns, come what may!!! So thinking, Appannacharya slowly ties the palm manuscripts together, presses them to his eyes, places a freshly plucked garland of Tulasi leaves on them and turns towards the messenger standing in front of him!.

Appanacharya then beckons towards the Messenger: "Aarya!, You look very exhausted! It seems as though you have been travelling very fast and in much haste! You are completely drenched in the rains! Take this cloth and dry yourselves ! Come, sit down for a while!"

The Messenger sits down breathing heavily and dries himself with a piece of cloth!

Appannacharya: "Now, Please tell me, what is the message of Dewan Venkanna...?"

The Messenger speaks: " Sir, Guru Raghavendra Swamigalu is Entering the Brindavana on the banks of the River Tunghabhdara at Manchale on Bidhigey Day" ! Swamigalu has sent word for you!"

On hearing this stupendous news from the Messenger, Appannacharya collapses on the ground as though hit by a huge bolt of lightning!!!!

"O! Gururayare!, Why have You Taken this Momentous Decision, so soon? Have You got tired of being with sinners' like us?! What is there to live for when You Yourself enter The Brindavana?! Who will Guide our lives from now on? O! Venkatesha! , Why have You Instilled This Decision in The Mind Of Your Greatest Devotee? Prabhu! Seshadhrivaasa! Did You Not 'Gift' Your Most Cherished Jewel, Prahlada, to be Born in this World! And now You are 'Denying' all of us this Very Boon of Yours!! Please Have Mercy on us all O! Lord! Has The Mission of Your Divine Messenger come to an end so soon! Venkatesha!

....Venkatesha!!.....Only You can convince Gururayaru to change His Decision!!"

The Messenger speaks: "Sir! We have to move towards Manchale at once! Otherwise we might not reach there in time....!"

After a while, Appancharaya, resigned to the situation, stands up slowly and speaks: "I have to see Gururayaru once! I have to fall at His Feet once! I have to talk to Him Once! Yes!....Yes! I have to get His Blessings Once! Come, come, let us go to Manchale right now!!"

The Messenger says cautiously: "Sir, There is no let up in rains, the entire horizon is covered with thick black clouds! It is going to rain very heavily, soon! It was very difficult for me to reach Bijjale from Manchale, since the River Tungabadra is flowing above its banks! In fact, the only country boat that brought me here was washed away in the swirling rapids! I am not sure if we can make it to Manchale in time for the Brindavana Pravesha...!"

Appannacharya cries out: "Enough! Enough! Let us not waste any more time ! Please do not say that I cannot reach Manchale in time! Nothing can prevent me from being in Manchale! If I do not see Gururayaaru now, then what other purpose in life do I have to live for?!!!"

So saying Appanacharya runs in the direction of Manchale accompanied by the lashing of heavy rains of cloud bursts and earth shattering thunders! The Messenger tries to keep pace, but is unable to keep stride with Appannacharya who moves ahead with hands held above his hands, and constantly chanting the Holiest of Holy Name of His Guru Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha!

Manchale lay enveloped in pitch dark black skies heavily over laden with thick clouds! Huge bolts of lighting danced around in the skies, touching the Earth with huge fingers of fire.! It looked as though Devthas Themselves were alighting from the Heavens through this "Lit Up Highways of Heavenly Fire" in advance to 'Be Present' during the Brindavana Pravesha of Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha! Continuous rains for the past several days had inundated the River Tunghabadra! She flowed with full force with whooshing sounds in great urgency to unite with the Ocean in the Distant Yonder! Not a soul stirred anywhere! People were fast asleep in their tents! The deafening silence was now and then interrupted by the shrill neighs of impatient horses tied to their tethers and the mooing of cows trying to evade the chill of the incessant rains! Occasional cries of infants wanting to be fed and the sound of their mothers' pacifying them into sleep wafted across empty noiseless plains!

Further, on an elevated rocky boulder, The Holy Pontiff, ParamaHamsaKulaThilaka Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha, Sat in Deep Meditation of Vidya Lakshmi! In front of Him were Holy Granthas' tied together in jute threads and stacked in neat piles! The dazzling radiance emanating from the Personae of the Holy Pontiff and His Eternal Compositions Shone Forth with the Brilliance of The Full Moon! Yogeendra Theertha also Sat nearby also invoking Vidya Lakshmi! Dewan Venkanna along with the attendant staff of the Holy Pontiff stood nearby with hands folded in full reverence, completely bathed in the Divine Luminosity emanating from the Personae of the Holy Pontiff! Though it was just a couple of hours before Sunrise, from afar it looked as though it was a perfectly bright Full Moon Day!

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha Slowly Opens His Eyes and Touches The Granthas' with His hands and Speaks Out in a perfectly fine tuned Voice, addressing Vidya Lakshmi, that seemed to Invoke The Suprabaathams of Surya Narayana to commence His Journey across the Horizon! :

“Thaayi! Vidya Lakshmi! I am fully indebted to You for favoring Me with Your Fullest Blessings! Indeed, this must be the “Fruits of Penance” of the Entire Lineage of Holy Pontiffs' who have preceded Me! Thaayi! How do I repay this Eternal Debt of Yours!? I Humbly Beseech You to Shower Your Fullest Grace and Blessings' on all My future Successors' also and Be With Them in the Same Manner!!”

The Holy Pontiff then slowly Gets Up and Bows before the Eternal Granthas'! Exactly at that instant a huge bolt of lightning hits a tree nearby sending thousands upon thousands of fresh bloom of flowers to fall in huge showers upon the spot where the Holy Pontiff Stands holding The SarvanMoola Grantha of Acharya Madhwa in His Hands!! Due to the sounds of lightning hundreds of asleep people are awakened and rush towards the spot where they envision the Heavenly Sight of flower showers falling from the Heavens' on the Holy Pontiff! This sight sends the people into raptures of delight and they all clap their hands and shout in joy and extol the Glories of the Holy Pontiff!

