

End of summer 2019 report from Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Saylorsburg PA USA

The 2019 summer activities at ARSHA VIDYA GURUKULAM, Saylorsburg, included the following programs:

June 16-22 (Sun-Sat) **Yoga Sutra Course** taught by Swami Govinda Dev Giriji Maharaj (Guest Teacher)
Titled *Antaraṅga-sādhanas*

July 4-7 (Thu-Sun) **Independence Day Family Vedanta Course** taught by Swami Veditatmananda and Swamini Paraprajnananda on *Etat jñanam iti proktam* (BG13-11).

July 8-20 (Mon-Sat) **Two Week Bhāṣyam Classes for Adults** taught by Swami Veditatmananda
Bṛhadāraṇyaka Bhāṣyam (2.1.19 onwards)

July 21-27 (Sun-Sat) **Family Vedanta Course I** taught by Swami Veditatmananda
Vivekacudamani (254 onwards) “Crest Jewel of Discrimination”

July 21-27 (Sun-Sat) **Children’s Course I** - Unaccompanied by parents (Age 9-16)

July 28-Aug 3 (Sun-Sat) **Family Vedanta Course II**

Swami Veditatmananda: Texts: *Muṇḍakopaniṣad* 2.2.5 onwards, BG 8 and 9 onwards

Swami Pratyagbodhananda: Texts *Dhruva-stuti* from *Bhāgavatam*

July 28-Aug 3 (Sun-Sat) **Children’s Course II** - Unaccompanied by parents (Age 9-12)

Aug 4-10 (Sun-Sat) **Family Vedanta Course III**

Texts taught by Swami Veditatmananda: *Kathopaniṣad* 2.1.6 onwards, BG chapter 8 and 9 continued from Vedanta course II. Texts taught by Swami Pratyagbodhananda: *Dhruva-stuti* from *Bhāgavatam* continued from Vedanta course II.

Aug 11 (Sun) **Gurukulam’s 33rd Anniversary** Swami Veditatmananda, Swami Pratyagbodhananda (See program below)

Aug 12-15 (Mon-Thu) **Bhagavatam Family Course** Swami Veditatmananda, Swami Pratyagbodhananda. Talks on **Śrīmad Bhāgavatam** by Swami Pratyagbodhanandaji: *Dhruva-stuti* from *Bhāgavatam* continued from Family Vedanta course II. **Anugrahabhāṣaṇam** was given every day by Swami Veditatmanandaji. **Bhāgavatam stories for youth** were also presented by Brahmachari Suryanarayana. **Śrīmad Bhāgavatam** is a *purāṇa* known for its stories about the devotees of *Bhagavān* and how they were all blessed in their lives in the most unimaginable ways by *Bhagavān* Himself. *Bhāgavatam* also has descriptions of all the *avatāras* and is the source of all details about the *avatāra* of *Śrī Kṛṣṇa*



Aug 15-18 (Thu-Sun) **Patron's Complimentary Course I**. Swami Viditatmanandaji spoke about **Emotional Maturity** by exploring its various aspects and how to cultivate them. Swamiji explained how they are not only connected but are essential to gaining and assimilating the knowledge that one is free from the human sense of limitation. Swami Pratyagbodhanandaji spoke on **Navadha-bhakti** from *Tulsidas Rāmāyaṇa*.

Aug 19-27 (Mon-Tue) Vedanta Course. Swamini Svatmavidyananda ji spoke on **Adhyāsa (projection) in Vedanta**. The introductory *bhāṣya* of Ādi Śaṅkarācārya was studied with a view to gaining a clearer understanding of the orders of reality -- *īśvara-srṣṭi* and *jīva-srṣṭi* -- and understanding the truth of oneself as free of *saṃsāra*.

Aug 22-25 (Thu-Sun) **Purna Vidya Family Teachers Training** was taught by Swami Pratyagbodhanandaji. In India, the religious culture, which touches every aspect of one's life, was imbibed by osmosis from one's home and the immediate community. To cultivate and understand the values and attitudes, the *vaidika* vision and view of life was taught by Swamiji to the children growing up in USA in a structured way allowing the youth to discover their roots, trunks, branches, flowers, et al.

Aug 30 - Sept 2 (Fri-Mon) **Patrons Complimentary Course II** Maṅgalācaraṇam from Bhāgavatam taught by Swami Pratyagbodhananda.

Sept 4-11 (Wed-Wed) **Yoga and Sound** with Ramananda Patel, Pandit Mukesh Desai and Swami Paramatmananda - Absorption into sound while in yoga poses enabled the breath to flow more freely, bringing inner peace that led the aspirants to merge with the formless. Vedanta discourses by Swami Paramatmananda brought a deeper understanding of the Self.

- Report by Swamini Vilasanandaji