

Chinmaya Smrithi



A Bi-Monthly News Magazine of the Chinmaya Mission Washington Regional Center (CMWRC)

Volume 29, Number 2, March 2019



Om Jagadeeshwaraya Namah ! Om Chinmaya Somnathaya Namah !

Foreword: Swamiji's Message



Editor's Note: [Our beloved resident Swamiji, Swami Dheerananda is continuing his weekly classes on Vivekachoodamani. Please find below an excerpt from his class on verse 6].

वदन्तु शास्त्राणि यजन्तु देवान्
कुर्वन्तु कर्माणि भजन्तु देवताः ।
आत्मैक्यबोधेन विनापि मुक्तिः
न सिध्यति ब्रह्मशतान्तरेऽपि ॥ 6 ॥

*vadantu śāstrāṇi yajantu devān
kurvantu karmāṇi bhajantu devatāḥ |
ātmaikyabodhena vināpi muktih
na sidhyati brahmaśatāntare'pi || 6||*

Meaning: Let erudite scholars quote all the scriptures, let Gods be invoked through sacrifices, let elaborate rituals be performed, let personal Gods be propitiated – yet, without the experience of one's identity with the Self, there shall be no Liberation for the individual, not even in the lifetime of a hundred Brahmas put together.

Adi Shankara states here the goal of a spiritual seeker. Let the people have extensive drawing room discussions on the Shastras. Let the people who want to perform extensive rituals perform them. Let those who want to do social service do service. But without knowing one's own Self and rediscovering one's identity with It, Mukti (liberation) is not possible. Liberation is not attained by traveling anywhere in time and space but is possible in the here and now. Forgetfulness of the Self is the ego.

As per Hindu Shastras, one day of Brahma is 432 million human years. For the person who has not tuned themselves, not even the lifetime of a hundred Brahmas is enough for realization. But once you rediscover the identity, you can realize here and now. A dreamer can never realize the waker in the dreaming state- he needs to wake up. Similarly, the thoughts of perceiver/feeler/thinker can never be removed until one awakes to one's true consciousness.

The feeling of "I am BMI" is very strong. The goal of all spiritual Sadhanas is to remove this erroneous identification. The idea is not that one should not perform Pooja or visit temples or do social service. However, one should be aware that the goal of all these Sadhanas is to purify the body, mind and intellect. These activities should help the mind become quiet, alert and vigilant which in turn is a fit instrument to contemplate. Once the instruments are tuned, you can realize in a jiffy. When you have awakened to That, you neither remember or forget.

The same idea is brought out beautifully in the Bhajagovindam verse "Kurute Ganga Saagaragamanam". The verse refers to the need for a person to purify his thoughts (represented by the river Ganga) and merge into the consciousness (represented by Saagara).

Calendar and Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events

- April 5-13: A complete recital of Ramacharitmanas (Tulsi Ramayan) by members at Chinmayam, Silver Spring.
- May 19: Guru Charane – a musical showcase by Purvi Nanavaty from 5 to 7 p.m. at Chinmayam.
- May 4th: Chinmaya Jayanti celebrations at Chinmayam, Silver Spring.
- July 29th to August 4th: Discourses on Shri Krishna Leela by Swami Swaroopananda during the 26th Chinmaya Mahasamadhi Camp at Pittsburgh PA.
- April 19th : Hanuman Jayanti celebrations at Chinmayam.
- May 18: Balavihar Graduation Tilak ceremony at 3 p.m. at Chinmayam.
- April 18: Marga Darshana Dashakam – The glory of Swami Chinmayananda at Chinmaya Somnath from 7 to 8:15 p.m.– a talk by Swami Ishwarananda.
- April 20 -21st: An interactive workshop by Swami Ishwarananda at Chinmayam, Silver Spring based on his book “The Life of I”. See flyer for more details around registration.
- April 26 – 27th: Shishu Vihar training camp for Sevaks and Sevikas conducted by Swamini Supriyananda at Chinmaya Somnath.
- May 11: Adi Shankara Jayanti at Chinmayam.
- July 8 -12 – CHYK summer youth camp led by Vivekji at Chinmaya Somnath.

Study Groups

- Please contact Sri Ravi Ravichandran ji by email at ravi5211@yahoo.com , if you are interested in forming or learning more about study groups.

Bookstore/Library

- Browse Books, CDs, DVDs, etc. online at www.chinmayapublications.com. Contact Sevak to order (Vijay Singh at Chinmayam, Subbarao Kari at Chinmaya Somnath and Bijay Dash at Frederick)

Next Edition of Chinmaya Smrithi

- Articles for the next regular bi-monthly edition – March 2019, are due by February, 2019
- Email submissions to smrithi-editor@chinmayadc.org.
- Browse Past editions at www.chinmayadc.org/Smrithi/Smrithi.htm

Useful Links:

Central Chinmaya Mission Trust www.chinmayamission.com

Chinmaya Mission West www.chinmayamission.org

Chinmaya International Foundation, E-Vedanta Courses www.chinfo.org

Chinmayam Chapter – Silver Spring MD website <http://chinmayam.chinmayadc.org/chinmayam-chapter/>

Chinmaya Somnath Chapter – Chantilly VA website www.chinmayasomnath.org

Chinmaya Frederick Chapter –Urbana MD website <http://www.frederick.cmwrc.org/>

Chinmaya Richmond Chapter – Richmond VA website www.chinmayarichmond.org

CMWRC – Washington Regional Center www.chinmayadc.org

Please Note

The opinions expressed here are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of Chinmaya Mission or CMWRC

Editorial Staff: (smrithi-editor@chinmayadc.org)

Editor: K.A. Lakshmanan

Advisers: Sri Raju Chidambaram, Acharya Vilasiniji, Pujya Swami Dheeranandaji. Sitaram Kowtha

BV students – Bhuvan Devarsu

Please contact us if you are interested in joining the editorial staff!

