

Pujya Swamiji in London October 10-14, 2010

Pujya Swami Dayanandaji was on fire! One man said that he was taken back 25 years to when he first heard Swamiji give a public talk in Surat: powered by the same energy, wit and incisiveness.

Over five days a total of nearly 200 people heard Swamiji talk or attended the early morning meditation sessions before going off to work. People travelled to London from Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Brazil and from the length and breadth of England.

The first day's topic was Vedic Mediation and, being on a Sunday, was well attended. Over the next four days, Pujya Swamiji took advantage of the open topic to deliver a masterclass in Vedanta, culminating in the unfoldment of 'satyam, jnanam, anantam Brahma'. (Audio recordings can be obtained via the UK website: www.arshavidya.org.uk).

Pujya Swamiji led the early morning meditation session and Swamini Atmaprakasananda unfolded Manisha Pancakam in the after-lunch slot while Pujya Swamiji rested. On Monday and Tuesday the daily programme closed with a short Question & Answer session.

On Wednesday evening, attendees were treated to a performance of compositions by Pujya Swamiji sung by Sri Ramchandran who was accompanied by violinist Dr Jyotsna Srikanth and mridangam player Sri R N Prakash. Before they took to the stage, the audience was treated to a most delightful performance of Swamiji's

compositions by young singers from the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan London. People left that night uplifted and inspired, clutching copies of the newly published books and CD of Pujya Swamiji's lyrics and music.

Then, far too soon, the last day arrived. Thursday 14 October. There were speeches of thanks to Pujya Swamiji and speeches to acknowledge the work of Swamini Atmaprakasananda in teaching Vedanta in the UK.

One London student caught the mood of the occasion perfectly: "We are very fortunate to have Swaminiji here in London. If it wasn't for her perseverance, grace and knowledge this wonderful opportunity would have been missed. So, for me, she has played an invaluable part in my life because without her I would not have been able to appreciate the enormity and wonderment of what Pujya Swamiji has just laid out before us."

The last word must go to Swaminiji herself. She responded to the speeches of appreciation by her students and praise from Pujya Swamiji himself with utmost brevity.: "If you find anything that's praiseworthy, it's all because of my teacher, nothing is my own. For me Swamiji is my mobile Dakshinamurti."

After Guru dakshina, the Hathi Hall at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan was once more restored to its role as a rehearsal studio for dance students. It felt as though London has crossed a watershed.

