

## New Year message from Sree Amma from Dubai UAE – 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011

“I am present before you and you are present before me on this day. Even though we are in different countries, I am with you all in Dubai today. When was 2011 born? 2011 was born yesterday night. The Tamil calendar is calculated differently. When we speak of the English New Year, it was born yesterday night at 12 o’ clock. Who were all awake at the time of its birth? Most of us would have been kept awake due to our work. I decided to celebrate it here. In Tamil we call the years by name, this year is Vikruthi Varusham etc. but in the English calendar importance is given to numbers.

1. In this year 2011, numbers will be most important. How much does 2011 add up to? 4. If we add the month and date (1-1-2011), we get the number 6.

In the country I am now in, numbers are very important. Do the roads here have names? I understand that they are being named now. If we must specify the address of a house here, we must tell the house number, street number. Dubai is amongst the countries which depend on numbers to identify a place.

2. You all know the importance of zero. Which is the next big number? Is it 9?

The value of zero is more. While counting we may feel that 9 is bigger. However the value of the number changes depending on where the zero falls. How many zeros are there in 2011? Only one. Can we all fit into the zero? Yes, it is possible. This is because God is present within the zero or ‘*Poojyam*’. We are the numbers next to it.

You must all be aware of Kavingnar Kannadasan’s song ‘Poojyathukullae Oru Rajjyathhai Aanu Kondu Puriyaamale Iruppan Oruvan.. Andhha Oruvan Peyyar dhaan Iraivan’.

Shall we all be in the Poojyam or with the Poojyam? I have already told you what is Poojyam. So let us be with Poojyam, not be a Poojyam. If we are with the Poojyam, we get mental peace and happiness.

So let us be with God and pray for the welfare of the world, for our country and for ourselves, our children and our family. This is the special prayer for this year.

3. When we speak about praying, we can pray for anything by any method. We spoke of 2 numbers earlier on: 4 and 6.

The fourth planet in the Navagraha is Rahu. Every Bhagavan has a special number. Rahu Bhagavan's special number is 6. Sukra Bhagavan's number is 6. Who is Sukran? We call "Velli" as Sukran. Who would all like to enjoy Sukra Dasai? Who are all having their Sukra dasai now? Who are all going to have their Sukra Dasai?

Lord Shiva is also known as Sukreswaran. Some temples have been built for Sukreswaran. What should you all do this year? You probably feel that you are in Dubai and it will not be possible for you to see Sukran whilst here. How can we then see Sukran here? During "Vidi Velli" (in the morning). It is related to the Sun as it happens during the day.

The stars at night are all called Velli or Vinmeen. There is a tradition that all Rishis reside amongst the stars. Hence if we look up at the sky at night we can see the stars. Sukran's amsam is present in those stars. Hence, it should not only be the gold in the gold souq that our eyes are required to see. It could also be silver. We need silver as well. Only if we are blessed by Sukra can we buy gold in our life.

In this country, I would like you all to look up at the starlit sky every day to get a darshan of Sukran. By doing this you will also exercise your neck muscles every day. Your eyesight will improve. Just as Soorya Namaskar improves your eyesight, even looking at the stars at night will improve your eyesight. The Saptharishi constellation is visible in Dubai. The Dhruva nakshatra is visible from here in the North direction. So you can think of Sukran here in Dubai. Only when we look at him, can his glance fall on us.

Hence look up at the sky every day. You will see the benefits of doing so within three months. Please make it a regular habit.

4. Today is Anusha Nakshatra. Generally, all those born under Anusha Nakshatra will adjust very well with the environment around them. They are very accomodating. As this year was born in this nakshatra, it will adjust with everyone.
5. Today is Saturday (Jan 1<sup>st</sup>). I have come here after Pradosham. Who were all thinking of Pradosham when they came here? The Pradosham time is a special time when all our wishes are fulfilled. What does Shiva do during Pradosham time? He takes the poison for the welfare of everyone. He wants to do good for everyone. He wants to solve everyone's troubles. Does anyone observe Pradosha Vratam here? I am very happy to hear that Shantha Kumar is doing this Puja, because even if one person in the country does this Puja, it will benefit everybody. Shantha, please come and tell everyone about your Pradosha Puja and how you started it".