News & Tidbits

Gita Chanting Competition

The annual Gita chanting competition was held across all three chapters in Frederick, Chinmayam and Chinmaya Somnath on the weekend of March 23-24. As in previous years, the competition had participants across multiple age groups and gave an opportunity for participants to chant, read or reflect on the verses from Chapter 12.

Mahashivarathri

Mahashivarathri was celebrated with Puja and cultural program offerings in all the three centers on Monday March 4th. At Chinmayam, there was an opportunity for meditation and reflection in the morning of 4th followed by Puja and various cultural programs in the evening and concluded with a message by Swamiji. At Chinmaya Somnath, the Puja was conducted across all 4 Kaalas. Please see inside this edition for an article on the celebrations at Frederick as well as a collage of photographs from Chinmaya Somnath.

Arpanam

Please refer to the CMWRC website to learn more about this exciting new program. It offers the Chinmaya family an opportunity to donate at various levels on an on-going basis to support the current and future growth of CMWRC. Inspired by Gurudev's message that true loving is not in passive taking but in dynamic giving, the program is expected to help the mission pay down its debt while also positioning it for future growth to continue to spread the spiritual message of Vedanta. Donors making an Arpanam pledge may fulfill the pledge during the calendar year, and all tax-deductible offerings, such as Gita chanting registration, membership, Bala Vihar, enrichment, Guru Dakshina, event sponsorship, etc. are recognized towards the fulfillment of the pledge.

Bhajan Sandhya

A melodious Bhajan Sandhya "Devotionally Cinematic" was presented at Chinmayam on Saturday Feb 2nd by Deeti and Krishanu Majmundar. This was part of the fund raising efforts for Chinmayanandam, the facility being conceived and planned on the recently acquired plot of land adjacent to Chinmayam.





CHYK retreat

Brahmacharini Shubhani Chaitanyaji conducted a 2 day CHYK camp in preparation for the summer camp to be conducted later in the year. She also conducted the three Balavihar sessions at Chinmayam over the weekend of March 23-24 and provided an excellent insight into the life and teachings of Bhagwan Veda Vyasa – the theme for the upcoming summer camp this year.

Odissi dance performance

An inspiring, expressive and graceful Odissi dance was presented by Smaraki Dash on 30th March at Chinmayam. The proceeds were donated to the mission. Smaraki graduated from the Frederick Balavihar chapter and is headed to medical school. She also volunteers as a Balavihar teacher at Chinmayam.

Table of Contents

	Foreword, Calendar and Events, Editorial Team, Contact Us	
NEWS	News & Tidbits	
	Announcement & Flyers	
	<i>Sannyasa Deeksha</i> By Swami Swaroopananda	
	<i>Mahashivarathri at Frederick</i> Gayatri Thirumala	
	<i>Chinmaya Somnath Mahashivarathri – A Collage</i> Photos submitted by Rajaram	
	<i>Shraddhanjali to Swamini Mangalananda</i> By Swami Swaroopananda	
	<i>Messages from an autobiography of a Mahatma – 11 (Iswara Darshana)</i> Sitaram Kowtha	
	<i>Vedanta Series: Ishwara Darshan: Part 14</i> Acharya Sadananda	
	<i>Gurudev Uvacha – a collection of quotes from Swami Chinmayananda</i>	

Bala Vihar

Enriching our children with the great knowledge of Sanatana Dharma through scriptural stories, games and activities. Join us every week as we learn about values and ideals with laughter and joy!

'Children are not vessels to be filled, but lamps to be lit.'
- Pujya Swami Chinmayananda

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Arpanam

An Offering of Gratitude | Annual Fundraising Initiative

Whoever offers Me with devotion a leaf, a flower, a fruit, water,
that I accept, offered by the pure-minded with devotion
Geeta Chapter 9, Verse 26

True loving is not passive 'taking'
but a dynamic 'giving'
- Swami Chinmayananda

Pledge Today Generously



Patram (Leaf) - \$2700 and above



Pushpam (Flower) - \$5400 and above



Phalam (Fruit) - \$10,800 and above



Toyam (Water) - \$21,600 and above

**Grow Spiritually and Help Our Center
Expand to Serve More**

Follow us on Facebook!

Exciting news! We now have a Chinmayam Facebook page for our Silver Spring center where we can showcase our vibrant community, events and activities. **We request all members to "follow us" and "like us"** to receive important updates, information on events and special guests, photos of your children in Bala Vihar, quotes from our Gurudev, and more. Updates will be sent to your phone or email accounts. **Don't be left out - join now !**

Step 1: Login at Facebook.com (or join Facebook by creating your profile - it's free and easy)

Step 2: Search Chinmaya Mission DC

Step 3: Click on "Like" and "Follow"

Step 4: Click on "Invite Friends" and send the page to your friends, members and non-members.

**Publicity team needs volunteers who are active on social media! Please contact
Amita Jain, amitajain815@gmail.com**

Chinmayam Learning Center

Chinmayam is now available for rental services!

We are delighted to announce your single destination for enrichment programs!! Presenting the Chinmayam Learning Center, weekdays and weekends!

For more information, please contact: Raja Kirkire, rkkirkire@gmail.com,
Meena Sankar, meena17.sankar@gmail.com



Chinmaya Mission® Washington Regional Center



Summer Immersion Camp Bhagavān Veda Vyāsa

Conducted By

Swami Dheerananda

CHINMAYA SOMNATH

JULY 22 TO AUGUST 16, 2019

CHINMAYAM - SILVER SPRING

JUNE 24 TO JULY 19, 2019

CHINMAYA - FREDERICK

TBD

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46 Norwood Road, Silver Spring MD, 20905



Summer Immersion Camp

Bhagavān Veda Vyāsa



JUNE 24 TO JULY 19, 2019

All day activities

Conducted By

Swami Dheerananda

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- OUTDOOR ATHLETICS • ART • INSPIRING STORIES •
- SHLOKAS & BHAJANS • FUN FRIDAYS •



Early Registration (till March 31, 2019): \$1200

Registration (from April 1, 2019): \$1400

Sibling discount \$100

For rising 1st to 8th grades as of September 1, 2019

Questions: mdsummercamp@chinmayadc.org



CMWRC WELCOMES YOU TO A SPECIAL DISCOURSE



MARGA DARSHANA DASHAKAM

The glory of Swami Chinmayananda

7:00 pm - 8:15 pm

Thursday, April 18th

Chinmaya Somnath

4350 Blue Spring Dr, Chantilly, VA 20151

SWAMI ISHWARANANDA

Chinmaya Mission, Los Angeles



Sri Adi Shankara's Vivekachoodamani Class by Pujya Swami Dheerananda

Attend Pujya Swamiji's class on Sri Adi Shankara's Vivekachoodamani!! In-person or via web!

