

Sri Gurubhyo Namah

This November edition of Arsha Vidya News Letter is dedicated to Pujya Swamiji. It features an exploration of the meaning of the name “Swami Dayananda” and how Pujya Swamiji enlivened and brought new respect to his given name. The words are examined from an etymological perspective and also how the meaning of these words found expression in Pujya Swamiji.

In the *Soundarya-lahari*, an encomium to Devi ascribed to Sri Adi-Sankaracarya, the following is the final (one hundredth) verse:

प्रदीपज्वालाभिः दिवसकर-नीराजनविधिः सुधासूतेः चन्द्रोपलजललवैः अर्घ्यरचना ।
स्वकीयैः अम्भोभिः सलिलनिधिसौहित्यकरणं त्वदीयाभिः वाग्भिः तव जननि वाचां स्तुतिरियम् ॥

*pradīpajvālābhiḥ divasakara-nīrājanavidhiḥ sudhāsūteḥ candropalajalalavaiḥ arghyaranā
svakīyaiḥ ambhobhiḥ salilanidhisauhityakaraṇam tvadīyābhiḥ vāgbhiḥ tava janani vācāṃ
stutiriyam ॥*

Just as doing a nirajanam, a waving of lights, to the sun is like offering light back to the source of light, Just as making an offering an arghyam to the moon, with water from the chandarkantha stone (Chadrakanthas stone is one from which water oozes out when it is illumined by moonlight) is like giving back the moon what belongs to the moon, and just as making an offering of water to the ocean is like giving back the ocean what belongs to it; So also this verse addressed to youo’Devi is composed with words that are already yours.

The idea conveyed here is that, this hymn in your praise is due your own grace – I do not have any special merit. These words in the hymn are yours alone. Everything about these words are due to nothing but your grace – the words, the ability to pronounce them, the inseparable association of the words with their meanings, the possibility of understanding of words, the ability to recall them, the ability to communicate one’s understanding through words, the ability to string them together in beautiful metric verses all of these are due to your grace alone.

Similarly in this endeavour, whatever we have attempted to portray is purely due to the grace of Pujya Swamiji alone.

The article is based on a class by Swami Shankarananda for weekend students at the Anaikatti Gurukulam on 27th September offered as a tribute to Pujya Swamiji who attained Mahasamadhi on 23rd September. The words Pujya and Saraswati are pure titles. Nevertheless we have included them as they also appropriately fit in to Swamiji’s stature.

In this issue we are covering the meanings of the words Swami, Daya and Ananda. PujyaSwamiji as guru and two more words Pujya and Saraswati will be covered in later issues.

Reader’s views are solicited. You may respond by sending an email to “avgnl2014@gmail.com”

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