Sankara Jayanti Puja at Anaikatti Gurukulam

A special puja was performed for Sri Adi Sankaracarya on the occasion of Sankara Jayanthi on 8th May 2011 at 10.30 AM at Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Anaikatti.

Puja was performed for Sri Adi Sankaracarya murthi installed at the lecture hall. Gurukulam temple priests performed elaborate puja in traditional manner. Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswathi, Swamis, Swaminis and students took part. Led by Pujya Swamiji everyone present recited together, one sloka from Bhagavad Gita, one mantra from Katopanisad and one sutra from Brahma Sutra, all of them along with Sankara bhasyam.

Pujya Swamiji delivered his anugraha bhasanam. He said

Sankara means the giver of mangalam or auspiciousness. Knowledge has always been there. Symbolically we say it is from Lord Dakshinamurthy. We also say that Lord Siva himself took avatara as Sri Adi Sankaracarya. For Sankara we can take the historical person, who wrote the bhasyam. For Sankara we can also take the non historical person as knowledge personified itself. The eternal knowledge has always been flowing through Guru parampara.

Ganga flows from Gangotri to Ganga sagar. Although it is Ganga all along, we take bath only in holy ghats of places like Gangotri, Devaprayag, Haridwar, Allahabad and Varnashi. The ghats receive water and

release water. Like that, although knowledge is every where, Gurus receive knowledge and later release knowledge. Lord Narayana's avatara as Sri Veda Vyasa and Lord Sankara's avatara as Sri Adi Sankara are important ghats from whom we receive the knowledge.

In Anaikatti, we make ghats. These ghats are the sishyas who receive knowledge now and will later as Gurus give this knowledge.

In the contemporary society, atheists raise questions about the existence and nature of God and try to confuse. This helps us to think properly and give logical answers. In the process our understanding also gets clear.

The puja concluded at 12 Noon. Afterwards mahaprasadam was offered.

Report by Sri N. Avinashilingam