

## Biography Pdt.Srinivasacharyulu Rompicherla (1941-2020)



Pdt Srinivasacharyulu was born on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 1941 in Duggirala, Andhra Pradesh in a family of great Vedic Scholars and practitioners of Vaikanasa Shastra. He initially learnt Sanskrit and Panchakavya from his father during his early childhood. He emerged as a Vaikanasa Agama Pundit from the Guru Kula system for Shastras and fulfilled both parts of the Veda Shastra Agama Vidwat Sadas organized by TTD. On the academic front he completed Masters degree in Telugu. His career started as a Telugu Professor in SRR and CVR Government College in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.

Pdt. Acharyulu's thirst for more knowledge led him to approach Prof S V Joga Rao (Andhra University, Visakhapatnam) to seek his guidance for doing research. He did an exhaustive research on "Purana Vaira Grantha Mala" a series of books written by Sri Viswanatha Satyanarayana who was a "Gnana Peeta" Award winner. (Gnana Peeta award is given by the Government of India to recognize great literary work of writers and poets). This work earned him Ph D. As a part of the research, Pdt Srinivasharyulu conducted an indepth study into the timeline of creation, mythology, pro-mythology vs. anti-mythology arguments. He also analyzed various documents written by great scholars like Sri Kota Venkatachalam. He also explored great literature like Kathasaritsagara, Rajatarangini and so on. In addition, he also did an indepth study into the proposition of distortion of India's History by the British Colonizers with the help of History scholars. He explored the movement of Great Bear (Ursa major/Saptarshi Mandala) to support the argument that the current history timeline does not commensurate with astrological facts based on the date of Mahabharata War.



Pdt Srinivasacharyulu was not only a practitioner of Vaikanasa Agama, but was also proficient in it. Many Pundits and renowned people respected his knowledge and contribution to Shroutha Sutra (శ్రౌత సూత్రము). Shroutha Sutra, which was written by Vaikanasa Maharshi, describes the process of performing rituals and duties by a Vaikanasa Agama practitioner in detail. This is used as a reference by all the archakas of Vaikanasa Agama. Pdt. Acharyulu researched an old and incomplete document written (by a Scholar in early 20<sup>th</sup> century) in Devanagari, corrected the sequence, and published it in Telugu script.

Pdt. Srinivasacharyulu who was in Tirumala during 1986, was invited as one of the ten ritviks to perform the Kumbhabhisheham of Shiva-Vishnu Temple in Livermore, CA. He worked closely with other ritviks and the resident priest Pdt. Ravishandran to complete the consecration successfully on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 1986.

After the completion of the Kumbhabhishekam, Pdt. Srinivasacharyulu was retained as a priest by the temple. Pdt. Srinivasacharyulu got a different dimension to the priest duties at Livermore Temple. His knowledge and leadership helped temple establish the temple rituals such as Pavitrotsavam, Pushpayagam, Brahmotsavams and Maha Kumbhabhishekam that are mandated by the Agamas. He was instrumental in the process of procuring Abharanas for deities and establishing a set routine of Alakarams. His steadfastness, unstinted support, adherence to discipline for temple worship helped the temple maintain a standard and acquire the reputation of an authentic temple.

Pdt. Srinivasacharyulu implemented the rituals as per Vaikanasa Agama in the Vishnu (Balaji) Sanctum. With his in-depth knowledge, he quickly rose to the level of lead priest to the Vishnu Parivar of deities. He worked closely with priests and experts in Shaiva and Smartha Agamas to understand the rituals and procedures mandated as per respective Agamas.

Pdt Srinivasacharyulu had a personal touch on everything, including travelling to San Francisco flower market at 3:00 am to select fresh flowers for the deities. He worked closely with a team of volunteers who subsequently became Mala Volunteers. Alamkarams at Livermore temple became popular because of these garlands. Pdt Sinivasacharyulu provided religious guidance for the 1998 Maha Kumbhabhishekam. He was recognized as one of the great Vaikanasa Agama Pundits in USA and was invited to perform Kumbhabhishekams (consecrations) at many other temples. He was the examiner at Veda Shastra Agama Vidwat Sadas organized by Tirumala-Tirupathi Devasthanam (TTD). He was one of the donors of the scholarships given to Veda Patasala students in India.

Pdt. Srinivasachrylu decided to take retirement at Shiva-Vishnu Temple in 2006 to spend more time with his family and publish more books.

Even after retirement he continued to serve the temple, offer guidance, and encourage religious events, and worked closely with the community. He was invited to officiate Maha Kumbhabhishekam in 2010 as Yaaga Brahma.

In 2013, HCCC Management recognized his services and honored him with the title "Priest Emeritus". He was invited to serve the temple as a Religious Consultant and help develop comprehensive Sampradaya Document. It was a challenge as Livermore temple is kind of unique because it is a Shiva Vishnu temple and there was minimal guidance. He worked closely with a team of Volunteers and Management to develop the document. This could not have been achieved without his in-depth knowledge in Agamas, literary background, curiosity to learn from others and exposure at TTD.

His service to the temple stretched to the last minute. As recently as November 2020, a couple of weeks before he attained Moksha, the Maha Kumbhabhishekam 2022 team consulted him to obtain the inputs to help finalize the Muhurtam for the event. Pdt. Srinivasacharyulu is an asset to the temple and is identified as an icon of the temple by many devotees.

Pdt Srinivasacharyulu was married to Smt. Prasanna Lakshmi and they both have one son and three daughters. His wife is well known for her devotion and commitment to the temple. She supported Pdt Srinivasacharyulu throughout his tenure. She provided the recipe for Laddu Prasadam which is compliant with Vaishnava standards. The management and the devotees are extremely grateful to Smt. Lakshmi for all her support and dedication to HCCC.

Pdt. Srinivasacharyulu travelled to India in mid-November and attained Lord Vishnu's Abode on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 in Tirupathi.

We will dearly miss Pdt Srinivacharyulu but he will always be in our hearts. His "Govinda Govinda" will always reverberate in our ears all the time.

List of his Books Written by Pdt.Srinivasacharyulu and published:

- 1) Purana Vaira Granthamala
- 2) Sri Vaikanasa Kalpa Sutramu
- 3) Aswamedhamu(English)
- 4) Vaikanasamu-Kriya Yogamu
- 5) Paramathmika Upanishad, Tatwamu
- 6) Divine Weddings
- 7) Sri Vishnu Abhisheka (English)

