

'COMING HOME'

Report of retreat of Swami Suddhanandaji and his students at Manjakudi

Jnanapravaha received a very special guest, a senior disciple of Pujya Swamiji, Sw. Suddhanandaji of Utthandi Asram, Chennai. The residents and the educational institutions he visited got reminded of Pujya Swamiji's presence in our midst in all his interactions. Our heartfelt thanks to Swamiji – Swami Ramesvarananda.



Swamiji received a warm welcome with some retreaters on 31st March, 2022 evening by Swami Rameswaranandaji with *Purna Kumbam*. Some campers along with Swamiji attended the *puja* at *Jnana Pravaha* when the *abhishekam* was done to the chanting of Rudram completely that was very solemn. From 1st April, 2022 onwards, from morning, as all the campers arrived, very comfortable rooms with laundry service was allotted in 'Daya Residency' and 'Anugraha' each with pantry attached to serve delicious coffee twice a day. Meditation sessions were appropriate to begin the day at 7 a.m. Two sessions by Swamiji at 9.45 – 11 am and 4 – 5 pm were conducted with some pointers given from those sessions at the end of the report. Swami Iswaranandaji conducted in Tamil a session before lunch after Swamiji's session. Swamiji's heart was filled with joy taking classes at the birth place of his Guru, Pujya Swami Dayanandaji – all conducted in *Jnana Pravaha* in cool comfort. *Bhajans* by Swami Vishveshanandaji at the Vishnu temple every evening with last day at *Jnana Pravaha* followed by Question Answer session.

Everything moved in clockwork and the days passed so quickly. Food was delicious all three times – breakfast, lunch and dinner. Pujya Swamiji's brothers Shri Srinivasan and Shri Dharmarajan, Smt. Shanthi Ranganathan and Swami Rameshwaranandaji were also

present whenever possible amongst their other routine works. A visit to *Pujya Swamiji's kula deivam* temple was arranged to seek the blessing of Mother Angalaparameshwari. A visit to the ancestral home was memorable. Swamiji addressed the children of the college and another session for the teachers. Visits to *Veda Patashala*, the organic garden and the Technical School were made.

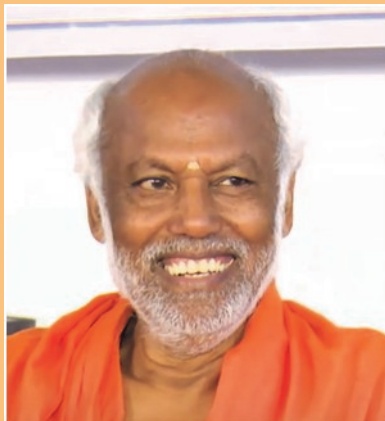


Some nuggets from the sessions by Swamiji:

- To get out of the tyranny of changes, a teacher must help to discover the Changeless.
- Subtle thoughts cannot satisfy the gross hunger.
- Mind is a bottomless pit.
- Your date of birth of the body, somebody has to report and events when you were very young. Before your date of birth, 'I' thought has no recording.
- In wisdom, the wiseman makes the pieces into peace.
- Space will not try to drop a dust or a heavy object.
- The three most fundamental urges man has are:
 - I must live and live for ever
 - I must be Immortal
 - I must be happy
- The macrocosmic dimension of an individual was well explained in the context of the naming tradition of South India.
- Dream has validity only if the body is alive.

- Retreat report by Dr. Vijayamurthy – Coordinator

Swami Shuddhanandaji's special report:



Just after resting I felt like writing and wrote it down. Thank You and all our friends and families there in that charming magical space named Manjakudi.

It was an unforgettable stay for all of us. In fact, we all have been thinking of the next trip there long before even the present trip ended! It's all the Magic, the Charm, the Blessings that the Pujya Swamiji has been and FOREVER IS!!! It's a Living Presence in the Village temple, the homes, the pathways, the cowshed, the playgrounds, the paddy fields, the plants, peacocks, parrots like the invisible but intoxicatingly and deeply felt fragrance of the Parijat, the white shampangis, the paneer pu and many unnamed blossoms.

But the most important are the People who have been carrying that Fragrance in their personal living and the little hamlet of the yesteryears have blossomed to be the Living Space, enlivened by Pujya Swamiji: The Child, our Revered Loving Embodiment of Compassion and Wisdom, Who, though, All pervasive, was born there, who breathed the air there, played in that dust, walked in the pathways, climbed those trees, jumped into the water of the little river, Cholachudamani, learned the alphabets, grew up to be young and curious, not only to know the world outside but also the Universe within and then found The Self That holds everything - all that is outside and inside the body, yet by Itself there is no inside, outside, near, far, here, there, now, then, small, big, name, form whatsoever!!!!

To walk in His footsteps is to grow up within ourselves to be One with The Reality That is NEVER Born, Living, Growing, Metamorphosing, Decaying or Disintegrating ! What a Joy, What a Blessing, What a Fulfillment - Ever Unborn, yet, to be born, Ever Changeless yet, to Change, never growing Yet to Be All Pervasive..The Space that held Him in its intimate embrace, the Air that kept the body alive, the Fire that kept that body energised and moving, the Water that cleansed and sustained Him within and without and The Earth that held Him since the birth, growth - while growing, playing, walking, waking, dreaming and sleeping are Still there in Manjakkudi. That Sacred Space, Air, Fire, Water and the Earth are ALWAYS inseparable from the Totality! Yet there was, is and will be a special charm for those, who shared the time and space when and where He lived breathed and moved. Even those who later shall share His thoughts, the Teaching shall be as intimate and inseparable as the Name is from the Nameless, the Form is from the Formless! It is a Huge Blessing.

— Swami Shuddhananda (Utthandi), 7/4/2022, 00:34