

Gurupurnima Celebrations at A.V.G.



The lecture hall was packed for Guru Purnima. Students who had completed the three-month Gita Camp, as well as students here for the upcoming three-year course, in addition to many local devotees from the surrounding areas filled the hall to capacity.

The event began with a prayer by Sri Maharajapuram Ramachandran who rendered the kriti : Sankaracharyam Bhajema.

Sri Pramod Deshmukh and Smt. Lata Deshmukh performed pada-puja to Pujya Swamiji.

Addressing the gathering, Pujya Swamiji explained the reason for seeking the blessings of the Guruparamparā on Guru Purnima Day.

He said: "The whole paramparā is based on the vision of wholeness. Without this

vision, there would be no paramparā, or gurus. That one is not separate from the whole is a matter to be known and understood for which a human birth is necessary. It is only a human birth with its faculty for both making and correcting mistakes that gives one the ability to pursue and obtain the knowledge. Both a maternity doctor and a guru are very important: the doctor delivers one into the world, and the guru delivers one out of the world.

The universal human issue is ignorance. Thinking the self to be *karta/bhokta*, one compares the self with others giving rise to multiple complexes that bring along a sense of inadequacy. This inadequacy provides a platform for dissatisfaction and self-disapproval to take hold and finds one's self on a path of becoming — of striving to be someone other than who he is. The



pressure born from the life of “becoming” turns one into a consumer, making it impossible to conform to dharma. When one understands that he is the Whole, he becomes a contributor. His self-esteem and sense of adequacy increase, enabling him to effortlessly conform to dharma.

The means of knowing that one is the Whole, is Sastra and it requires a teacher. Just as even if one knows what one is looking for, one needs light to find it. The guru ‘illumines’ what is to be known –

wholeness – thus making it available for understanding. This knowledge gives freedom from the discomfort of a life of becoming. This is the guru’s job and that is why, on Guru Pūrṇimā day, the guru paramparā is saluted.

At the end, everyone present saluted Pujya Swamiji and received his blessing and prasāda.

Report by Julie Carpenter



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