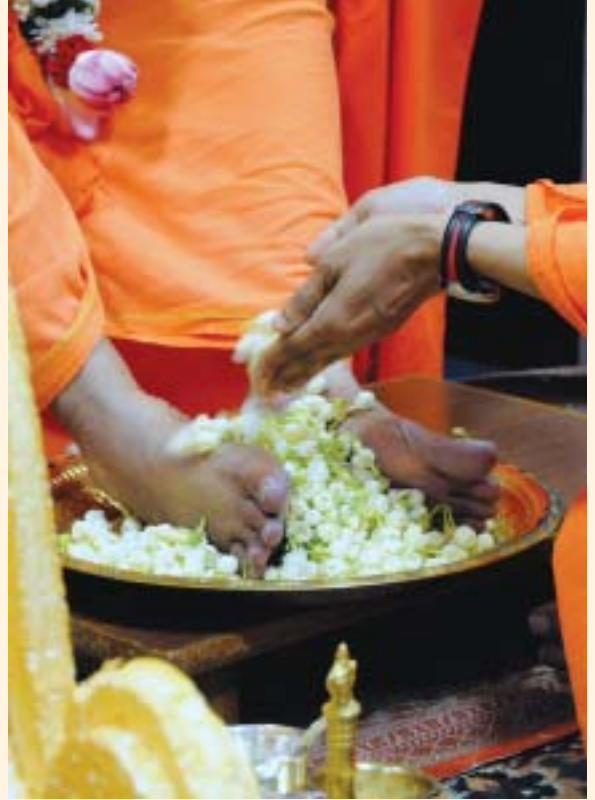


Valedictory Function of Long Term Course at AVG



The valedictory function of the long term, three and half years course was held on Saturday , the Oct 26, 2013. The class room where Pujya Swamiji taught students was decorated with flowers. The place where Swamiji sat to teach was aesthetically decorated. All students, from various parts of the globe, dressed up befitting the occasion. The whole atmosphere was benedictory.

EXTRA ORDINARY COURSE BY PUJYA SWAMIJI :

Smt. Vasanthi started the session with an introduction which has been reproduced below.

“The great Jnana yagna that commenced in April 2010 has come to an end on Oct 26, 2013 and what a yagna it has been! With his never-ending enthusiasm to teach, with boundless daya towards the students, exuberating ananda all the time, oblivious to the discomforts and pains of the body, and exemplary commitment towards teaching, Pujya Swami Dayananda Sarasvati has made this course an outstanding one. In the last three years, day in and day out, this 83 year old great Mahatma has nailed in the vision of the oneness of self by driving each student to a corner from where we cannot but see.



As we all know, Pujya Swamiji has been teaching Vedanta since 1957. He has created hundreds of sishyas who continue the parampara of Vedanta teaching in different parts of India and the world. He has conducted 12 full-fledged three year courses – both by himself and with the help of his disciples but this course has been very unique because, after three decades, Pujya Swamiji has conducted the entire course himself, with the able support of Acharya Swamiji Sakshatkrtanandaji. In no other course has Pujya Swamiji taken so many classes; taught the Mundaka, Katha, Kena, Kaivalya, Taittiriya, Mandukya, 6th chapter of Chandogya, Brama Sutra chatussutri and all 18 chapters of the Bhagavad Gita, not to forget other texts like Drig-drishya viveka, Vivekachudamani, Advaita makarandam, Vakhya vritti, Atma bodha,.....1304 hours of teaching from the

greatest teacher of Vedanta of our times makes this course a very memorable one!!

The course has also been unique because the number of dropouts was only a handful while the strength remained at 75. This has been Pujya Swamiji's largest course and the students were blessed with the once-in-a-lifetime-opportunity during the course to participate and witness the satabhishekam of Pujya Swamiji who is an epitome of wisdom, love and compassion.

Right through the course Pujya Swamiji's teaching has been simply amazing. With incomparable communication skills, using the choicest of words, and making everyone feel at ease with his sense of humour, employing the most apt illustrations culled from our daily life, never losing an opportunity to emphasize that sastra is a pramana, the only pramana to know the



self, Pujya Swamiji has given a new life to the sampradaya by instilling clarity in many topics like pramana, Isvara's order, what is meant by doing action without expecting result, moksha is not a state of experience, the relationship between vyashti and samshti and so on.

Perhaps the most outstanding revelation of Pujya Swamiji is to present Isvara as one maha order. No teacher on this planet talks about Isvara as order. The Sruti only indicates Isvara as the niyanta but does not dwell at length on the various ramifications of the order. Acharya Shankara also does not elaborately cover all aspects of the order. And unless Isvara is assimilated in the form of order there is no way one can resolve the emotional issues and prepare oneself for absorbing the vision. Thank you, Pujya Swamiji. Humanity will keep saluting you for this invaluable contribution to the teaching tradition. This course was also

unique because the students were doubly blessed to have an Acharya who emulates his guru. Knowledgeable and blessed with clarity of expression, Sakshat Swamiji's classes have been lucid yet profound, and in his inimitable style Swamiji has taught the Tatvabodha, 10 chapters of Pancadasi, 17 chapters of Upadesa sahasri, Satasloki, Mundaka bhashyam, Isavasya upanisad and Prashopanisad bhasyam. He has also taught Sanskrit, all through the three years.

