

Tribute to Swami Prashantanandaji

Swami Prashanthanandaji was born on 27th July 1931 to Shri. Panchapakesa Iyer and Smt.Rukmani at Kumbakonam. He Spent his early childhood at Maraiyur[Vedapuri] a hamlet in Mayiladuthurai. He's the second child among four and eldest son of his parents. His poorvashrama name is Shri.Lakshminarayanan. He studied in Little Flower High School, Kumbakonam.

Lakshminarayanan moved to Chennai [then Madras] in the year 1948 at the age of 18 and took the job in Madras Railways in the year 1950. He developed close relationship with Pujya Swamiji the time he started attending Swami Chinmayanandaji's public talks in Madras from 1952 and was actively involved in raising funds for Chinmaya Mission, Madras which formed the basis to buy the current property at Harrington Road from Mr.Rajarathinam, IPS.

As instructed by Swami Sivanandaji of Divine Life Society, Rishikesh and Swami Chinmayanandaji, Laxminarayanan studied entire Veda with a Vedic Scholar at Sri Sringeri Sharada Peetham, T.Nagar, Madras for over eight years. His brahmacharya name was Shantha Chaitanya.

He has travelled widely along with Swami Chinmayanandaji throughout India and organized innumerable public talks. When Pujya Swamiji was actively involved in conducting Vedanta Course in Sandeepany Sadhanalaya in Mumbai, Swami Prashantanandaji took charge of administration of the ashram.

He always remembered how Swami Chinmayanandaji molded him in each and every aspect of running the Ashram and dealing with devotees, managing funds etc. In one of the Jnana Yagna's of Chinmyanandaji, I was introduced to Pujya Swamiji and Swami Prashantanandaji in early 1980's. I met Swami Prashantanandaji again at Andhra Ashram, Rishikesh. He was taking care of the administration work there.

In Anaikatti Ashram he was taking care of kitchen, garden etc, along with teaching. When I was a brahmachari in Rishikesh Ashram, whenever Swami Prashantanandaji, visited we used to sit and discuss hours together.

When I stayed in Manjakkudi, Swami Prashantanandaji visited on several occasions and he took me to Thiruidaimaruthur Rathotsavam and other temples like Shri Kothandaramar Temple, Vaduvur.

Pujya Swamij's poorvashrama brothers Shri.Srinivasanji, Shri.Ramachandranji and

Shri.Dharmarajanji are very close friends of Swami Prashantanandaji. Shri Dharmarajanji's wife is a close relative of Swami Prashantanandaji. Many senior disciples of Pujya Swamiji are ignorant about this fact.

As stated by Shri S Natarajan Mama, [one among the Board of Trustees of Swami Dayananda Educational Trust, Manjakkudi] the trees planted by him in Anaikatti Gurukulam will echo Swami Prashantanandaji's name forever.

Om Tat Sat

By SWAMI SADEVANANDA SARASWATI

“The wave being not independent of water, you don't have to remove the wave in order to see the water. So too, if the thinker, the thought, and what is thought of are dependent upon the *ātmā*, which is the reality of all three, you don't have to remove any of them to recognize the *ātmā*. The recognition is that all three are *ātmā* while *ātmā* is not any of them.”

“*Vēdānta* is not a topic in books. It is just you, it is your vision, it is your responses to situations. *Vēdānta* helps change your scales of vision. Your emphasis changes, and so small things remain small because you are concerned with something bigger. Thus *Vēdānta* does bring about a cognitive change. Your cognition changes, thereby, a number of changes can take place.”

“A mature person is one who first accepts facts and then becomes alive to facts. When you relook at what you consider a fact now, you find that it is nothing but someother fact. And so what is the fact? If a person is aware of that, he or she is mature in the true sense. Such a person is called *sthitaprajña*, a wise person.”

- Swami Dayananda Saraswati