

Parampara Speaks

By the grace of Pujya Swamiji the in-depth study programme of Vedanta, Sanskrit, Vedic Chanting and Yoga at Anaikatti has reached completion. Some of the graduating students have shared their thoughts and gratitude.

When I decided to attend this course, I was not able to understand English well. I said to Acharya Swami Sakshatji, "Not only English. I don't have any knowledge of Vedanta either. But I want to stay and learn." Swamiji accepted me and said, "Don't worry, just listen to Pujya Swamiji".

Later I realized that this gurukulam is open to all who want to study. I learned a lot of things here, the biggest thing being the importance of being open. The gate of the gurukulam is always open and anybody can come and listen to all the classes. This environment makes everybody turn towards studying spontaneously. Just like all people, whether rich or not, regardless of age or gender, get same prasada from temple, we can all get this knowledge and blessings from Pujya Swamiji.

I remembered the words that Swami Sakshatji said, "Don't worry, just listen to Pujya Swamiji", over and over, especially when studying was difficult. Recently, Pujya Swamiji said to students who may wonder if they did well or not after 3 years, "Don't worry, this teaching goes and sits inside". When I face any situation, I will remember these words and overcome the situation with the help of this knowledge. *Aiko - Japan.*

When one does not fit into a category that is generally acceptable in the world, that sense becomes intensified in a closed community. These 3 1/2 years have been challenging, but I wouldn't choose differently. I knew why I was coming, I know why I stayed. Seeing the thinking that, "I am different", resolving into the truth of myself is the biggest blessing one can ask for.

The traditional Vedantic way of life is profound; if I could choose my next janma I would choose a birth into a traditional family.

Namaskar to Dakshinamurti. Pranams to Pujya Swamiji and Swami Sakshatkratanandaji who continue to bless me on this journey.

Ananda - Israel.

Praying to Ishvara and understanding oneself to be *ishvara* is a quantum jump which can only happen through the teaching of *Ishvara*. *Ishvara*, in the form of Pujya Swamiji who is endowed with unlimited *daya*, compassion, consistently showered us with this teaching that unfolds the truth of oneself. Understanding the *shruti* and seeing the meaning of the words of the *shruti* is a huge task which can only happen when *shivanam*, listening, takes place in the presence of the Guru himself and not otherwise. Being in the presence of a Guru and listening to the *shruti* constantly for a length of time, with *shraddha* in what he says about the truth, one cannot but have a paradigm shift in one's thinking. While unfolding the truth Pujya Swamiji makes one learn the art of living and the art of teaching. We are indeed blessed. *Amsavarni - Malaysia.*

The time spent as a student in Anaikatti has been a stream of grace and learning. Words fall short of what it really means to be here. Pujya Swamiji has given us the entire teaching without any *shra*. The teaching merged in him completely. Swami Sakshatkratananda effortlessly made all our issues seem manageable with his magical smile. Swami Shankarananda was available whenever needed without any reservation. Swamini Vedarthananda and Swamini Sharadananda tirelessly taught us chanting. The environs perfectly fit into my idea of a gurukulam of the ancient sages. I offer my gratitude to all who contributed directly or indirectly in making my stay here memorable.

Bindu Bhatt - USA.

Pujya Swamiji has made me see myself and the world as it is. The whole teaching is but a means for making me see who I am. In fact it is all a journey into this knowledge. The gradual growth of clarity is like a photo being developed. Like the chemicals in the developing tray, the same words may be used over and over but when they are seen as a reflecting medium the picture of my non-dual nature slowly becomes clearer and clearer.

The vision that is revealed through them again and again has left me in wonder at the emergence of new and unforeseen clarity that embraces me and lifts me beyond this life.

Camilla Bellocio - Italy.

