

**Ten days Vedanta retreat on Kathopanishad with Swami Pranavarthananda Saraswati (Reunion Islands) from Dec 29 – Jan 7, 2023, at Jnanapravaha - Manjakkudi**

This Manjakkudi retreat has been a very beautiful experience for all us who finally decided to come all the way from Reunion Island after two years of postponement. Everyone was quite impressed by the level of welcoming and care given by everybody in this village which was already unique to us and which has now reached one step further with the Jnanapravaha which really makes the difference with the puja room dedicated to Pujya Swamiji, an all-inclusive classroom and the unparalleled archives room with thousands of hours of audio and videos of Pujya Swamiji's teaching. The Anugraha guest house with all its facilities also give a special touch to the whole set up.

With the blessings of Pujya Swamiji, I had the great privilege to teach the Kathopanishad in 3 sessions a day for 10 days. Br. Nilesh conducted the Yogasana classes with 2 sessions a day. Evening Satsangs were sessions of the questions and answers. The daily morning Dayanandeshvara puja followed by meditation was the best way to fix our mindset for the whole day. Pujya Swamiji Dayananda Sarasvati in our minds connected with the heart without interference, filled up with compassion and ananda.

We were also blessed to visit the Brhadishvara Temple of Thanjavur, and two temples of Kumbhakonam: Airavatheshvara Temple and Sarangapani Temple.

The vedapathashala visit was also a great discovery for many of the students who now understand how the priests are able to chant so well and so much without a book. "it's just because they studied a lot !"

The cowshed where the cows are enjoying comfort and security has also been a special place of sweetness and silence. Thanks again to the whole Manjakuddi team led by Swami Ramesvarananda and to Smt. Sheela Balaji who is steadily working on maintaining Pujya Swamiji's presence there.

- Swami Pranavarthananda, Reunion Island

*Photo in cover page #31*