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha then with Utmost Devotion Places the Granthas back on the pedestal and Speaks: “Sri Moola Ramachandra! Yogeendra Theerthare, It will be Sunrise soon, Come Let Us Proceed for a bath in the river!”

Yogeendra Theertha: “Shreepaadare, The river is in full spate....!”

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha: “O! MukhyaPranadeva! Yes, Yogeendra Theerthare, I shall bathe in the Midst of Mother Tungabhadra to my hearts content! What better fortune is there apart from Bathing in this Holy River?! Is everything ready for the Pooja of My Araadhya Daiva?! Also, Please Place The SarvanMoola Grantha In My Brindavana!”

Yogeendra Theertha: ‘Shreepadare! Mahadaagne! I shall do so as per Your Wish! I shall also accompany You for a Holy Bath in the river! All arrangements have been made for Your Sri Moola Rama Pooja!”

Immediately Dewan Venkanna and the attendants of the Holy Pontiff clear one particular portion of the river bank to enable the Pontiffs' to enter the river for their bathing rituals. Tens and scores of devotees begin to rush towards the river to simultaneously take bathe along with the Holy Pontiffs'!.

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha Enters the River Tungabhadra along with Yogeendra Theertha and Begins to Take Bath! At that instant thousands upon thousands of Devthas “Seeing Moola Narayana Omnipresent” in the Holy Pontiff, transform themselves into tiny fish and dive into the Holy River and rush towards the Approaching Holy Feet of the Pontiff Wading towards the center of the River!. Devthas Themselves in the ‘Guisse’ of tiny fish Touch the Holy Feet of the Pontiff and dance with unbridled joy with the electrifying effect of such a contact with the Holy Feet of the Pontiff! The River waters are soon completely teeming with huge schools of tiny fish and it looked as though the entire Devaloka was present in the River around the Feet of the Holy Pontiff! The Approaching Holy Feet of Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha Resembled the Majestic Stride of the Celestial Elephant ‘Iraavata’ of Indra Deva!! The numerous Devthas in the form of tiny fish which swam around the Holy Feet of the Pontiff shone like Highly Polished Golden and Silver Anklets!

One devoted attendant of SreeGurugalu stands waist deep in the cold river waters holding the Most Sacred 'Madi Vastra' of the Holy Pontiff in his hands! The Sacred Madi Vastra of the Holy Pontiff itself dazzles forth like bright morning Star! This particular attendant was born deaf and dumb in a priestly family and thus being unable to utter hymns and prayers due to his disability had joined the SriMutt at Kumbakonam and was engaged in serving the Holy Pontiff by washing His Sacred Clothes, ever since ! Now, by the mountain of merit gained by such a humble service to the Holy Pontiff, the attendant had overcome all his physical disabilities due to the constant contact with the Holy Madi Vastra of the Pontiff and was now a fluent scholar who could speak and utter hymns better than anyone else from his clan!!

The Holy Pontiff slowly Wades into the river waters and Stops in front of this humble attendant and Speaks : "Sri Krishna! Vatsa! You have served me well for all these years! Let You and Your future descendants be entrusted with the right of Performing Daily Rituals to My Moola Brindavana, henceforth! May Sri Krishna Bless You with His Bountiful Grace!"

The Attendant is delirious with joy : "Swamigale! Swamigale! I am indeed overwhelmed by Your Grace in this Manner! You made a deaf and dumb person like me to utter holy scriptures like a profound scholar!! How can I ever hope to repay my gratitude!? Now You have entrusted me and my descendants to Perform Daily Rituals To Your Moola Brindavana!....Swamigale!This must surely be the fruits of penance of all my forefathers!!.....O! Karunaalu, O! Dhayamayi! Indeed all my 'Sevas' have really fructified today!"

The Holy Pontiff just Smiles and Wades further into the center of the River and Commences His Holy Bath in the easterly direction! The Holy Pontiff first Sprinkles a few drops of river water on His Head and with Hands Folded in Deep Reverence towards Sriman Moola Rama Omnipresent in Him, Immerses Himself Three Times in the Holy Tungabhadra, all the while uttering the powerful Hymns of the PurushaSookta!. Then the Holy Pontiff Cups a Palm full of Water in His Hands and allows the 'cupped waters' to cascade down back into the river, just as the First Golden Rays of the Rising Sun Begin to peep through the thick blankets of clouds!

A few yards away, Yogeendra Theertha also Takes Holy Bath along with His Guru! O! What a Divine Sight to Behold! The Holy Duo resembled Bramha Devaru and Brihaspathi, from afar!! Seeing the Holy Pontiffs' Taking their Bath, scores of devotees who had assembled further downstream also plunge headlong into the river at the same instant and are thoroughly Sanctified by the combined stupendous Powers of the Holy Body of the Pontiffs' and the engulfing waters of the Holy River!! After Finishing His Bath the Holy Pontiff is Led towards a 'makeshift' platform on the River banks and is completely Immersed in Mediation of Sriman Moola Rama.!! Then after what seemed to be an Eternity, the Pontiff Starts his daily lessons to His pupils in the Gurukula. The Lessons are primarily connected to the 'Baashyas of Sriman Madhwacharya'! The audience consisting of both young scholars, disciples and ordinary laymen hear in rapt attention and are completely energized by the Lessons Originating from the Mouth of the Holy Pontiff! Soon after, The Holy Pontiff once again takes a Ceremonial Bath in the River Tunghabhadra and Performs the Customary Samsthana Pooja to Sriman Moola Rama Devaru and other Deities.!! Thousands upon thousands of Devthas line up in the Heavens to Watch this Grand Spectacle! The Holy Worship of Sriman Moola Rama

Devaru by Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha on that day resembled the Holy Worship of Bramha Devaru to Sriman Narayana! After an elaborate Worship in strict accordance with the tenets of rituals as laid down by Acharya Madhwa Himself, the Holy Pontiff Starts the Tirtha-Prasada Viniyoga and distributes PhalaMantrakshate to all those who had assembled there! Highly emotional scenes are witnessed during the end when the turn of Dewan Venkanna Panth comes to receive the Tirtha and Prasada from the Holy Pontiff! The humble Dewan bows in full length before the Holy Pontiff and does not get up for a while!!