Given the earth as writing paper, the oceans as ink, the trees as pens, even these would be inadequate to write about the glories of this parampara and the teachings of Pujya Swamiji. Each class, each *satsanga*, each meeting with Pujya Swamiji provided many brilliant insights and privileged learning opportunities for me. Be it Vedanta, *vyakarana*, astrology, music, medicine, the *grahasta-ashrama* mother-in-law, the young villager—to list a select few, each word is meaningfully articulated with one objective—to help us understand with clarity the teaching of the *shastra* and implement this teaching into our daily life. Perform my activities in keeping with the order of *ashrama* and I am in tune with *Ishvara*. *Ishvara* is the cause for what is here—this entire world, *sanam jagat*—known and unknown to me. The understanding that I have no choice over the results of my actions, that there is no success or failure, gives me the capacity to be objective and accept the results as they come—*prasada buddhi*. What there is, is grace—grace of *Ishvara*. As I continue this journey I gracefully let go of the demand of what "should be", and cheerfully accept "what is". *Charuina Karshat - Canada.*

Gittivamsi, we heard him say
 Five and twenty thousand hours ago.
 The words are the same even today,
 But, on its own have taken a glow.
 The Vision, Writing on the Wall
 In words bright, large and thick
 Words screaming, many meters tall;
 Open your eyes, pramana' N do the trick.

To that Gurus, we say, "We are blessed, you are the best"

He summed up every text
 As indeed no one else can
 Solved problems, however vast
 With compassion, and élan.
 He helped us soak in LSK
 Halantya, iko yanai, chu-tu.
 Letting the sutras hold sway
 Softly, slowly, into us they grew.

To that Acharya, we say, "We are blessed, you are the best"

Achadhadyayi was indeed forbidding,
 But, after class one, two or three
 Finding it not-so-tough, but edifying.
 Opened the beauty of Panini for us to see.

To that Actarya, we say, "Thank you, you are the best"

Loved going to the temple
 Mantra chanting drawing us there.
 With guidance kind and gentle
 Now we can chant too. Beware!

To the Swamis, we say, "Thank you, the near
 impossible happened!"

The many other teachers
 Of subjects very diverse
 Who gave us many new features
 Some in prose, some in verse.

To them, we say, "Thank you. We have really gained"

And then the support staff here
 Office, kitchen, maintenance, others
 Making life very easy to bear
 To us, kind sisters and brothers.

To them we say, "Thank you, thank you, thank you"

The climate just about right
 The aura very positive
 Clear, calm and very bright,
 All actions collaborative.
 An old adage says, the whole
 Is greater than the sum of parts.
 Allowed us to focus on the goal,
 And won over all our hearts.

To Shiva we pray, "Continue to bless us"

Ganeshi K - Coimbatore

I am not different from Brahman. My teacher explains "which includes you and all". So there is no destruction for you. I understand this fact and am happy because I continue to recognize through his teaching that the expression of knowledge is directly proportional to the expression of consciousness in all beings, ranging from Hydra to Einstein. Through the rishis the knowledge of consciousness is expressed totally. My teacher is a rishi and a scholar and is different, because there is no such sadhu among modern scholars and there is no such scholar among modern sadhus. Being the svarupa of knowledge he helped us to reorient our thinking to knowing, from becoming. He removed our feeling of alienation from Ishvara and made us recognize that we are one with Brahman, chaitanya svarupa. By understanding this fact I am secure without a second, I am ananta-ananda svarupa. For making me to understand this truth I salute him. Swami Sakshatkrandanaji along with Swami Shankaranandaji, Swaminis Vedarthananda and Sharadananda, the yoga teachers, Sri Sujit and Smt. Devi, put the things together for the successful completion of the course. Lord Medha Dakshinamurti with

his pavara devotas blessed by showering immense grace on the students to complete the three plus years course.

Charanaprakash - Tirupati



Living together with our Gurus and gurubhais allowed us to be totally immersed in Vedanta without having to justify why you are not doing anything else. In this exposure many unresolved areas surfaced, assisted by issues related to health, diet, environment etc. One can either dig in one's heels or repeatedly surrender, realizing anything I hold onto cannot be myself. Gradually, a bigger picture emerges as one becomes aware of the habitual filters through which one lives. With Pujya Swamiji's grace I pray that our entry back into life beyond the ashram may flow smoothly oiled by the growing clarity and wisdom resulting from this unique "detox" program.

