



PERSATUAN BRAHMIN MALAYSIA

(BRAHMANA SAMAJAM, MALAYSIA)

No. Pendaftaran 829 (Selangor)

Registered Address: Lot 1267, Jalan Ismail Ghaney, Kampong Kasipillay,
51200 Kuala Lumpur**Issue No. 06/06 - June 2006****MEMBERS' CIRCULAR****CONTENTS**

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1. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mother's Day was celebrated as a family event at Restaurant Cintamani. Members and their families present were treated to a children's variety show and a good spread of items at the buffet of fusion health cuisine was available for lunch. Special thanks to those involved in the organization.

Members are requested to inform the Hon. Secretary/President if they do not receive the circulars for any month. Please check the address on the envelope and inform us of any corrections necessary. Circulars are not sent to members who have not paid up their subscriptions for two years and more. Members who have not paid up their subscriptions for three years and more will be removed from the register. Members are encouraged to request for the circulars to be sent by e-mail. Please contact the Hon. Secretary, giving him your e-mail.

2. HON. SECRETARY'S COLUMN

The Sankara Jayanthi was well attended by more than 50 members and their families. Special thanks to those who organized and participated in the event. More articles are encouraged from members. Your kind attention is drawn to Section 7 - Junior's Section of the Circular. Please pass this section to your children. Members are more than welcome to contribute suitable articles for future issues of the Circular. You may send your articles to me by e-mail or by normal post.

As part of the cost-savings program, we strongly encourage members to opt for the electronic version of circulars or even retrieve them at your own leisure from the Website: <http://members.tripod.com/bsamajam/>. A few more members have opted to receive their circular letters via e-mail. Some have opted to visit the Samajam's website instead. The website has been updated. Do visit this site at your earliest convenience.

3. THIS MONTH'S EVENTS**POURNAMI POOJA****-June 11, 2006-**

The June Pournami poojai falls on Sunday June 11, 2006 (Star- Vaikaasi). Those who wish to sponsor this event are

kindly requested to contact Hon. Secretary/ President. Members and their families are cordially invited to attend and participate in this pooja.

SAMOOHA BHAJANAI**- June 24, 2006**

The June Bhajans will be held from 6.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. to facilitate the rental of the downstairs hall to a third party. All members and their families are cordially invited to participate in the Bhajans.

4. MISCELLANEOUS**APPLICATION FORMS****- MEMBERSHIP AND EDUCATION FUND -**

These forms are available for download at <http://bsamajam.tripod.com/Forms.htm>.

NAANDHI BRAHMANAS**- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED-**

It has been suggested that the Management Committee keep a list of volunteers to assist members who are in need of their services for nandhi (for upanayanam) and brahmannartham (for sradham). Please register your names with the Hon. Secretary, if you are available for such services.

COUNCIL OF ELDERS**-Updates-**

Mr. VA Narayanan was selected as the Chairman of the Council of Elders by the Management Committee during the last meeting held on May 14, 2006.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**-Volunteer Needed-**

The position of Administrative Assistant is still vacant. An allowance for traveling of RM100.00 per month would be given in lieu of the volunteer services rendered. Anyone who wishes to volunteer may contact Hon. Secretary.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS**-Updates-**

Further to the unanimous approval during the last AGM, the Management Committee has decided to approach a few organizations to become Sustaining Members.

WORLD BRAHMAN ORGANIZATION**-Updates-**

The Management Committee is currently reviewing the legal aspects of joining this organization and will update you as soon as possible.

POSITION OF HON. TREASURER

Mr. R. Swaminathan has tendered his resignation and this has been accepted by the Management Committee. Mr. N. Raman was appointed as the Hon. Treasurer at the 2nd Management Committee meeting held on 14th May, 2006 according to the

SASTHAPREETHI & AADI LAKSHAARHCHANAI

-Updates-

The Sasthapreethi pooja and bhajans will be held on Saturday, June 3rd at the samajam premises from 9.30 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. as follows:

9.30 – 10.30 a.m.	Pooja
10.30 – 12.15 noon	Bhajans
12.15 – 12.30 p.m.	Concluding pooja
12.30 – 2.00 p.m.	Lunch

Mr. VA Narayanan was unanimously elected as the Person-in-Charge of this function. He will lead and conduct all prayers, poojas and events. Kindly contact him for sponsorship/participation.

Members and their families are requested to come and participate in the pooja/bhajans and receive the blessings of Lord Ayyappa. Please donate generously towards the function.

AADI LAKSHAARHCHANAI

-Updates-

Mr. VA Narayanan was unanimously elected by the Management committee as the Person-in-Charge of this function. He will lead and conduct all prayers, poojas and events. Any member or group of members who want to sponsor and/or participate in the Aadi Laksharchanai to be held in August please contact Mr. V.A. Narayanan (Tel: 7875 0834)

POOJYA SRI SWAMI OMKARANANDA

-June 15 – June 25, 2006-

Poojya Sri Swami Omkaranda from Theyni Ashram will be in Malaysia for a lecture tour from June 15 – June 25, 2006. For details call Mr. V. Ramachandran (Tel: 9284 1717).

