



# Chinmaya Mission San Jose



e-Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 2

New CMSJ Facility

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## Touched by the Master

Dealing with Organizational Issues



Gurudev's devoted workers often worried about collecting the funds necessary to carry out one envisioned project or another. The following answer from a letter was a typical response by him:

"When Narayana (Spirit) is with us, Chinmaya Family will not worry over the non-arrival of Lakshmi (wealth). She cannot be away from Narayana!"

This is an excerpt from the book "At Every Breath, A Teaching," by *Rudite Emir*

## New Facility Purchased!

We are very pleased to report that with the Lord's grace, Gurudev's blessings, and your overwhelming support, after immense hard work and an intense search, our Mission has purchased a property in San Jose. The property, located at 10160 Clayton Road, San Jose, is currently a church, in existence since 1958.



This view of the property, looking North from Clayton road is located at the intersection of Clayton Road and Hickerson Drive. The property has two buildings (main and auxiliary) with over 11,000 sq. ft. of built space on 1.66 acres of land.

There are additional (overflow) parking spots on the other side of the main building, providing all the necessary parking we need.

As seen in the map on the left, the property is easily accessible from freeways 101, 680 and 280, making its location conveniently reachable for devotees from the peninsula, south bay and east bay.

## The new CMSJ Facility

The main building houses a church with high ceilings, wooden arches and benches (pews) on the interior for congregations, facing an altar. There are handicapped parking spaces in front of the building.



The auxiliary administrative building (above, left) is comprised of 16 rooms, some of which are large, and a basement with a full kitchen and dining area. There are over 20 parking spaces in front of the auxiliary building, with plenty of space for vehicles to go in and out. The views above are as seen from Hickerson Drive.



The congregation area of the main building has a seating capacity of over 200 people with benches in place, and about 300 without the benches.



Back view of the congregational hall. There is additional seating at the balcony level. Note the window on the left... that leads to a room (pictured below) where some parents with small children can be accommodated. The choir area (picture below) next to the stage can be used as the altar for the special pujas.



In addition to the designated parking spaces in front of the administrative building, there is plenty of space for overflow parking. This requires some work to cleanup and make it available for use. There are over 75 parking spots for use. The view in the picture below is looking south towards San Jose.

## Classrooms

Below the main church building are the office rooms that can be used for administration offices and class rooms. There are additional large rooms in the auxiliary building that can also be used as class rooms. (pictured on right).

### The Cost

The property cost us \$2.6 M, out of which \$2M was paid from CMSJ's funds on hand and the remaining \$0.6M was financed with a mortgage. The purchase was executed on Thursday, the 21st of February, almost 2 years to a day from when the project was launched on the occasion of Maha Shivaratri in 2006.

### Key Criteria

As you are aware, as we set about looking for a new facility two years ago, three key criteria we had were 1) a location convenient for our Fremont, Los Altos, and San Jose communities 2) a lecture hall & temple for our Acharya's regularly scheduled lectures and pujas, and 3) availability of ample parking for our patrons and devotees.

We believe that this property meets all three criteria: its proximity to Freeways 280 and 680 makes it conveniently located; its sizable congregation area with seating for over 200 people will serve as a spacious lecture hall; and the 75 parking spots available on the property, coupled with plenty of street parking nearby, will provide ample parking.



## Future Plans and the Need for Your Continued Support

We are very grateful for your support, patience and encouragement in making this endeavor possible. Let us now turn to the challenges ahead, of which there are quite a few, for sure. The property's two buildings, due to their age, do show the ravages of time, and would require significant refurbishment before move-in. The CMSJ New Building Team and the Board are currently working with an architecture firm, Archevon, in planning the best future direction for the property, and how best to make it suitable for our needs.

A number of alternatives is currently being studied. Once an alternative is selected and the best course of action determined, it will be communicated to you forthwith. What is clear, though, is that almost every single one of these alternatives will require additional funding. For sure, additional funds can be raised by disposing of our properties on 1050 and 1054 Park Avenue. Even that, however, will not be adequate. To make this newly purchased property our new facility, our home - the new "Sandeepany San Jose", we will need to raise additional funds. As a first step toward this end, we have planned a fund-raising event on Aug. 24th, in the august presence of Swami Tejomayananda, Head of Chinmaya Mission Worldwide. Further details will be made available soon. We humbly request that you attend this event and continue to support us to help us convert this property into our new facility, our legacy for generations to come.

