

Jaipur Ashram Camp at Rishikesh Ashram



May 30th – June 4th 2010

Being with oneself is the most wonderful way of being! We rediscovered this during our one-week Spiritual Camp organized by our Swamiji at the Rishikesh Ashram. Devotees' from Jaipur, Delhi, Patna, Maharashtra were part of the Shivar. About 30 children from the Jaipur Chatralaya were also part of the Shivar this time. The whole atmosphere was filled with fun and frolic with such ease as never happened in any Shivar ever!

The day began with being part of the most beautiful *Rudrabhishekam* and *Vedic chanting* by children along with other devotees at the temple. After that we had guided meditation which stopped all the noise in mind at once and the entire world seemed to have vanished. After delightful breakfast, the

day was then followed by wisdom from the Bhagwad Gita and comprehension of a few Stotras, which *Swamiji* elaborated for us. After delicious lunch and rest, all the devotees took part in games with children for about an hour, followed by Yoga Session beautifully conducted by our own children. Another session in the evening on Bhagawad Gita by Swamiji was mind-blowing. After the evening Aarti at the temple and at the Ganga bank, the day ended with Satsang and cultural events.

Children had special classes of story-telling and some general knowledge session conducted by devotees. Evening time was set for them to feel the bliss of snanam in Gangaji. Their hidden talent was appreciated widely in the Satsang. Each and every child performed individually and in groups—be it bhajan, their traditional songs, story-telling or play. Children also enjoyed



the visit to Ram and Lakshman Jhula and Vasishtha Guha. They also had the opportunity to see and do elaborate Ganga Puja. Sadhu Bhandara was a special attraction too.

First day was slightly difficult as we had to follow a timetable, in order to be in unison, which seemed to be long-lost with school days! But with the mesmerizing and serene Gangaji flowing eternally by the Ghaat of our Ashram, even the "timetable" sank within no time.

All the campers were happy with the wonderful opportunity given to them and were grateful to our Swamiji. There was no sign of tiredness on his face being with devotees day-in and day-out for a week and taking care of all their needs apart from the classes he took for them. The campers were

already looking forward to the camp next year!

The great hospitality extended at the Rishikesh Ashram was commendable.

Sooner or later there comes a time in all our lives where we are looking for an escape from the routine and reach for the Divine, appease our soul and get reconnected with ourselves whom we seem to have lost in this crunch of fulfilling responsibilities. As much as we were dreading getting back to the "grind" after this fantastic experience, it was not so difficult because we felt more balanced, mentally as well as physically. Listening to the sound of flowing water made the mind absolutely thoughtless!!

Jai Ganga Maiyya