*Shantha Kumar said,*

*"When I was pregnant with my second child, there were a lot of complications, but my father used to religiously perform Pradosha Puja and bring me the Prasad. When there were too many complications, the doctors said that I could not travel. My father went to Paramacharya to seek his blessings. The Paramacharya told my father not to worry and assured him that I would reach Chennai on Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>. And it happened that when my father went again to Paramacharya, he enquired whether I had come. He gave him an orange and asked him to squeeze it and give the full juice to me. Everything will be fine for you, he said. Within a few minutes, I delivered a normal baby Akshaya who is now 22. On the day of her 'thottil', two Brahmins came in from Kanchi and said that Periyavaa has sent Prasadam for you as it is the 'thottil' for the grandchild of Subramaniam. We were all moved and in tears. On that day I made up my mind to always perform the Pradosha puja and have been doing it for the past 22 years no matter where in the world I am."*

"In our country, every deity has a Puja which can be performed with discipline, shraddha and bhakthi. The importance of Sani Pradosham is that it fulfills your wishes immediately. 'Kai Mel Palan' (instant results) as they say. Today is Sani Pradosham, which has a special significance. So now I want all of you to chant the namaa of Shiva. Please open your eyes and chant 'Om NamaShivaaya'. Shiva must be right beside you. Please look at

him. I am looking at all of you, watching all of you. Keep your eyes open; only then can you see Shiva when he comes. Please raise your hands over your head and while folding your hands, chant Om NamaShivaaya. The chanting will finish when I say 'Om'...How many times did we chant Om NamaChivayya? I was counting it. Everyone here gets 100/100. Some did not say it; but others are ready to share the benefits with you.

6. There is a Swami by the name of Sukreswaran as I told you earlier on. You must all be aware of Maangadu Kamaakshi Amman temple (Chennai). A little further from there is a Sivan temple whose presiding deity is Sukreswaren. Similarly one is in Porur (Chennai). The homework I am giving you for this year is that you must identify all temples where Sukreswaren is the presiding deity. Try to visit at least one Sukreswaren temple before this year ends. We may think that if I am in US, I may not be able to see him, but he is present everywhere. He will be present in Siva Sthalangals.
7. We often say one in a crore, one in a lakh, one in a hundred. Shall we be one in two? Shall we be one in one? What does 'Onnuku Onnu' mean? It means seeing the difference. There is always a slight difference even scientifically between our two hands, our two ears, our two legs etc. That is how God has created us and we do see the differences and we identify a right side and left side. We also say 'Rendukku Onnu Pazhudhu Illai'?

8. What do numbers tell us?

If we say Naalvar, whom does it denote. We mean the four saints who sang the Thevaram – Appar, Sundarar, Thirugnana sambandhar and Manikka vaasagar. Then what do we call Brahma? Naan Mukhan, as he has four heads. Some Gods have four hands, We call them ‘Chathur Bhujam’

This year the number four has special significance. There is a place called ‘Naalulae Onnu’. It is a Shiva Stalam. It is a small village near Thiruvaarur near Kurundhahai. It has been excavated recently. You may visit this temple (the deity has now been kept in a tent). When you do so, what you experience is for you to come and share with me. That is the specialty of this temple.

9. Numbers are very important in UAE. I can see a lot of nods. Is it Yes! when you nod your heads up and down? Is it No! when you shake it sideways? Can you all nod your heads from front to back? Now everyone seems to be saying Yes. The reason I speak of Yes and No is because I have asked a poem to be circulated amongst you. I request Radhakrishnan to come to the stage to read out the poem to you after me.

