

Patel's place in history is secure. He has had the ultimate reward for any leader – the vindication of history – his wisdom, prescience and perspicacity have been borne out by later events. Fortunately, the current government is giving him his long due recognition; Patel's birthday October 31 has been designated as the National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Divas). However, perhaps the greatest recognition and silent homage comes from the frequent widespread wistful speculation among the public and pundits alike – of the big "What if?" of history – What if Gandhi and the Fates had anointed Patel and not Nehru to be the first Prime Minister of independent India.

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Power of Mantram

The mantram is one of the best prayers – one that we say not just when we get up or when we go to bed, but countless times throughout the day, and throughout the night as well. This prayer is not addressed to someone outside us, but to our deepest Self., the Lord of Love., who dwells in the hearts of us all. When we repeat it, we are not asking for anything in particular, like good health or solutions to our problems or richer personal relationships. We are simply asking to get closer to the source of all strength and all joy and all love. To use Jesus' words, we are asking for "the kingdom of heaven," and we find at the same time that our health improves, our problems begin to be resolved, and our relationships blossom. (Elnath Easwaran)

Message from Vikash Agrawal, Chair, HCC Board

We are pleased to bring out yet another issue of *Reflections*. This issue includes articles on spirituality, religion, health, and on two India illustrious political and religious leaders Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Sri Ramanuja Acharya.

We are thankful to Richa Kaushik, Bimal Malviya, Amar Chandel, Gayathri Subraminan and M.G. Prasad for their articles. We are grateful to Dr. Ram Chugh for his tireless efforts for soliciting and editing such a rich collection of articles, and to Vijay Oruganti for formatting it.

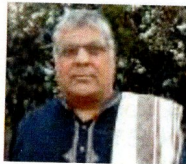
We receive a lot of positive feedback from our readers on the quality of article in *Reflections*.

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Please send your comments and story ideas to Dr. Ram Chugh at:
Reflections.HCC@gmail.com

Life and Message of Sri Ramanuja Acharya (1017 AD to 1137 AD)

By Dr. M.G.Prasad*



Introduction:

Sri Ramanuja Acharya is one of the great acharyas of Sanatana Dharma

(Vedic Hinduism). He was born in 1017 A.D. This year is his 1000th birth anniversary. It is celebrated in India and around the world on May 1, 2017. He lived for 120 years in the period 1017 A.D to 1137 A.D. He was born in Sri Perumbudur near Chennai in Tamilnadu. His parents were from a highly traditional background. His mother was Srimati Kantimati and father was Sri Aasuri Keshava Somayaji

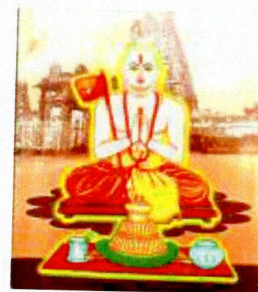
who was very well known for his knowledge of Sanatana Dharma (also known as Vedic Hinduism) and performance of Yajnas. It is universally established that Sri Ramanuja Acharya is one of the great seers of Sanatana Dharma. The term Acharya is described in a verse as below.

*Aachinoti hi ShaastraadNi
Svayameva Aacharate
Aachaare Sthaapayati iti
Aacharya vai Smritaha*

Which means "an Acharya is one who is not only has an expertise in Vedic Scriptures but also explains it well. Then in addition to his following the scriptural guidelines, he also guides others to follow and further establish them". In the full meaning of this verse, Bhagavad-Ramanuja Acharya was an Acharya.

His Contributions

Sri Ramanuja from his very young age was not only brilliant but also very kind hearted. He learnt from various teachers including from his highly learned father. Although he grew up in a traditional background, he was broadminded in his outlook. He always felt that anyone with sincere devotion and love towards Supreme Being should be respected and revered than someone just with learning and ego. One of his main teachers was not a bramhin. Sri Ramanuja was very keen in learning. Later Sri Ramanuja did his advanced learning from five great masters at that time. Then he became an Acharya. Throughout in his life, he was an embodiment of compassion to all.



The philosophical contributions of Sri Ramanuja Acharya are everlasting. He

systematically (through the lineage of earlier acharyas namely Sri Naada Muni also known as Naatha Muni and Sri Yaamuna Muni) established the Philosophy of Vishishtadvaita (referred as Qualified Non-Dualism)