

Presentation of the Fundación Arsha Vidya in Argentina, 18 November 2012

Pujya Swamiji's students in Argentina are pleased that the Fundación Arsha Vidya was granted official nonprofit status in July of 2012. Swami Dayananda Saraswati is now legally represented in Argentina.

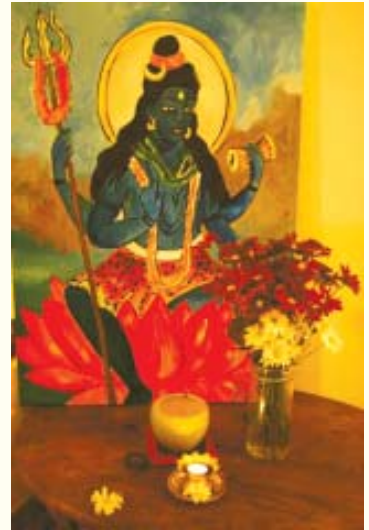
A formal presentation of the Fundación Arsha Vidya was held on the 18th of November in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The presentation included several short videos to introduce Pujya Swamiji to new students who had never met him. All watched with amazement the video showing details of Pujya Swamiji's life and work in establishing major teaching institutions, founding AIM for Seva, convening the Hindu Dharma Acharya Sabha and various other initiatives. This was followed by a profound and beautiful address by Pujya Swamiji on "Compassion" with Spanish subtitles. The highlight of the presentation was a message from Pujya Swamiji to the students and teachers in Argentina, which was video-recorded in August at AVG Saylorsburg. Pujya Swamiji spoke to us directly about his vision for the Fundación Arsha Vidya.

Following the videos, the board members, who were appointed by Pujya Swamiji in August, were introduced. Among them Horacio Vajovsky talked about his service to Pujya Swamiji since Swamiji's first visit to Argentina in 1990. At the start of the function, Silvia Vajovsky performed the *Arati* and led her students in chanting *Purusha Suktam* and other *suktams* and *shanti mantras*. Both Horacio and Silvia

completed the first three-and-a-half-year course at the Arsha Vijnana Gurukulam in Nagpur and later invited the Acharya, Swamini Bahmaprasada, to visit Argentina and give public talks in 2009.

Swamini Vilasananda, one of the regular teachers in Argentina, is in charge of the Fundación Arsha Vidya.

In the final part of the presentation, after a break in which all enjoyed homemade pastries and tea, a beautiful classical music concert was performed by Marcelo de Aquino Vicente, a dedicated student of Vedanta as well as an accomplished musician who goes to India as often as possible. Marcelo interpreted the Indian





ragas with his beautiful handcrafted rudra vina.

In his message to the teachers and students, Pujya Swamiji addressed the question: "What are the objectives, the work of the Fundación Arsha Vidya in Argentina?"

"It's not evangelism," he said, "It is teaching. It is sharing what you have, because people have so much to own and we should help them own. Therefore, we are not converting any people. We are trying to help them understand themselves. There is so much about each one; so we are not taking them to another cult.

"So it's a different type of work. This foundation can have that kind of work, which will help people get this teaching. There can be translation of the books that we have. There can be regular lectures organized for teachers. Arsha Vidya teachers are there already, qualified people, and they can be supported in whichever way the foundation can support. Then we

can bring some people from India if at all necessary. And [publishing translations of] the books. This is the type of work we have to do.

"Regular seminars we can organize. Workshops we can organize. No debates. We don't want that. We don't want debates or interfaith dialog etc. We don't require all that. So we have nothing against anybody and we are not contending with anybody."

Pujya Swamiji had given the name "Arsha Vidya Argentina" for his group of Argentine students when he visited the country for the first time in 1990. He continued to teach short courses and presented public talks during his nine visits to Argentina up to his last visit in 1999.

The board members appointed by Pujya Swamiji for the Fundación Arsha Vidya are: Swamini Vilasananda Saraswati, President; Bibiana Luoni, Secretary; Rodolfo Lohr, Treasurer; Horacio and Silvia Vajovsky, Antonio Perrone, Angela Espindola, Dr. Alfredo Lauria and his wife Laura Podio, Roberto Toranzo and his wife Stella Thomas. Honorary board members are: Swamini Samvidananda Saraswati, Gambhirah, Marcos Erize, Luis Costa and Khileshvar and Sumati Verma.

For more information, please see: www.arshavidya.es/ce-argentina.html and <https://www.facebook.com/fundacion.arsha.vidya.argentina>

Email: fundacionarshavidya@gmail.com

The video of Pujya Swamiji shown at the formal presentation of Fundacion Arsha Vidya and related videos are available at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=avwoHAWO8kg&list=PLxfzIjRncK0A7Xgzehi7HGA4BMNhFJGKq>

Swamini Vilasananda Saraswati