

Brahma Sutra Class at AVG



Anaikatti Gurukulam on June 13, 2013 had a festive look with flowers and festoons decorated all over the place. The students expressed their utmost shradha and bakthi to the Vedantic teaching and to their beloved Guru Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati in a traditional manner.

At 7 AM, Deva Puja to Lord Dakshinamoorthy was done at the temple with eleven special offerings. Swamini Saradananda and Swamini Vedarthananda guided the puja.

At 8.30 AM, Sastra Puja was done as per sampradaya. The students kept Brahma

Sutra books at the Dakshinamoorthy temple. Puja was done to the books. Swami Sakshatkritananda gave the books to the students. The students placed the books on their head and went around the Gurukulam in a procession. The procession was a clear testimony of the commitment the students had for the Sastra. Later the books were kept in the lecture hall.

At 9.30 AM, Guru Puja was done with heart felt devotion. Pujya Swamiji sat on the special vehicle named "Jnana Ratha". The vehicle was fully decorated with flowers. Swamis and students pulled the Jnana



Ratha. All the students stood in one line at the entrance of the lecture hall with flowers in their hand. Each and every student offered flowers to Pujya Swamiji and worshipped him.

Purna kumba was offered to Pujya Swamiji when he entered the lecture hall. On behalf of all the students, Swami Sankarananda performed pada puja to Pujya Swamiji. As per tradition, various offerings were made to Pujya Swamiji. He was also offered a flower crown.

At 10.30 AM, Brahma Sutra class formally begun. Santi pada from the Upanishads and Dakshinamoorthy Stotram were chanted. The students mentally prostrated at the end of every Dakshinamoorthy Stotra. Pujya Swamiji started his teaching with zeal and enthusiasm.

Pujya Swamiji first uttered Om. Then he recited the first four sutras from Brahma Sutra. The students repeated them. Pujya Swamiji said that we should keep our mind open to receive what the Sastra teaches. What the Sastra teaches could not be known through any other means of knowledge. We should have the attitude of pramana to Sastra. Then only the Sastra can bless us.

Vedas reveal the sadana to achieve the desirable sadya. It reveals unknown means to achieve known end, known means to achieve unknown end and unknown means to achieve unknown end.

Vedanta reveals siddha vastu vishaya. It is neither sadana nor sadya. It reveals that I am the fullness and happiness I am aspiring for. Jnanam is as true as the vastu. It is vastu tantra. There is no choice.



Brahma Sutra is an analytical book. It analyses Vedanta vakyas. It explains how all the Vedas talk about the same subject matter.

Purvapaksha or other's point of view is explained. Purvapakshi is given complete freedom to argue. We may feel that Vedanta is dismissed. We learn how to have a discussion and dialogue. When Siddanti explains, all the purvapakshi's contentions are dismissed. The impossibility and irrationality of the other contentions are brought to light. Siddanti establishes the correct and rational view of the subject matter. The understanding of the Sastra is analysed. Tatparya is established. The teaching is assimilated.

Sutra literature is a very sophisticated culture. It can be easily committed to

memory. The subject matter is presented through Meta language.

In the first sutras the entire subject matter is discussed. All the later sutras only elaborate what is discussed in the first four sutras. Hence the study of four sutras would give us the complete view of Brahma Sutra.

The class concluded with chanting of Upanishad shanti pada and Dakshinamoorty stotram. The students eagerly look forward to study the highest Vedantic scripture from the greatest Acharya of their time.

Glory to Sastra! Glory to Guru! Glory to Sishya!

Report by N.Avinashilingam