Recording and Dial-in Information:

- The class will be live streamed via Zoom. Please use the information below to access the live stream video and/or audio.

Venue: Kailas Niwas

Day: Every Thursday, starting Oct 4, 2018

Time: 7:00-8:30 PM Eastern Standard Time (US and Canada)

Zoom Webinar ID: 872-939-557

To join via the Zoom client (for video and audio on PC/Mac/iOS/Android), please click the link below which will prompt to install necessary software automatically.

<https://zoom.us/j/872939557>

To join via iPhone one-tap (audio only, automatically dials the extension) press:

US: +16699006833,,872939557# or +16465588656,,872939557#

To join via telephone:

US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 646 558 8656

Webinar ID: 872-939-557

International numbers available [here](#)

- Class recordings can be found [here](#). Please do not rely on the recordings for missed lectures.

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Time: 7:30 to 9:00 PM EST	Join us online via the Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/944126997 Zoom Meeting ID: 944-126-997
Lead Sevaks: Kodumudi Venkateswaran and Ravi Ravichandran	Please contact for details: drveswaran@gmail.com



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CHINMAYA SOMNATH
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July 22 to August 16, 2019
All day activities
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- Shlokas & Bhajans • Fun Fridays •






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Registration (from April 1, 2019): \$1400
Sibling discount available
For rising 1st to 8th grades as of September 1, 2019
<http://summercamp.chinmayadc.org>
only 108 seats available

Questions: summercamp@chinmayasomnath.org

Chinmaya Mission Washington Regional Center
Silver Spring Chapter
Presents



**2019
Chinmaya
Jayanti**

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for Maximum Time**

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Saturday, May 4th 2019

5:00 – 7:00 PM – Event Celebrations

7:00 – 8:00 PM – Dinner

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Silver Spring, MD 20905



CHINMAYA MISSION® WASHINGTON REGIONAL CENTER



A musical showcase by

Purvi Nanavaty

गुरु चरणे

Sunday, May 19th
5.00 PM – 7.00 PM

Chinmayam
46 Norwood Rd,
Silver Spring, MD

Limited Seating
Seating begins at 4.30 PM



Tickets \$10 per person
Sponsors Requested \$108
(upto 4 family members)

For more information,
contact Uday Nanavaty
udaynanavaty@hotmail.com
410-980-7001

**Light Dinner Served
afterwards**



Chinmaya Mission® Washington Regional Center Maryland Chapter

CHINMAYAM

Our Children, Our Future



46 Norwood Road, Silver Spring, MD 20905

Celebrates Shri Hanuman Jayanti

On

Friday, April 19th, 2019 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM



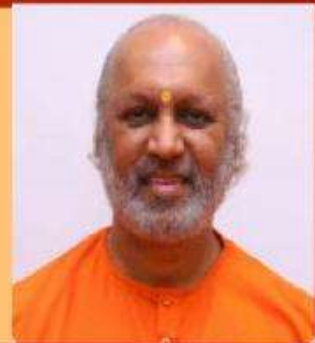
PROGRAM DETAILS:

Offering Vadamala	7:00 - 7:15 PM
Hanuman Chalisa & Bhajans	7:15 - 8:00 PM
Swami Ishwarananda's Message	8:00 - 8:45 PM
Aarati	8:45 - 9:00 PM
Maha Prasad & Dinner	9:00 - 9:30 PM



ॐ बुद्धिर्वलं यशो धैर्यं
निर्भयत्वम् अरोगता ।
अजादयं वाक्पटुत्वं च
हनुमत् स्मरणात् भवेत् ॥

om buddhir-balaṁ yaśo dhair-yaṁ
nir-bha-yat-vam aro-gatā ।
ajāḍ-yaṁ vāk-paṭut-vam cha
hanu-mat smara-ṇāt bha-vet ॥



One gets wisdom, strength, fame, courage,
fearlessness, health, alertness and eloquence
by remembering Hanuman.

Contact: Naidu Karri at kanaidu@hotmail.com

Chinmaya Mission Washington Regional Center

CHINMAYA JAYANTI

Celebration - 2019

Katha Ek Sakha Ki

STORY OF A TRUE FRIEND

Saturday
May 4th,
5-7 Pm



Paduka Puja

Musical Archana

Dance Drama
(Katha Ek Sakha Ki)

Cooking Contest Results

Raffle

Aarti

Mahaprasad



Blessings from Swami Dheerananda

Chinmayam, 46 Norwood Road, Silver Spring, MD 20905

Adi Shankaracharya Jayanti

VENUE: Chinmayam
DATE: Saturday, May 11th, 2019
TIME: 3:00pm - 4:30pm

Come and celebrate Sri Adi Shankaracharya Jayanti with fun-filled game of Antakshari from Bhaja Govindam and Bhagavad Geeta-Chapter 12 Slokas.

