



Dr. Srikant Jichkar Memorial
ARSHA VIJNANA GURUKULAM
Vedapuri, Nagpur

Report on the Valedictory function of the three months residential course on Vedanta and Sanskrit February 01, 2017 to April 28, 2017.

Om srī gurubhyo namaḥ!

By the grace of Pujya Sri Swami Dayananda Saraswati, the fourth residential three months course on Vedanta and Sanskrit was successfully completed on April 28, 2017.

This day began with the Guru Puja at 6.15AM in the lecture Hall followed by puja at the Sri Medha Dakshinamurti temple. The Prayers were presided over by Mataji, Swamini Brahma prakasananda Saraswati. All the students admitted to the three month course and the administrative staff of the Gurukulam were also present

The formal Valedictory function was held in the lecture hall at 10AM. The program started with the pūrṇakumbha welcome to Mataji, with the chanting of the sannyaṣa sūktam by her students.

This was followed by pādukā pūjā to Mataji. Sri Mohan and Srimati Gauri Mohan performed the puja under the guidance of Srimati Ramila Gandhi and Sri Vinay Sapre. They were assisted by Brahmacharini Tilaka. All the students paid their obeisance to Pujya Sri Swamiji and the Guru paramparā with the guru stotram.



Purna kumbha

They then offered dakṣiṇā to their ācarya and were blessed with fruits as prasādam.

Mataji then took her place at the stage for the thanks giving ceremony. After the invocatory prayers by Srimati Suma Nayak, our temple staff, Sri Sunil Nandraj thanked, on behalf of all the students, the kitchen, maintenance, garden and Gurukulam management staff for their services, for they are the backbone for the smooth clockwork functioning of the Gurukulam. They were given a memento as a token of appreciation.

All the courses were taught by Mataji and all books were given to all the students. Mataji was assisted by Srimati Shruti Kirti Sapre (Vedanta and Sanskrit), Srimati Ramila Gandhi (Temple prayers chanting from the dipārādhana), Sri Govind Mankar (Office and Library manager) and Sri Dinesh Gandhi (Gurukulam maintenance in-charge).

They were then appreciated by Shruti Caitanya, Brahmacarini Tilaka, Sri Rohinton Surty and Sri Punit Pandey respectively by offering flowers at their feet and with dakṣiṇā. It is to be noted that all the four assistants have been students from the previous batches.

Each student was then requested to express their views on the course. All the students who came from diverse background were, in general, appreciative of the completion, in the form of kaṭhōpaniṣad, tattvabodha, mahābhārata, śrīmadbhagavadgītā (Chapters 1, 2, 3) and were in particular very elated to have learned well the basic Sanskrit Grammar, which had been an enigma to most of them. The emphasis on the importance of right pronunciation and reading would help them pronounce and chant right. The saṁskṛta sambhāṣaṇa lessons complimented the learning process.

The students also expressed their gratitude to all their teachers and Management staff for volunteering and for their selfless service to the Gurukulam affairs. It was unanimously felt by all that the sombre and peaceful Gurukulam ambience is very much conducive to the pursuit of ātma jñānam and that they were eagerly looking forward to continuing the three years residential course, which begins on June 30, 2017. All the students also felt that the satsaṅga time with Mataji had been a rare

opportunity to clear their doubts, they felt touched as it took them a step closer to their Guru, spiritual growth and goal. Susri Susama Bharghav then dedicated her composition on Sri Dakshinamurty and sang the same along with Srimati Vijaya Kannu Rao.

Mataji, blessed all the students with her āṣīrvacaṇam. She said that all the students of this batch have been very receptive, special and talented and that she thoroughly enjoyed teaching. All human beings are mumukṣu and want to be free from limitations. They may not know that. Their puruṣārtha, quest for dharma (righteous actions), artha (wealth), kāma (desires to enjoy the wealth), is their quest for freedom from limitations. The moment of conversion from the quest for freedom to quest for knowledge; the knowledge that what I am seeking is myself and that I only have to 'know', that liberation is here and now is very important. The only means of this knowledge, pramāṇa is the śāstra pramāṇa (knowledge in the Vedic scriptures) and this is what makes one a student of Vedanta, the moment of conversion of a mumukṣu to a jijñāsu. This knowledge is to be obtained from a Guru who is a sampradāyavit, the one who unfolds the knowledge in the śāstra and knows how to handle this pramāṇa; the methodology of unfolding through śāṅkara bhāṣya on the upaniṣad (Commentaries).

She further added that saṁskṛitam is the language of the śāstra and hence one needs to learn it well through the paṇiṇi vyākaraṇa sutrās and keeping this in view, Pujya Sri Swamiji, one such sampradāyavit in the Guru śiṣya paramparā has designed this structured program. He is present here to bless her and all the students in an arūpa (subtle) form and that his blessings were always with us.



Guru paduka puja

She fondly remembered Late Dr. Sriakant Jichkar, as a guardian angel and his enthusiasm for this knowledge and the Gurukulam.

The 3 months residential Vedanta and Sanskrit course completion certificates were then issued to each student by Mataji. She thanked all her students for giving her the opportunity to pass on this knowledge and also thanked her assistant teachers and the management staff. She also added that all of us have interacted well and related to each other as one family. The Valedictory function ended with a group photograph session and a sumptuous lunch.



Assistant teachers



Group photo

-Report prepared by Srimati. Vijaya Kannu Rao

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