

Talk by Swami Sadatmanandaji-

Today (15th August 2022) we are celebrating the 92nd birthday of Pujya Swamiji who founded this Arsha Vidya Gurukulam. We are celebrating it by expressing our gratitude to the Lord Dakshinamurti for giving us the gift in the form of Pujya Swamiji. He is a gift to all of us and he is a gift to the entire humanity.

We celebrate the birthday of great people for 2 reasons-

- i) To thank Bhagavan for giving us mahatmas like Pujya Swamiji in our life directly or indirectly.
- ii) Especially on this day we remember the great qualities of those great mahatmas and try to imbibe those qualities, seeking their blessings.

In Guru stotram, there is a popular sloka –

*Gurur brahma, gurur vishnuh, gurur devo maheshwarah,
Gurusshakshat param brahma, tasmai sri gurave namah.*

Guru is Brahma the Lord as creator, guru is Vishnu the Lord as protector. Guru is Maheshwarah the lord as resolver of this creation. Guru alone is all these three.

How is this so? Answer is given: Guru is the absolute reality who alone is appearing as Brahma, Vishnu and Maheshwarah. So we equate guru to all the devatas. Therefore we can say - *Sarvadevamayo guruh* - Guru is aggregate of all devatas reflecting the glories of all them. So doing namaskara to guru is as good as doing namaskara to all devatas. In Guru Gita, this idea is very much highlighted.

When I was thinking of Pujya Swamiji in this context, Pujya Swamiji reflected the glories of so many devatas. We can see it with respect to the devatas we worship here in our gurukulam temples.

We start with Jnana Ganapati who is known as *vighnaharta*- remover of obstacles. Those who have been associated with Pujya Swamiji know that Pujya Swamiji will remove various types of obstacles- not only spiritual obstacles, but even social, psychological and financial. He helped people overcome all sorts of obstacles reminding us of Jnana Ganapati.

He also reminds us of Lord Dakshinamurti. One quality describing Lord Dakshinamurti is - *muditavadanam* – always having a smiling face reflecting the graciousness he had in his heart-

A beautiful description is given in Adhyatma Ramayana of Bhagavan Ramachandra.

Anugrahaakhyahrtsthendu-suuchakasmitachandrikah |

Rama had a moonlight-like smile on his face which was an indicator of the moon in his heart and that moon was called *anugraha*, blessing. Same thing we can say for puja swamiji. So he was muditavadanam reminding us of the lord Dakshinamurti. He also was *jnAnadAtA*. gave the knowledge to many people like Dakshinamurti as it is said in dhy-anshloka of Dakshinamurti stotra, Jnanadaataaramaarat.

Narmadeshwara and Lord Dakshinamurti, both are forms of Shiva, so there is no difference. But in the North, Shiva is said to be Bholebaba whose grace is unlimited. Vishnu Bhagavan is considered to be very thoughtful in giving boons. But Shiva gives them easily. One name for Shiva is *Ashutosha* – one who is pleased very fast. His compassion and grace has got no boundaries. That we saw in Pujya Swamiji. In our eyes some people are deserving and some are non-deserving, but Pujya Swamiji's grace was available to all. Pujya Swamiji used to say- "*When I see somebody, I think what can I do for that person? Even if I cannot do something sometimes, my heart to do something continues.*" He had boundless grace reminding us of Lord Shiva, Ashutosha.

Pujya Swamiji was like Jnaneshwari. He had motherly care for everybody. Those who were associated with him know this. He cared about small things and he was very mindful.

In the 2014-17 long term course, Swamiji wanted to serve bread to the students because he knew that some foreign students had difficulty eating our food. He tried hard to get some electrical work done and all other things that was necessary to make it possible and it was in the process. One day when bread was served to Pujya Swamiji in his kutiya and someone asked him how it was. He said –"*It is good, but I would have been more happy if even students had also been served bread.*" Swamiji had so much motherly care to make the students comfortable.

He also reminds us of Kalyana Subramanya because Pujya Swamiji was very courageous. Subramanya is called *devasenapatih*- Commander of the Gods. Swamiji was a leader. What he did, not many people can do. Leadership came to him very easily. He was very courageous. People would be worried what will happen to Pujya Swamiji. But Pujya Swamiji courageously did whatever was needed to be done.

Thus ,Pujya Swamiji reminds us of all the *devatas*..*So sarva devamayo guruh idea* we can see very well in Pujya Swamiji. He was a source of inspiration for thousands of people because of so many qualities he had. We have 108 names describing his glories. So today we thank Lord Dakshinamurti for giving us the gift in the form of Pujya Swamiji and we pray to Bhagavan and Pujya Swamiji that may we reflect his qualities in our life.

Om Tat Sat