

RESIDENTIAL SPIRITUAL CAMP

With the blessings of Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati, Swami Paramarthananda, Swami Sakshatkritananda, Swami Sadatmananda and Swami Shankarananda, Arsha Avinash Foundation conducted a residential spiritual camp. The camp was held for two days on March 14, 2020 and March 15, 2020 at Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Anaikatti. 25 students from Coimbatore, Trichy, Chennai and Bengaluru participated in the camp. This was the first residential camp organised by Arsha Avinash Foundation. For most of the campers it was their first visit to Anaikatti Gurukulam.



Swami Sadatmananda, Chief Acharya, AVG, Anaikatti inaugurated the camp and gave his benedictory address: He said that Arsha Vidya means the knowledge of Vedas received and imparted by Rishis. Arsha Vidya Gurukulam means the place of teaching Vedic knowledge.

All the four Vedas talk about the parama-purushartha (highest human goal) or Moksa. Moksa is gained by the knowledge of Vedanta. Prakarana-grantas briefly discuss about some topic of Vedanta. Bhaja Govindam and Sadana Pancakam are prakarana grantas.

Samsari aspires for money, pleasures and svarga. He tries to change the world to be free. But if he gains maturity, he becomes a Sadaka. Sadaka tries to change his attitude and himself to be free. Sadaka accepts adverse situations as conducive for gaining vairagya and for reducing the karma-phala of papa. He turns from a God fearing person to be a God loving person.

N. Avinashilingam taught Bhaja Govindam to the campers. He explained that the text teaches about the uncertainty of worldly pursuits. It hammers on the wrong thinking about giving undue importance to worldly gains. It finally declares that only atma-jnana will give permanent happiness to the seekers.

Ponmani Avinashilingam taught Sadana Pancakam. She explained that the text guides the Seeker step by step in 40 steps about the spiritual journey. It starts with the study of scriptures and ends with abiding in the knowledge of Brahman.

There were also sessions on Guided Meditation and Satsangh.

Swami Jagadatmananda conducted the Satsangh on Saturday and the topic was Nakshatra Siddhanta based on Vedic Astrology. Swamiji at the outset explained the importance of Jyotisha as one of the Vedanga and its need for a harmonious life. He said Jyotisha is a not to be believed as a faith and it has to be understood. He imparted the usage of Nakshatra Siddanta which is useful for daily planning of our activities and important life events. Swamiji invited the interested persons to attend the Vedic Astrology camp to be held from June 20th to 30th, 2020 at AVG, Anaikatti.

Feedback received from the students:

I have been curious about spirituality, religion and purpose of life for a long time now. A big challenge in this pursuit has been in identifying a starting point. This workshop has been a big help in this direction. Attending the sessions was very inspiring.- Shrikar Marur, Bengaluru

We spent two days in great spiritual learning.- M. Bhavani, Coimbatore`

The peaceful atmosphere in the Gurukulam, tasty and nutritious food, Swamiji's blessings, relaxing meditation sessions, informative Vedanta classes and lecture on Vedic astrology has given me happiness. - B. Sri Devi, Coimbatore

Camp was well organised. I felt that all the camp participants belong to the same spiritual family.- S. Ramakrishnan, Coimbatore

We enjoyed the pleasant Gurukulam environment, comfortable Gurukulam facilities, worship in the temple, punctuality of the classes, commitment of the Teachers and Students, educative meditation sessions and useful Vedanta classes. – N. Natarajan & N. Pushpa, Coimbatore

The Bhaja Govindam and Sadana Pancakam classes have educated me on the sadanas to be followed in spiritual life. This camp has given me great joy and fulfilment- G. Murali, Coimbatore

I have attended this camp along with my Parents. Post retirement, my parents have started attending your Vedanta classes in the city. After attending this camp, I am convinced that they are doing the best thing after retirement. – Miss V. Gayathri, Coimbatore

Report by N. Avinashilingam