

## GURU PURNIMA (2022) AT ANAIKATTI, COIMBATORE

**GURU PUJA:** Guru Purnima was celebrated in accordance with the time honoured tradition on July 13, 2022 at Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Anaikatti. Pujya Swamiji's padukas at Gurutirtha were reverentially worshipped. The padukas were carried in a procession from Gurutirtha to the lecture hall. At the lecture hall, elaborate shodasa puja was performed. Astotarasatanamavali on Guru, Guru Stotram and Sri Dayananda panchakam were chanted. Bhajans on Guru were performed.

**ANUGRAHA BHASHANAM:** Swami Sadatmananda delivered the anugraha bhashanam. Today is the birthday of Veda Vyaasa. Veda Vyaasa is a great acharya of the parampara (tradition of teachers). This tradition begins with the Lord. *Narayanam, Padmabhuvam, Vashishtam, Shaktimca tat putra Parasharanca, Vyaasam, Sukam....*

The body of vedas was there among various families. As Kaliyuga started, Krishna dvai-payana in order to protect and preserve the vedas compiled and divided the branches of Vedas into 4 with the help of his 4 shishyas - Paila (Rig veda), Vaishampayana (Yajur veda), Jaimini (Sama veda) and Sumanthu (Aatharva veda). Otherwise we would have lost all the vedas. Since he compiled the vedas he is called Veda Vyaasa. He also wrote Mahabharata which contains Bhagavad Gita. Thanks to Veda Vyaasa we got the teaching of the Bhagavat Gita because Arjuna heard it, but he did not continue the guru shishya parampara but Veda Vyasa complied in Mahabharata so we have Bhagavad Gita. Veda Vyaasa also wrote Brahma Sutra. These three texts are called prasthanaya triya to understand atma to be limitless Brahman. He was so versatile that he further wrote 18 Puranas and contributed to every field of spiritual pursuit. It is said *vyaasotchishtam jagat sarvam* - Everything is touched by Veda Vyaasa. Thanks to the contribution of Veda Vyaasa, the vedas are preserved till today. Therefore we express our gratitude to Veda Vyaasa. He was always available to his mother. He promised to be by her side whenever she remembered him and he kept that promise. One great thing about Veda Vyaasa is that he offers his help, but did not insist or expect anything. He helped the Pandavas in any way he could. He is one of the sapta chiranjeevis along with Bali, Hanuman, Vibhishana, Krpa and Parashurama. Today on Vyaasa Purnima, we express our gratefulness to Veda Vyaasa for all the blessings he has showered upon us. This is one significance of this day.

The other significance of this day is that this day is also called Guru purnima day. It is the day dedicated to all gurus in our life. This is the day to express our gratitude to the gurus by doing puja, by offering what we can, by chanting stotras and have mental acknowledgement of what we have received. As Pujya Swamiji says –“*Gratitude is a sign of maturity*”. This is very clearly seen in Pujya Swamiji's life.

The more gratitude we have towards the teacher, more intimate the teaching will be to you.

Ungratefulness is considered to be a dosha. May we be alert that we are never ungrateful to our teacher. May we always see the guru's contribution in our life.

Real guru in Vedanta is one who is ***mahavakyopadeshakarta***- the teacher of jiva-isvara aikyam. That is one main definition of guru in vedantic context. In Prasnotaramalika , there are questions and answers. One question is- ***kahguruH? adhigatatattvaH, shishyahitAyaudyuktaH satatam*** - one who knows the reality of jiva-jagat and Isvara and one who is always ready and interested in the well-being of shishya by giving upadesa and guiding the disciple at every juncture.

There is a text called Guru Gita in which talks of various types of guru –

suucaka guru – One who teaches vyakarana, nyayasastra, etc.

vaacaka guru- One who teaches dharma sastra. One who teaches values and duties.

bodhaka guru – One who gives mantra diskha like Om namahshivaya....

nishida guru – One who teaches black magic, tantra.

vihita guru- One who shows limitations of worldly pursuit

kaarana guru or Sad guru or parama guru- one who is cause for removing the bondage of samsara by giving the teaching of tat tvam asi.