Click here to participate
Short URL - <https://goo.gl/wWnKZn>



PROGRAM:

3:00pm - 3:10pm

3:15pm - 4:15pm

4:15pm - 4:30pm

Welcome and invocation

Antakshari followed by Mangalam

Swamiji's talk and closing

Contact: Prabha (pvmaruvada@gmail.com) / Vaishali (vhamin@hotmail.com)



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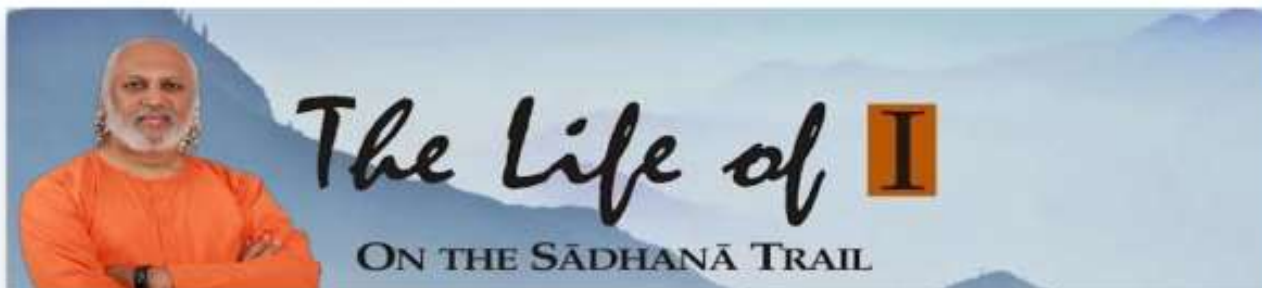


CHINMAYA MISSION WASHINGTON REGIONAL CENTER

Invites you to attend on April 20th 2019 and April 21st 2019,

An interactive workshop by Swami Ishwarananda

Author of the book



In the "Life of I - On the Sadhana Trail" the discovery of the Self is made through the story of an agnostic and his journey from skepticism to spirituality. The means to eternal happiness are described through Vedanta philosophy.

Swamiji reveals age-old truths, teachings and values, irrespective of faith, culture, time and place through a simple take on the complex sermons and teachings of seers in different eras. He conveys the value of dissolving the ego in a very intelligible way to today's busy professionals. The narrative is interspersed with relevant questions on the purpose and significance of love, wealth, work and God in human life.

Swami Ishwarananda is the Head Acharya of Chinmaya Mission, Los Angeles and one of the Directors of Chinmaya Mission West (CMW). An accomplished master of Vedantic philosophy, Swamiji explains the universality of spiritual teachings in an extremely simplified manner for seekers to implement the teachings in day-to-day living. He is a popular spiritual and management speaker in the US.

Swamiji is also a very discerning author providing deep scriptural imports in well-known books like Conscious Living, Silent Search, Mukunda Mala, Dew Drops, Pathways to Peace, Guru Stotram and The Life of I.

Title	"Life of I" workshop By Swami Ishwarananda (in 5 sessions)
Venue	Chinmayam, 46 Norwood Rd, Silver spring, MD 20905
When	Saturday 4/20: 9 AM to 6 PM, Sunday 4/21 9 AM to 3:00 PM
Registration	\$108 per person, if registered by March 17 th (\$150 after March 17th)
	Individual session registration: \$30 per session per person (based on availability)
Registration	Please visit www.chinmayadc.org for registration and additional information
Notes	Participants are encouraged to register for all 5 sessions. Reduced registration fee of \$54 for CHYKs.
	Full Registration includes textbook, yoga class on Sat & Sun & light meals after each session

Contacts

Nalini and Praveen Kumar: 202.744.5026	Pratima and Ramdas Jadhav	240.498.4194
Anita and Raj Kulkarni 301.300.1977	Deepa and Krishnan Seshadri	301.452.1856



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Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth | An Appeal



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Hari Om Chinmaya Family,

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Chinmaya University founded on the principles of Purity, Spirituality, Practicality and Innovation, our core mission is to blend the ancient and time-tested wisdom of India with present day knowledge fields. It is breaking new ground where necessary and adopting the merits of all that has come before, but always leaning towards the winds of innovation. Striking a careful balance between the old and new, the organization offers common streams of courses with unique electives and supplementary subjects, with an intent to mould the teenagers of today into well-rounded, responsible, value-grounded, young adults that contribute to the nation, and the world at large.

Learn more about Chinmaya University by clicking this [link](#).
Like Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth on [Facebook](#).

Attached are additional materials for your review and get insights into Chinmaya University:

1. [Swami Advayananda's presentation](#) about Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth's unique Vision & Inception (video)
2. [Chinmaya University - An appeal for support](#) (video)
3. [Chinmaya Shree: Bi-annual Newsletter of Chinmaya University](#) (PDF)

Chinmaya University looks forward to your **continued support and engagement** in the years to come. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any information or clarification.

In His Seva,
On behalf of Dr. AppaRao Mukkamala
Managing Trustee

Swami Advayananda's presentation : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AO9ts04tSM8&feature=youtu.be>

Chinmaya University: An appeal for support: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NADht0NBRxM>

Chinmaya Shree: Bi-Annual newsletter of Chinmaya University:

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/80619a985e5d6e34c2ba01298/files/a46d5eac-b4e8-44f6-94b1-9b553915eb57/CVV_Newsletter_Dec_2018_Volume_1_issue_1_Final.01.pdf

Learn more about Chinmaya University at: <http://www.cvv.ac.in/>



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(Head of Chinmaya Mission Worldwide)

Invites applications for A Six Month Residential



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Comprehensive study of the Principles and
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- For all candidates outside India: Course Donation: US\$ 750
- Understanding of any one of the following languages: Hindi/English/Telugu/Tamil/Kannada.
- Knowledge of Sanskrit is NOT a must

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- Perform rituals with enhanced knowledge and dexterity and offer such seva
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For further details contact:

Course Coordinator, Chinmaya Vaidik Vidyapeeth,
Chinmaya Gardens, Nallur Vayal Post, Siruvani
Road, Coimbatore 641114

Tel: 0422-2615637/93604-61566

Divya Chaitanya: 8790557412

Email: chinmayagarden@gmail.com

Application Form can be downloaded from the website
details furnished below:

website: www.chinmayagardens.com

Home page > News and events > Join Basic Purohit Course

Select pamphlet - English / Hindi / Tamil

Click download application form - download, take print out,
fill up, scan and email to: chinmayagarden@gmail.com



Shiva

is 'auspiciousness'.
That state of the supreme
auspiciousness,
that state of perfection
and beatitude,
is a state of an individual's
experience when all other
usual fields of perception
are transcended.

