

Śrī Bhagavān Mitra Dēva, Śuddha Dharma Avatār

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Elsewhere will be found published a descriptive account of the celebration of the birth-day of **Bhagavān Śrī Mitra Dēva** of **Śuddha Dharma Maṇḍalam** on the 16th January 1934, at **Santiago de Chile**, in far-off **South America**. That those, who attended this function in honour of this great divine **Advent**, cherish an unshakable faith is vouched for by the fact that they fully subscribed their signature to the great belief. Such a supreme belief was never known at any time to be a mere belief alone. To say that this staunch faith gives them credit is to superimpose on ourselves the attitude, as though we alone are capable to understand the significance of **Avatār-cult**, while the **Westerners** do not, which is absurd. On the other hand, we have become sufficiently impervious to these sacred truths, due to life's hard reactions on us in the material plane, and our ego confined to the mere intellect. Is it right that it is so?

But, it may be stated that in these days when the craze for **Avatār** and the talks are in terms of **World Teachers**, there is nothing extraordinary in these people subscribing themselves to such a faith. No. It is not so. For, though the general tendency of the **West** is skepticism and the **East** is faith, the position at the moment seems to have changed. We have become now skeptical regarding real truths even, while their faith in the **Indian philosophy** of life and conduct is getting more and more deep rooted in their hearts. We know that in the world there are very many known, as **World-Teachers**, each giving out his own individual ideas of **Truth** through talks and the like. It is easy enough for any one in these days, who is clever in these subjects, with a show of practice to persuade himself and others that he is a **World-Teacher**. But we are not concerned with these, who have their own axes to grind in the anvil of the general **Ignorance**, and there is always a class of men to follow them. We are more concerned with the advent of a real **Avatār**, a real **World-Teacher**, who could bring about harmony and peace all around by the mere fact of **His** divine presence. We will discover under the caption "**The doctrine of Avatār**" the traits that go to recognize this real **Avatār**, based on the teachings of **Śrī Bhagavad Gītā**, the one source from which the belief has spread all around.

The **Avatār** given out by **Śuddha Dharma Maṇḍalam** is one such and is yet to appear, though **He** is said to be born as a child on 16th January 1919. What this announcement was, let us brush up our minds.

In the year 1915 the **Elders** of the **Maṇḍalam** chose **Swami Subrahmaṇyānanda (Dr. S. Subrahmaṇya Iyer)** to give out to the world about the existence of a great **Assemblage of Elders** consisting of **Mahātmas, Siddhas** and **Maharṣhis**, known as **Śuddha Dharma Maṇḍalam** under the **Head** of **Bhagavān Śrī Nārāyaṇa** for the purpose of the spiritual **Government** of this globe. The philosophy of life and conduct said to be most beneficial to the people of **Kali Yuga** prosperity was given out as **Śuddha Dharma**, conducive to **Spiritual** and

Material prosperity. To effectively bring about the observance of this universal message all over, so as to result in an all-round joy, peace and good-will, it was announced by **Śuddha Dharma Maṇḍalam** through **Swami Subrahmaṇyānanda** on the 10th January 1919 that a divine **Avatār** was to take place on the 16th January of that year. And that day was **Puṣhya Śuddha Pūrṇimā**. The **Swami** gave out the following instructions to the members:

"On the 16th instant, one of the great members belonging to **Śuddha Dharma Maṇḍalam** will reincarnate for work, to be done by him for the good of the world. The day is, therefore, fit to be observed by all the members of the **Maṇḍalam** as a most auspicious day. It is desired that the members of the **Maṇḍalam** be so good as to celebrate the day as such. At about 6:30 p.m. after the daily **Anuṣṭhānam**, the members should offer to **Yōga Dēvī** and the **Elders** of the **Maṇḍalam**, a prayer in his own language for the bestowal of prosperity to the whole world.

"The house ought to be decorated with lights so far as possible, expressive of the joy felt on the occasion. Feasts may be given according to circumstances the same evening."

The members very happily received the above announcement and many of the members had concrete evidences in the course of the observance of the **Anuṣṭhāna** in their own secluded individual homes, that such an **Avatār** did actually take place at the announced hour.

