



Jagadacharya **Sri Ramanuja** is the foremost acharya of the SriVaishnava sampradaya. He was born in 1017 CE in the holy village of Sriperumbudur, midway between Chennai and Kanchipuram. At the command of his Acharya, and following the divine experiences of the Alwar saints, he authored the Sribhashya, the famous commentary to Veda Vyasa's Bramhasutras, where he established that:

- the Vedas and Upanishads are the only undeniable and supreme source of knowledge of things beyond our senses
- the Supreme Bramham exists and is the only cause of creation, sustenance and destruction of the universe
- that the Supreme Bramham is Sriman Narayana
- He is the ultimate soul (paramatma), with matter, qualities and souls like us (jeevatma's) being real and forming His body
- liberation (moksha) from the cycle of births is attained through bhakti in Him or by surrendering to Him

Through his long life, Swami Ramanuja traveled all over India and

- propagated the SriVaishnava sampradaya with unprecedented momentum
- preached that the deepest meaning and purpose of the Vedanta is in the 4000 Divyaprabandas sung by the Alwars
- expounded that doing unhindered, loving service to Sriman Narayana is the highest form of moksha
- prescribed Sharanagati (ie. total surrender to Sriman Narayana through an acharya) as the easiest and the most appropriate action on our part, after which, Sriman Narayana Himself becomes the means to our moksha
- taught that every single soul is entitled to moksha and will eventually attain it
- exhorted that a Bhaagavatha (devotee of Sriman Narayana) should be held at the highest possible esteem, dropping all other considerations

Besides his teachings, Swamy Ramanuja did monumental services to Sriman Narayana, His devotees and His temples, especially at Srirangam, where he spent most of his time on earth. He reinstated faith in the world that the deity worshipped in the temple at Tirumala, praised in the **Rig Veda and glorified by Alwars, is indeed Lord Sri Venkateswara.**

Swamy Ramanuja delineated modes of worship as entailed in the Shastras, which are still followed in the 108 Divyadesams and other holy temples. He, being an avatara of Sriman Narayana's serpent-bed, Adishesha, went back to his original form in 1137 CE. To this day, several lineages of great acharyas appointed by Sri Ramanuja continue to grant numerous devotees the greatest of gifts --- A Connection with Sri Ramanuja. **Sri Talapaka Annamacharya**, the famous poet and devotee of Lord Sri Venkateswara, was an ardent bhaktha of Sri Ramanuja and sung several beautiful songs in his praise, such as

- Gatulanni khilamaina
(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BgSxup5NJV8&list=PL99D419ED7B968A58>)
- Unnatonnatudu Udayavaru
(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X7kmKS6IQSE&list=PL99D419ED7B968A58>)

Let us attend the **Grand Monthly Tirumanjanam (Abhishekam) event at SV Temple, Edina** of this greatest of Acharyas on the day of his birth star, Tiruvadhirai (Ardra) and attain spiritual elevation through his blessings.