If one were to ask Pujya Swamiji "Why is this course the most successful one?" , he would say " It is because of Sakshat Swamiji. He kept you all here" And, if one were to ask the same question to Sakshat Swamiji, he would say "It is only because of the continued presence and teaching of Pujya Swamiji for a length of time". How fortunate and blessed we students have been to study with a master teacher and a model sishya."

YEAR WISE CURRICULAM TAUGHT DURING THE LONG TERM COURSE:

FIRST YEAR:

· Introduction to Vedanta	10 hrs
· Pramana Vichara & Adhikaritam	18 hrs
· Tatva bodha	28 hrs
· Mundakopanishad Mulam	53 hrs
· Kathopanishad with Sankara Bhashyam	145 hrs
· Drig- drishya viveka	24 hrs
· Kaivalyopanishad	17 hrs
· Pancadasi of Sri Vidyanaraya - Chapters I to IV	110 hrs
· Narada Bhakti Sutram	48 hrs
· Ramodantam	26 hrs
· Nalopakhyanam	26 hrs
· Manisha Panchakam	11 hrs

SECOND YEAR:

· Bhagavad Gita Chapter I	9 hrs
· Bhagavad Gita Chapters II to IV with Sankara Bhashyam	162 hrs
· Kenopanishad with Sankara Bhashyam	60 hrs
· Taittiriyanishad-Sikshavalli with Sankara Bhashyam	32 hrs
· Taittiriyanishad-Brahmavalli with Sankara Bhashyam	55 hrs
· Isavasya Upanishad with Sankara Bhashyam	26 hrs
· Mundakopanishad – Sankara Bhashyam	103 hrs
· Pancadasi of Sri Vidyanaraya – Chapters V to VII	164 hrs
· Sataloki	46 hrs
· Bhaja Govindam	18 hrs
· Prata Smarana Stotram	3 hrs
· Kaupina Panchakam	4 hrs

THIRD YEAR:

· Bhagavad Gita Chapters V - XVIII with Sankara Bhashyam	244 hrs
· Taittiriyanopanishad-Bhriguvali with Sankara Bhashyam	15 hrs
· Chandogya Upanishad Chapter VI with Sankara Bhashyam	58 hrs
· Mandukya Upanishad (with karikas) with Sankara Bhashyam	93 hrs
· Brahmasutram – Chatussutri with Sankara Bhashyam	72 hrs
· Prashnopanishad	35 hrs
· Vajrasuchikopanishad & Kalisantaranopanishad	8 hrs
· Sri Dakshinamurthi Stotram	6 hrs
· Viveka Chudamani	73 hrs
· Advaita Makarandam	19 hrs
· Atmabodha	29 hrs
· Vakyavritti	19 hrs
· Pancadasi of Sri Vidyananda – Chapters VIII to X	66 hrs
· Upadesa Sahasri	123 hrs

SANSKRIT:

· Non- Paninian & Paninian Grammar	940 hrs
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MANGALA VADYAM:

The function started with the auspicious mangala vadyam, kottu vadyam by Chitra Veena Shri Ganesh.

Prayer songs were rendered by Dayananda Sisters Kumari Darshana and Kumari Sowmya.

PADA PUJA:

On behalf of all the students, Swami Shankarananda performed pada puja to Pujya Swami Dayananda Sarasvati. Led by

Swamini Vedarthananda and Swamini Saradananda the students chanted Sri Sadguru Astotra Sadanamavali.

STUDENTS GRATITUDE:

A few students spoke thanking Pujya Swamiji, Acharya Swami Sakshatkritananda, Swami Shankarananda, Swamini Vedarthananda and Swamini Saradananda for the Vedantic and Sanskrit teaching and for the parental care received. Swami Shankarananda thanked Pujya Swamiji for this great course.

CERTIFICATES DISTRIBUTION :

Pujya Swamiji awarded Certificate to 75 students for successfully completing long term three years course.

GURU DAKSHINA:

The students offered Guru dakshina to Pujya Swamiji and got his blessings.

PUJYA SWAMIJI'S ANUGRAHA BHASANAM

Pujya Swamiji gave his anugraha bhasanam. It was an extraordinary bhasanam.

There is always a last message

Pujya Swamiji told that though an acharya taught what is to be taught in last three years, still on the final completion day, there is always a last message. Swamiji told that there are many things, he wants to share but he is choosing the most important one which will help students to know how manage an unpleasant feeling.

Do not judge yourself based on your feeling

Swamiji cautioned each student that there is a natural tendency to make self-judgment of one's own understanding of Vedanta on

the basis of his emotions and feelings. Self-judgment on the basis of one's condition of mind is not right and unwarranted.

There may be feeling of loneliness, rejection and need for approval. But I am Brahman in spite of the feelings. In spite of all your limitations, you are free from all of them. These feelings are subjective, mithya and do not have even vyavakarika satyatvam.

Aham Brahmasmi is pramana janya jnanam. We have discussed in detail pramana sankha, pramana tatparya sankha and prameya sankha. Hence, after three years of study, there is no way of not knowing "Aham Brahmasmi".

Need for Niddiyasana

One may have viparitha bhavana. There may be impediments to enjoy the fruits of knowledge. We have done sravanam and mananam for three years. Last one month, I have introduced niddiyasana. Niddiyasana is to remove viparita bhavana. Students did not practice niddiyasana in last three years because of tight schedule, but now they have time and need to practice niddiyasana.

Report by N. Avinashilingam

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