

A Mahātmā's Mahāyajñā draws to its finale



The sacred text of the Bhagavadgita, consisting of 700 verses spread over 18 chapters, is the direct teaching of Lord Krishna to Arjuna. The text is significant for the universality of its teachings without the trappings of any sectarian dogmas or secular ideology. That the Gītā was deliberated upon by great and varied thinkers like Śaṅkarācārya, Rāmānujācārya, Madhvācārya, Mahatma Gandhi, Albert Einstein, Albert Schweizer and others, and has been translated into almost all the languages in the world is testimony to its being a timeless guide and manual of life for all human beings. Like Bhagīratha who brought the celestial Ganga down to earth to gain release of his 60000 uncles from the curse of Kapila Ṛṣī, Ācāryas like Pūjya Swami Chinmayananda Sarasvatī, Pūjya Swami Dayānanda Sarasvatī and their disciples have made relentless efforts to take the message of the eternal ‘Song of the Lord’ to people of all walks of life. And today, we are the most blessed to receive the same teachings of the Upaniṣads and the Gītā through “a consistent and systematic study for a considerable length of time under the guidance of a competent living guru” like H.H. Swami Paramārthananda Sarasvatī.

This write-up is a humble tribute to Swami Paramārthananda who started a ‘systematic study’ on the *Bhagavadgītā-Śaṅkara-bhāṣyam* at Astika Samajam, Chennai, in 2006, continued regularly and persistently and concluded at the same venue on January 31, 2020. He imparted the teachings of Śaṅkarācārya’s *bhāṣyam* to a variety of students. Holding the attention and continued interest of a serious disciple or a sincere seeker through six hundred classes is indeed a marathon feat.

The mega-series of Swamiji’s lectures did go through a few unforeseen breaks. Yet, thanks to the grace of our guru who is none other than Brahman, it is our great fortune that the profundity of the text was unfolded in depth by a great spiritual master to us and future generations. All the lectures in the series are available as CDs from Sasraprakasika Trust, Chennai.

Through similar mahāyajñā-s, Swami Paramārthananda Sarasvatī continues his selfless service of sharing the ancient wisdom enshrined in our scriptural literature to hundreds of students directly and many more indirectly through social media.

Reported by Dr. Radha Raghunathan.