– Swami Chinmayananda



Swamins, Brahmacharins and Members of Chinmaya Mission Worldwide

Dear All,

Hari Om!

“When tired, I retire into my Self, which is Shiva,” said Pujya Gurudev.

To celebrate Shivaratri we share the documentary prepared by Chinmaya Archives and Chinmaya Mission Mumbai, on the occasion of the Suvarna Mahotsava of the temple on November 10, 2018. The presiding deity of the first ever temple built by Pujya Gurudev is Lord Shiva.

The video can be downloaded from : https://youtu.be/xWZX_y2Xhmg

Pujya Gurudev in the attached message directs us to the supreme state of perfection of the all auspicious Lord Shiva.

Pujya Swami Swaroopananda pays homage to the most worshipful Lord Shiva and seeks His blessings to remove the sorrow and suffering from our lives. His video message is available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cnHr371KZok&feature=youtu.be>

Please read, watch and share their messages.

May Lord Shiva be pleased and shower us with His grace and blessings.

With Prem & OM!

In His Service,

Manisha Khemlani
Chief Executive Officer



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Sannyasa Deeksha

At Sandeepany Sadhnalaya by Swami Swaroopananda



Swamins, Brahmacharins and Members of Chinmaya Mission Worldwide

Hari Om! Greetings on this auspicious day of the 50th Mahashivaratri celebrations at the Jagadeeshwara temple!

Today, in the holy precincts of Puja Gurudev's kutia, in Sandeepany Sadhanalaya, Mumbai, 4 of our Brahmacharis took the holy vows of Sannyasa. They changed the colour of their robes to orange and dedicated themselves to spread Puja Gurudev's message. I am happy to announce their new names:

1. **Br Sankarshan – Swami Sadashivananda (CM Brahmapur, Odisha)**
2. **Br Garga – Swami Omkarananda (CM Jagatpur, Cuttack, Odisha)**
3. **Br Janardhan – Swami Ramapriyananda (CM Balangir, Odisha)**
4. **Br Piyush – Swami Chidghanananda (CM Bhubaneswar, Odisha)**

May Lord Jagadeeshwara and Puja Gurudev's grace and blessings be upon one and all.

A small video of the announcement of their new names can be viewed on the YouTube channel of Chinmaya Mission at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gLPsN_ip36M&feature=youtu.be

Love,

At His Feet

Swami Swaroopananda

Mahashivarathri at Frederick Chapter

Gayatri Thirumala



Mahashivaratri was auspiciously celebrated at Chinmaya Mission, Frederick chapter on Mar 10th, 2019, worshipping Lord Jagadeeshwara, performed by Vallabhuni family as yajman. The puja was guided with the 16 traditional steps of Puja Vidhi, articulated and explained by children who attend two Shloka enrichment classes. The dhyanam verses of Sri Dakshinamurthi stotram and Margabandhu stotram, were also beautifully chanted by the kids as part of the devotional offerings!!

The puja concluded with a beautiful Shiva bhajan - "Adi Deva Mahadeva", composed by our Guruji Swami Tejomayananda, led by Sridhanya Thirumala, followed by the melodious Lingashtakam chanting led by Harshini Parandapalli.

The story of Lord Shiva, beautifully illustrated and shared by Sitaram ji, with a capturing title, "Mr. Auspicious-Hero for All", carried a wonderful message that Lord Shiva remained Ever Auspicious, both before and after consuming the poison. His heroic ever-readiness and act to protect the world against the poison that came out first during the churning of Milky ocean for Nectar, and His great power and strength to not let the consumed poison destroy Himself or the world within, by holding it forever in His neck, made him "Mr. Auspicious-Hero for All", and also gave him the name "Neelakantha"!! The story was very well enjoyed by all and especially Balavihar kids, inspiring them to be like "Hero Shiva".

It was a joyful Mahashivarathri celebration indeed with everyone in Chinmaya family!!



Mahashivarathri at Chinmaya Somnath



Shraddhanjali

Samadhi of Swamini Mangalananda



Swamins, Brahmacharins and Members of Chinmaya Mission Worldwide

Dear All,
Hari Om!

Swamini Mangalananda took final refuge at the lotus feet of Pujya Gurudev, at 5.05 pm today, 24th March, while on her way to the Akola ashram from Pune.

Devoted to the Chinmaya Mission, Swamini Mangalananda served as a Trustee of CST Maharashtra and Managing Trustee of CST Akola.

Born in Akola, to a pious and educated family, she held a Masters Degree in Ayurveda. Drawn to the halls of satsang from a very young age, Swamini Mangalananda lived a life of austerity and spiritual sadhana. She was fortunate to be blessed by many saints.

In 1972 Swamini Mangalananda came in contact with Chinmaya Mission through Swami Purushottamanandaji. Under the guidance of Swami Tejomayanandaji she completed the Vedanta Course in Sandeepany Sadhanalaya, Powai. Subsequently, as Brni Aditi Chaitanya she continued to spread the knowledge of Vedanta, through Jnana Yajnas, which she had begun even before doing the course.

Much sought after, Swamini Mangalananda was a leading pracharak in Maharashtra. She successfully conducted more than 750 Jnana Yajnas, 11 shravan sadhanas and several camps at various places in India and Sri Lanka.