We are not concerned with speculations, and governed, as we are, by unalterable faith, we are disinclined at the moment to dilate (expand) on these points. We would reserve it for a more propitious opportunity. The general reader buried amidst his material surroundings and his mind saturated with skepticism, may not be much impressed with such a faith. Nor are we eager to wipe out this tendency in him, for **Truth** can afford to wait, and skepticism is safe in these days of varied cults. We would at present leave out this question as beyond our scope, hoping in all humility that such a function of erasing out this skepticism should be the first chapter of the work in the program of the divine **Avatār**. This task is likely to be **Herculean** even to an **Avatār** as such, since the deep-rooted skepticism is difficult to be shaken.

In this connection of the divine advent, **Swami Subrahmaṇyānanda** made another announcement on 20th May 1919, mentioning the mode of observance on **Vaiśākha Śuddha Pūrṇimā** and the mode of worship to be offered to the **World-Teacher, Śrī Bhagavān Mitra Dēva**. And though known to the members, we shall once more refresh our memory as to what it is since we are taking stock of everything that occurred in this connection. It is as follows:

It is within the knowledge of the advanced members of the **Śuddha Dharma Maṇḍalam** that **Bhagavān Mitra Dēva** was born on 16th January, 1919 and that at present **He** is staying at the place known in the **Maṇḍalam** by the name of **Viśāla-Badari** among the **Himalayan** mountains: the fact of **His** birth was duly notified at the time by a special **Communiqué** which also indicated the manner of celebrating **His** birth, and it has been the practice since, to celebrate this event and to invoke **His** blessings also on every succeeding **Vaiśākha Pūrṇimā**. It only remains to say that the members of the **Maṇḍalam** could not think of a more favourable

opportunity than the present for their starting these **Yōgāshramas** if they may be so spoken of; since the work of the **Maṇḍalam** on these lines would go far to ensure the success of the mission of **Mitra Dēva**, the great **Teacher** whose public appearance within a few years, the **Maṇḍalam** expects. It is therefore to be earnestly hoped that the authorities of the **Maṇḍalam**, may see their way to giving practical effect to the respectful suggestion we have ventured to make above. According to the tradition prevalent in the **Maṇḍalam**, **Bhagavān Mitra Dēva** is the first of the nine **Great Teachers**, who are to come down to guide the world prior to the sixteenth great **Kṛiṣṇāvatār** that will take place twelve thousand years hence. Some of the advanced members of the **Maṇḍalam** seem to be in possession of detailed information regarding the nature of **Mitra Dēva's** mission, though they are too conservative to say much on the subject to outsiders. However this may be, it is clear that among other things **Mitra Dēva** would teach that the true remedy for the great human disease of "**self-centeredness**" (*kārpanya-dōṣa* in the language of **Arjuna** in the **Gītā**), is **universal love** and **utterly unselfish service**. May **Mitra Dēva's** work quicken the birth of that new civilization which is to help humanity on its onward march."

In this connection the attention of our readers is invited to the **3rd Pamphlet** entitled "**Avatār of Bhagavān Mitra Dēva**" in regard to **His** birth in the **Mahārāshtra** and other incidents connected therewith.

We earnestly exhort all the members of the **Maṇḍalam** and those who believe in the absolute necessity of an **Avatār** to set right the general disorderliness so hopelessly prevalent all over the world and to usher in an era of **Peace** and **Happiness** all around, to observe this year's **Vaiśākha Śuddha Pūrṇimā** which falls on **May 28th 1934** as a day of prayer with a view to quicken the advent of the divine **Avatār**. For, it is on this day more than 500 **Saṅkalpas** before, that **Bhagavān Śrī Nārāyaṇa** reorganized **Śuddha Dharma Maṇḍalam** at the commencement of **Kali Yuga**, with **Headquarters** in **Badarī** in the **Himalayas**. And **He Himself** has declared when so re-establishing, "**The full moon falls on this day in the month of Vaiśākha, a holy and auspicious day for all beings: and any resolve or plan formed today will confer untold benefit on humanity**". And hence we would once more request all, that the day may be observed as a day of prayer and rejoicing. For, more things are affected through prayer than we imagine.