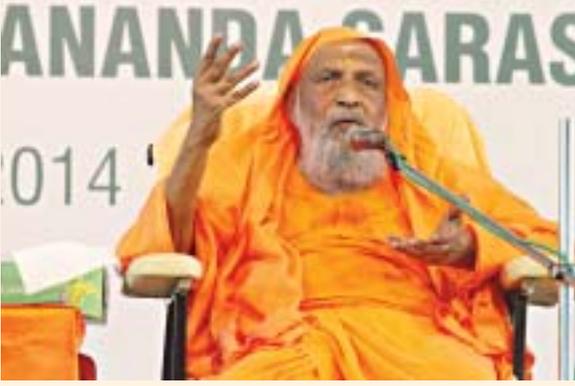


## Pray for Sanity



Anugraha bhashanam by Pujya Sri Swamiji delivered on the occasion of the 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Anaikatti on November 16<sup>th</sup> 2014.

Taking cue from the opening speech of Sri Ravi.N. Editor-in-Chief, The Hindu, Swamiji emphasized that unless until Ahimsa is considered as universal value by all religion, it will be difficult to put an end to conflicts arising out of religious beliefs.

Veda says Ahimso paramo dharmaH  
आहिम्सो परमो धर्मः । All other values are derivatives of ahimsa. Ahimsa is basically based on common sense based value and hence is universal. Religious beliefs should sub-serve common sense based values.

But there are relegions who do not accept such values. For them their theology is supreme and it cannot be compromised against any other value system, since their theology is WORD OF GOD!

In our culture, not only the physical hurting but also all other forms of hurting – by word, by action and even by mind are all considered ahimsa. Pujya Swamji quoted Sheeksha Valli of Taitreeya Upanishad in this connection.

The final section of this upanishad is in the form of instructions from teacher to students. After having advised them to follow the various values, the teacher instructs that in case of doubt or conflict in the adherence to dharma, students should emulate the brahmanah -cultured elders. Or even in the matter of simple day-to-day conductance they should follow the brahmanah.

अथ यदि ते कर्मविचिकित्सा वा वृत्तविचिकित्सा वास्यात् ।  
ये तत्र ब्राह्मणास्सम्मर्शिनः । युक्ता आयुक्ताः ।

अलूक्षा धर्मकामास्स्युः । यथा ते तत्र वर्तेरन् । तथा तत्र  
वर्तेथाः ।..... एष उपदेशः ..

The vrttavicikitsa, Pujya Swamiji said includes even the table manners. One cannot afford to hurt someone by not following the etiquets. This depicts how our scriptures are so sensitive to even to these trivial issues.

Swamiji again emphasised that unless every one agrees to these values, it will not be possible to come to an lasting understanding in regard to relegious matters. He said he himself, with the best of intention and with most satvic approach could not convince others. Only prayer could help.

All relegions believes in prayer. It works. Disciples' prayer was responsible for Pujya Swamiji himself to recover from serious illness. So it works. If at all any prayer is done it should be the **PRAYER FOR SANITY** – soundness of mind to follow AHIMSA by one and all. So please pray for sanity .. pray for sanity.

*Report by  
N. Avinashilingam*