

SWAMI OMKARANANDA SARASWATI (17.01.1956 - 10.05.2021)

A brief biography by N. Avinashilingam

BIRTH: Manoharan alias Sri Goshteswara Sharma was born in Perur, Coimbatore, January 17, 1956. His parents were Sri Vaidyanatha Ganapadigal and Smt. Alamelu Ammal. After sannyasa diksha he was known as Swami Omkarananda Saraswati.

EARLY EDUCATION: Swamiji studied in the traditional Veda patasala, at Perur, after his upanayanam. His father used to perform rudram-japam at Perur Pateswarar temple. Swamiji assisted his father and also keenly observed the rituals and festivals conducted at temple, and eventually was adept at the agama sastra regulations.

Swamiji's initial spiritual ignitions were from the books of Swami Vivekananda and upan-yasams from great Tamil stalwarts like Sri Kripananda Varier etc.

STUDENT OF SWAMI CHIDBHAVANANDA: Impelled by his spiritual desire, Swamiji left home and stayed at Sri Ramakrishna Tapovanam, Tirupparaithurai, Trichy. Swami Chidbhavananda, Founder of Tapovanam initiated him to sannyasa in 1985 and was given the diksha name SWAMI OMKARANANDA. Having studied Hindu Dharma and Hindu scriptures from Swami Chidbhavananda, he started giving talks on Bhagavad Gita and conducting spiritual camps for seekers.

STUDENT OF SWAMI PARAMARTHANANDA: He later went to Chennai and studied from Swami Paramarthananda Vedanta for four years.

PUBLIC TALKS: Subsequently he started giving advanced talks on Vedanta. Through his eloquent discourses, he drove home the deep insights of the Bhagavad Gita and the Upanishads, such that even an average person can comprehend them with ease.

He also gave talks on sacred Tamil texts such as Thevaram, Thiruvachakam Thirumandiram, Thayumanavar's hymns, Bharatiyar songs and Thirukkural. He became a very popular Tamil speaker on Hinduism.

He has also conducted jnana yagnas in India asnd in many places abroad like Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, Hong Kong, London, Dubai, Muscat and USA.

SRI SWAMI CHIDBHAVANANDA ASHRAMAM, THENI: He established Sri Swami Chidbhavananda Ashramam, under Vedanta Sashtira Prachara Trust. Three year residential Vedanta courses were conducted here in traditional Gurukulam style. The students who had completed the course are spreading Vedanta throughout Tamil Nadu. In the Ashramam,

Veda Pathasala is functioning. The brahmacharis from Vaidika families are taught Yajur Veda and Sivagamam. Under the auspices of Sri Dakshinamurti Seva Samiti, he had constructed a magnificent edifice named Adiguru Sri Prajna Dakshinamurti Vidyapitham in 2002 at Theni.

VEDANERI AND BHUVANESWARI VIJAYAM TAMIL MAGAZINES: Swamiji published Tamil Magazines- Vedaneri and Bhuvaneshwari Vijayam which had articles on Veda purva and Vedanta.

SRI BHUVANESWARI AVADUTA VIDYA PITHAM, PUDKKOTTAI: Swamiji ascended the pitam subsequent to Sadguru Santananda Mahaswamigal in 2005. He became the Pontiff of Sri Dattatreya Avadhuta Vidya Pitham also in 2005.

REVERENCE FOR PUJYA SWAMI DAYANANDA SARSWATI: Swami Omkarananda adept as he in veda sastra, was in charge of the vaidika rituals during Pujya Swamiji's 60th, 70th and 80th birthday celebrations. He was in charge of the Kumbhabisekam of the temples in Arsha Vidya Gurukulam at Anaikatti and Swami Dayananda Ashram at Rishikesh. He has also succeeded Pujya Swamiji in Dharma Rakshana Samiti and Sri Mahalinga Swami Seva Trust.

U V FOUNDATION: Swami Omkarananda founded U V Foundation in 2017 to spread 'Ullam Thorum Valluvam', an initiative to spread the message of Thirukkural. The Foundation trains teachers, who in turn can teach students Thirukkural.

ATMA VIDYA ONLINE COURSE, WHATSAPP SPIRITUAL MESSAGES , AGNI GLOBAL CLASS-ROOM are various social medias he used to spread widely his spiritual messages.

MAHA SAMADHI: He attained maha Samadhi on May 10, 2021 at Madurai. Jivan mukta became Videha mukta. His Samadhi shrine is in Theni Ashramam.

SWAMIJI'S UNIQUENESS: Swamiji was a rare combination on karma kanda and jnana kanda parts of the Vedas. His medha-sakti enabled him to eloquently quote from Vedas, Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita, Thirukkural, Thayumanavar hymns, Bharatiyar songs and other Sanskrit and Tamil texts. He emphasised that Thirukkural is the essence of Vedas and dharma sastra. Swamiji was a walking encyclopaedia on Hindu Dharma and his majestic voice captivated every one whether it is vedhic chanting or discourse.

Swamiji lives with us in the form of his teaching, books, audios, videos and institutions established by him.