

Family Vedanta Retreat III for the year 2012



Capacity to conform to Dharma is a big satisfaction.

It is freedom from conflicts. It is Purushartha.

Behind every desire there is a judgment that I am incomplete.

A total acceptance of yourself and a total acceptance of what is, is necessary. You are complete as you are.



The Final of the Family retreats, the Family Retreat III for the year 2012 was held at the Arsha Vidya Gurukulam in Saylorsburg PA from August 5 to August 12. Almost 70 participants and 60 children attended this camp.

Pujya Swami Dayanandaji taught Verses 10-12 from Kathopanisad 1.3 and Swami Viditatmananda Saraswati continued the Isavasyopanisad he was teaching during the Family Vedanta Retreat II. Savithri Maniji and Lance Daniels held the children camp. The children were grouped according to their ages as juniors, seniors and teens. Suddhatmaji taught chanting the Shanti Mantras and Pandit Mukesh Desaiji taught the music classes. Yoga classes were also available during the camp.

Registration was completed on August 5. Orientation was held in the evening. Suddhatmaji explained the course schedule and the facilities at the Gurukulam.

Orientation was followed by a satsang and bhajan with Swami Viditatmanandaji.

Pujya Swamiji was to be at the Gurukulam in the morning on the August 8. However, the plane he was travelling in arrived late. Pujya Swamiji came to the temple in the afternoon. Many students were waiting to see Swamiji at the temple. Swamiji came to the temple; he prayed to Lord Dakshinamurti, talked to the students and then conducted a satsang. Swamiji answered questions; he talked about some of his experiences in India and told the story about Naciketas and the three boons Lord Yama gave him.

Pujya Swamiji taught two classes and conducted a session of satsang every day during the camp.

Swami Viditatmanandaji continued teaching Isa Upanisad teaching one class every day. Swamiji explained the shanti mantra and the fullness and completeness concept of

the self. He elaborated on the concept of renunciation and Karma and the choice of performing good karma.

Suddhatmaji conducted chanting classes during the camp on alternate days. He explained the significance the akshar shudhi, the matra shudhi and the swara shudhi. Suddhatmaji also answered questions from the student.

Pandit Mukesh Desaiji taught music on alternate days during the morning and presented classical music in the evenings every day. The campers were pleased with Punditji's melodious renderings.

Three significant programs took place during this retreat as follows:

On August 7th the Nakshatra Puja was performed for Pujya Swamiji in the Homa Building. Priests from various places participated in chanting stotras. The ceremony lasted almost for five hours.

On August 9th the Sri Krishna's Janmastami celebrated. Children and adults gathered in the evening at the Yoga Studio for a delightful evening. Children chanted the Krishna Ashtothram. Children and adults danced the garba and the dandia. The program lasted till eleven PM.

On August 12th Pujya Swamiji's Birthday was celebrated at the temple. It was a big gathering. Swami Veditatmananda gave a key note speech. Pujya Swamiji in his speech said that a birthday reminds you of one more year of growth. Every experience in life adds to inner growth.

The Cultural evening was presented by Savithriji on August 11th. Pandit Mukesh Desai's students presented Ganesa's bhajan in Raga Kedar. Junior and senior children chanted mantras. A dance sequence Navarasa was presented. This was followed by a junior children tableau on Lord Rama's life entitled Bala Ramayana. Finally the teens presented a play titled Navarasa Ramayana.

The kitchen staff worked hard to serve good food on time. Priests Sri Ravichandran and Sri Ganesa were very busy during this camp. They performed well. Yoga classes were well attended.

This was a very busy camp for everyone. Suddhatmaji and the staff, teachers and volunteers worked hard to make it a success. Pujya Swamiji's return was awaited for and everyone was happy to see him back.

The camp ended on August 12th 2012.

"Report by Arvind Bagat"

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