

There is a story that after completing the *Brahmasūtras*, Sage Vyāsa felt sad. Nārada came and told him to write the *Bhāgavatam*. Vyāsa felt sad after writing the *Brahmasūtras* and after writing the *Bhāgavatam* he was okay! This is not true. The *Bhāgavatam* was written by a pundit, not by Vyāsa, but that's what they say. Similarly, first I taught Vedanta and then I started the AIM for Seva! So we have a volunteer movement. It is a great avenue to work for. In the process we grow and understand, and make people benefit. It all has to do with love for the *ātmā*.

A yogi by *aṣṭāṅga yoga* gets *ānanda-anubhava* and reaches a state of *laya*, absorption. A musician can also reach such a state, and can transfer it to those listeners who know music. Therefore, music is superior to yoga. Thus, a musician can cause a thousand people to reach a state of *laya*. Similarly, *seva* has the capacity to bring *laya*. If you can make a person feel happy, you can make the person grow spiritually. You have to make the person feel cared, not scared. One who does *seva* is happy.

You can learn in this period (of six months), by seeing how the infrastructure is set up, how to go about the *seva* work. You can do *seva* on your own, but we have a movement already in place in which you can learn

and make use of the structure. *Śāstra* is important. It is a blessing<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Pujya Swamiji's satsang with students in the final phase of a three-year Vedanta course at the Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Coimbatore, 21 December 2004. Reproduced from the notes of Brni. Lasa, supplemented with Swamini Karunananda's notes.

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**Editor, Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Anaikatti, Coimbatore 641 108**