

Fall Six Week Vedanta Course 2016

With Swami Tattvaidanandaji at Saylorsburg Gurukulam

*If there is a Phalam in self-realization, it is in negation. Negation of delusions is the reward. When this happens everything in you and around you changes. You are liberated
Swami Tattvaidanandaji.*



The Fall Vedanta Six Week Course 2016 for adults was held at the Arsha Vidya Gurukulam in Saylorsburg PA from October 11 to November 22. Suddhatmaji held the orientation on October 11 and gave all the required information regarding the facilities at the Gurukulam. Approximately 90 students attended the camp. Swami Tattvaidananda Saraswati taught Chapter 18 from Srimad Bhagvad Gita with Shankarabhashyam. Additionally Swamiji held guided meditations in the mornings and satsangs in the evenings. Suddhatmaji conducted the chanting classes. Yoga classes were conducted by Lance Daniels and Vijaya Hari Darve assisted by Bala Murthy. Kalpesh Jasapara and Terry Coe taught Sanskrit classes. Radhaji and Girijaji chanted Vedic Verses. Savithri Maniji and the students presented a play, Ajamila, based on a story from Bhagavata Mahapurana

With the blessing and guidance of Swamiji, Swamini Srividyanandaji organized a play based on Bhagvad Gita Verse 18-66, "Purvapaksa-Siddhanta Samvada", an outstanding presentation performed by the students. It was well appreciated by all.

Special Events during the course:

Saraswati Puja was performed on October 22. A Vocal Concert in Carnatic music was presented by Mandapaka Sridevi along with Chelluri Sarawathi on November 12. We Celebrated Deepawali on October 30th at the Gurukulam. On this occasion, Swami Tattvaidanandaji explained mantras from Devi Smriti.

Suddhatmaji taught chanting verses taken from Taittiriya Upanisad, Sri Sankaracarya, Pratassmarana Stotram, Dakshinamurthy Stotram, Kamalajadayitastakam and Shiva Manas Puja.



Swamiji's teaching of Gita with Shakara's Bhasya concluded on November 22.

Priests Sri Ravichandran and Sri Ganesan performed regular as well as Pujas for special occasions during the course. Lance Daniels provided rides to the airports and other destinations for the incoming and outgoing students during camp. The Kitchen staff worked relentlessly to provide excellent food during the camp. The staff and the volunteers worked hard to perform their assigned responsibilities.

Our special thanks to Suddhatmaji and the staff for organizing this series of Gita courses at the Gurukulam.

Swamiji continued teaching Chapter 18 of Srimad Bhagvad Gita starting from verse 46. This Chapter summarizes the entire Gita. Bhagavan Sankara goes through the Gita Chapter by Chapter to finally provide the insight that "you are Brahman". Swamiji says that Ishwara is in your heart, you need not seek Ishwara outside of you, detach yourself from the Samsara, recognize your ignorance about the body and mind, abide in Ishwara, let the nature do its work and do your duty leaving the Phalam(results) to Ishwara. Accept the Phalam as a gift from Ishwara. This is the path for your liberation.

This course was for students who were dedicated to understand Gita. Swami Tattvavidanandaji's scholarly understanding of the subject and love for teaching has brought this knowledge to us. We are little older, little wiser and little closer to our goal now. It is still a long way. The quest continues next year with Swamiji teaching a different topic.

Swamiji lives a sincere, a simple and a detached life. A dedicated life with a hope that his teaching will help his students to recognize the truth about the samsara and show them the path to liberation. Our path is changing. Life and life styles are changing. There was a peaceful silent happiness in the last class of this course as we reached this milestone of completing Bhagvan Sri Krishna's immortal Srimad Bagvad Gita. Hari OM.

-Reported by Arvind Bagal

Pearls Of Wisdom

The content of time is timelessness. The awareness of time cannot be subject to time.

What we are aware of keep changing, but the awareness itself remains unchanged. That awareness is indeed the content of 'I'.