The Holy Pontiff Speaks out : “Sri Hari! Dewanre, You have indeed served me well with a sense of utmost sincerity ! But by your constant grieving and by the continuous flow of tears from your eyes, you stand to loose all the merit that you have gained till now! Please do not grieve! It is not proper! My fullest Blessings will be with you, always! Henceforth, Yogeendra Theertha Shall Show you All the Correct and True Path!!”

Dewan Venkanna: “Gurugale, Gurugale.....! I have unsuccessfully tried to pacify myself many a times! But what can I do?! This soul of mine just cannot accept Your Disappearance from amongst our midst! Gurugale! Please forgive all my sins that I might have committed due to ignorance! Please give me opportunity to Perform Your Seva in all my future life times also!!!”

So saying Dewan Venkanna once again falls full length in front of the Holy Pontiff and accepts Tirtha-Prasada from Him!

Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha: “Narayana!, Dewanare, have you arranged for My Hamsa Veena?!”

Dewan Venkanna: “Gurugale, Yes! Indeed! I shall bring it before Your Holy Self at once!”

Dewan Venkanna immediately runs towards a small enclosure nearby and brings the Musical Instrument and places it in front of the Holy Pontiff! Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha then Picks up the Hamsa Veena and Places it on His Laps and Invokes Goddess Sarawathi and begins to twang the Musical Instrument! The Divine Melodies arising from the Instrument begins to envelop the entire region and sends those who were listening into raptures of delight due to the sheer power of the auspicious musical notes floating around everywhere!! As the musical notes continue to cascade from the Hamsa Veena , miraculously ‘Another’ ‘VENU NAADHA’ could also be heard in tandem to the Perfect Harmony of the Veena Naada!!! People assembled hear wonder struck at this Heavenly Miracle!! They mutely raise their hands over their heads and shout with joy “Raghavendra Raghavendra Pahimaam, Raghavendra Raghavendra Rakshamaam!!!” Hearing the VENU NAADHA arising from the Celestial Flute of Lord Krishna Himself, tens and scores of cows that were tethered to iron pegs wriggle free from their jute ropes and rush towards the spot where the Holy Pontiff Sat playing the Hamsa Veena!! The cows seemed to be completely hypnotized by the heavenly musical notes arising from the Hamsa Veena and the Eternal Raagas Arising from the Flute Held in The Hands of the Celestial Cowherd Lord Sri Krishna Himself!! The Holy Pontiff Closes His Eyes’ and is completely immersed in the ‘Raagas’ and the Adhipathi of the ‘Raaga” Lord Sri Krishna Himself! Tears’ stream down from the Eyes of the Aged Pontiff as He Beholds Lord Sri Krishna Himself Before His Eyes!! The Dazzling Ornaments and the Rich Silken clothes embroidered in Golden threads Worn By The Lord is ‘Excellently Complimented’ by the

Subtle Saffron colors given off by the “ParamaPaavanaMadiVastra” of the Holy Pontiff, Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha!

Suddenly the Holy Pontiff Stops Playing the Hamsa Veena and cries out aloud: “VenuGopaala!.....Krishna!...Thandhe!...Jagatrakshaka!...Govindaaa!....Mukundaa!....Dheenabandhu...! At last I am Blessed By Your Darshna! O! MuraliLola! Yashodha Kandha!! Indeed My Life’s Mission has come to an End! I do not have any Savior Other than You O! Lord! Please Give Me Your “ParmaPaavanaSaanidhya” For Ever at Your Lotus Feet”!!

The crowds on hearing this, breaks out in raptures of joy! The Haridaasa’s chant ‘Hari Sarvotama Vaayu Jeevotama’ in full throated ecstasy !! After a while Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha addresses the huge gathering and charts out guidelines for leading a pious life never deviating from the Path shown by Acharya Madhwa and the Saashtras! The Holy Pontiff stresses the need to Study the SarvanMoola Granthas and their Eternal Commentaries under Worthy Teachers, which would then surely Serve as the Guiding Light ensuring a life full of peace and prosperity! The Holy Pontiff then Continues to address the audience by informing that all miracles that were attributed to Him were in fact possible only due to the Blessing of Hari, Vaayu and Guru and due to the Merits arising from Yoga Siddhi and Saastradhyayana! The Holy Pontiff also Extols the Blemish less Nature of The Supreme Lord Who is Full of Auspicious Qualities and Is Infinitely Faultless! All Souls Are Eternally Subservient to Him! He Is Devoid of all three Universal Qualities such as “Sattva, Tamas and Rajas”!. The Holy Pontiff Continues to Explain that The World that is Seen all round is True, The Vedas Are True! There is no Illusion in any thing that the Eye Beholds! The Holy Pontiff also highlights the method of Right living leading to the Path of Karma Yoga! Salvations awaits Only those who practice Right Living which would automatically lead to Right Thinking! The Holy Pontiff also stresses the need for compulsory Observance of rituals and fasting on Ekaadashi days and Observance of Chaturmaasa rituals! The Holy Pontiff Encourages the audience to constantly strive to achieve the Blessings and Grace of Sri Hari Always! The Holy Pontiff also Informs the audience that He shall always be Present in the Brindavana and in the Eternal Granthas and Continue to Bless everyone!

