

# First Maha Punya Tithi Aradhana

## Of Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The first Maha Punya Tithi Aradhana of Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati Maharaj was organized by Ātma Vidyā Vanam, Malaysia and Singapore, on 12th Sep 2016 at Kandaswami Temple, Kala Mandapam, Brickfields, Kuala Lumpur. Pertubuhan Ātma Vidyā Vanam ( Traditional Hindu Scriptural Learning Center) was established by Swami Satprakashananda Saraswati Ji in 2001 with the aim to organise and conduct studies of Vedanta, Sanskrit, prayers, moral, ethical studies, recitation of slokas and other religious activities connected with our Sanātana Dharma.

Swami Sakshatkrtananda Saraswati, senior disciple of Pujya Swamiji, presided over the function. In his anugraha bhaashanam, Sakshatji praised Swami Satprakashananda ji's commitment to Vedanta and devotion to Pujya Swamiji. Sakshatji said that Pujya Swamiji is a great sculptor. A sculptor brings a piece of selected stone and sees Krishna in the stone. He starts chiseling out unwanted parts of stone which hide Krishna, thus bringing out Krishna in the stone. He did not create Krishna in stone but only uncovered the Krishna who was already there. Similarly all of us went to Pujya Swamiji like a piece of stone, as samsaris. He used the chisel of shastra pramana to remove the ignorance covering our true nature and brings out Krishna in each of us.

Every class, every teaching, every word of Pujya Swamiji gives us clarity by removing the covering of ignorance. He gradually uncovers the ignorance over a period of three years, revealing the paramatma svarupa as one's own atma. Every student of Pujya Swamiji has undergone this constant process of chiseling and uncovering of ignorance during the three year course. One goes to Pujya Swamiji as an insignificant person, helpless person, a failure but at the end of the course he makes one see that "I am the only significant person". In the process Pujya Swamiji also creates teachers who carry on the tradition of teaching. Swami Satprakashananda is now carrying on this teaching tradition in Malaysia.

Swami Sakshatji further stated that the uniqueness of Pujya Swamiji was that he handled the shastra as a means of Knowledge, a pramana. Veda as a pramana does not contradict other pramanas like sensory perception or inference. Each pramana has its own field of revelation like eyes reveal colours and forms, ears reveal sounds. So one pramana cannot prove or disprove what another pramana reveals. Further the means of knowledge which we normally employ like Perception or Inference reveal only worldly objects of knowledge but do not reveal the knower, who is the subject. So to know the knower we need a pramana other than Perception and Inference and that pramana is the words of the Shastra, Vedanta.



Reverence to Swamijis



Release of BrahmaSutra and Taitreeya Upanishad books

The words of the Vedas handled by a traditional Guru removes the ignorance like the sculptor's chisel removes the unwanted stone. Pujya Swamiji is such a traditional Guru who has created more than 300 teachers and that is the great contribution of Pujya Swamiji.

Another contribution of Pujya Swamiji is the unfoldment of the Hindu Religious Culture. Our Culture is based on this fact that all that is here is Isvara. Isvara is manifest in the form of this whole creation. Every created object, every being is nothing but the manifestation of the all-knowing, all-powerful Isvara. This vision of shastra was unfolded by Pujya Swamiji until one understood it clearly. The teachings of the shastra and Pujya Swamiji are not for blind belief but are available for questioning, leading to clarification and assimilation. If Isvara is manifest as all forms then Isvara can be worshipped in any form which is ishta to you. This vision is represented in the Pancha Bhuta Sthalas where Isvara is worshipped as Akasha - space (Chidambaram), Vayu - wind (Kalahasti), Agni - fire (Tiruvannamalai), Aapah - waters (Tiruvaanaikaval) and Prithivi - earth (Kanchipuram). Even in the Vibhuti Yoga of Bhagavad Gita, Krishna reveals himself as different glorious forms in the creation which also is based on the same vision. We have to first see Isvara in all the forms before we can understand his formless nature. Swami Sakshatji concluded his talk by invoking the blessings of Pujya Swamiji to give us the strength and commitment to continue the pursuit of knowledge and saying that all the students in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore are blessed to have a great teacher like Swami Satprakashananda Ji and asked the students to hold on to him tightly.