You must have heard of a poet by name Kaalamegham. His name was Varadhan. He used to help with cooking in Thiruvaanaikovil. He offered naivedhyam to Ambal. He used to write poems, which looked easy to read, difficult to understand. He is no longer amongst us, but his poem lives on because if a language has a power, it will always reach us. He was a very accomplished scholar due to Ambal’s Anugraham. He has written three books: Muvar Ulla, Ammanai, and Para Brahma Vilakam & Chitra Madal.

The words are all slightly difficult to read and pronounce but the inner meaning is extremely beautiful. I will tell you the meaning and then I will read it out to you. He used to write his poems in four lines”.

*As the mike got a little lowered and it was raised, she remarked, “If the mike goes down, I must too. If it is raised I must raise myself too. I need a mike to reach you if my voice must reach so many of you. I have raised myself in order to reach you all.*

“Moving on to tell you more about the proficiency of this poet - once someone came to him and said, ‘Kudathille Gangai Adanganum’. Can we really control the Ganges? It is a river which flows effulgently with tremendous force. The person asked him to sing a song which says that the water of the River Ganges is to be contained in a pot.

The very next minute Kavi Kaalamegham responded with...

After singing about the holy Ganges, he said, ‘Jadamagudam Gangai Kudathil Adangum’. He used Jadama and Gudam in the following line, that is to say the gudam which does contain the holy Ganges is the Jadama “gudam” of Shivan. The Jadamagudam, (meaning the lock of lustrous hair that Shiva has on his head) is which he moves to one side and contains the Ganges with it. Such is his prowess in Tamil. It is especially beautiful to enjoy his poem especially with scholars who appreciate the language. He could write a poem if given the last word or the first word. Such was his proficiency.

He was once asked to write a poem starting with ‘ka’. We all know “ka uttukardhe” (minor conflict). It is common amongst everyone. If everything is too smooth, we feel something is wrong. It adds spice to our life and we better realize the importance of togetherness.

Every activity must be done at the appropriate, opportune time. If one is hungry, he must be fed at that time. Even if we serve him a sumptuous feast after sometime, he cannot enjoy it. One must be fed when he is hungry. Similarly, doing the right thing at the right time will give us the complete benefits of the work. “Kaiku Yettinadhu Vaiku Yettallai” is a saying. How many said that today? It means we did not get what we wanted when we needed it. There is an office in progress, there is a rule being followed, a factory is running, we are starting on a journey. Everything is happening on 1.1.2011.

In this country, in this place, in this program, I am with you and you are with me. It can happen only if it is planned by you and well thought out.

I may ask, “How far will the people in this country understand what I speak? Will they understand the good and the bad?” You have also come here expecting that I will give you some valuable messages. It is my responsibility to see to it that you all reach home on time. I shall now tell you the meaning of the song and then read it out to you.

Is the word “ka” bitter or sweet? Will it be Kasappu (bitter) or sweet like Kalkandu (rock candy) or Karumbu (sugarcane)? However eating Kalkandu or Karumbu is a lot of work for the mouth. For people who chew the Kalkandu, it is noisy. For people who suck on it, it is a different story. Karumbu is a big job on the teeth for people who actually eat it, not the ones who drink it in the form of juice.

You all must know the about the crow. You must have seen it in India. Here I see more of pigeons, the peace messengers. They also eat but not like our crows back home who will shout ‘kaa kaa’ at the sight of rice. The crow will be watchful during the day. It can even defeat the owl during the day. The owl can defeat the crow in the night. This is because during the day, the owl will not be alert. It will be drowsy. During the night, the crow will not be as alert. Hence it will get defeated.

How should a king rule his kingdom? During the day like a crow and during the night like an owl. The poet gives an example of the crane to tell us how his rule should be. What do we see the crane doing? It is said to stand on one foot and do Tapasya. Why does it stand in water? It watches over the water, looking alertly for fish. Can we call it focus, its goal, its single minded devotion? Such should be the reign of a king.

