



**Dear Buiding Bhajanists,**

**Radhe krishna**

### **SPREAD OF NAAMASANKEERTHANAM**

#### **ORIGIN:**

As there are three Gurus in Carnatic Music – SRI THYAGARAJA, SRI MUTHUSWAMY DEEKSHITHAR and SRI SHYAMA SAASTRIGAL, so also in Naama Sankeerthanam, there is a GURUTHRAYA - Sri BHAGAVANNAAMA BHODENDRA, SRI SRIDHARA AYYAAVAAL and SRI MARUTHANALLUR SATGURU SWAMIGAL. Shri Bhodendral (a Sanyasin) was the 59<sup>th</sup> Peedaathipathi of Kanchi Kamakoti Peedom. He propagated RAAMA NAAMA Japam as the curator of all our sins, trials and tribulations. By chanting the Naama repeatedly on a daily basis, one gets solace, peace of mind, and all prosperity. This was given in the Manthra form and may be repeated alone or in a group in chorus and with or without sruti. It is so simple to follow and rich in result. Later Sri Shridhara Ayyavaal (originally known as Shridhara Venkatesa), who was a Gruhastha (married person) and who was living more or less in the same period of Sri Bhodendral, propagated Shiva Naama and also composed many songs in praise of Shiva. He was not a hater of Vaishnavism but rather composed songs in praise of Lord Vishnu, Krishna, Raama etc. and also on many other Gods.. Then came Sri Maruthanallur Satguru Swamigal (Originally known as Venkatramana), who also followed the Gruhastha way of life but as a Bhagawathar. Both Ayyavaal and Satguru Swamigal followed very strictly the prescribed path of a Bhagawathar, which calls for Nithya Karmaanushtaanam (doing one's bounden rituals every day as prescribed by our scriptures) along with Unchavruthi, Bhajan, Veda Leaning etc. and composed many songs. The songs composed by these Gurus are prevalent in our Bhajans today. Thus, with the initiative of these three Gurus, the Bhajan came into being.

#### **GROWTH:**

Sri Satguru Swamigal felt the need for propagating Naama Sankeerthanam and made a research into Bhajans performed in different parts of the country by different communities. He undertook a long Yathra (tour) of the entire India and visited each and every village and collected the songs sung by the then Bhagawathaas in different languages. He codified all the songs in different languages collected by him into a given order of performance and compiled a Bhajan Paddhathi called DAKSHINA BHAJANA SAMPRADAAYAM. This paddhathi encompasses songs in all languages like Tamil, Malayalam, telugu, Kannada, Marati, Hindi etc.composed and sung by many great Bhajanists all over the country. Thus, through this Paddhathi, he has brought about a unification of languages and thus achieved National Integration through Bhajan. In the present day scenerio, there are quite a few paddhathis followed with slight variations in the order and method, which are modification on the original paddhathi by later Bhagawathaas for convenience. However, all the present day Paddhathis have their base on this Paddhathi generated by Sri Satguru Swamigal. Thus, these three Gurus brought about Nama Uddharanam (Promotion of Naamasankeerthanam). While Sri Bhodendral achieved Tapo Shakthi, Sridhara Ayyavaal and Satguru Swamigal achieved occult powers through their Bhagawatha Vruthi (practice). They were so great and revered that the people of those times respected and revered them as Acharyaas (Great Gurus).

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## **SPREAD OF NAAMASANKEERTHANAM (Contd.....)**

### **PROPAGATION:**

In the recent times, eminent Bhagawathaas who were following Bhagawatha Vruthi followed this paddhathi and propagated the same by performing Naama Sankeerthanam at various places in India on different occasions. Sri Pudukkottai Gopalakrishna Bhagawathar, Thirividamaruthur sri Ventrarama bhagawathar, A.L.Krishnamurthy Bhagawathar, Swami Haridos Giri were, a few to mention, who have carried the torch given by Sri Satguru Swamigal by propagating the paddhathi throughout India. Pudukkottai sri Gopalakrishna Bhagawathar also undertook a great tour of all important towns and villages in India and spread the Naamasankeerthanam and added to the original paddhathi many Keerthanas, Songs, Naamaavalis etc. He is the only one who has elaborated the DOLOTSAVAM with many songs from PAVAALIMBU, which are dealing with Sayana Rasam to Lord and Lordess, so that he could enjoy the thrill of Pavvalimbu (which is performed very rarely on special occasions only) through Dolotsavam, which he performed every night. This Pudukkottai Paddhathi has come to stay with many Bhagawathaas performing it, particularly in Mumbai.

At present there are many present day bhagawathas like Sri Sri Krishna Premi Anna, Udayalur Kalyanarama Bhagawathar, Erode Rajamani Bhagawathar, Kovai Jayarama Bhagawathar, Thanjavur Thyagaraja Bhagawathar, Kanpur Mahadeva Bhagawathar, Jayan & Vijayan Bhagawathaas of Madras, Sri Naamaanandagiri Swamigal and many others, who are spreading this Sampradaaya Bhajan by touring not only in India but abroad. In Mumbai, there are many Samajams and individuals who are regularly performing Paddhathi bhajans on invitation from various samajams spread over the whole of India. and are spreading Naama Sankeerthanam One such Samajam is MULUND BHAJANA SAMAJAM, who are conducting Sampradaaya Bhajan every Saturday and also Bhajanotsavam every year..

There are many others who are helping to spread this through publicity by composing Bhajan Books and through websites in the Internet. One such site is [www.achalam.com](http://www.achalam.com), where the entire DAKSHINA BHAJANA SAMPRADAAYAM is covered in great detail. More details on the life history of the Guruthraya, origin, growth, propagation, paddhathi,. attavanai, explanations, meanings, naamaavalis, comparison with Karmayoga, Bhakthi Yoga, Gnana Yoga and Hata Yoga etc. are covered therein. Those interested to know more about Dakshina Bhajana Sampradaayam may surf through this website and contact the author Achalabhakthan through email link given there. Still others help this movement grow by conducting Bhagawatha Sannam every year in which many present day Bhagawathaas are being honoured/felicitated for their selfless service to Naamasankeerthanam. One such institution, which is doing this every year is NAAMA SANKEERTHANA of Dombivli, who invites Bhagawathaas from Mumbai and out of Mumbai to participate in the functions and felicitate them. In this year's sannam, Naama Sankeerthana has invited PADAM Naamasankeerthana Study group children to perform Naama Sankeerthanam for one-hour on 2.11.2008. This is a crown on you all as in the very first year itself this recognition is forthcoming.

May you all learn this great culture and become ardent followers of these great Gurus and shine in Naamasankeerthana performances,

**Achaa Bhakthan**