Ganga - Scotland

मङ्गलमस्तस्मै नमः ।

Gita Chaitanya - Coimbatore

Om. Pujya Swamiji's teaching has been a continuous flow of wisdom and care pouring into my heart for more than 3 years, leaving me with an inexplicable sense of fulfillment. A relaxation with the ways of my mind has developed through the teaching, and through the interactions with the Swamis, gurubhais and everyone at the ashram.

My gratitude to both Pujya Swamiji and Acharya Swamiji, as well as to all the supporters, and to this great culture for the innumerable gifts. My prayer is for the capacity to share the sampradaya selflessly, and with the least hurt possible, as is exemplified by our revered Sri Parama Pujya Swamiji.

Julia Lorimer - USA

Vasudevam kutumbham - the whole earth is family. I enjoyed the congenial atmosphere of the ashram. I got the support of all here whenever and wherever I needed.

Punctuality pays a person. The gurukulam conducts all activities at the proper time. Our most respected Swamiji and Acharya Swami Sakshatkrnananda as well as our other Acharyas are vigilant around the clock to enhance us and to develop us in all aspects of our lives. All the other activities of our gurukulam have inspired me - decoration, cleaning etc. I'll try to imbibe all these in my life.

After completing the course, I'll try to follow our scriptures, the learning imparted to me and share the love, affection bestowed on me. I will do my best to teach Sanskrit, Bhagavad Gita etc., to all my relatives, friends etc. In short, I am inspired to serve the society, irrespective of nation, caste or class. May Bhagavan bless me to embody divinity in me alongside others.

Sanam khalu idam brahma. *Jyoti M Sakaria - Junagadh*

These two years with Pujya Swamiji have passed all too quickly, but every class, every satsanga, has brought growing clarity; not always smoothly or predictably, but very surely. Pujya Swamiji's love for every word of shashtra and for Shankara bhashya means that he never glosses over issues, and his brilliant insights and patiently chosen words help us see what shashtra wants us to see. With what kindness and patience does he surface lacunae and vagueness in our thinking and with what insight pick out our samshaya bijas and address them so that we cannot but see! It is as if the compassion and brilliance of the entire Guru parampara is working through him for our welfare.

For me, many emotional issues have also surfaced in this time, but I am more able to be objective to them. Daily puja at the temple has also helped me deal with my emotions. At least I know what pratibandhas I have to address in me while continuing to do shraavanam and mananam. For instance, Pujya Swamiji's unfailing compassion to all who approach him has made me seriously examine my own shortcomings in this area.

It has been the blessing of my life to meet Pujya Swamiji, and to be given the privilege of listening to shashtra unfolded by him. My prayer is for his long and healthy life. I also pray for undivided focus to continue to grow to assimilate the vision, and that Pujya Swamiji's teaching will continue to ring in my heart till my last breath. *Krishnan - USA*

The first time I met Pujya Swamiji was in 1997 in Rishikesh. Swamiji is one of the best teachers and after hearing Pujya Swamiji's talks, I had a desire to get exposure to this great knowledge directly under his guidance. There is nothing like listening directly from Swamiji because of the way the teaching is revealed with such clarity in thinking. Now I understand that, "All that is here is Ishvara". This is the xtion of the Vedas. Great leaders don't tell you what to do...they show you how it's done. The ashram is serene and the location is ideal for this spiritual pursuit. This all by Guru's grace. Om. *Kripa Chaitanya*

To me, this experience of learning Vedanta traditionally under a shrotriya brahminashtha shook the whole personality and brought out both the nectar and the poison from inside of me. The nature of the nectar of this knowledge is such that it nullifies the effects of poison absolutely. After three and one-half years of study in the gurukulam, what I am left with is only this knowledge-wealth which is the knowledge of all knowledges (samsvidya prasththa). I do not know what life is ahead of me but this knowledge will definitely help me in accepting it as it unfolds. It is a long way for this knowledge to become as clear as daylight but I will continue to work on it till I own it completely.

R. Lakshminarayana - Chennai

All the students of this 3 year course are most blessed to gain the 'great teaching' from the 'great teacher' Swami Dayananda Saraswati. The focus of the teaching was on pashana-trayam and a few prakara granthas. Also came the study of Sanskrit, chanting, yoga and an exposure to Indian art and culture. In the gurukulam every day was a: puja dinam; shasta dinam; vyakarana dinam; and samshayanavartaka dinam.