Next the Holy Pontiff Prays to His Guru Sudheendra Theertha, ParamaGuru Vijayeendra Theertha and all the Moola Yatis’ of His Parampare! After Praying thus, The Holy Pontiff slowly gets Up and Moves Towards the Brindavana Site! He is Escorted to the Holy Site by Yogeendra Theertha and a group of eminent scholars, apart from Dewan Venkanna, disciples and attendants of the SriMutt, accompanied by the chants of Veda Mantras by orthodox priests! The Holy Pontiff Leaves His ParamaPaavanaPaadukaas aside and Dewan Venkanna carries the Same with utmost devotion! The Holy Pontiff Holding the Sacred Ceremonial Staff in His Hands, Performs the ‘Pradakshina’ around the Brindavana Thrice and Enters The Brindavana, down, through a flight of steps, from the southern direction ! Next The Holy Pontiff Sits Inside the Brindavana in a ‘Padmaasana’ Posture and Closes His Eyes and Begins To Utter The Pranava Mantra, as indicated by the Turns of Japamani in His Hands! Placed In Front of Him Are The SarvanMoola Grantha and the Teekas of Sri JayaTeertha along with His Own Compositions’ ! After a while the Japamani Drops from His Grasp! Taking this as a cue, Brindavana Shiley are Placed around the Holy Pontiff up to the Level of the Holy Pontiff’s Head and Covered by a “Samputa” containing 1200 Maha Vishnu Saaligramas

that was earlier brought from the River Gandaki! Yogeendra Theertha Then Pours Sanctified Waters' from Silver Caskets on the 1200 Saligramas with utmost Devotion and Sanctity! Then Dewan Venkanna and other disciples of the SriMutt Complete the 'Brindavana Jodaane' by erecting the remaining 'Shileys' all Around and Finally The Holy Mrutika is spread all over on the Top! For a minute there is Total Silence all around and is immediately followed by the deafening auspicious notes of various musical instruments being played like that of Shanka, Nagari, Jaghate and Pancha Vaadya! Hundreds of people rush forward to have a Glimpse of the Moola Brindavana of Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha! Shouts of "RajadhiRaaja GuruSarvabhooma Govindaa!! PrahladaRaajaVaradha Govindaa!! AnjaneyaVardha Govindaa!! Sriman Moola Rama Vijayate! Sri Gururaja Vijayate!" Rent the Air in All Directions! Hundreds of people weep that such a Holy Pontiff will Never Again Be Seen In Their Midst Ever Again!

Meanwhile Appannacharya is halted in his march towards Manchale by the raging torrents of the River Tunghabhadra!. Appannacharya could see huge crowds of people gathered on the other side of the river around the site of the Brindavana! He starts uttering the Sri Raghavendra Stotra "PoornaBodhaGuruTheerthaPayobdhipaara... and jumps into the swollen river and starts swimming towards the other side!. Soon he is over come by the rapids of the fast flowing river! Appannacharya continues to swim unmindful of the raging currents! Miraculously the raging river waters never flows over his head! Appannacharya swims ahead unhindered by the strong currents of the river and reaches the river bank and steps onto the Holy Soil of Manchale, all the while uttering the Sri Raghavendra Stotra! He runs forward on the slippery sands on the river banks! Just as Appannacharya arrives in front of the Brindavana site, to his dismay, the Brindavana Jodane is already over and he hears the sounds of the auspicious instruments and Jayakaaras' of devotees and everyone is seen standing in deep reverence around the Moola Brindavana!.. Appannacharya is aghast! He runs towards the Moola Brindavana and the Sri Raghavendra Stotra being uttered by him stops mid way in his dried up throat...KeerthiDhigVidhithaaVibhuthirAthula....!!!! Appannacharya collapses in front of the Moola Brindavana of Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha unable to continue any further!.. Then as hundreds of people watch with bated breath the Rich Baritone Voice of The Holy Pontiff Resonates From Within the Moola Brindavana .../SAAKSHI HAYASYOTRAHI/, Completing the unfinished Verse of the Stotra and thereby validating the Stotra being uttered by Appannacharya to be True in All Respects and Carrying The Divine Sanction of None Other Than Lord Hayagreeva Himself!!!!

Hundreds of people led by the succeeding Pontiff Yogeendra Theertha bow before the Moola Brindavana on hearing The Holy Voice of Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha from within the Brindavana!

Appannacharya cries out aloud: "GuruSaarvabhoomare! GuruSaarvabhoomare! When will I ever get Your DarshanaBaaghya?!?!".

Then Yogeendra Theertha consoles Appannacharya thus: "Sri Hari! ... Appannacharyare, Indeed You Are Truly Blessed! Shreepaadaru Has Shown His First Miracle From Within the Moola Brindavana ! It would be most apt if You continue to stay here at Manchale and guide young pupils who come in search of Knowledge! In this manner You Shall Also Be Blessed By Being Besides the Moola Brindavana of Shreepaadaru Also! May Sriman Moola Rama Bestow Upon You His Infinite Grace !"

Appanacharya silently nods his head in approval and goes around the Moola Brindavana in deep reverence with hands folded and completes 'his' utterances of the Sri Raghavendra Stotra!

Turning towards Dewan Venkanna Panth, the Young Pontiff Speaks: "Dewanare, I Wish to Consecrate an Idol of Pranadevaru in front of the Moola Brindavana of Our Shreepaadaru! Alos please do arrange for a suitable 'Stone Mantapa' to be built over this Most Sacred of Sites!

Dewan Venkanna : "Yatigale, Yogeendra Theerthare, From now on Gurugalu Speaks Out from Your Mouth! Your Holy Wish is always my command!"

Keeping in view that the Holy Pontiff Srimadh Raghavendra Theetha was the 16th Pontiff in line after HamsaNaamakaParamaatma, the new incumbent Yogeendra Theertha Places the Sriman Moola Rama Icon on top of the Moola Brindavana and Performs KANAKAABHISHEKA to the Icon Sixteen Times!!!

Then all including Appannacharya, Dewan Venkanna and numerous disciples of the Mutt, Royal Representatives and hundreds of devotees stand in front of the Moola Brindavana and witness a Grand Maha Mangalaarathi Performed by Yogeendra Theertha! Hundreds of people make a beeline towards where Yogeendra Theertha is Seated to receive 'Tirtha' and 'Mantrakshate' from Him!!

Everyone assembled there chant the Holy Hymn //PoojayaRaghavendraya SatyaDharmaRatayachaBajataamKalpaVrukshaayaNamataamKaamadhenave// in Unison!

