

RETREAT BY BRNI. NANDANA CHAITANYA AT JNANAPRAVAHA

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7-10 November 2022

Topic of discussion: Drk-drsya viveka

The group on all days attended the puja session at Dhyana Mandapam and enthusiastically chanted Sri Rudam, Purusa Suktam guided by Nandanaji.

A brief introduction to the topic was rendered by Swami Shankaranandaji who was on a visit to Manjakkudi, followed by Swami Ramesvaranandaji about the venue, Jnanapraava-ha, its facilities and the trust's activities. Sri.M.G.Srinivasan, Correspondent, SDET felicitated the acaryas.

Nandanaji held a brief first session on the topic Drk-drsya-viveka followed by a superb explanation of Purusa Suktam. After the lunch break Nandanaji engaged us in a lively discussion of Bhagavad Gita highlights and insights in the informal setting of the home stay living room. Evening coffee took us back to the second Drk-drsya-viveka session, while dinner was followed by a viewing of Pujya Swami Dayanandaji's talk videos.

The sessions continued this way for the three days of the retreat. The acarya was open to all questions of the participants and cleared the doubts. There were engaging discussions with the participants. Some of the participants were new to the study of Vedanta. They were made familiar to the topic and eased into the study. The Participants could also visit the Swami Dayananda Matriculation school, Swami Dayananda college and Goshala. They were thrilled with the opportunity to get to know the other socially relevant initiatives in and around Manjakkudi along with spiritual study.

That all participants were thrilled with their stay and study comes across in their testimonials...

"We are truly grateful for your wonderful and patient teaching, kindness and hospitality Nandanaji, you made all of us feel so welcome! I personally have really benefited a lot from the interactions, group discussions and informal learning! Very happy to have visited the birthplace of Pujya Swamiji."

"As Nandanaji said, we are now rasagullas soaked in Vedanta for three full days, we must take that forward! So much so, that the return journey was about the take-aways from the sessions."

"The uniqueness of the retreat was the format of questions, doubts being answered immediately at the end of the Drk drsya viveka sessions and in the discussion of the verses of Bhagavad Gita which helped greatly to clear the many doubts. There was divine grace in the whole retreat as the daily topics discussed in retreat were also further reinforced

with Pujya Swamiji's talks that were showcased from the archives.”

“Guided meditation for the day gave the right energy throughout the day. Different fragrant varieties of rice that was served during our meals gave us better knowledge of our traditional forms of rice. At the end of the retreat we feel we are each taking a piece of Manjakkudi back home with us.”

“We are indeed blessed to have been part of the short Vedantic retreat, the emphasis on Śravanam, Mananam and Nididhyāsanam, is my take-away in this spiritual journey.”

“For a beginner, the great philosophy was explained in simple language, and has induced greater interest! To have visited the punya bhumi, Manjakkudi, Pujya Swamiji’s birth place, and the temples are all a divine experience!”

“Hospitality, in terms of stay, food, facilities in the class rooms were all excellent! Warmth and love reflected everywhere! The beautiful dance by Aarthi still lingers in our minds... Sincere thanks to everyone who made all this possible!”

Om



“The expression of my life is just the expression of my well assimilated value structure. What I do is but an expression of what is valuable to me. Other people’s values I follow from time to time when it is convenient; but if these values of others have not been assimilated by me, they are simply obligatory values and do not reflect my value structure. They are more a source of conflict than a norm for behavior and are always susceptible to compromise.”

- Swami Dayananda Saraswati