

Vedanta camp by Swami Brahmavidananda ji and Swamini Brahma Prajnananda ji

Knowledge Unfolded As Emotions Overflowed

Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, amidst the Nilgiri mountains proved to be the ideal place, conducive for the knowledge of the shastras to be unfolded by Swami Brahmavidananda ji & Swamini Brahma Prajnananda ji. To be in the place which has been sanctified by the overflowing grace of Dakshinamurti, the place which has been blessed by Pujya Swami Dayananda ji's teachings over decades, the place which is indeed Guru-tirtha was a shower of blessings.

The Vedanta Camp 27th Jan. to 2nd Feb, 2018 drew 60 participants from various places in India (Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Coimbatore, Kolkata, Mussoorie, Bangalore, Pune, Hyderabad), Portugal and Malaysia.

“ The fullness and serenity of the place was simply awesome. Pujya Swamiji's presence was all over, from his kutiya, temple, dining hall, lecture hall and everywhere.” – says Dr. Bina Nangia, Delhi.

‘Brilliant unfolding of the mahavakyas through mahavakya vichaara by Swami Brahmavidanandaji bettered our understanding of Tat Tvam Asi, Aham Brahma Asmi, Prajnanam Brahma, Satyam Jnanam Anantam Brahma and So Ham.

The last chapter of Upadesha Sahasri wonderfully explained by Swamini Brahma Prajnananda ji, a conversation between Self and the mind, helped us to see that only knowledge and objectivity can put an end to the wrong notions which cause delusion. The classes by both the teachers were interwoven and connected beautifully, which helped us to bridge the gaps and join the dots in our understanding and learning. ’ –Rashmi Kaikini, Mumbai

Starting with mantra chanting, pooja, and aartis at the temple was a mesmerizing experience. The morning meditation guided by the soothing voice of Swamini Brahma Prajnananda, would set the theme for the day. Purnima Bhatt received a lot of clarity from the Saakshi bhava meditation, *“ It made me realize that one needs to only observe the thoughts and let it pass without being judgmental about anything whether it is external noise, abuse, harassment , critical comments invoking past etc. When the mind becomes calm it abides with Ishwara. Then, there is no duality between Ishwara and me and one discovers one is Brahman.”*

Swamini's and Swami's talks, containing plenty of illustrations, anecdotes, examples and stories, delivered with wit and humour, made it all so interesting.

It was definitely our prarabdha that got us under the nurturing umbrella at Annaikati.
As Rama Krishnan, Bangalore puts it in a verse –

The Guru Parampara's call was there
Though I wished to be elsewhere
So, I joined the elite flock
To try to unlock the lock
The jwara of samsara is gone
As even the knowledge Dawn
As the Ahankara I have a gratitude to say
and I, the Atma forever to stay...

The classes were interspersed with workshop sessions to gain better understanding of our life and the teachings. The students found the session on “What you want others to say about you at your funeral” as thought-provoking. Ganesh Pai shared that ‘It made us reflect on the priorities in our life, and led us to develop clarity in our roles, goals and tasks.’ ‘ The daily workshops have left their mark and I bring back with myself a vision to work towards my goals in personal, professional and spiritual life. But bigger than all of this is the grace felt in being able to spend so much time with my Gurus felt like Ishvarah prasada and the biggest blessing. – Gunjan Arora, Delhi



Held at the end of the day, the *Sanskrit Sambhaashanam* classes by Br. Laxminarayan ji was enjoyed by all. The enthusiasm to learn and speak in Sanskrit was audible and visible. All the participants were able to speak a few sentences by the end of the camp. Mission accomplished or rather Br. Laxminarayan ji's sankalpa was fructified.

The participants were amazed to see the commitment of Swamini Saradananda ji, Swamini Vedarthananda ji and the temple priests who conducted elaborate pujas and chantings with such reverence. The visit to the temple at Perur was a blessing as well.

In conclusion, Sundara Raghavan, Mumbai shared that, “Self knowledge is simple but not easy. Understanding intellectually is simple when the loving teachers from the parampara of Aarsha Vidhya unfold the truth. However, it is not easy to integrate the truth into life as long as blocks, especially emotional blocks, exist.

I thought I would let Ishvara flow through me. Who am I to let Ishvara? Upon further thinking, based on workshops and classes in the camp, I understood that all I have to do is to recognise Ishvara's presence in everything.”

Om tat sat

Compiled by students of Swami Brahmavidananda ji and Swamini Brahmaprajnananda ji