Huge Lamps are lit in front of the Moola Brindavana Symbolizing the Eternal Light of True Knowledge Burning Brightly For Ever Eradicating the darkness of Ignorance!! The entire Skies over the Moola Brindavana at Manchale is bathed in bright orange colored hues and it seemed as though the Heavens themselves were performing 'Aarathi' to This Great Pontiff!!! Water droplets escaping from the huge waves rising from the River Tunghabadra flowing behind, falls over the Moola Brindavana in the form of Dazzling White Pearls Signifying the Blessings of Countless Abhimaani Devtas Led by Goddess Manchamma Herself!

ShreeMoolaRamaPadhaPankajaBhrungaRaaja
ShreeMadhwaRaajaMathaSaarithaHamsaRaaja
ShreeRaghavendraVaraVamshajaYogiRaaja
ShreeSamyameendhraGuruRaajaThavaSuprabaatham
ShreeRaghavendraYatiRaatThavaSupravaatham//

[NOW] Maasa : Shravana Year: 2003!

The Holy Hymn of – "AnandaTeerthaVaradheyDhaanaVaaranyaPaavake JgnaanaDhaayiniSarvesheSrinivaaseasthumeManaha", resonated ceaselessly as I stood in front of the Magnificent Moola Brundavana of ShreeGurugalu! At that very moment, huge waves of unstoppable devotions surged from the depths of my Soul and led me to utter the Invocations of the Holy Pontiff! It was Only by the Abundance Grace of ShreeGurugalu that I stood in the Inner Sanctum right in front of the Moola Brundavana on a Thursday, that too, on the MadhyaAaradhana Day! Huge beads of Tulasi Mala cascaded from the lofty heights from the top of the Brundavana! The Icon of Lakshmi

Narasimha seemed to shine forth like the Crown Jewel to the clusters of Maha Saaligramas present in the Moola Brundavana! The Icon of PrahladaRaja with Hands Folded placed at the base of the Moola Brundavana seemed to humbly Glorify the Infinite Supremacy of Lord Lakshmi Narasimha placed atop the Moola Brundavana! It seemed the Very Chariot of Dharma was thus being Drawn by Prahlada Raja with the Icon of Lord Lakshmi Narasimha Atop! The ‘Stupendous Similarity’ to the Chariot of Arjuna which was Commanded by none other than Lord Sri Krishna with the Signage of Hanumantha fluttering on the Flag Mast during the famed Kurukshetra Battle for Upholding Dharma, is truly striking!

How can anyone ever hope to fully describe the Sacredness of this Holiest of Holy Pontiffs’, The KalpaVruksha, KamaDhenu and ChintaMani of this Kali Yuga?! Supremely Blessed by Goddess Vidya Lakshmi, The Eternal Works of The Holy Pontiff have Indeed Mingled with the “Shastra Sagara” of The Infinite and Fathomless Works of Sriman Madhwacharya and Added more Glory to the Holy Pontiff and His Illustrious Lineage ! The Very Name of the Holy Pontiff itself Bestows every cherished desire on His devotees owing to the proximity of the Pontiff towards Lord Sri Krishna Himself! Those who constantly Chant This Holy Name stand vindicated by the Evil Effects of Planetary Inclinations’ forever! Even those who are born mute end up ‘speaking’ like renowned scholars! The Holy Name Empowers the devotees’ to attain Wealth and ‘be’ constant Good Health! The Holy Pontiff Blesses Them to Scale Heights of True Devotion and Tread the Path of True Realization of The Supreme Being! The Holy Name of the Pontiff itself Eradicates every known and unknown shortcomings both in the body and in the mind! The Sanctified Waters flowing out after Washing the Holy Paadukas of the Pontiff in itself has more sanctifying powers than the combined sanctifying powers of hundreds of sacred rivers put together! The constant chanting of the Holy Name abolishes all mishaps in the life of a devotee and paves the way for leading a full life in the midst of affectionate family members! All those devotees who are fortunate to circumambulate thrice around the Moola Brundavana will gain merit equivalent to that achieved by visiting every known holy pilgrim center! All those devotees who are fortunate to be sprinkled with the Holy Water flowing down from the Moola Brundavana after the MahaAbhisheka will gain great merit equivalent to that achieved by taking Holy Bath in every known “Tirtha”! Just Bowing before the Moola Brundavana itself fulfills each and every ardent desire in the heart of the devotees’! Constant chanting of the Holy Pontiff’s Name will enable the ‘Realization of Eternal Knowledge’ that is hidden tantalizingly in the Vedas and Sastras! Continuous Devotion to the Holy Pontiff enables a devotee to cross the ‘Samsaric Ocean’ successfully with due fructification of all duties that needs to be performed compulsorily at each and every stage of one’s life! The Holy Name of the Pontiff uttered constantly with True Devotion eradicates every outward and inward manifestation of bodily malfunctions! The Power Enshrined in the Holy Name Blesses even those who are born blind with Divine Eye Sight and enables such devotees to lead long life spans! All those devotees who chant the Holy Name without any let up from dawn to dusk will surely be totally free from the evil torments of all unnatural forces and from the vagaries of Nature! Such devotees also will be Uniquely Graced by the Holy Pontiff with the Ordainment of Divine Knowledge equivalent to the merit gained from illustrious and meritorious off springs’! Such devotees will also be ever free

from vilification campaigns targeted against them from the rulers of the land, free from travails of bandits, mauling from wild animals and death stings of poisonous reptiles! Such true devotees will never be unhappy in their life owing to the fact that their mind is always concentrated on the Glories of the Holy Pontiff which in turn Truly Reflect the Supreme Glory of Sri Hari as Eternally Mirrored in the Infinite Mosaic of Acharya Madhwa's TatvaVaada !