On the auspicious day of Mahashivaratri, on 4th March 2002, Brni Aditi was initiated into the Sannyasa Ashram and became Swamini Mangalananda. She assisted Swami Purushottamanandaji in the conduct of the Vedanta course in Marathi from 2008 - 2010, at Kolhapur.

In memory of Swami Purshottamanandaji, she was instrumental in setting up 'Purushottam-Jeevan-Darshan' in Kolhapur.

Our respectful homage to Swamini Mangalananda.

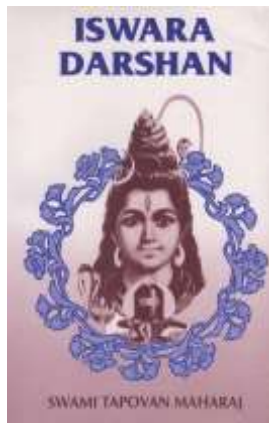
At His Feet

Swami Swaroopananda

Messages from an autobiography of a Mahatma -11 (Iswara Darshan)

Sitaram Kowtha

Editor's Note: In this series, selected excerpts from the book "Iswara Darshan" by Pujya Swami Tapovan Maharaj of Uttar Kashi, are provided by Sitaram Kowthaji to inspire the students of Vedanta to delve deeply into the glories of a mahatma who inspired our sadhguru, Swami Chinmayananda.



Part 2 Chapter 1 – Entry into Sannyasa Ashram - Tyagananda

Dispassion and Renunciation

All that is, is God. When this truth dawns upon one, the notions of "I" and "mine" arising out of ignorance, fade away like glow worms in the rising sun. For one who has experienced the highest bliss in the realization of Brahman, can there be any attraction in joyless trifles? He, who has given up the idea of limited Self and realized oneness of the Self and the Supreme Self will no longer think in terms of "I" and "mine", "he" and "his". Whether it is wealth, country or home, it is all the same. Even in the modern times, as in ancient days, there have been men, who, either out of the conviction that worldliness is evil, or out of the realization of Truth have attained dispassion and detachment.

Renunciation is not the last refuge of the idler; on the other hand, it is the state of having done all that is to be done by way of what is good, pure and propitious. Sri Buddha, Sri Sankara, Sri Ramanuja, Sri Christ and other ideal men were the greatest exemplars of the sannyasin's way of life. Were they idle? Did they simply exist like boulders of rock? Do we expect these masters, these preceptors of the spirit, to work like manual laborers? If they did no such thing, can we say they have lived in vain?

As qualifications differ, duties too differ. Those who renounce worldly things, do not remain mute and motionless. On the contrary, their life is full of ceaseless, tireless activity.

The fourth ashrama is thus the noblest as it concentrates itself on the realization of Truth by observance and propagation. Subramania had chosen it deliberately for himself, and in pursuit of his ideal, he had renounced everything and got into the train.

Pangs of Separation

An unworthy thought began to assault him. His mind was stricken with grief on account of his separation from his native place and relatives. Brave and enthusiastic as he was, his eyes welled up in tears. Oppressed with the feelings of separation and assailed by varying thoughts, relieved only now and then by characteristic thoughts of God, he passed a sleepless night. He reached Bangalore and spent two days in the large city and visited Ramakrishna Mutt. There, Swami Nirmalananda, a great sannyasin of Sri Ramakrishna order, shared information on holy places in North India and available accommodations. Meeting Swamiji was edifying to the mind and intellect of Subramania.

Leaving Bangalore, he headed to the famous Harihara temple on the banks of Thungabhadra river. His onward journey took him to Poona and then to Nasik, a place famous in the Hindu epic Ramayana. At Nasik, he bathed in the waters of river Godavari and worshipped Sri Ramachandra at the temple on her banks. He continued onward to Panchavati where Ravana had abducted Sita. The sight of the place brought back to his mind the entire story of Ramayana. Not far from Panchavati, Subramania arrived at an ashram where Parama Hamsa Swami Hridayananda resided.

Charmed by the generous welcome accorded by Swami Hridayanandaji, Subramania chose to stay there while studying Yoga Darshana, Mandukya Karika and Bhashyas, with the help of the learned Swamiji. Both in the morning and in the evening, he retired to the forests around Panchavati and passed several hours in meditation under the shade of some tree. Immersed in spiritual practices and satsang with Swamiji, he gradually overcame the grief of separation from his home and friends.

An Exchange between Subramania and Swami Hridayanandaji

S: I left hearth and house out of desire to enter sannyasa which alone can lead to ultimate good. Kindly instruct me as to when, where and from which Guru I should accept Sannyasa.

Swamiji: If a person like you, rich in the spirit of renunciation, dispassion and other noble qualities, accepts Sannyasa, it will be a matter of pride and joy to the institution of Sannyasa and to the circle of Sannyasins. That is our view. We need not add that it will bring untold blessings. We are very happy to find how blessed you are. The rule regarding the acceptance of Sannyasa as laid down by the scriptures is, One should be initiated according to rules into Sannyasa, during the sacred Uttarayana period, by a Guru who is not only well-versed in the scriptures but knows Brahman Himself. But such rules do not bind you. You have already known all that is to be known. At your will, you can take up Sannyasa, when and where you will.

S: That may be true. But this is my request. You will be pleased to be my Acharya and order Brahmins to perform all necessary rites and get everything ready for the initiation.

Swamiji: How! We do not desire to accept the status of your Acharya. Besides, you have already served several great masters like Sri Sankaracharya who know Brahman and who are fully qualified to be gurus. Apart from him, why do you require another Guru? From your appearance as well as your character anybody can easily see that you were born in a rich and honorable family. Who will light-heartedly dare give Sannyasa to a person of such high qualifications? If you desire to enter Sannyasa at once, you can do so by yourself. As for you who have cast off thoughts like “I” and “mine”, you are fully entitled to “Vidvat Sannyasa”.