Untiringly Pujya Swamiji unfolded the shasta through Shankara bhashya and by yukti, pramana and anubhava. In conclusion, upadeshas, proper lifestyle and how to handle problems while teaching was given. Our Acharya Swami Sakshatkrnanandaji ably guided us all through the programme. As Kathoponishad says - ananya prokte gal' rata nasti - Pujya Swamiji 'made us see' by snapping all our seeking through knowledge. To this nivatshaya gurave namo nama.

Lalitha R - Coimbatore

Guru Stotram has a verse that begins, "ajnanatimirandhasya..." It tells how the Guru removes the darkness. At first it was difficult to study because of different background and a lot of unsettled issues. When Swamiji told about the 'order' is nothing but Ishvara, it made everything change. Now I have the space to accept my self and also others as they are. In each Gita shloka I can see how to resolve our day to day life issues. When I return to Malaysia I will share the knowledge with all my people. Another project will be to refine an equivalent of mantra pushpam written in Tamil and Devanagari script.

Manaswin - Malaysia

When I joined the course halfway through, together with my husband, I had a doubt: is such a thorough intellectual study of shashtra not more a man's affair? But when I came to the gurukulam I discovered the majority of the students were female. And in fact, I happened to love the classes. The whole programme helped to purify my mind and release unconscious pain from my childhood. The programme enabled me to establish a wholesome loving relationship with myself and a true relationship with Ishvara, based on understanding. With the blessings of Pujya Swamiji, I hope to continue this study in the coming years in the gurukulam. *Mason - Holland*

Among the great mahatmas Pujya Swamiji is the crown jewel. Pujya Swamiji who through the exposition of the Upanishads, revealed the truth of Bhagavan, the repository of the six-fold ashwaryas and thus removed the fear of death from me and immersed me in the knowledge of immortality.

Pujya Swamiji has also given us all the gift of the presence of the great Acharya in Pujya Swami Sakshatkrnanandaji. Truly my Acharya deva, complete with the pearls of noble values from the sattu ocean of life. He is endowed with brilliance and knowledge of the ancient rishis and is a shining example for the modern world. He is fully surrendered at the footsteps of Pujya Swamiji. He is an ideal for those jñanas endowed with *varushartha nishchaya*. His life becomes the mirror looking at which the goal of moksha becomes very dear. My crores of salutations to Pujya Swamiji who effortlessly reveals the ever presence of the immediate limitless truth that is the self. May we always pray to the Lord for the good health of Pujya Swamiji. *Mamaswini - Vrindavan.*

Revolution has happened from deep inside over these three years. It is a very rare and auspicious opportunity to see the self. Pujya Swamiji teaches one the truth. Staying with this knowledge is really a blessing. It was not easy, but these three years have changed me a lot and made me free from being critical and from a sense of helplessness. I want to live with this vision of the truth for my whole life. I am making a *sankalpa* to be objective, to live a dharmic life, and to stay with this teaching which is gifted by Swamiji. Arigatou Gooaimashite! (million times thanks in Japanese) *Mio - Japan*

The wave yearned to be water. And Medha Dakshinamurti smiled. Every moment in this traditional gurukulam (which is like no other place in the world) has been prasada. The biggest blessing was to be in Pujya Swamiji's presence, *svarupa* of Dakshinamurti himself who helped me assimilate the *pramanabam* of the shastro and gave his teaching, love and compassion, unconditionally. I learnt 'to just be' from Swami Sakshatkrnanandaji's teaching and care. The wave had always been water. Now, life is more about doing whatever is required to further this most glorious *sampradaya* while preserving dharma and the culture of India. My love and gratitude to all. Om Tat Sat.

