

Pujya Swamiji's New Year Anugrahana Bhashanam 14.04.2015



Vishu-Kani at AVG

'Happy New Year' to every one.

It is considered as new because the cycle of *kaalais* looked at from *brahman* stand point of view. In our *samkalpa* we say **लुआद्यब्रह्मणः द्वितीयपरार्धे भस्वेतवराहकल्पे भवैवस्वत मन्वन्तरे ह** (*aadyabrahmaNaH dvitiiyaparaardhe-svetavaraahakalpe-vaivasvata manvantare*). Time is looked at from different stand point of view.

When we say 'a new year', we have to call it 'new' from a stand point. January 1st is considered as new year, but we do not

know from what stand point. May be there is some arbitrariness or there could be some other stand point. For us the stand point is Sun comes to the Zodiac Aries on every 14th of April. It takes one year for the Sun to go around 360 degree in Zodiac. It comes to (*mesha*) मेष on this day of 14th April.

We have completed the year *Jaya* जय and entering *manmatha* मन्मथ. Today we read *panchangam* पञ्चाङ्गम्. We also drink *panakam* – a sweetened water and *neer-mor* a very finely diluted buttermilk. One is sweet and the other sour – pleasant and unpleasant we welcome. This afternoon, for lunch, they will prepare a sause out of the flower of neem tree – a bitter one. We relish that too.

We also celebrate another new year *yugadi* युगादि. The *kaliyuga* began on this day. They reckon this as new year. That is also a stand point.

We can in any case say "Happy New Year" three times an year as long as one is happy.

We have seen *vishu-kaniat* the *kutia* – an arrangement of all fruits and vegetables – bounties of the earth, which is the blessing of Bhagavan through plants. We put the 'blessings' as an altar and at the top of it a mirror is kept. You are expected to see the bhagavan in the mirror. It is a Kerala custom and a meaningfull one too. The head of the household – abig family is called *taravad* – will give a coin to every member of the family. We follow that custom here in AVG.