### Verse 36

Sensing that Arjuna was reacting as desired to this line of argument, Bhagawan drives home the point to Arjuna that abandoning the battlefield would be an act of utter foolishness for which he would have to pay dearly. It would give an opportunity for his enemies and rishis alike to defame him and his glory. This unreasonable and emotional act would be recorded in history as a cowardly retreat. The Lord points out to Arjuna that he would have to live with this infamy and ridicule even after his death.

### Verse 37

Bhagawan tries to convince Arjuna that fighting this war is a win-win situation for him. If Arjuna were to be slain while fighting this righteous war, he would enjoy the heavens as a hero, and if he were victorious in the war he would rule an unrivaled kingdom on earth and thereafter go to the heaven and enjoy there too as a mighty hero. So he has nothing to lose and everything to win.

Summarizing, the Lord Krishna appeals to Arjuna from three viewpoints to fight this righteous war. From the highest standpoint or Paramarthik Drishti, the Lord asks Arjuna to fight the war knowing that his own Self (as eternal, unconditional etc) is his true nature and this eternal Self neither dies nor causes anyone else's death. From the standpoint of Dharma or duty-as Arjuna's duty towards society, duty towards a righteous way of living, duty as a Kashtriya by birth, duty by action, Arjuna must fight. Finally from the stand point of a common man Bhagwan convinces Arjuna to fight the war without any hesitation because he has everything to gain and nothing to lose by engaging in it.

### Verse 38

In the earlier verse Bhagwan convinced Arjuna to fight the war. In this stanza Bhagawan shows Arjuna how he should conduct himself in battle. The Lord asks Arjuna to remain equanimous in the face of the dualities of pleasure and pain, gain and loss and victory and defeat. With such equanimity Arjuna would not incur any sin because according to Hinduism sin is an error of judgment. This verse is a direct statement on the technique of "Self Perfection" and gives a hint about Karma Yoga and the purpose of human birth.

The three pairs of opposites mentioned in this verse are distinct experiences at 3 levels of existence.

Pleasure and Pain (*Sukha and Dukha*) – an intellectual awareness of experiences comprehended as favorable or unfavorable.

Gain and Loss (*Labha and Alabha*) – a mental experience comprehended as joy and sorrow and finally,

Conquest and Defeat (*Jaya and Ajaya*) – a physical experience comprehended as victory or defeat.

How do pleasure-*Sukha*, gain-*Labha* and conquest-*Jaya* connect? How can these experiences uplift us or how can they drag us to our downfall?

When an individual experiences conquest-*Jaya*, he has gained-*Labha* because of being victorious. This victory brings pleasure-*Sukha*. This pleasure in turn brings about attachment-*Raaga*. Attachment leads to bondage. This propels us to engage ourselves in more action-*Karma*. On the other hand if an individual experiences defeat-*Ajaya*, he loses what he has. This loss brings about pain and sorrow-*Dukha* resulting in agitations and hatred-*Dvesha* in our lives. These three levels of experiences when experienced as mentioned above lead us to our downfall.

To rise above this, Bhagawan advises Arjuna to maintain equilibrium in all the three pairs of opposites and to know that they are only experiences. While performing any actions one must be aware that one is not the body but the Atma/Brahman, which is eternal- *nithya*-, immutable- *avikari* and indestructible- *avinashi*.

Since maintaining mental equipoise is difficult and since there is no escape from performance of action that leads us to bondage, which again leads us to perform more actions, how does one get out of this vicious cycle? How can one attain Liberation-*Moksha*?

The Lord explains that performance of an action will yield fruits by default according to the action performed. But when an action is performed with the mental attitude of surrender to the Supreme and when an individual offers all the fruits of the actions to that Supreme, he does not accumulate any new desires while exhausting his old desires, thus preventing him from incurring any more sin. This will lead to the purification of his mind, which will finally result in his liberation-*Moksha*. This is his supreme goal and the purpose of his human birth.

Therefore Bhagawan asks Arjuna to fight this war without the anxiety of winning or losing, as it is his *dharma* to fight a righteous war.

With this verse Bhagawan concludes the Sankhya Yoga. What is Sankhya? Sankhya is Jnana yoga – a road to salvation through knowledge only. The literal meaning of Sankhya is "discrimination" between purusha and prakriti so as to explain liberation of purusha. The focus is to discriminate between purusha and the higher mental states: the mind-manas and the intellect-buddhi which are a part of prakriti. The Knowledge revealed is that of Atma. Therefore Sankhya is Atma or "Knowledge of the Self".

Ishvara is simply the one purusha not to have fallen into prakriti.