Mrinalini Rao - Mumbai

Grace brought me to the feet of Pujya Swamiji and Swami Sakshatkrnanandaji. The teaching methodology that Pujya Swamiji uses blesses all. I have learned to understand this life, body and mind. The ashram has been very supportive in my almost four years of study. There are no words to express my gratitude. This teaching is priceless! My namaskaras to all teachers in this lineage. *Pranams Pujya Swamiji.*

Rishi Prasad - Brazil

Being in the three-year course was like being in Brahma loka because Swamiji's teaching cannot be received anywhere else and everything was given making it conducive for studying. Even so, we had to face ordinary and extraordinary *laukika* problems, of course, but here we learned that those problems are also opportunities given to overcome and help our growth. Even after the course, wherever we are while tarrying in "normal" life, I hope all of us can continue to be with Pujya Swamiji and Sakshatkrnanandaji in the form of knowledge we have received. Indeed this can be better than Brahma loka with this *Param Vidya*. My pranams to the Guru and the Acharya. I thank all who supported me directly and indirectly for my growth and studying. Om Tat Sat.

Mukthi Nagumo - Japan

Set in the verdant Nilgiri hills, AVG is an ideal place for contemplative pursuit of Vedanta. Veda chanting classes and temple activities add another dimension to this by providing variety and growth towards maturity. Though there is no prerequisite for entry to this three year *prasthanatraya* study, one would get the most out of this course when equipped with *sadhana-chaturstaya*, which gives one the clarity that moksha is the only thing worth pursuing in life, and one should do it with the urgency with which one will seek water when one's house is on fire. Those with mathematical bent of mind will enjoy the study of Panini, and all will be able to sharpen their intellect by this study, which is very valuable in mastering Sankarabhasya. Finally, by staying steadfast for three years in all aspects of the course as presented in AVG, one will have complete understanding of Ishvara and the vision of shastro. *Narayani - Mumbai.*

The time I spent here is the GOLDEN TIME because of the wonderful environment, rich nature, excellent pujas and a very loving Pujya Sakshat Swamiji, who as the Acharya, made it possible.

The comfortable accommodation, the opportunity to live in close proximity with the Guru, and being very well "taken care of" made life easy, so all one's attention could be put to studies. Marvelous teachings by Pujya Swamiji who, making us laugh, would push the TATVA tablet in. And, now and then backed by Pujya Sakshat Swamiji's explanations and elaborations has made Vedanta more enjoyable. I would say it is "well-sunk" into the being. Pujya Swamiji has given his all for us and made the TATVA real and clear as a fruit on the palm. Now, if something needs to be done to own it up, it is to increase my *adhikaranam*.

As this teaching removed my erroneous understanding about the "good life", I wish to take it to others. I've planned to adhere to shastro, contemplating on it for myself and advancing to the desirous ones. Om

Neda Nitya Chaitanyat - Vallabh Vidyanagar



In the gossamer light, I saw
 the image inside our heart/mind
 trees, flowers, sky, clouds..... Thru your eyes
 I see
 the dancing photons
 every perception there
 tainted rose and amber
 and in the sanctum
 [you, the invariable presence
 of the hearts cave]
 the world pours
 effortlessly.....out
 thru your senses
 weaved into one fabric
 the heard, tasted, touched, streaming, flowing
 perception, relation, interpretation where all the todays
 and yesterdays
 make up the one
 we call cosmos.
 In the gossamer light, I saw

Phil - USA

Story of a seed

Once upon a time Lord Sadashiva felt like creating a forest of Vedantic teaching parampara, स एषासत sowed a seed. There came some trees (ऋषिः) who produced many many seeds which were scattered all over, and the place is बृहदारण्य now. Among these trees, one well grown selfless, compassionate tree, aware of oneself (Pujya Swamiji) decided to help others to know the self, helped them to grow well with the understanding "the problem is you and the solution is you". This tree produces many many seeds and now is the right season for harvest. The nutrition for these seeds are the prasthanatrayam bhashya teachings, well nourished by Panini grammar classes, protected by Panchadasi. These seeds are ready to be sown in various places in the forest where there is a lot of sunlight (अभ्युत्थानकृपा) and enough water (आत्मकृपा) will be there to make the forest dense. Other seeds have adhikari potential to enrich the forest. I am the blessed seed.

