

Retreats at Jnanapravaha at Manjakudi

RETREAT 1

Summer retreat by Swami Ganeshasvarupanandaji and Gita Caitanyaji from Coimbatore

Summer retreat 2022 was held in Manjakkudi between 19 and 22 May. Twenty Four Children and 12 adults participated.

The participants learnt Siva Manasa Puja, Introduction to spoken Samskritam and had sessions on Meditation, Panchatantra stories and Bhajans - including an exciting session on Setting Goals.

There were temple visits - including to the famous Saraswati Temple in Koothanur and Lalitambika Temple nearby - where they chanted Bhagavad Gita, Medha Sukhtam, Satpati Stotram and more.

Adults present attended sessions on why and how one can live a life of a Karma Yogi. The facilities were outstanding and everyone had great fun.

RETREAT 2

Retreat of Swami Suddhanandaji (Utthandi) and his students at Manjakkudi.

Wisdom – an Eternal Part of Our Living

The retreat at Manjakkudi Jnanapravaha was so conducive for all of us as to just concentrate on our Swamiji's classes and later sit down and contemplate on what Swamiji had told. Sitting in the Guru'sthan with frequent references about Pujya Swami Dayanandaji filled our hearts with all devotion.

Writing a note or a summary about the retreat, only one thought comes up "Every moment of our living is a Celebration and to Celebrate the living is to Live by this indestructible knowledge about our Self".

Points to ponder on:

1. Blue print to humanity is the understanding of the true nature, the Self.
2. The choices we make manifest as our habits.
3. There is no destination for the space, body , sense organs. The individuality "I" alone has million destinations.
4. The unspoken understanding needs no name to exist, it is ever present.
5. Thought is an idol which creates an imprisonment.
6. While living your life are you relishing your living?
7. In all this wonderment you are the absolute wonderment that has the capacity to relish the creation.
8. Some mundane moments are meditation of eternal times, let not that moment pass away

in a futile way let it lengthen.

When we go back to the place we were born, do we remember how we felt then. We remember every aspect of how our parents were and how our childhood was. Same happens when we sit with the Guru, we feel satisfied for this knowledge that he has shared and the understanding of every aspect of the knowledge. Ever grateful to Swamiji for sharing this knowledge us and with his grace our living too shall be with this knowledge and understanding.

As Swamiji always says, on the foundation of Eternal Dawn, you see the days and the nights, the darkness and the light, being played out. You can play with the darkness; you can entertain yourself with a haunting memory or a distant dream. But you are always aware of your Self and you are the Master of yourself. The ignorance of the true nature of "I" is 'beginningless'. We do not know when it began but gladly it can end with the Knowledge of the "I".

Our deep reverential gratitude to PujyaSwamiji for giving us a place vibrating with his presence for us all to be soaked in the Absolute and tradition.

Thank you Swamiji for bringing us here and thank each and every one to have made our retreat so memorable

RETREAT 3

June 17-19 - Retreat by Swami Ramesvaranandaji

The retreat participants were a small group of three, relatively homogeneous in their exposure to Vedanta.

The retreat started with prayer at Pujya Swamiji's shrine on seventeenth morning followed by a Meditation session. There were totally seven sessions of Bhagavad Gita Second chapter covering karmayoga portion with special emphasis on verse 2.47 'karmanyeva adhikaarah te...'. The participants were taken through the Gita context and how yoga is only upaya for jnanam.

The classes were well received with pertinent questions from the participants. The Participants were able to see video classes of Pujya Swamiji on the same shloka. The uniqueness of this video talk by Pujya Swamiji is Swamiji begins with saying 'karmanyeva adhikaarah te', is a statement of fact; te, you, ' You are timeless, space-less. You touch base (touch wood) with self, space eternally (timeless),' and so, kartrtvam is freedom.

The next part of the verse Swamiji says again that it is a statement of fact and elaborates for about two hours, the set-up, everything is given by giver All-knowledge-consciousness that which transcends time and space (ishvara).

In this setup karma is yajna and life is meditative. Every time there is a slip up into our notion 'we are karmaphala hetu, I initiate this action for this phala' or every time we entertain this notion 'I have this excessive attachment or dislike for this karmaphalam,' doing karma

as yoga pulls ourselves back to the reality of life, 'I am the timeless space-less self and everything is given, all Karma is ishvara arpanam and all phala is prasada.

In short, in this three hour talk on this verse Swamiji has seamlessly merged yoga and knowledge. I suspect his emphasis is on knowledge, the timeless space-less, 'I', transcends body and mind and (touch wood). I touch base with self eternally (timelessly). Swamiji was exhorting us to understand that there is no big will involved in 'you open your eyes and see me,' both action and result are given, in the action result inheres. That he was elaborating with examples like clapping, throwing a stone, etc. You can only pray, having acted.

In the classes that followed and prior, I explained to the participants by giving real life examples and culturally how the words used in our household in early times were in sync with this understanding of life. The participants were happy with the takeaways from the retreat. Some of the above points have been mentioned in their feedback which I have put together on their behalf.

BOOK RELEASE

Release of 'Drk Drsya Viveka' book by Arsha Vidya Research and Publication Trust as well as the Tamil translation of 'Teaching Tradition of Advaita Vedanta' (released by Brahma Vidya Mandir), on 30th May 2022 at Swami Dayananda Ashram, Rishikesh

Arsha Vidya Research and Publication Trust released 'Drg Drsya Viveka' book and Brahma Vidya Mandir released the Tamil translation of 'Teaching Tradition of Advaita Vedanta' at Swami Dayananda Asram Rishikesh on 30.05 at a well-attended function.

Both the Tamil translation of Teaching tradition of Advaita Vedanta and Drk drsya viveka book were released by Swami Suddhanandaji and Swami Sakshatkrtanandaji. The book release function went off well. All sadhus at the ashram attended. The Brahma Vidya Mandir retreat members were also part of the audience.

Swami Ramesvaranandaji spoke briefly about both books. Smt. Suryapriya Rangan who has co-authored the Tamil translation read out excerpts from the book.

Sw Brahmayoganandaji and Sw Sakshatkrtanandaji gave anugraha bhashanam.

Photos in the cover page #2, and #31.

Om tat sat