

Silver Jubilee Celebration of Arsha Vidya Kendra Trust (AVK), Bangalore

The Silver Jubilee Celebration of AVK was held between Dec 16 and 19, 2018. Swami Omkarananda, Swami Sadatmananda, Swami Prashantananda, Swamini Swatmabodhananda, Swami Sarvananda, Swami Chidatmananda and Swami Sachidananda blessed the occasion. Trustees and students participated enthusiastically on all days.

The morning session on Dec. 16, 2019 started with a *puṇakumbha swagata* to Swami Omkarananda and puja of Lord Dakshinamurty.

The celebration started with an invocation by Smt. Manasa, followed by welcome address by Sri Sampath Kumar, reading of activity report by Sri Raghavendran and experience sharing by Smt. Parmita and Sri Prakash Rao.

This was followed by a talk by Swami Sachidananda. Swamiji spoke of how he came to be a resident acharya of AVK and spoke about *stītaprajnya lakshana* - how to observe jnani's lifestyle and implement the learnings.

Following this, Swami Sadatmananda spoke. He offered *pranams* and thanked Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswathi, who was inspirational in founding AVK, Swami Omkarananda for blessing the celebrations, Donor of the site where AVK stands, Smt. Padma Narasimhan of TTK, the Trustees, Sponsors and all students. He then thanked all *acharyas* at AVK over the last 25 years – Swami Chidatmananda, Swami Parabrahmananda, Swami Shivaprakashananda, Swami Sachidananda and Brahmachari Praveen Bhat for teaching *Brahma Vidya* at AVK. Swamiji expressed that the purport of this celebration is to express 'Gratitude', which is a great attitude. It makes one happy and humble. It gives one hope that there is no reason why one would not benefit in future, like in the past. It makes the person compassionate and kind and makes him / her contribute like others were towards him / her. He said Gratitude is mentioned in our Sastra (via rituals, propitiating *Iswara*) and that there is no expiation for the ungrateful. He prayed that let every act of ours be an expression of gratitude to God, *Guru* and Society.

Following this, Swami Chidatmananda explained how Pujya Swamiji asked him to move to AVK and that he had fresh and cherishing memories of the ashram. He discussed how Pujya Swamiji helped set up the centre in South Bangalore and ended with prayers and best wishes for the ashram.

Swami Omkarananda delivered his anugraha bhashya. AVK being a seat of brahma vidya, Swamiji's talk was focussed on the importance of teaching of brahma vidya and the immense contribution of Pujya Swamiji in this regard.

He spoke about the greatness of *Sastra* learning centres in ancient India and how it was destroyed by Mughal invasion in the medieval age and the British in the following centuries. He was thankful that great teachers like Swami Vivekananda, Swami Chinmayananda and Pujya Swamiji contributed to the re-establishment of *brahma vidya sampradhaya*. He stressed the importance of learning *Sastras* via the *Guru parampara*. He said *Vedamata* herself gave birth to this great modern Swami Dayananda, who is an *avatara Purusha*, a universal teacher, who created great teachers and learning centres across the globe, including AVK. We should be eternally grateful to the three– the *Sastras*, *Guru* and *Iswara*, for they bestow *jnana*. Swamiji blessed the young Swami Sachidananda and suggested to people to gain this vedic knowledge, leading to *moksha*.

Thus was followed by mangalam, led by Swami Sachidananda.

Swami Omkarananda spoke on Dec 16, 2018 at Sri Sringeri Sharada Peetam Sankara Mutt, Malleswaram, Bangalore on '*Sankara Hrudayam*'. Swamiji commenced the talk with blessings to all and *Narayanasmarana* to Swami Sadatmanada, Swamini Svatmabodhananda and Swami Sachidanada.

Sankara Hrudayam, he explained was the core of Sankara's teaching– *moksha* and its means (*sadhana*).

A brief biography of Pujya Swami Dayananda published by Arsha Avinash Foundation was given to all participants by Swami Omkarananda, followed by a small *prasada viniyoga*.

Swami Sadatmanada spoke on '*Vision of Rishis - Arsha Vidya*', at AVK on 17th December, 2018.

Gita Jayanti was celebrated on 18th January at the premises of AVK. Students participated in the celebrations and did the chanting of *Bhagavad Gita*. This was followed by a talk by *Brahmcharini Aarti* on '*Importance of Bhagavad Gita*'. The celebration concluded with a talk by Swami Sadatmananda.

The conclusion of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations was on 19th January 2019 . The program started with a *puja* for Lord *Dakshinamurti*, Invocation by Smt. Sapna, honouring various students for their services to AVK, experience sharing by Smt. Deepa Kunte, Smt. Jyoti Hattangady and Smt. Shanti Subramaniam.

Following this, Swami Sadatmananda spoke on :

- i) The need to celebrate the silver jubilee of AVK. He mentioned that AVK was founded on 19th Dec 1993 by Pujya Swami. In addition to using the celebration to express our gratitude to the Lord, Pujya Swami and all contributors, it helps us revive our enthusiasm in our spiritual pursuit, inform new people about the activities of AVK and acts as an opportunity for the students to do *seva* and share their experience.
- ii) The purpose of AVK – to teach authentic *veda* as the *acharyas* handpicked by Pujya Swamiji were *sampradayavits*. AVK supports religious activities like *puja*, cultural activities like festivals, that give a lot of value to children. AVK is a wonderful opportunity to do *seva (brahma yagnya)*. It also acts as a connecting place for the *acharyas*, students and like-minded people.

He also spoke on Satsanga or *maha purusha samshrayah* which happens through the grace of God.

He concluded his address by saying that we pray to *Bhagavan* that the association that we have with the Guru help us learn and progress spiritually.

This was followed by a concert by *Hamsanadam* Academy of Music for 45 mins. They concluded the concert with the rendition of well-known compositions *Maithrin Bhajata*, composed by HH Swami Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi Swamigal of Kanchi Mutt and *Bho Sambo Siva Sambo Swamaybo*, composed by Pujya Swamiji.

This was followed by a vote of thanks proposed by Sri Sridhar and a Dinner for all participants.



Swami Sachidananda addressing the gathering. Swamijis on the dais from L to R: Swami Chidatmananda, Pujya Swami Omkarananda and Swami Sadatmananda Discourse on Sankara Hrudayam by Swami Omkarananda