Radhika - Hyderabad

With the blessings of Bhagavan, Pujya Swamiji and Swami Sakshatkratanandaji, we in the three-year course were able to receive this knowledge which has been handed down through the Guru-shishya parampara since the beginning of creation. This knowledge is that which expounds the truth about the Lord, jagat and myself. It gives me immense satisfaction to have been able to complete this course. Thank you Bhagavan.

Sarala Rani - Malaysia



I would like to say about this course that it is one of the very successful courses conducted by Pujya Swamiji and assisted well by Swami Sakshatkratanandaji. My own personal feeling is that, what I wanted, I got at the right time in the right place.

I got a nice opportunity to listen to Pujya Swamiji in great detail for a long time. It has given me an insight for further study of Vedanta, especially by doing Panini grammar which has given me a good means to understand the language. So thank you for providing this opportunity.

Once again my gratitude to Pujya Swamiji and Swami Sakshatkratanandaji
 Br. Shreeta

Our precious three-year course, taught by the most compassionate Guru, Pujya Swamiji, was for only one thing: to know the self. Pujya Swamiji has created many teachers. Learning with him is a great blessing. I see in myself growing danti. Living with co-students from different countries and backgrounds is a nice experience. All are able to relate to each other in keeping with the vision. I will share what I have learned and continue to serve to my best ability. One thing I have to tell here, our Acharya Swami Sakshatkratanandaji with great compassion has taken care of all students - we are truly blessed by him.

Srinivasan - Anantapur

This course helped me change my attitude to my response to situations. I am able to bring Ishvara in all my transactions. Whatever I receive I am trying to accept as Ishvara's grace. The course helped me to know more about the glory of the Upanishads and the importance of Upanishads with Shankara bhashya to reach the goal. More than the teachings, through his actions, Pujya Swamiji is a living example and a role model for me. In spite of his health, his commitment to taking classes helped me change my attitude and study more.

Having studied a similar course elsewhere, I appreciate the depth of the teachings. Without any expectations in any way or any kind from the students this is the Guru-shishya parampara. It is really the grace from Ishvara to be here in the course. I felt that Sakshat Swamiji's love was like my mother's love. When we are in the ashram, the system supports us totally. I want to spread what I have learnt here - the how and why will have to be worked out, once we return. Pulluri Srinivas - Hyderabad.

It must have been no small grace, due to which, I entered AVG Anaikatti for the three-year course. I entered as Jeevanika, a jiva, wanting to know myself. I am going out as Jivanmuktananda, knowing myself to be the very content of ananda, myself which is free, myself which is free while living. I have gained myself as it were... and... I will be sharing this ananda with others! This happens when Pujya Swami Dayananda Saranwati is the teacher and Swami Sakshatkratanandaji the resident Acharya. My pranams to both of them.

Swamini Jeevanmuktananda - Coorvor

I joined the second half of the course, together with my wife. Because of my upbringing I was already familiar with Vedanta, but due to lack of a proper teaching method, I still had doubts about the subject matter. Entering into this full-time pursuit, Pujya Swamiji's crystal clear teaching put an end to my doubts one by one. A new understanding of Ishvara's order helped me to really come to terms with all aspects of the world. We have planned to spend a few more years in the gurukulam, in order to become firmly rooted in this knowledge and to master Swamiji's way of presenting this wonderful teaching method.

Remmert - Holland

Reflecting upon my time in Arsha Vidya Gurukulam listening to Pujya Swamiji's teachings, I feel that it has been time very well spent and I can only call it a blessing all the way through. I should say that I have been getting more than what I expected in terms of clarity and also in terms of life and culture for which Pujya Swamiji has been creating opportunities with love and care even at the age of 83.

As far as what I see ahead for myself after the course, I really don't have any new expectations but at the same time feel more committed to the parampara and confident about taking up anything and performing it with love and commitment. I look forward to Pujya Swamiji's guidance on this matter all through my future. I should say that my life feels very different, more committed to this tradition of learning and teaching, extremely content and ready to love, learn and serve. I thank Ishvara for making this happen in my life.

Suryanarayana - Chennai

காட்டில் ஒரு தீபம் காற்றினால் சூடத்தில் இட்ட தீபமாக இருந்தது. நான் ஆயிரத்து நூற்று எண்பத்து ஐந்து நாட்களில் முயலிவந்து ஐந்துவாறு ஐம்பத்து வகுப்புகளில் கோபுரத்தால் இட்ட ஞான தீபமாக கோளினில் வைக்கப்பட்டது.

