

Manjakudi Camp Report (Aug 19 – 22nd 2023)

We express our gratitude for the opportunity to be part of a Vedanta camp conducted by Amma Sumatmananda swamini at punya kshetram Manjakkudi , the birth place of Poojya Swamiji on topics of Bhaja Govindam and Phala Shruti of Vishnu Sahasranamam .We were welcomed warmly by Swami Rameshvaranandaji who guided us in many ways and also took one Satsang on ‘Relevance of Vedanta in daily life’. Every nook and corner of this serene village is resonating with the vibration of Pujya Swamiji’s presence.The atmosphere with lush green and colourful flowers in the garden around Jnana Pravaha with the Dakshinamurthy's beautiful Sculpture is a visual treat. From 6 am picking up parijatha flowers around as pradakshina of Jnanapravaha hall, chanting pratahsmarami and Gurustothram before meditation was really uplifting.Followed by sessions on profound and intense verses of Bhaja Govindam in the Jnana pravaha hall in front of Swamiji’s statue, Bhaja Govindam is an intense wake up call and urges one to seek Govinda as the Atmatattvam and disentangle from worldly pursuits. Pujya Swamiji calls this a ‘conversion text’, one that converts a seeker of finite ends to a mumukshu and eventually to a Jignasu.. Shankaracharya describes extreme life situations , hitting us with a hammer upon our foolishness of seeking permanent happiness and security in finite artha kama pursuits. The study of Bhaja Govindam inspires one to take up Study of Gita and Upanishads to negate the feeling of ‘I’ and ‘my’ and to understand our real self. The ninth sloka of Bajagovindam stresses the importance of Satsanga.

Satsangatve nissangatvam

Nissangatve nirmohatvam

Nirmohatve nischalatattvam

Nischalatattve jeevanmuktih

“Through the company of the good, there arises non-attachment. Through non-attachment there arises freedom from delusion.through freedom from delusion there arises steadfastness, through steadfastness, there arises liberation in life.”

May we attach ourselves with Govinda more and to gradually detach from anatma pulls. Camps like this help us to recharge ourselves with such contemplations , to prioritise bringing Ishvara into our role plays and divinise our day to day routines.

Praying we should continue to be गुरुचरणाम्बुज निर्भर भक्त, (Gurucaranaambhuj nirbhara bhaktaH) and to get this nitya anitya viveka.

Om tat sat.

- Report by student Sudha Ramanathan

Photos in cover page #2