

Views of Campers at AVG

Daisuke Kito

From Japan, I came to India 4 years ago and travelled for six months. I seek answer for "who am I?" I prayed to Isvara in many Hindu temples and at that time stayed in Risikesh ashram. Br. Cetana, student of Pujya Swamiji, taught me tatvabodha. I felt happy that the answer is there, but wanted to know more. So, I came here. I met Pujya Swamiji in Japan in the camp. "It is no choice", I seek the fundamental solution.



Vedanta is traditional and fundamental. At the ashram there are others, both foreigners and Indians who also seek like me. My Iccha shakti is strong, that I want to know. Please accept me.

I have gained more Shraddha in the last few weeks. My desire to join the 3 year course is more intense now.

Pujya Swamiji is teaching knowledge. I need greater antahkaranashuddhi to understand. Through prayer and Seva, I hope to gain it. I like doing seva for Swamijis.

Girija Natarajan



I have been a devotee of Pujya Swamiji for the last 15 years. I was in the US and used to attend camps 2-3 times a year, in the Saylorsburg Ashram.

My children are grown up and Swamiji suggested that I work in the chatrayala and I came here.

I have learnt to accept things. Now I realize that my problems are small, just small. I have learnt a lot from the children and cannot describe the joy one gets.

It is a nice place to be in – at Pujya Swamiji's feet. Now this is my home. Compassion and Vedanta go hand in hand. Swamiji talks about seeing Bhagavan in everything, I can see Iswara in every child, and this is best thing that has happened to me after the duty of being the mother of two and grandmother of one.

N.S.Viswanathan

I was inspired by Swami Paramartha and swami Siddabodananda's talks at Koli hills. On their advise, I went to Rishikesh in 2005. After ashirvadam, Pujya Swamiji asked me to take care of Swami Nityananda in Erode, since I am from there.

Pujya Swamiji's teachings are very methodical. I used to think dharma requires some education; Swamiji made it very clear that dharma is common for everyone.

I come from a Kownder family, I used to think that varnas are based on jathi, now I know varnas are only based on gunas, and one needs to grow.

Now I have the confidence that I can learn Vedanta.

The facilities here are very comfortable and good; the ambiance is conducive for learning, people are cooperative and it is fun.

Swamiji's classes are very personal and it feels like one big family and he is like an elder brother. At satsang one is free to ask any question.

Pujya Swamiji is a highly qualified Guru who teaches with both tradition and modern thinking.



Gayatri



Was born in Brazil and after living in Sweden for 15 years I returned back to Brazil. I did not initially know about Vedanta, but was learning overview of Hinduism, Gita and Mahabharata from a Swami in Risikesh. I started asking questions about atma and he sent me to Swami Dayananda. My previous teacher guided me to get to the ashram and made me come here. It was all in 2005 and was a very fulfilling experience. I came again for two more camps after that.

Everyone here has the same purpose of knowing Isvara.

I feel like I am home. Ashram makes everything comfortable and safe. All are helpful and nice.

This Gita camp has given me a broader idea of Isvara than I could ever think of. I am really happy that I made this decision to come and join this camp. I feel blessed to listen to the words of Pujya Swamiji.

K. Ganesh

That Pujya Swamiji is one of the best teachers, of a very involved subject, there can be no doubt. Ever since I read Swamiji's Introduction to Vedanta years ago, my life purpose has been clear - I needed to know more.



I studied books, listened to learned people on the scriptures, debated and argued with myself and with others, and continued to read Swamiji's writings, listen to his talks, attend short camps at the Ashram, study the Gita Home Study course (which we received from Swamiji with his blessings)

I have questioned many things since boyhood. Having done what I had to do in life, without losing touch, the time has come to bring greater focus to my study of the Veda Pramana.

The nischaya is there, the clarity that knowledge is what is required is there. This camp has already reinforced the determination. It is wonderful to be in the camp with people of different age groups, backgrounds, nationalities.

Jano Iriate (Chile) Rebekka Eckhaus (U.S.A.)

We have been studying yoga for over ten years and were introduced to Advaita Vedanta by our yoga teachers who have always emphasized yoga as a discipline preparing one for Vedanta. We found Swamiji through his books, which are not difficult to find abroad. In fact, we could even access some of his talks posted on Youtube.



Years later, we planned our trip to the Rishikesh ashram, hoping to study traditionally with Swamiji. While in Rishikesh, we also took Sanskrit classes with Swami Guhatmananda who is a great teacher. Having Swamiji unfold the vision of Advaita Vedanta in Rishikesh and now here in Coimbatore has been an invaluable experience. Swamiji has given us direction to apply Vedanta to our day-to-day lives – not just use it as an intellectual exercise.

This is our first trip to India, and we are blessed to begin our studies with Puyja Swamiji. He has given us the tools to return to the U.S. with an appropriate attitude to approach our lives and continue our studies.

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Meenakshi Chandrasekhar

Have known Swamiji since 2007, before that my husband attended a camp on Vishnusahasranamam and he requested Swamiji to come to Dubai and teach us. And Swamiji kindly agreed. We have been studying Vedanta for 7 years regularly and it is a very enriching experience.



There is nothing like listening directly from Swamiji and the way it is being revealed by him with such clarity in thinking.

“There is nothing called sorrow”, and the way he proved it is amazing. The concept of Ishwara is also revealing.

People are here from different backgrounds, and I know a few languages like Gujarati and Tamil can talk to many of them freely.

I feel it is only because of the grace I am here, to get a Guru like Swamiji, it is a lot of punya, he is a guru who has seen “the truth and makes us see it while teaching”.

Nada



Was born in Nagasaki (Japan) and have travelled most of the world. I fell in love with Sanskrit and came to India.

When I visited Risikesh ashram I was not sure. Coming from the west was afraid of being brainwashed, but found out that everyone was wonderful, spiritual and there was a lot of Sanskrit. My Sanskrit teacher sent me here, to the camp.

There is overwhelming love and care from both Pujya Swamiji and Swami Sakshat. It is so genuine and pure. The learning of Vedanta, advaita is very focused. It very clear to me that I can trust them to do what is best for me, it has been the deciding factor for me.

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