Total and All Encompassing Meditation, where the 'JeevaAtma' totally surrenders before the 'PARAMAATMA', "ACCEPTING" the "SOVEREIGNTY" of the 'LATTER' is ALWAYS 'one step' higher than all forms of Worships' directed towards Sriman Lakshmi Narayana! Only 'Jeevas' capable of 'Achieving' such 'High States' of Meditation 'Can and Do' attain the "Highest Grades of Salvation", and at the same time "Continue" to EXIST in Real Time and Space!! Standing in front of the Moola Brundavana I could Envision the Omni Presence of ShreeGurugalu in the Moola Brundavana! Huge Beads of Shree Tulasi and Nalinaakshi Maalas, With deep imprints of Holy Naamas and Mudras dazzling radiantly in the Most Divine of Faces offset by an Ever Glowing Smile due to the Ecstasy on Beholding Lord Krishna At All Times'!!! I stand transfixed not knowing what to do next? Whom should I bow to? To ShreeGurugalu or to Lord Padmanabha so Magnificently Adorning the Very Heart of ShreeGurugalu! I continued to gaze with open mouthed wonder, speechless and dumbfounded, at the sight of rich silken Purple Colored Parama Pavana Madi Vastra Worn by ShreeGurugalu and the deep Blues of the Holiest of Holy 'Pachhe Neeli' Brundavana!! "Yathi Raghavendra Guru Raghavendra Yathi Raghavendra Guru Raghavendra Pahi Maam Raksha Maam!!" The Moola Paadukaas, well worn by the tremendous 'Weight' of the 'Saadhane' and 'Bakthi' of the Holy Pontiff Itself seemed like a 'Sign Post' directing the Jeevas' towards the Path of TatvaVaada of The Incomparably Great Acharya!

Suddenly I was jolted by the clangs of Bells heralding the arrival of the Two Pontiffs' to Commence The Maha Abhisheka to the Moola Brundavana! Hereditary 'Archakas' were getting ready to bathe the Moola Brundavana with the Sacred Waters collected in hundred of silver pots and with thousands of liters of milk, honey, tender coconut and Kesari waters! The Maha Abhisheka itself starts in right earnest to the deafening sounds of auspicious instruments! O! What a sight! Indescribable! Huge Cascades of Fresh White Milk cascading from atop the Moola Brundavana! Fresh While Milk Flowing in Long Fountains of Sanctity from Atop the Icon of Lakshmi Narasimha! The Mahabhisheka is performed for almost an hour! Hundreds and thousands of cans of Holy Water, Fresh Milk, Ghee, Honey, Tender Coconut waters , Kesari waters, cut pieces of bananas, mangoes and Sugar are poured over the Moola Brundavana accompanied by the continuous chanting of the Sri Hari Vayu Stuti! I watch this Grand Spectacle of the 'Panchamrutha Abhisheka' in abject surrender in front of the Moola Brundavna of The Holiest of Holy Pontiff, Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha! Since I stood very near to the Moola Brundavana watching the MahaAbhisheka, the waters flowing down from atop fell on me and all those who stood in the close proximity! O! What a Glorious Merit, Indeed! All my sins lay eradicated, all the sins of my entire clans of forefathers lay eradicated by this Holy Showers cascading down from atop the Moola Brundavana of the

Holy Pontiff on His Aaradhana Day! The Holy Showers also ‘symbolically’ washed away all accumulated sins’ of all those who were present there! I struggled with the volunteers to collect the Panchamrutha in cans for distribution later to the huge crowds of eagerly awaiting devotees’! At the end of the Mahaabhisheka Fresh Garland of Flowers and Tulasi were Draped over the Moola Brundavana and the MangalaArathi was performed by the Two Pontiffs! “Dhanyosmin! Dhanyosmin!” As I fell headlong in front of the Moola Brundavana my entire body was drenched in the Panchamrutha that continued to flow down from the Moola Brundavana! I followed the Senior Pontiff with hands folded as He Moved towards the Moola Brundavana of Vaadeendra Theertha to Perform the Abhisheka and Mangalarathi, next! I prayed silently “Guru Vaadheendrarey, Nimma Karuneya Kataaksha Naama Mele Yendendhu Irali! Nimmaya Varadhindha ShreeGuruRaayara Anugrahavaagali”!!!

Later I sat right at the front in the magnificently built new marble Pooja Mandira and witnessed a truly spectacular Sriman Moola Rama Pooja performed with utmost sanctity by the Two Pontiffs’! The rituals ended with a Spectacular Kanakabhisheka to Sriman Moola Rama Devaru Performed by the Senior Pontiff, His Holiness Sushameendra Theertha!! I could not but marvel at this truly outstanding heritage of the Sri Rayar Mutt! I felt Supremely Graced by ShreeGurugalu when I offered the customary ‘Hastodaka’ and received the Tirtha from the Two Pontiffs’!! Now, the Inner Sanctum over the Moola Brundavana itself was colorfully festooned with thousands upon thousands of fresh garlands of flowers! The Moola Brundavana itself dazzled with the brilliant Suvarna Kavacha covering it! Gigantic garlands of Tulasi, roses and fresh Champak and Jasmine flowers cascaded in a riot of colors from atop and the sides of the Moola Brundavana! The Icon of Prahlada Rajaru stood draped in a bright golden suit fit for Emperors of The Three Worlds’!! The blinding Radiance and Gaze emanating from the ‘MukhaVaada’ of ShreeGurugalu at the top of the Moola Brundavana automatically made all those present to raise their hands in utmost devotion! I stood awash with complete devotion in the Inner Sanctum and closed my eyes when the customary ‘Naivedhya’ was offered to the Moola Brundavana in huge Silver Plates! Words fail me to elaborate on the Spectacular Mahamangalaarathi performed to the Moola Brundavana by the Two Pontiffs’!! Cheerful slogans of “Jaya Jaya Rajadhiraja GuruSaarvabhouta” rent the air from the Inner Sanctum and millions watched the same outside through the close circuit television! Auspicious notes arising from countless Brass Bells, Conch Shells and “Nagharis” mingling with the deafening beats arising from the drums and Panchavaadya troupe echoed outwards for miles and miles! I wished the MahaMangalaarathi to continue for ever! There is no other more Holier or better sight other than this anywhere else on this Planet!