In Vidvat Sannyasa, it is not necessary to bother about scriptural rules or rites and ceremonies. Whether the time or place is apt or inapt. Whether a Guru is present or absent. So, with the Sun as who witnesses all actions and who is the Veda incarnate, as your witness, pronounce the matras like “Om Bhuh Sannyastam Maya”, don yourself devoutly in ochre-colored robes which is an emblem of Sannyasa and accept your bhiksha (food) from some person who honors and respects Sannyasins. In this way, you can start upon the holy life of ‘tapas’, rarely accessible even to the Gods; you can so follow the path of Brahma Vidya which alone gives the true bliss. Follow the

path with untiring, single-minded devotion. Mentally you are already a Sannyasin. Physically too you can embrace Sannyasa, if you so desire.

Subramania to Tyagananda

With such continued discussions with Swamiji and his own reflections on those who successfully took up Sannyasa never to turn back regardless of whether they went through sacred rites and rituals, and those who may have gone through sacred rites, but failed miserably, Subramania decided to no longer wait to take up Sannyasa. He informed Swamiji of his decision and plan and took leave of the ashram after receiving his blessings.

He traveled Northward towards the town of Jabalpur on the banks of river Narmada. There he spent a few days in the company of a Swami Sankarananda. With the blessings from this venerable Swamiji, he set out to the banks of Narmada. On arriving at the banks of the holy river, which is dear to Lord Shiva, Subramania danced with joy; his heart was full of devotion.

The very next day, before nine O’ clock, he went to Narmada, prostrated to her with devotion like a child saluting its mother and bathed in her sacred waters which wash away all sins. He performed all necessary acts of worship in due form and then according to the rules of Vidvat Sannyasa keeping the visible god, the Sun, as witness, and initiating guru, and repeating the secret praisha mantra put on the ochre colored robe, with trembling hands but with deep feeling of satisfaction. Having assumed the garb of Paramahamsa, he called himself ‘Tyagananda’. He had already given up his spectacles and such things conducive to physical comfort as encumbrances. So now he had no possessions except his robe and his water pot (kamandala). Shorn of all other worldly possessions, he shone brightly.

It was to reach this goal that he had left his hearth and home and today he initiated himself into the life of Sannyasin. Filled with joy at the consummation of his desire and intoxicated with it, he thought to himself “I am really blessed today; so are my parents; so is my race; so is Kerala, the land of my birth”.

Paramahamsa Tyagananda

For the ignorant, poverty is the source of sorrow; for the enlightened, it appears as a means to peace and self-realization.

After leaving the bathing ghat, he went out in search of food (bhiksha). It was for the first time in his life and being

altogether new to the process, failed completely in the business. So, for the first day, he had to fall back upon a feeding house for mendicants to appease his hunger. A life among beggars helps remove the proud feeling “I am noble; I am high-born; I am learned”.

Though now a paramahansa, Tyagananda’s outlook did not change. His mind remained fixed on the idea of equality between man and man. Superiority complex did not taint him. He did not look down on fellow sannyasins or house-holders. Difference in religion or in the stages of life did not diminish his respect for fellow men. Only fools regard Hinduism as the very best religion and all other religions inferior to it. It is these erroneous ideas that lead to mutual hatred and bloody communal riots. Well aware of this Truth, he always thought of harmony among religions.

Tyagananda left the banks of Narmada via Jabalpur and made his way to Prayag. At the holy confluence of the three great rivers, he had his ceremonial bath and sitting down at the banks of Ganga, he repeated holy names and recited hymns with devotion. His mind got easily concentrated and he soon entered into a state of Samadhi. He spent several days at a nearby mutt and had a portrait made in his Sannyasin garb. This he sent home to his brother so this picture can be kept next to the one taken while he was still a Brahmacharin. Along with the portrait, he sent a loving note to assuage separation, “only by the grace of God can one enter the noble fold of Sannyasa; it is attainable only by persons of great merit. If I have been able to become a Sannyasin, it is certainly by the grace of the Ocean of Mercy. Don’t be worried about it; don’t be saddened by it. Only fools will allow themselves to be stricken with sorrow by such a consummation. For years my mind has been laboring hard to reach this goal. Now that I have reached it, I expect you and other relations to pacify your minds, abandoning all anxiety and sorrow on my score. From this moment on, give up all thought about this Self, abandon all search and enquiry, live your span of life, abiding in truth, doing your dharma, engaging yourself in your rounds of worldly duties, always surrendering yourself to the Divine Will”. To cut off a reply, he deliberately withheld his address. He never more reverted to the subject. He did not even try to guess whether this letter of his brought relief to the sorrowing relations or only added fuel to the fire.

Himalaya Bound

After spending a few days in Prayag, Swamiji (Tyagananda) set out for Ayodhya. The holy city,

surrounded by the river Sarayu, was rendered holy by the dust of the feet of Sri Ramachandra and Sita Devi. Tyagananda felt the purpose of his life fulfilled on visiting the city, which is teeming with temples, ashrams and sannyasins. He found comfortable lodging in a large empty house. He spent time in satsang and meditation. His food needs were taken care of.

A Vaishnava pundit challenged Swamiji on the Truth of Brahman with attributes and Brahman without attributes. Swamiji, with his characteristic humility met all such arguments with remorseless logic and scriptural authority, firmly establishing in the end the existence of Brahman without attributes.

He set out journey northward on foot. He reached the town of Faizabad and sought bhiksha. At a palatial mansion, a Bengali officer told him light heartedly, “You see, I am a Sudra. It is well known that food served by Sudra is unacceptable to sannyasins. How can I, therefore, give you any food?”. Immediately, Swamiji answered, “You are a Sudra, you say. Be it so. It is not food given by a Sudra, that is forbidden to the sadhus. So you may give Brahmana (satwik) food, if you will”.

He journeyed to Lucknow and then on to Haridwar, and arrived at Hrishikesh, the abode of the hermits. This sacred neighborhood of the Himalayas, praised so unreservedly by so many, was the goal of his journey.