GROUP BHAJANAI PRACTICE

-June 18, 2006-

The next group bhajanai practice will be held on Sunday June 18th at the Samajam premises from 5.00 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. All youths are encouraged to attend.

5. MEMBERS' COLUMN

NEW MEMBERS

Persatuan Brahmin Malaysia welcomes the following new members:

M'ship No.	Name	Address and Contact No.
206	Santha Gomathy d/o Subramaniam	5, Jln SS 4/5, Kelana Jaya, 47301 P.J. 03-7880 0437 (H)
506	Chellakanu T.Rajagopal	Suite 138, 1 st Floor, Wisma HLA, Jalan Raja Chulan, 50200, Kuala Lumpur. 013-3305432/019-6345285 (M)
556A	S. Rangarajan	33-13-A Villa Scott, Brickfields, 50470 KL. 03-7490504
557A	Ravi Ananthakrishnan	116-15-5, Pines Condominium, JLn Sultan Abdul Samad, Brickfields. 50470 KL. 03-28741534
558	Subramaniam Sarma	22A, Jln Resak 5, Tmn Impian Ehsan, Balakong, 43300 Seri Kembangan, Selangor. 03-8961 6114/013-261 3932

559A	S. Sankara Narayanan	33-22-10 Block C, Villa Scott, Jln Scott, Brickfields 50470 KL. 03-2381 0825/016-330 6124
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OBITUARY

1. Mr. R Ravi Sundram (L-54) passed away peacefully on May 19th, 2006 leaving behind wife, children and a host of relatives to mourn his loss. The family thanks all members for their presence and condolence messages received during the bereavement. Tel. No: 7781 0304

Our condolences to the bereaved family members.

6. TEMPLE NEWS

VTMA management welcomes all members to take part in the activities of the Temple such as Chathurthi Homam (Abhishegam 6:30-8:30 am; Shasranama Archanai 6:30-8:30pm) and prayers. Any member wishing to sponsor the events can contact V. Subramanian (Temple Hon. Secretary) or N. Sreenivasan (Temple Assist. Hon. Treasurer). Members are welcome to come to the temple to offer their prayers and get the blessings of Sumuga Vinayagar.

7. BAEF NEWS – Forthcoming Events

(a) Bali educational/study tour. This will be in August (3 nights/4 days), we need 15 participants, approx. cost RM1000 per pax. Preference to be given to our members, tour leader Dr. Sankaran Ramanathan.

(b) Inaugural BAEF Golf Tournament.

(c) Second Motor Treasure Hunt.

(d) Second Speak Sanskrit Course in November, to be organised.

(e) Introduction to and Appreciation of Carnatic Music Course (for beginners) to be organized.

(f) Merit Awards Ceremony, possibly with grand dinner, early next year.

Correction on news in last circular:

R. Somasundaram should read as K. Somasundaram. The error is very much regretted – Chairman, BAEF

8. JUNIOR'S SECTION

SAGE PIPPALADA

Once upon a time, six young students, who were keen to learn about the mystery of existence and the true purpose of human birth and to investigate the goals of life, came to the sage Pippalada. Prostrating before the sage in all humility, they asked the sage: "Oh Maharishi! What is the cause of creation and of the Cosmos? What is the primary purpose of human life?" Pippalada said: "It is your good fortune that you have developed this desire for the highest wisdom. But, for undertaking any task, one has to have the minimum competence. Without that competence, even the answers I give will be beyond your comprehension.

Therefore, while your desire is commendable, you have to prepare yourselves at the outset by preliminary studies relating to the processes of investigating the truth about the real and the unreal. You must cultivate patience to discover the purpose

of life.

Sage explained to the students that in the Universe, both matter and chaitanya (consciousness) are self-existing. The unity of these two accounts for the creative process. The Sun is ever shining effulgently. For every object on the Earth whether it is a tree or a mountain or a living creature, the Sun's rays are essential for its existence. These rays contain the Life-Force. It is through this Life-Force that creation goes on. It is this Life-Force that sustains the cosmos. On the Earth the Sun is the primary cause of creation, growth and dissolution.

In his answers to the questions put by the six students who approached him, the sage Pippalada revealed to them what were the primary goals of life and how they should conduct themselves. In this Kali age, owing to the perversions of time, place and circumstances, students are prone to ignore the promptings of their inner conscience and act in response to external impressions. The external environment is highly polluted. But if you keep your hearts pure, you can cleanse these impurities and transform the environment. At the basis of all these is the awareness of the Self, the Atma-principle. Pippalada taught the students that this awareness should be their primary objective.

THINK

Before you think of saying an unkind word
Think of someone who can't speak
Before you complain about the taste of your food
Think of someone who has nothing to eat
Before you complain about your husband or wife
Think of someone who's crying out to God for a companion
Today before you complain about life
Think of someone who went too early to heaven
Before you complain about your children
Think of someone who desires children but they're barren
Before you argue about your dirty house; someone didn't clean or sweep
Think of the people who are living in the streets
Before whining about the distance you drive
Think of someone who walks the same distance with their feet
And when you are tired and complain about your job
Think of the unemployed, the disabled and those who wished they had your job.
But before you think of pointing the finger or condemning another
Remember that not one of us are without sin and we all answer to one maker
And when depressing thoughts seem to get you down
Put a smile on your face and thank God you're alive and still around.