எப்படி

எங்கே வெதாந்த மரபில் வந்த பரம பூஜாரிய , நான் அந்த குருவாக்கிய பரிதாபத்தின் மூலம் கங்கலம், மரபாளம், ஆணவமலம் போக்கி, அக்ஞான இந்நளன நீக்கி "அறிவாகிய ஆண்டவர் நீ" என்பதை தெளிவுபடுத்தி என்னை ஞான தீபத்தை ஒளிரச் செய்த "என் குருநாதரின் திருபாதா கிரீடங்கள் கருக்கு" அன்ற கோடி நமஸ்காரம்.

Translation: Story of a Lamp in the Forest

A small little lamp, afraid of the wind was kept in a mud pot. Then after 355 classes of teaching for 1185 days, I was shifted to a gopuram of a temple, shining bright. How did this happen? By the teaching "That is You" (Vedanta) by my Guru who is none other than Parama Pujya Dayananda Swamiji, from the vedantic tradition of Shankaracharya. Lighted up by the knowledge of "I am none other than that Ishvara," my darkness of ignorance was removed, sanchita, agami, parabhava - karmas are negated. I offer my ananta koti namaskarams at the feet of my Guru.

Swamini Sudharvidyananda Saraswati

Extraordinary punya brings one to the sacred pursuit of Brahmanicija at the lotus feet of Pujya Swamiji. An amazing programme of growing clarity, it reprograms our notions, putting everything in its proper place. It is magic. Pujya Swamiji is the mayavin unfolding the greatest secret - "You ARE what you are seeking". Fascinating all the way, telling you how wonderful you are!

Yoga, Pranay, festivals, japa, seva, pujas etc. - help one stay focussed.

One relaxes - appreciating the Order through prasada-buddhi. There is no other way!

Given a chance I would do it all over again! It is the greatest gift to oneself.

Swamini Sumatmananda - Anakkattil

When I heard about the three-year course that it would completely change a person I wondered, "how is it possible?" It is possible because of the powerful perennial flow of knowledge coming through Swamiji to oneself. It seems to wash away all what one doesn't need leaving behind understanding and cheerfulness of being.

Things considered to be complex lose their complexity when explained by Swamiji. One can see that it's possible to have freedom in relationship, to discover love and to live a life of values.

The apex of spirituality in the world is sainthood, which is a possibility for everybody, and a stepping stone to self-knowledge. What a blessing to have a unique opportunity to grow into one in whom the knowledge stays.

My Gratitude to Swamiji whose love and compassion allowed me to see what is!

Uma / Olga - Russia

Among many achievements like even learning to think properly and the joy of discovering Bhagavadgita's bhashya etc., what tops the mind at the moment is the conviction I got about the paramanyam of shastra-pramana. That is really big for me. Thank you Pujya Swamiji and Acharya Swamiji.

Venkateswara Iyer - Trivandrum

I feel very honoured and blessed for being able to stay these three years in AVG and appreciate the opportunity to express this gratitude. Pujya Swamiji touched us with his brilliance, good humour and lots of care during this time. Even with challenging health he was really always there for anyone of us. Swami Sakshatji treated us as his own children, always with an open heart and a desire to nourish and provide that which would bring us back to being the basic person, whenever necessary. I feel that our necessity for knowledge, care and love was constantly fulfilled by the teachers and the ashram as a whole, enriching our lives and making us understand that they did not only teach us Vedanta, but also how to live and love. Hari om

Visuvanatha - Brazil



For us the Gita Camp from April 2010 was an eye opener. We had come to the gurukulam for the first time and hadn't listened to Swamiji other than a few classes on the internet. The Gita camp helped us get *purushartha nishchaya* and in getting the vision and the depth of the *shashtra* and of course how to handle the teaching. Just by watching Pujya Swamiji we can imbibe so much, what to talk of being exposed to the teachings of the *shashtra* in the classroom. The vision of the *shashtra* unfolded by Pujya Swamiji is unparalleled.

