

indulgence loses its edge and becomes displeasing.

Even in matters of food and drink, when I ate and drank only just a little of the things I liked, my faculty for appreciating their taste became more refined and my physical vigour increased.

I understood what the *Gita* meant when it enjoined upon the Yogi to be a 'small eater'. Surfeit is death to vigour and the appreciation of beauty in taste.

I then realised the difference between satiety

and that beauty, the yearning for which is never destroyed, however repeatedly service may be given to it.

Two fundamental laws of human nature were thus unfolded to me.

Firstly, creative vigour is only possible by preventing the sex urge from seeking satiety; secondly, the only way to create beauty is first to transmute the urge into a vivid longing image with the aid of imagination. This longing is real Shakti, the goddess of Creative power.

Oct 31.02



From the Bhavan's President
Justice

Shivraj V. Patil

R. Venkataraman

A Living Embodiment of the Philosophy and
Teachings of Basavesvara*

He was social revolutionary who fought against the distortions that had developed in the Hindu Religion by ignorance and superstition. His ideas are relevant even today in this 21st Century world.

I deem it a great privilege and honour to participate in this grand function attended by a galaxy of eminent persons like Pujya Sri Sri Sri Sivarathri Desikendra Samigal, the Chief Minister, former Chief Justice and former Judges of Supreme Court of India, the former speaker of India's Lok Sabha and

eminent people gathered in this Hall. My pleasure is enhanced by the fact that I have the opportunity to pay my homage to the Saint and Social Reformer,

*Speech delivered on the occasion of the "Basavashree Award Presentation Ceremony to Justice Shivraj V. Patil at Kalakshetra, Bangalore on 18th August 2002.

100 years Old Mission for Human Well-Being

Vaidyaratnam P. S. Varier's Arya Vaidya Sala at Kottakkal has evolved out of a constant endeavour to preserve, maintain and adapt the ancient art and science of Ayurveda to modern times. A mission started 100 years ago is now a boon to mankind.

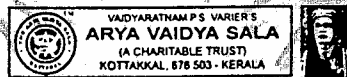
Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala is today a multifaceted Ayurvedic Institution with hospitals & research centres at Kottakkal & Delhi offering comprehensive Ayurvedic treatments. Over 500 classical formulations, manufactured under stringent quality control measures and adherence to time-tested procedures, are acclaimed all over the world.

BRANCHES

Kozhikode • Palakkad • Tirur • Ernakulam • Thiruvananthapuram • Aluva • Chennai
• Kottayam • Kannur • Coimbatore • New Delhi • Kolkata • Secunderabad

And over 900 authorised outlets all over India.

For details please write to: The General Manager



Phone : (0493) 742216 (16 lines) Fax : (0493) 742572, 742210
Website : www.aryavaidyasala.com
e-mail : kottakal@vsnl.com / kottakal@md3.vsnl.net.in

Ayurveda - The Kottakkal Way

Basavesvara, and confer the award of *Basavashree* on my esteemed friend Justice Shivraj Patil before this elite gathering. It is a unique feature of the Hindu Religion that the Supreme Being appears from time to time in some form, human and otherwise, to retrieve Dharma from degeneracy and decay. The Lord said in Bhagavad Gita:

*Yadaa yadaa hi Dharmasya
Glanir bhavati Bhaarata
Abhyuthaanam adharmasya
Tathaatmaanam Srijaami Aham*

Whenever Dharma (Righteousness) declines and A-Dharma (Unrighteousness) increases, I embody myself.

No other religion has either said this or produced incarnation of the Supreme Being in history. This incarnation is not confined to avatars like Narasimha, Rama or Krishna. Sages and Saints have come into the world from time to time, in order to restore Dharma among the people. For instance, when Hinduism was completely enveloped in ritualism and mere ceremonies

and worship, Adi Sankara appeared on the scene and removed all the dirt and dust that had obliterated the finer concepts of the ancient Dharma (Sanatana Dharma).

In our own lifetime Ramakrishna, Vivekananda, Narayana Guru and Ramana have tried to rid the Hindu Religion of many of the later day distortions and preach the basic principles of Dharma. These Saints and Sages are not incarnations of the Supreme Being but *Avatara Purushas*, great men endowed with divinity. To this category belongs Basavesvara - an Avatara Purusha.

