

Dr. Paramesh Gopi & Mrs. Priya Krishnan Parameswaran

Are Pleased to Invite You to a Celebration with

SACHI, Society for Art & Cultural Heritage of India

In Presenting Distinguished Scholar

Philip Lutgendorf

Prof. of Hindi and Modern Indian Studies, University of Iowa, and Translator of seven dual-language volumes of the Ramcaritmanas for the Murty Classical Library of India

*Please Join Us for an
Illuminating Discussion:*

***Diving Into The Lake:
On the Joys and
Challenges of
Translating the
Ramcaritmanas***

Tulsidas's 16th Century Epic Poem
on the Ramayana

*An Introductory Discussion by
Philip Lutgendorf will be followed by*

**A Musical Discourse and
Rendering of Select Verses
from the Ramcaritmanas**

Presented by

Paramesh Gopi

and

Philip Lutgendorf

In Conversation

and

Priya Krishnan Parameswaran

Vocalist



Hanuman revealing Rama and Sita in his heart, approx. 1865-1870. India; Kolkata, West Bengal state. Opaque watercolors and tin alloy on paper. Victoria and Albert Museum, London, Given by the University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge, IS.231-1953.

Saturday, November 19, 2016

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

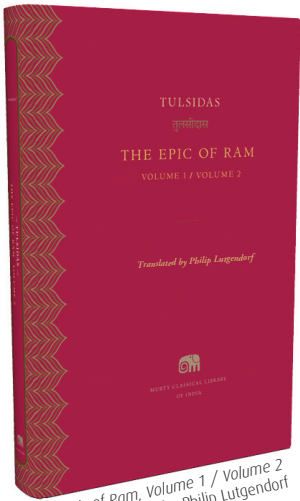
The Gopi Residence
1513 Fairway Drive
Los Altos, CA 94024

**You are Invited to Dinner following the Event
graciously hosted by Mr. & Mrs. Paramesh Gopi**

Limited Seating; By Invitation only

Rsvp: info@sachi.org or kalpana@sachi.org; Tel. 650-349-1247

The Epic of Ram by **Tulsidas (1543-1623)** has become the most beloved retelling of the ancient Ramayana story across northern India and an influential literary masterpiece. Its English translation by **Philip Lutgendorf** is planned in a series of seven volumes.



The Epic of Ram, Volume 1 / Volume 2
Tulsidas, translated by Philip Lutgendorf
Murty Classical Library of India

Volume 1, published January 2016 (Harvard University Press) presents the poet Tulsidas's grand introduction to the story of Ram, setting the stage for his advent and divine mission. The story is replete with philosophical meditations and tales of gods, sages, and royalty. **Volume 2**, prompted by the tyranny of the demon king Ravan, recounts Ram's birth on earth, his youthful adventures, and the celebration of his marriage to Sita. Tulsidas lovingly details Ram's infancy and childhood, his early adventures, and the winning of Princess Sita as his bride.

A 16th century literary masterpiece, Tulsidas's epic poem, the *Ramcaritmanas*, is a devotional work revered and recited by millions of Hindus today. It is written in Avadhi, a literary dialect of classical Hindi. This new English translation into free verse capturing the passion and momentum of its inspired poet and storyteller, is being presented alongside the original in the regional Indian script. The Avadhi text is presented in the Devanagari script.

To present such literary masterpieces from India to the largest readership in the world is the mission of the Murty Classical Library of India. It aims to reintroduce these works, a part of world literature's treasured heritage, to a new generation.

This event celebrates the launch of the first two volumes of Tulsidas's *Ramcaritmanas* translated by Prof. Philip Lutgendorf and published in January 2016. The program coincides with the Asian Art Museum exhibition, *The Rama Epic: Hero, Heroine, Ally, Foe* on view October 21, 2016 - January 15, 2017 in San Francisco.



Philip Lutgendorf

is Professor of Hindi and Modern Indian Studies at the University of Iowa, Department of Asian and Slavic Languages and Literature. His book on the performance of the Hindi

Ramayana, *The Life of a Text* (University of California Press, 1991) won the A. K. Coomaraswamy Prize of the Association for Asian Studies. He received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2002-03 for his research on the popular Hindu deity Hanuman, published as *Hanuman's Tale, The Messages of a Divine Monkey* (Oxford University Press, 2007). His interests include epic performance traditions, folklore and popular culture, and mass media. A website devoted to popular Indian cinema, "Bollywood", and research on the cultural history of tea drinking in India reflect Prof. Lutgendorf's wide range of interests.

He is presently translating the *Ramcaritmanas* of Tulsidas, in seven dual-language volumes, for the Murty Classical Library of India/Harvard University Press, and has served, since 2010, as President of the American Institute of Indian Studies.

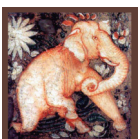
Shri Paramesh Gopi

or K.G. Parameswaran as he is known in cultural forums, was initiated into the upanyasam tradition (a fusion of storytelling, classical music, and philosophy) at age 6 by his father, Shri Gopi Parameswaran. His musical training began with Shrimati Muthulakshmi Yegnanarayanan and culminated under kirtan (meditative chanting) exponent Shri Thiruvaiyaaru S. Krishnan.

He derives great inspiration from legendary musicians Shri K. V. Narayanaswamy and Pandit Bhimsen Joshi. In addition, Paramesh is inspired by the expositions of revered harikatha (devotional storytelling) icons and has presented expositions on the Bhagavad Gita and the Candi for numerous august spiritual gatherings.

Shrimati Priya Krishnan Parameswaran

is an accomplished vocalist and veena player. She was initiated into music by her parents Shri Thiruvaiyaaru S. Krishnan and musicologist Shrimati Radha Krishnan; she subsequently received advanced musical training under her father as well as from eminent Carnatic music singer, Dr. S. Ramanathan. Priya and her sisters Harini Vikas and Subhagriya Srivatsan, have performed as a trio in Chennai on radio and television, in Europe and the United States. In addition to performing for numerous charitable and spiritual causes over the years, Priya has also composed and choreographed music for multiple original theatrical and dance productions since 2002.



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SACHI extends gracious thanks to
Paramesh Gopi & Priya Krishnan Parameswaran
for so generously hosting and supporting the event.