The insights into our rich culture we got through the *shashtra* and different programmes and talks on Indian music, dance, temple architecture, *ayurveda* were extraordinary. We feel it is difficult to get such an extensive exposure even being born in this culture. We are thankful to Pujya Swamiji and Swami Sakshatkrandanaji for designing and conducting such an extensive programme. This has indeed helped us to grow and appreciate our rich culture in the light of Vedanta. We remain ever saluting all the teachers.

The Satabhishekam in July 2011 was a big memorable event that we will cherish. We consider ourselves blessed to have been able to participate.

On the regular morning walks, there might have been over 100 elephant sightings as well as a number of sightings of the Indian Gaur (wild buffalo), herd of deer, wild dog and varieties of wonderful birds around the gurukulam, I recall, though with a chill, when I was caught in the middle between a tusker and an elephant size Indian Gaur, but still able to watch both the large mammals in their natural habitat.

The ambience of the Dakshinamurti temple and the Munagan temple is something we would remember always. We thank all co-students especially those in the medical and paramedical field for their support and help. While we may have grown older physically at the gurukulam we leave with the dear vision that we could never grow old at all. Om Sat

Sreekanthi and Saraswathi - Abu Dhabi.

The time I spent at Anaitatti studying directly from Pujya Swamiji is the most useful and fulfilling part of my life. I will share with society, the knowledge that I have received from Pujya Swamiji. I am able to see *bhava* in all that is, and everything that happens.

N. Avinashlingam - Coimbatore.

May we share the blessings that we have received with all those we meet. May our compassion extend to others in the way it has been extended to us during our time here. May the knowledge flow through us for the benefit of all. May we have the clarity to teach as we were taught. *Koti koti namams to Pujya Swamiji, Swami Sakshatkrandanaji and the parampara. Jnanani and Mrinalini.*

The 3-year course with Pujya Swamiji reinforced the paramount importance of adhering to *dharma* (virtuous exemplary values and attitudes) in general and one's own, *svadharm* (duties) in particular.

While *moksha*, in the form of *jnana* (knowledge), is summum bonum of human pursuits, a lifestyle committed to *dharma* empowers the individual to overcome feelings of guilt due to omission and/or commission committed advertently/inadvertently. *Dharma* also forms the basis of *adhikaritam* (prerequisite qualifications) in the form of *sadhana chatustaya* (4-fold qualifications) for *moksha*. Being an *adhikari* makes the individual available and consequently receptive of *shashtra jnanam*. Though *shashtra* enjoins complete freedom for *sanyasis* and *janis*, in their wisdom and for setting the right example, they would continue adhering to *dharma* working towards the welfare of all.

Naval Agrawal - Chandigarh.

As long as a human body lives, there is always scope for mental maturity and spiritual growth. The study of Vedanta provides both the ancient tradition of teaching this precious philosophy has been brought by Pujya Swamiji to the modern era without compromising any aspect. I observed that Pujya Swamiji would never miss the opportunity to glorify Sri Adi Shankara. This reverence of Swamiji depicts his humbleness and makes him an ideal teacher. The 3 year Vedanta study prepare one to be a good 'grihastha', a Vedanta teacher, a social worker or a perfect renunciate, because time and again one learns here that 'I am not the karta.'

Vijaya Veeraswamy - USA.

It has been a blessing to receive the knowledge and the vision of the *shashtra* from Pujya Swamiji during the 3 year course. This was the first occasion that I stayed away from home for a prolonged period of time. The course included students from all over the world with different backgrounds bringing along with them a diverse set of thinking. The course provided oneself the opportunity to be with oneself and resolve one's issues. This resolution makes one available to receive the teaching of the *shashtra*. Pujya Swamiji emphasizes the importance of *purushartha nishchaya* (commitment with regards to one's goal in life) to successfully complete the course and live the vision of the *shashtra*.

Vidhuti Vivekar - Nagpur.

ओम् नमो ब्रह्मादिभ्यो ब्रह्मविद्या सम्प्रदाय
कर्तृभ्यो वंशऋषिभ्यो महद्भ्यो नमो गुरुभ्यः ॥
ओम् शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