

Ati Rudra Maha Yajnam, May 2014 for World Peace by Her Holiness Amma Sri Karunamayi

Amma Sri Karunamayi has blessed humanity with a spiritual offering in 2014; Ati Rudra Maha Yajnam to be held at the SRIM Center, Atlanta from May 1 to 11. The intent of this document is to help devotees understand the significance of this supreme spiritual offering and the importance of this incredible boon Amma has granted to all Her children in the United States of America and all over the world.

This powerful Maha Yajna (Supreme Sacrificial Offering) is being performed for the good of all beings in all the worlds and universal peace and prosperity. It is, indeed, our good fortune that such a grand spiritual offering is being performed in a selfless manner in the Divine Presence of Her Holiness Amma Sri Karunamayi, the very embodiment of universal mother whose sublime mission is to “Love, Give, and Serve”.

Significance of Sri Rudram

In every religion, God is revered as light (Fire). In fact, in every religion fire finds a place in rituals as it is the symbol of God. Yajna (which means Sacrificial Fire Ceremony) is the most ancient form of worship from time immemorial, and Hindus invoke fire to offer worship to various Gods. Zorathustra worshipped Ahura Mazda as fire which is the main altar in every Zorathustran temple. Moses witnessed God as fire in Mount Sinai and the Jews worship their God as a pillar of fire. The Christians declare that their God is a consuming fire. In the Bible (John 9:5) it is said, “While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” “God is light.” Fire symbolizes the brilliance of the Lord. Fire stands purification, sacrifice, effulgence and illumination. Fire is symbolic of the supreme wisdom and sacrificial offering symbolic of transformation from changing to the changeless.

Vedas refer to the supreme effulgence, the very basis of the entire cosmos and creation, a pillar of fire that pervades the entire cosmos without a beginning or end, as Rudra. Hence, the source of creation is the divine energy and effulgence referred to as Siva and extolled in the Vedas by a specific hymn as Sri Rudram. Sri Rudram is the center piece of the entire Vedas and represents the “core” of Vedas. According to Sanatana Dharma, this supreme hymn Sri Rudram has the power to attract divine positive energy (which means Siva), for the benefit of the practitioner, his or her household, the world, and the universe at large. Sri Rudram is comprised of Namakam and Camakam. Namakam extols the divine light of creator reflected in the creation. Camakam is prayer that invokes the grace of the divine in various material and spiritual powers which are in turn offered to the Supreme Being in surrender and sacrifice. Chanting Sri Rudram purifies the individual at all levels including the body, mind, and the intellect. Purification of the self leads to unity with the creation and creator, and ultimately realizing the divinity within ourselves and the entire creation.

The positive energy and light of Sri Rudram is invoked by two most powerful rituals; a) Yajna or homa or sacred fire, b) abhisheka, an offering that includes worship using holy waters and other liquids such as milk, honey, etc. Doing these rituals along with the chanting of the divine mantras amplifies the power of the mantras several thousand fold. For example, chanting Sri Rudram while offering into the sacred

fire is believed to amplify the energy of the mantra at least 100,000 fold. It is not even possible to comprehend the enhancement of the energy when the offerings are made in the presence of divine mother, Amma herself!!

Significance of AtiRudraMahaYajnam (ARMY)

Of all the sacred homa ceremonies, ARMY is the most powerful and potent yajna that is very rarely performed. Sage Satapatha in his treatise “Maharnava Karma Vipaka” listed four types of Sri Rudram Offerings; Rudram, Ekadasa Rudram, Maha Rudram and Ati Rudram – each being more potent than the preceding one. Of these, the most potent form of Ati Rudram involves chanting of 14,641 Rudrams in perfect unison. Specifically, 121 ritwiks (individuals well versed with chanting) chant Sri Rudram 11 times a day for 11 consecutive days along with performing Abhishekam and Homam. Simultaneously with Rudrabhisheka, Rudra Homas are conducted by 121 ritwiks in 11 Homa Kundas erected for the purpose.

Overview of Daily Event

- 11 homa kundas will be setup for the sacred fire ceremony
- Each homa kunda will have 1 priest and 10 devotees, that are fluent in chanting Sri Rudram.
- The intent of the event is to maximize participation of devotees to do the homam. All those doing the homam are required to chant to rudram fluently and commit to 90-day sadhana that includes purity of body and mind and entails daily prayers, participation in service, and dietary principles.
- Amma will perform the homam at the main homa kunda along with the chief priest
- Daily event will start with ekadasa rudra abhishekam (11x rudram chanting) by 121 devotees.
- Abhishekam will be followed by Rudra Homam (sacred fire ceremony).
- Each day event in the morning will be 5-6 hours; 8 AM to 1 PM followed by lunch prasadam.
- Logistics permitting, there will be evening worship including Lalitha Sahasranama, bhajans, and satsang.
- Grand finale will be on day 11 only with the morning program and expected to conclude by 3 PM.

Useful Links for Learning Sri Rudram

Useful link for accessing Sri Rudram learning modules:

- <http://www.atirudram.com/Galleries/Pictures/Mahakumbhabhishekam/index.htm>).
- Video links to learn the chants along with the inner meaning:
<http://www.youtube.com/saiatirudram>
- Download MP3 files for learning: <http://www.sai83atirudram.org/>
- Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications <http://www.sssbpt.org/sri-rudram/instructions-to-user.htm>