

The merchant had no sleep that night; he was planning to secure the gem from those simple folk so that he could sell it at huge profit to some millionaire. He discovered the house of the boy and moved up and down that road hoping to see the boy. When he saw the boy play with it as if it was as cheap as a marble, his heart was wrung in agony. He spoke to the boy asking for the gem in exchange for a hundred rupees, and again, for five hundred rupees! The son ran into the house in tears, complaining about the stranger who will not let him alone. The mother came out into the garden and begged the merchant to go away.

The merchant grasped the chance; he told the mother that he was ready to give a thousand rupees on the spot, if the marble was placed in his hand! On hearing this, she forbade the child to play with it outside the house; he could play only within the rooms. The merchant could not be shooed off like that; he appeared the next day in front of the house; he held out ten thousand rupees as his offer for the marble; the mother refused to part with it but kept it now in an iron safe, under lock and key! When the merchant came the next day with fifty thousand rupees she took it to a bank and deposited it in their safety vaults.



It is only when the body, the mind and the spirit are in harmony that peace will prevail.

You are also playing marbles with the Name of God, unaware of its value. Once you realise its worth, you will keep it in your heart of hearts as the most precious treasure. Know that the Divine Name is the key to success in your search for consolation, confidence, courage, illumination and liberation.

The Name undoubtedly brings in the Grace of God. Meerabai gave up status and riches, fortune and family, and dedicated herself to the adoration of the Lord, Giridhara Gopala. Her husband brought a chalice of poison and she was ordered to drink it. She uttered the Name of Krishna while she drank it; the Grace the Divine Name evoked transformed it into nectar!

Rama, the priceless key to salvation

Rama is the bee that sucks the honey of devotion from the lotus of the heart. The bee loosens the petals of the flower it sits upon; but Rama adds to its beauty and fragrance. He is like the Sun, which draws the water to itself by its rays and accumulating it as cloud, sends it back as rain to quench the thirst of earth. Rama, the mystic potent sound, is born in the navel and it rises up to the tongue and dances gladly thereon.

I am emphasising Rama-Nama (the name Rama) because the Rama principle is the Aathma. Rama means that which is pleasant and which pleases. Now, the Aathma is the source of all joy; its nature is bliss. Moreover, as Thyagaraja discovered, Rama is the Name which worshippers of both Narayana (Vishnu) and Shiva can adopt. The syllable Raa is the key syllable of the Narayana manthra (Om Namō Naraayanaya) and the syllable ma is the key syllable of the Shiva manthra (Om Namashivaaya).

The Vedic declaration, Thath-thwam-asi (That thou art) is enshrined in the word Rama, which consists of three sounds: 'Ra,' 'aa,' and ma. Of these, Ra is the symbol of Thath (That, Brahman, God), Ma is the symbol of Thwam (Thou, Jeevi, individual), and aa that connects the two is the symbol of the identity of the two.

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You will get millions to tell you what is pleasing to you, but it is difficult to get one in a million who can tell you what is good for you.