

## Tallahassee Interfaith Coalition's 28<sup>th</sup> Interfaith Community-wide Thanksgiving Service

Tuesday, November 23, 2010 | Ruby Diamond Auditorium, Tallahassee, FL 32306 | 7 PM

### Hindu prayer of hope during troubled times

*From "The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna"*

Thou art my All in All, O Lord! –The Life of my life, the Essence of essence;  
In the three worlds I have none else but Thee to call my own.  
Thou art my peace, my joy, my hope; Thou my support, my wealth, my glory;  
Thou art my wisdom and my strength.

- *Saint Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa (1836-1886)*

### Story of Veera (Dhairya Lakshmi) and Bhoja Rajan

#### A Hindu parable of Hope and Courage during the troubled times

Today let me share with you a Hindu parable of Hope and Courage.

In India there lived a king called Bhoja Rajan who was a great king and his people were very happy to be his subjects. The king was also a worshipper of Sri Ashta Lakshmis (8 Lakshmis), the Goddesses of wealth. While performing puja, one day he learned from the Goddesses that the time has come for all them to leave his kingdom due his past karma. He was saddened and asked the Lakshmis one boon. Since he was a great devotee they granted him one wish.

The wise king thought to himself.

If Dhanya (grains) Lakshmi were to leave, he thought, since his countrymen produced enough grain it may be okay. Then Santhana (progeny) Lakshmi were to leave, he thought, since he was blessed with good children that may be okay. Likewise, he thought about Dhana (wealth), Gaja (Elephants), Adhi (primeval), Vidya (knowledge) Lakshmis and he could convince himself that will all be okay. But when Dhairya (Courage and Hope) Lakshmi were to leave, he thought, the loss will be difficult to bear. Since one can gain almost anything one loses but if we lose Courage and Hope then everything is lost.

So he asked for his boon that Dhairya Lakshmi, the Goddess of Hope and Courage to stay in his kingdom. Immediately, the Goddesses realized that the king was not only a great king but a wise man and so they all decided stay in his kingdom as long as he wished.

<http://www.divyadesam.com/hindu-deities/sri-lakshmi/sri-veera-lakshmi.shtml>

So during the troubled times, let us pray to the Almighty that Hope and courage be with us all the time. Once we have Courage and Hope we can regain everything.

Om Shanthi, Om Shanthi, Om Shanthi. Thanks.

### **The Ashta (8) Lakshmis**

1. Adhi Lakshmi (Primeval)
2. Dhanya Lakshmi (Grains)
3. Dairya Lakshmi (Courage and Hope)
4. Gaja Lakshmi (Elephants)
5. Santhana Lakshmi (Progeny)
6. Vijaya Lakshmi (Victory)
7. Vidya Lakshmi (Knowledge)
8. Dhana Lakshmi (Wealth)