Next I move towards the enclosure and bow with utmost devotion in front the ‘Alankaara Pankti’, a group of highly eminent scholars and Vidwans who will partake the ‘MahaPrasada’ of ShreeGurugalu, first ahead of thousands upon thousands of devotees’! Orthodox priests first perform the ‘Aarathi’ to the seated Alankaara Brahmins each representing A Supreme Form of Sriman Narayana, presenting them with many auspicious gifts and later they are served with the Maha Prasada!! Late mid afternoon my pilgrimage to the Holy Place ends when I partake in the ‘Tirtha’ and MahaPrasada of

ShreeGurugalu!! I feel completely energized as I devotedly take in small morsels of food pre-sanctified with the Naivedhya offered at the Moola Brundavana of ShreeGurugalu! Later that night I witness the huge spectacle of the RajataRathosava and the SuvarnaRathotsava of Prahlada Raja around the Prakara of the Main Temple! Thousands upon thousands of devotees sing and dance before the Silver and Golden Chariots! Huge elephants lead the grand processions with the Holy Insignias of the SreeMutt held aloft on them! Thousands of SevaKartas jostle each other in their enthusiasm to draw the Holy Chariot with the Utsava Murthi of Prahlada Raja! The Senior Pontiff Himself Performs the first of the Three MangalaAarathis to the Chariot and the Icon of Prahlada Raja after which the processions completes three rounds in grand triumph!!

The highlight of the next day (Uttararadhana) was accompanying the Junior Pontiff, His Holiness Suvidyendra Theertha Swamigalu, Himself a Renowned Scholar, in a grand procession from the Main Temple premises to the Guru Sarvabhousma Sanskrit VidyaPeeta! The attendants of the SriMutt also accompanied the Holy Pontiff holding aloft the Utsava Murthy of Prahlada Raja!. It was an unforgettable finale to a most fulfilling and Holy Pilgrimage! Hundreds of devotees walked with hands folded behind the Holy Pontiff on that highly symbolic and sacred ritual wherein ‘GuruSarvabhousma’ Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha symbolically ‘Goes’ to the Sanskrit VidyaPeeta to ‘Be’ with the fledgling students and young scholars! Thousands upon thousands of rose petals were showered upon the approaching Junior Pontiff and the ‘approaching’ Utsava Murthy of Prahlada Raja! Every young scholar turn up to receive ShreeGurugalu at the gates of the VidyaPeeta with Full Honors! Welcome Aarathi is Performed and later the young pupils hear in rapt attention to the ‘Message’ of Sri Raghavendra Theertha through the Junior Pontiff His Holiness Suvidyendra Theertha!

Later in the mid afternoon a gigantic chariot with the Utsava Murthy of Prahlada Rajaru, fully festooned with hundreds of flowers, is taken around in grand processions around the main streets of Mantralaya, with the Two Holy Pontiffs leading from the front!! Lakhs of devotees occupying every vantage point all along the route clap and cheer The Glory of Sri Raghavendra Swamigalu in full throated splendors and the Chariot slowly meanders its way around the Holy Town! Groups of Haridaasas sing the Eternal Compositions of the Great Saint and Composer Purandara Daasa extolling the Three Incarnations of Vayu Devaru:

AnjikeInnyathakaiah Sajjanarigey BayavuInnyathakaiah! SanjeevaRayara Smaraney Maadidhameley AnjikeInnyathakaiah Sajjanarigey BayavuInnyathakaiah!

Kanasali Manasali KalavalaVaadharey Hanumana Nenedharey Harihoguvudu Paapa!

AnjikeInnyathakaiah Sajjanarigey BayavuInnyathakaiah!

Roma Romakke Koti LingavaDharisidha Bheemana Nenadharey SuttuHoguvudhu Bheethi!

AnjikeyInnyathakaiah Sajjanarigey BayavuInnyathakaiah!

PurandaraVittalana Paada Poojeya Maalwa GuruMadhwaRayara Smaraney Maadidhamele AnjikeInnyathakaiah Sajjanarigey BayavuInnyathakaiah!

IndiraRamana Govindaa Govindaa!!!

Huge chains of crackers are burst all along the routes to herald the oncoming 'DHARMA RATHA' of Prahlada Raja! The huge chariot moves slowly with hundreds of people pulling the gigantic ropes and thus absolving themselves and their forefathers' of mountains of wrongful deeds and sins! A riot of color breaks out as colorful powders are strewn all around, as the devotees dance with happiness while playing 'Holi' in front of the slowly moving chariot! Thousands of people stand in the hot sun welcoming the Chariot with 'Aarathi' plates held in their hands! After the end of a successful "Victory Parade", the Utsava Murthi is Taken inside the Inner Sanctum and a Grand MahaMangalaarathi Performed in a befitting manner !

After the end of the three day festivities I receive the Vastra and Parimala Prasada and the sacred Mantrakshate from the Hands of the Holy Pontiffs' and once again move towards the Inner Sanctum with a heavy heart and sadness that I have to take leave and head back! I once again stand in front of the Moola Brindavana and am soon immersed in soulful introspection! There is a lofty saying in Kannada which I Quote "DharmaVannu Kaapadidhava Mahime Dharma Devathegintha Sreshtavaaghiruthaadhey"!! Alas, one cannot fully extol the 'Mahime' of ShreeGurugalu in a single life time!

I once again bow full length before the Moola Brundavana and confess sincerely with a dry throat choked with emotion "Hoghi Barutheney Gurugale! Appaney Needi! Prathi Janumadhallu Nimma Darshana Baaghya Needi!!, Prathi Janumadhallu Nimma Seveya Avakaasha Kodi!!, Prathi Janmadhallu Nimma Saanidhya Dhorakali! Nanna Baalu Saarthaka Maadi! Iddake Namma Nimma Kula Devaraadha Tirupathi Srinivaasa Devara PaadaAravindhava Saakshi!!!"