I have read some books on Basavesvara where a controversy was raised whether Basavesvara was a Saint or a Social Reformer. My answer is that he was both a Saint and Social Reformer. I shall very briefly sustain the statement.

The Bhagavad Gita talks of a four-fold path to salvation:

1. The path of Abhyaasa, Rituals

2. The path of Jnaana - Knowledge
3. The path of Dhyaana - Meditation and Bhakti
4. The path of Karma - Duty without expectation of the fruits thereof.

Of these paths, *Dhyaana* or the Bhakti marga is easiest. The devotee is not called upon to undergo painful austerities or reach the highly intellectual heights of *Jnaana* nor perform duties sacrificing the fruits thereof. But in the Bhakti marga, the devotee is expected to surrender himself completely to the Supreme Being.

The Lord says in Bhagavad Gita:

*Sarva Dharmaan Parityajya
Mam ekam sharanam Vraja
Aham tvaa Sarvapaapebhyah
Mokshayishyami maa Shuchah:*
Renounce all dharmas and take refuge in me, I shall liberate you from all sins, grieve not.

A few of examples of the saints of the Bhakti movement may be recalled on this occasion. The Alwars and Nayanmars of Tamilnadu, Narayana Bhattadri

of Kerala, Purandara Dasa of Karnataka, Tukaram of Maharashtra, Meera Bai of Rajasthan and Gujarat, Guru Nanak of Punjab, Tulsi Das and Kabir of North India, Mahapurusa Sankara Deva of Assam and the east, Chaitanya Maha Prabhu of Bengal & Orissa, Annamacharya of Andhra Pradesh and Tyagaraja of South India, were the greatest emponents of Bhakti marga.

Basavesvara falls into that category of Saints who propagated Bhakti cult among the people.

Basavesvara says:
"The Universe is in Thee
But thou art in me.
"Look where I will, I find thee there
The vast expanse that meets my eye is filled by Thee
Thou art the eye of the Universe
Thou art its beaming face
Thine hands are outstretched everywhere
O Kudala Sangama Deva, I find Thy footprints evident everywhere".

He exhorted the people as follows:

Do not kill

Do not steal

Do not tell a lie

Avoid anger

Be tolerant

Do not self aggrandize or despise others. This is the only way to commend yourself to God and win His approval.

All religions, Buddhism, Jainism, Christianity, Islam, Sikh or Zoroastrian preach the same. Is there a single religion which says you may kill, rob, cheat, covet or practice cruelty?

Imagine what a glorious place, the world will be if all of us followed the moral code of Basavesvara.

To sum up, Basavesvara was an Avatar Purusha, one of the galaxy of Saints and Sages who had appeared in human form to lead the humanity on the path of Dharma or righteousness. He was social revolutionary who fought against the distortions that had developed in the Hindu Religion by ignorance

and superstition. His ideas are relevant even today in this 21st Century world.

The second thing, which gives me immense pleasure, is the conferment of *Basavashree* on my esteemed friend Justice Shivraj V. Patil. Justice Shivraj V. Patil is a living embodiment of the philosophy and teachings of Basavesvara.

Devotion to God and duty, humility and nobility are some of his outstanding qualities. By sheer hard work, integrity and ability Justice Shivraj V Patil has climbed every step of the ladder and reached the highest level in the judiciary. What more tribute can one pay after the Basava Vedike has chosen Justice Shivraj V. Patil for the prestigious award of Basavashree?

I am confident that this Award will be the forerunner for many more national and international awards in the days ahead. I wish him all success.

• Life
• Literature
• Culture

**Bhavan's
Journal**

www.bhava-ns.org

Diwali
Number



Editorial

Deepavali: A Time for Thanksgiving to the Divine Mother

S. Ramakrishnan

Heartiest greetings and soulful good wishes for a joyous Deepavali to all the members of the Bhavan's Family Worldwide-students, teachers;

stipendiary and honorary workers, advertisers, patrons and our esteemed readers.

Deepavali symbolises the removal of the darkness of evil from our lives. It is a time for