This is the inner meaning of the poem. What it tells us is that if we do the appropriate thing at the appropriate time, we will get its just results. If the king is not as alert as the crow during the day or as alert as the owl during the night, then his kingdom will be invaded by enemies. If he does not look over his subjects and protect them like a crane, then his people will not be happy and he will lose the trust and respect of his subjects. The poem tells us about how a king must rule his kingdom.

What do I want you to understand from this poem? Knowing the appropriate time, do the appropriate thing and make one grow into nine.

The poem is:

Kaakkaikkaa kaakookai  
Kookaikkaa kaakaakkai  
Kokkukkoo kaakkaikku  
Kokkkokka-kaaikkaikku  
Kaakkaikku Kackaikkaa kaa

Kookai means owl. Ko means arasan (king).

If we develop this attitude, we can be successful in all that we do. If we want to conquer our enemies, we must have an aim. We should also define a time period or deadline. Only if we do a work within a given time will it have respect and regard. If someone says that they have done their B.A. at five years of age, it will be hard to believe. But if we say that he has joined kindergarten, then we can all believe it. What we can do, what we are capable of doing, we must definitely do and at the appropriate time, to ensure our success.

10. Next, I want to tell you four things.

In the Gita, Bhagwan speaks on the right way of consuming food. He says those who eat once are Yogis. Those who eat twice are Bhogis and those who eat thrice will be Rogis. It is surprising how the stomach always expands to accommodate a delicious dish of our choice even after they have just had a heavy meal. The tongue is able to tell us what is good, what is tasty, and what is not.

I am going to tell you facing which directions we could sit and eat and what benefits it will provide us.

- Facing the east and eating will extend our life span. Some may feel that they don't want to live too long, but if we eat facing the east direction, our mind will be healthy and our body will be healthy. Then we will get good thoughts

and we will not have the thought of wanting to die. We all want to have a peaceful death without spending time in a hospital.

- Facing the west and eating will increase our Selvam in all areas. Selvam does not mean wealth or money alone. Selvam is educational wealth, the wealth of kids, mental peace.
- Facing the south and eating will make our fame grow. Do we have fame? Why do we worry about whether anyone praises us? If we praise God, our fame will automatically grow. Whenever we sit to eat, we must thank God that he gave us this food to eat on this day. The first piece we take we must pray and think we are offering it to God and then start eating. The direction is for the main meal for the day, not for everything we eat. You could eat one meal on certain days in a particular direction and follow it.
- However, if we eat facing the north direction CONTINUOUSLY, it will bring on diseases and sickness onto us. Continuously is the most important operative word here. If we occasionally eat facing the north direction it will not do us any harm. However if we make it a habit to sit and eat facing the north it will keep us sick.

I would like to share four facts with you.

1. We can find four divya kshetrams in one location at Ulagha Alandha Perumal Temple at Kanchipuram. There are a total of 108 divya desams.
2. The name of Muruga's Mayil (peacock) is Indra Mayil.
3. The pillar through which Ugra Narasimhar broke out to save Prahlad is at Ahobilam. Similarly we can see a spot at Thiruvanamalai where Arunagirinathar received Sri Murugan's darshan.
4. I said that we must chant Om Nama Sivaya. There is present a guru whom we all revere and who is an amsam of Shiva. It is Anjeneyar. He is always with Rama but he is Shiva. Through this example I want to stress that Shiva, Vishnu and Brahma are no different.

Next I would request anyone to sing the pasuram for today, the 17<sup>th</sup> day of Margazhi, and also for tomorrow. The pasurams sung by Andal should be taught to children and sung everyday during the month of Margazhi.

My Blessings to all of you.”

After the singing of the pasurams, the meeting concluded with a game of Poo Pandhu (Flower ball). Amma threw balls of flowers into the audience and asked us to play catch and throw with the balls, highlighting the philosophy that giving and taking were equally important and it is very important to know when we must hold onto something and when we must let go.

Happy New Year

Jai Nandalala