The Sacred and Holy Narration of 'Aaradhan Mahotsava' of Raghavendra Swamigalu is incomplete without the "Punya Kathe" of Sugjanendra Theertha, the 12th Pontiff in line to ascend the Holy Peeta after Raghavendra Swamigalu!! Sugjanendra Theertha (1836 to 1861 A.D) was a great scholar very well versed in all branches of knowledge and more importantly was an "Outstanding Devotee" of Raghavendra Swamigalu! Sugjanendra Theertha was the Poorvashrama Grandson of the Eminent Dheerendra Theertha who Himself was the Poorvashrama Grandson of none other than Vaadeendra Theertha, the Poorvashrama Grandson of Sri Raghavendra Theertha! In fact it was Sugjanendra Theertha's ardent wish that he should enter Brundavan at Mantralaya and thus be with ShreeGurugalu, Eternally! With the Grace and Blessings' of Shree Raghavendra Swamigalu Sugjanendra Theertha entered Brundavana not at Mantralaya but at Nanjangudu (near Mysore) right next to the Only Consecrated Idol of Sree Raghavendra Swamigalu (please note, not a Mrutika Brundavana) to be 'found' anywhere else in the World! Sugjanendra Theertha's Aaradhana is always 'observed' a day after the MahaAradhana of Sree Raghavendra Swamigalu!! Blessed Indeed are the Holy Pontiffs' who follow the line of Sree Raghavendra Swamigalu and Blessed Indeed are those who dwell upon the works and deeds of such Holy Pontificate!!

Thoogirey Rayara Thoogirey Gurugala Thoogirey YathiKula Thilakaara
Thoogirey Yogeendra KaraKamala Poojyara Thoogirey Guru Raghavendrara

KundanaMayavaadha Chandadha Thotilolu Aanadadhimalegyare Thoogirey
NandanaKandha Mukunda Govindana Chandadhi Bajipara Thoogirey
YogaNidreYannuBeganeMaaduva YogeeshaVandhyaraThoogirey
Bogishayanana PaadavaVegadi Bajisuvara Baaghavatharana Thoogirey
Bajakajanaru Thamma Bajaneya Maadalu NijaMukti Ippara Thoogirey
NijaguruJagannathaVittalanaPaada Bhajaneya Maalpara Thoogirey
Thoogirey Rayara Thoogirey Gurugala Thoogirey YathiKula Thilakaara
ThoogireyYogeendraKaraKamalaPoojyara ThoogireyGuruRaghavendrara!
Thoogirey Guru Raghavendrara Thoogirey Yati Raghavendrara!!!!!!

SreeMadhwaGuruAnthargathaVaasukiShayanaSriLakhmiNarayanaArpanamastu.

{A Few Lines from the Eternal Dwadasha Stotra of Sriman Madhwacharya:

//VandhithaaSeshavandhyoruvrundhaarakamChandanaacharchithoDhaarapeenaamsakam
IndhiraachanchalapaanganeeraajitamMandharodhaariVruthodhbhujaabhoginam
PreenayaamoVaasudevamDevathaMandalaKhandhamandanam/
/PashyathaamDhukhasanthanirmoolanamDhrushyathaamDhrushyathaamithya
Jeeshaarchitam
NashyathaamDhooragamSarvdhaapyaathmagamPashyathaamShvechaya
Sajjaneshvaagatham/
/PreenayaamoVaasudevamDevathaMandalaKhandhamandanam/
/DhaaryatheYenaViswamSadhaajaadhikamVaaryatheSeshadhukamNijadhyaayinaam
PaaryatheSarvmanyirnayathpaaryatheKaaryatheChaakilamSarvabhoothyihSadha/
/PreenayamoVaasudevamDevathaMandalKhandhamandanam/
/SarvapaapaaniYathsamsrutehSamkshayaSarvadhaYaanthiBaktyaVishudhaatmanaam
SharvagurvaadhigheervaanaSansthaanadhaKurvatheKarmaYathpreethayeSajnaaha/
/PreenayaamoVaasudevamDevathaMandalaKhandhamandanam/
/AkshyamKarmayasminparesvarpithamPrakshayamYaanthiDhukhaaniyanamatha
AksharoyojvarahaSarvdhyVaamruthahaKukshigamYasyaVishwaSadhaajaadhakam/
PreenayaamoVaasudevamDevathaMandalaKhandhamandanam/
/NandhiTeerthorusannaminoNandhinahaSandhadhanahAnadhaDhevemathim
Mandha haasaarunapaangaDhathonathiVandhitaamSeshadevaadhiVrundhamSadha/
PreenayaamoVaasudevamDevathamandalaKhandaMandanam
PreenayaamoVaasudevamPreenayaamoVaasudevamPreenayaamoVaasudevam// }
/AkshyamKarmayasminparesvarpithamPrakshayamYaanthiDhukhaaniyanamatha
Aksharoyojvaraha SarvdhyVaamruthahaKukshigamYasyaVishwaSadhaajaadhakam/
/NandhiTeerthorusannaminoNandhinahaSandhadhanahaanadaDhevemathim
MandhahaasaarunapaangaDhathonathiVandhitaamSeshadevaadhiVrundhamSadha/
PreenayaamoVaasudevamDevathamandalamKhandaMandanam
PreenayaamoVaasudevamPreenayaamoVaasudevamPreenayaamoVaasudevam// }
/AkshyamKarmayasminparesvarpithamPrakshayamYaanthiDhukhaaniyanamatha
Aksharoyojvaraha SarvdhyVaamruthahaKukshigamYasyaVishwaSadhaajaadhakam/
/NandhiTeerthorusannaminoNandhinahaSandhadha nahaanadaDhevemathim

MandhahaasaarunapaangaDhathonathiVandhitaamSeshadevaadhiVrundhamSadha/
PreenayaamoVaasudevamDevathamandalamKhandaMandanam
PreenayaamoVaasudevamPreenayaamoVaasudevamPreenayaamoVaasudevam// }

C O N C L U D E D

**[A Humble Service at the MoolaBrundavana of Srimadh Raghavendra Theertha –
Mantralaya, Aaradhana 2003]**

*{With the Blessings of Sri Sri Sri 1008 Sushameendra Theertha Shreepaadangalavaru
Sri Sri Sri 1008 Suvidyendra Theertha Shreepaadanagalavaru }*

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