WHY DO WE APPLY THE HOLY ASH?

- Sent in by Mr. S. Suryanarayanan (544A) -

The ash of any burnt object is not regarded as holy ash. **Bhasma** (the holy ash) is the ash from the homa (sacrificial fire) where special wood along with ghee and other herbs is offered as worship of the Lord. Or the deity is worshipped by pouring ash as abhisheka and is then distributed as bhasma. Bhasma is generally applied on the forehead. Some apply it on certain parts of the body like the upper arms, chest etc. Some ascetics rub it all over the body. Many consume a pinch of it each time they receive it.

The word bhasma means, "that by which our sins are destroyed and the Lord is remembered". **Bha** implied

bhartsanam ("to destroy") and **sma** implies **smaranam** ("to remember"). The application of bhasma therefore signifies destruction of the evil and remembrance of the divine. Bhasma is called **vibhuti** (which means "glory") as it gives glory to one who applies it and raksha (which means a source of protection) as it protects the wearer from ill health and evil, by purifying him or her.

Homa (offering of oblations into the fire with sacred chants) signifies the offering or surrender of the ego and egocentric desires into the flame of knowledge or a noble and selfless cause. The consequent ash signifies the purity of the mind, which results from such actions. Also the fire of knowledge burns the oblation and wood signifying ignorance and inertia respectively. The ash we apply indicates that we should burn false identification with the body and become free of the limitations of birth and death. This is not to be misconstrued as a morose reminder of death but as a powerful pointer towards the fact that time and tide wait for none.

Bhasma is specially associated with Lord Shiva who applies it all over His body. Shiva devotes apply bhasma as a tripundra. When applied with a red spot at the center, the mark symbolizes Shiva-Shakti (the unity of energy and matter that creates the entire seen and unseen universe). Bhasma has medicinal value and is used in many ayurvedic medicines. It absorbs excess moisture from the body and prevents colds and headaches. The **Upanishads** say that the famous **Mrityunjaya mantra** should be chanted whilst applying ash on the forehead.

**Tryambakam yajamahe
Sugandhim pushtivardhanam
Urvaa rukamiva bhandhanaan
Mrytyor muktshyeeyamaa amrutaat**

"We worship the three-eyed Lord Shiva who nourishes and spread fragrance in our lives. May He free us from the shackles of sorrow, change and death – effortlessly, like the fall of a rip brinjal from its stem."

9. CONTACTS

President

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10. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

English	Tamil	Day	Event
	Vaikaasi		
June 2006			
1	18	Thursday	<i>Subha Muhurtham</i>
2	19	Friday	Shashti Vrudham
3	20	Saturday	Sasthapreethi (9.30 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.)
7	24	Wednesday	Ekadasi Vrutham; <i>Subha Muhurtham</i>
8	25	Thursday	Dwadasi; Subha Muhurtham
9	26	Friday	Pradosam, Vaikaasi Visaagam
10	27	Saturday	Kaanchi Maha Paeriyavar Jayanthi
11	28	Sunday	Pournami Pooja (7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.)
14	31	Wednesday	Sankatahara Chathurthi; Subha Muhurtham
	Aani		
15	1	Thursday	Maasa Pirappu
16	2	Friday	<i>Subha Muhurtham</i>
19	5	Monday	<i>Subha Muhurtham</i>
21	7	Wednesday	Ekadasi Vrutham
22	8	Thursday	Dwadasi, Kaarthigai Vrutham
23	9	Friday	Pradosham
24	10	Saturday	Bhajanai (6.00 - 7.30 p.m.)
25	11	Sunday	Ammavaasai, Tharpanam
28	14	Wednesday	<i>Subha Muhurtham</i>
29	15	Thursday	Chathurthi Vrutham
July 2006			
1	17	Saturday	Shasti Vrutham
2	18	Sunday	<i>Subha Muhurtham</i>
3	19	Monday	<i>Subha Muhurtham</i>
5	21	Wednesday	<i>Subha Muhurtham</i>
7	23	Friday	Ekadasi Vrutham
8	24	Saturday	Shani; Dwadasi Pradosam
10	26	Monday	Pournami Vyasa Pooja (7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.)
12	28	Wednesday	<i>Subha Muhurtham</i>
13	29	Thursday	<i>Subha Muhurtham</i>
14	30	Friday	Sankatahara Chathurthi; Subha Muhurtham
16	32	Sunday	Dhakshinayana Punnya Kaalam; <i>Subha Muhurtham</i>

Prepared by R. Ravindran Vadhyar

Disclaimer

While all attempts are made to ensure the contents of this Circular are factual, the Management Committee is not responsible for any omissions or incorrect information printed.