Today we express our gratitude and offer namaskaras to all gurus, but the main one is the Sad guru. This is the second significance of the day.

The third significance of the day is that for sannyasi's catur masya vratam starts today. During the rainy season due to flooding, the sannyasis or parivrajakas cannot travel. So they take a vratam to stay in one place at the request of the villagers and conduct satsang. Now we have a 50% discount to this based on a saying- *pakshovai masah*. So for 2 months they stay in one place and take a vratam not to cross the river and go anywhere else.

Fourth significance is that for 4 months, people take a vratam from ekadasi day called *devashayani* when Vishnu has shayanam for 4 months. If one is leading a life following sama, dama and regularly does sravanam, mananam and nidhidyasanam and leads a disciplined life, then one need not take vratam. Vratam is meant for those who are not able to lead a life in compliance with sama -damadi talked about. For them mainly vratams are talked about.

Vratams can be *grahana rupa* i.e., taking up a positive thing to do or *tyaga rupa* i.e., giving up something. Like you can take a *grahana rupa* vratam that I will chant purushasuktam every day for 4 months in front of Vishnu. One who does this will become vidvan and his buddhi will be very sharp. Or with a fruit in hand do 108 pradakshinas of Vishnu temple. Or I will chant Vishnu sahasranama Or chant Dakshinamurti stotram for 4 months. The vratam should be of something one is not already doing. Also if one organizes dance and music during this period, one will become a Gandharva. *Tyaga rupa* Vratam need not

be just giving up sweets or some item, but it can be giving up cell phone or TV watching. The idea is that the vratam should help to make you disciplined. If not 4 months, you should follow it for 2 months.

The purpose of any vratam is to help you to develop mastery. To have the feeling-“Yes. I can do it”. But while following the vratam, we should have sincerity. But there should be no guilt if we fail to follow it properly. Before we start the vratam, we can pray to the Lord that give me the alertness and strength to follow this vratam. But by chance we could not do it one day like we forget to chant Vishnu sahasranama, then we need not have guilt. We chant it twice another day if possible. In our life as far as possible, in whichever way possible we avoid guilt because guilt weakens you. So you follow both types of vratam with sincerity, but without guilt and without being judgmental. There can be some subtler vratam one can take. During these 4 months I will be more alert to the value of ahimsa or arjavan. Take any one or two values and follow it. I will see myself as a manifestation of Isvara and thereby not looking down upon myself. This also can be a vratam.

Thus this is a day to express our gratitude to Veda Vyaasa , to all our acaryas of the parampara and to follow a vratam. We pray that may our life be one of sadhana-catustaya-sampattih, of sravanam, mananam and nidhidyasanam leading to discovery of myself.

**ANUGRAHA BHASHANAM: Swamini Brahmaleenananda** told that now we can buy a book online. Imagine in those days they had to copy by hand every copy of the book. Gurus dedicated their whole life for preserving the knowledge and passing it to the next generation. We should support those teaching and the institutions that teach. It is Rishi Yagna or Brahma Yagna.

**ANUGRAHA BHASHANAM: Swami Jagadatmananda:** Due to the grace of the Gurus we are able to understand who am I. Your spiritual search will end at Anaikatti. Sastra for emphasis will restate some teachings. Guru Gita in Sanskrit and Thirumandiram in Tamil give the same message: We should meditate on Guru’s form. We should worship Guru’s feet. We should revere the Guru’s words as mantra. We will gain moksa due to Guru’s grace.

**BOOK RELEASE:** Swami Sadatmananda released the book titled **SRIGURUPADAPU-JAVIDHANAM**. The book contains the mantras in Devanagiri Script with English transliteration. It also has English translation of SriGuruStotram, SriGuruPadapuja and GuruAstotra satanamavaliH.

The students offered Guru Vandanam and Guru Dakshina to the Acharyas in the Gurukulam and received their blessings.

**Report by N. Avinashilingam**

*Photos in the wrapper page #31 and #2*