Earlier in the function, the books based on Pujya Swami Dayananda ji's classes on Taittiriyanopanishad and Brahma Sutra

Chatussutri, which were transcribed and edited by Swami Sakshatkrtananda Ji were released. The first copies of the books were received by Datuk Seri Dr. S. Subramaniam, President of the Malaysian Indian Congress and Malaysian Minister of Health, Senator Dato Dr Loga Bala Mohan, Deputy Minister of the Federal Territories and H.E. Sri. Trimurti, High Commissioner of India to Malaysia. A short film on the life and contributions of Pujya Swamiji was also screened which was keenly watched by all the dignitaries and devotees.



**Swami Shakshatkrtananda saraswati's talk**



**Swami Satprakashananda Saraswati's talk**

Various disciples Swamijis (of Pujya Swamiji) from India, Malaysia and other Southeast Asian Countries and also dignitaries of various Malaysian organisations graced the occasion.

The program started with pada puja to all the sadhus who attended the function. Then Poorna kumbham was given to the sadhus and after darshan of Lord Kandaswami, the sadhus were taken on a procession around the temple to the Kala Mandapam Hall. The function started with lighting of lamps and prayers.

Swami Aishwaryananda Ji said that all human beings have to follow Shastra, Guru and Isvara through out their lives, first to gain Self Knowledge and later to show one's gratitude. He also recalled Pujya Swami Dayananda Ji's contributions in making teachers to teach Vedanta all over the world, convening Acharya Sabha and starting the All India Movement for Seva.

Swami Nithyashuddhananda Ji talked in hindi and said that no one has done more for Hindu Dharma and Vedanta Shastra in the last 100 years than Pujya Swami Dayananda Ji because of which Sringeri Shankaracharya gave the Adi Shankaracharya award to Pujya Swamiji. Further he mentioned that when Swami Chinmayananda was asked why he gave the name Dayananda to Pujya Swamiji he said that he had no other choice as he was an embodiment of daya or compassion.

Swamini Vinayananda Ji recollected her days with Pujya Swamiji and mentioned that Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Anaikatti was like Brahmaloaka and Pujya Swamiji was Lord Dakshinamurthy for her.

Swamini Shivapriyananda talked in Tamil and said that this was the first time a grand function like this has been organized in Malaysia for a Brahmajnani like Pujya Swamiji and thanked Swami Satprakashananda for it.

Swami Ganeshasvarupananda Ji talked about how Pujya Swamiji helped his students to understand the fact that one is Purnah (whole) by removing the different layers of ignorance.

He also said that the greatest contribution of Pujya Swamiji was in handling the Vedanta Shastra as a Pramana or means of Knowledge. He further said that Pujya Swamiji was someone who made everyone in a crowd feel special.

Lakshmi Prabha Ravishankar in her talk recollected her experiences with Pujya Swamiji. Sri. Sunil Damodharan and Sri K. Kathiresan of Atma Vidya Vanam, Singapore talked about how they came to be associated with Pujya Swamiji and his teachings and recalled the compassion with Pujya Swamiji taught his students.

Sri. Jaishankar talked about the fundamental problem of human being and said that it is the same regardless of one's status or situations as one is either comfortably unhappy or uncomfortably unhappy. He further said that to achieve satisfaction and be free from sorrow, one has to gain self knowledge from a Guru and there was no better Guru than Pujya Swamiji to teach Vedanta.

The students of Ātma Vidyā Vanam recited the Guru Stotram, GuruPaduka Stotram and Dayananda Panchakam. Finally Swami Satprakashananda Ji delivered his vote of thanks. He said that with the blessings of Swami Shivananda, Swami Chidananda and Swami Varadananda Bharati he was able to come to Pujya Swami Dayananda ji for studying Vedanta. Pujya Swamiji revealed the truth that "I am not a samsari" and gave one the ability to see the samsara as it is objectively. He also recalled Pujya Swamiji's visits to Malaysia in 1996, 1998, 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2009.

The function ended with a grand traditional bandara for all the sadhus and food was served to all those who attended the function.