

AVG Anaikatti Report

Four day new year Tamil Retreat, April 10th - April 14th

This was the first retreat in 2021. The text selected was “Kailvalya Navaneetam” which is an advaita classic in Tamil written by Tandavaraya Swamigal. The text has two parts. The first part along with the opening prayer slokas called Payira and Tattva villakka padalam with 108 verses was taken up in this retreat.

The retreat was initially conceived as the first residential retreat after the pandemic.

But the pandemic condition continued, so by popular demand it was converted into an E-retreat with restricted resident participants.

There were about 28 registered participants for the E-retreat which was conducted on Zoom and about 9 participants came to the gurukulam to participate directly. The classes were taken by Swami Jagadatmanandaji, who is very well-read in Tamil literature and in Vedanta. He has the ability to bring the class alive and explain in a way which is understandable to all levels of participants. There were 2 classes in the morning and two classes in the evening since Swamiji had to cover 108 verses. But Swamiji did it with ease. The retreat was well appreciated by all the participants.

On April 14th, Tamil new year day, all the retreaters participated in the morning abhisekham and Puja at Lord Dakshinamurthy temple which was made available on our YouTube channel.

As per the gurukulam tradition, a vishu kanika was given by the chief Acharya, Swami Sadatmanandaji as blessings to all at the gurukulam, including the residential retreaters.

The morning ended with a special abhisekham and puja organised by Swamiji at Lord Kalyana Subramaniam temple on the hilltop followed by a special bhiksha, lunch.

Some reviews from the resident and E-retreat participants –

Sri Ravi Subramaniam- Coimbatore- E rereater.

The e-retreat on Kaivalya Navaneetam conducted by Swami Jagadatmananda Saraswatiji was truly a spiritual treat especially for people like me with very little knowledge on the basics of Vedanta.

The simplicity and clarity with which Swamiji effectively explained the subtle concepts made it even more engrossing. Coupled with this was the beauty of the text in Tamil which presented these concepts in brief verses (but packed with the essence of Vedanta) which

could be understood only after each verse was expounded to reveal it's true inner meaning (saaraamsam) by Swamiji. In addition to the above, the talks were a veritable audio- visual treat which enabled me appreciate and comprehend the poetic form of the Tamil language in its pristine state.

My pranams to Acharya Swami Sadatmananda Saraswatiji who suggested that I attend this e-retreat and that Vedantic principles are best understood in one's own mother tongue. My pranams to Swami Jagadatmananda Saraswatiji for giving us these precious insights of Vedanta as we stepped into the Plavavarsham with the take away message on Ishwaraar-pana bhavana, Prasada buddhi leading to the ultimate knowledge of “Aham Brahmasmi”.

To sum up - this e-retreat was a real blessing to me given the difficult times we are all going through. I look forward to listening and benefiting from more of such talks by Swamiji in Tamil in the future.

My humble pranams to Guru parampara and sincere thanks to Arsha Vidya Gurukulam team for organising this E-retreat.

Om Sri Gurubhyonamah.

Deepa Ajay, Chennai – the youngest residential participant.

Namaskarams to Swami Jagadatmanandaji for skillfully teaching and guiding us into the profound and heartfelt work of 'Kaivalya Navaneetam' as beautifully expounded by Shri Tandavaraya Swamigal. This special treatise in Tamil encompasses all of Vedanta and I deeply benefited from participating in this retreat and plan to revisit notes and recordings again to study and revel in the teaching. Looking forward to attending many more such camps in the future.

Dhanyavadham to Pujya Swamiji's beautiful 'Arsha Vidya Gurukulam' for hosting us for this retreat, Pranams to resident Swamis, Swaminis, Brahmacharis, students and special thanks to the loving and caring 'Gurukulam ground staff' for making us feel comfortable and totally at home.

Prayers to our Gurukulam's Lord Dakshinamurti, to guide all of us on our path to moksha

Om Tat Sat



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Arsha Vidya Newsletter

Annual Subscription: Rs. 180 /-

Published by: V. Sivaprasad

Trustee, Sruti Seva Trust, Anaikatti, Coimbatore 641 108

Edited by:

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Printed by: B. Rajkumar

Rasi Graphics private Limited

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