Tyagananda now embarked upon a regular routine of life. Every morning he bathed in the Ganga and then engaged himself in worship, meditation, satsanga, scriptural study, eating bhiksha, and remaining undisturbed in a world of divine experience.

To Be Continued

Iswara Darshanam - XIV

Discussion of the 11th Chapter of Gita – Acharya Sadanandaji

Krishna teaches the absolute law of conservation – that which exists can never cease to exist and that which is not existing can never come into existence.

nAsatO vidyatE bhAvO nAbhAvO vidyatE sataH.

Hence nothing is really destroyed. What is destroyed is only superficial names and forms. When a ring is changed into a bangle, the gold that the ring is made of is conserved – what changed is only name and form of a ring to bangle form. World is nothing but just names and forms which continuously change, while the substantive that which supports the whole universe, Brahman, remains changeless.

Continuing...

However, those who are attached to a particular BMI will fear the destruction of that particular BMI. Arjuna appears to be in that state since it was that fear that contributed to the GeetOpadhEsha, as he felt that the destruction of the body is destruction of the individual or jiiva. Hence Krishna starts GetOpadhesha with the statement - Arjuna, you are crying where there is no reason for you to cry, since nothing gets destroyed in the universe,

asochyAn anva sochatvam.

This is a teaching for all of us too to be remembered when we start crying for the loss of our dear and near ones. We are unborn therefore can never die also,

ajo nityaH shashvatOyam purAnaH.

Arjuna is now seeing the extended vision that involves the vision of the future. Jnaani will only see the exalted vision. To see the extended vision involving seeing the future as well as other subtler lokas, one needs some siddhis. Yogeshwara Krishna is providing that to Arjuna. Hence Arjuna sees the destruction of the two armies as if they are heading into the fiery mouth of the VirAt swaruupa Iswara.

There are two types of massive destructions that can happen, as illustrated in this Chapter. One is the natural process that occurs due to natural calamities such as earthquakes or tsunamis. The other is the man-made calamities such as the destruction of life or causalities in

wars, and the destruction caused by terrorists. Geeta gives us two examples to illustrate the above two.

yathA nadInAm bahavOmbuvEgAH
samudramEvAbhimukhA dravanti,

and

yathA pradIptam jvalanam patangA vishanti nAshAya
samRiddhavEgAH –

just as rivers naturally flow toward the ocean for their destruction and slowly become one with the ocean; and just as moths rush themselves for self-destruction due to their delusion into the burning fire. The first example of rivers running naturally towards ocean for self-destruction depicts the jiiva being subjected to the natural death due to their praarabda. Natural destruction or calamities operate due to the collective praarabda of jiivas involved. If the nature is deliberately abused for personal gains such as pollution or mass scale destruction of natural resources like air, water, etc., which are essential ingredients needed to sustain the life, nature responds with vengeance contributing to natural destruction of life. The principle of karma operates across the board. In essence, the law of karma is none suffers/enjoys unnecessarily, and everyone reaps their karma in one form or the other. We call one as lucky when he wins millions in a lottery, and other as unlucky when he lost everything in an accident; but both are reaping the benefits of what they deserve due to their praarabda. There are no accidents in life, but only incidents, as per the law of karma. Understanding this helps a jnaani not to be elated or depressed for the gains or losses –Hence Krishna says a jnaani is one who is –

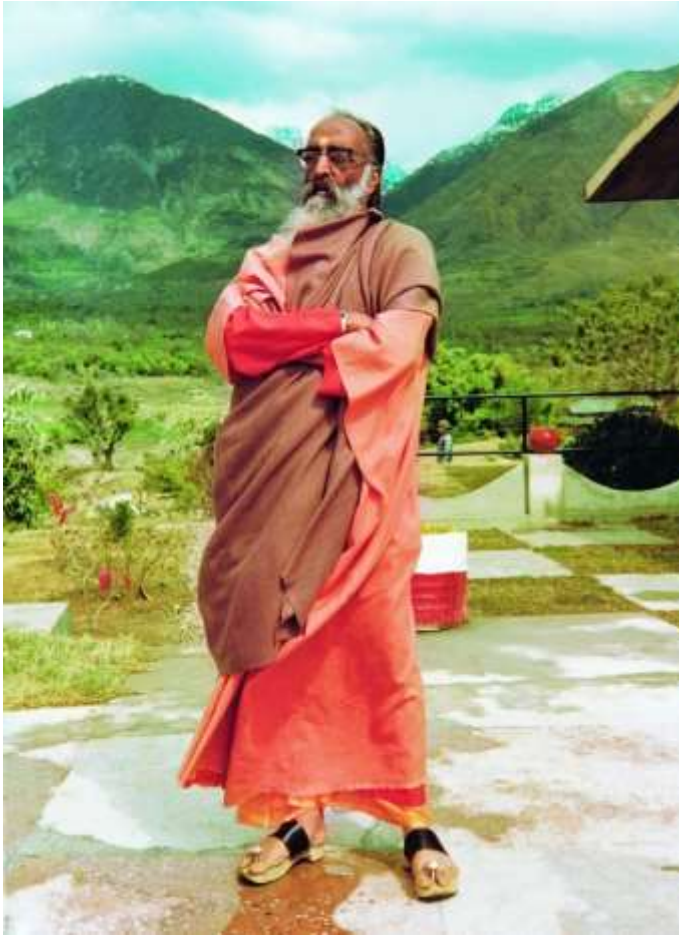
duHksheshu anudvigna manAH, sukhEshu vigatajvaraH
–

he does not get depressed for the loss or sufferings, nor forgets himself in the excitement when happy events occur due to praarabda during his life span.

To be continued

Gurudev Uvacha

Inspiring Quotes from Pujya Gurudev Chinmayananda



[Editor's Note: Continuing the series of inspiring quotes from Gurudev].

A successful man is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks that others throw at him.

Mind alone is Maya at play !

Avoid COMPARISON TRIPS.
What you have now is His thoughtful gift.

In Life to Handle Yourself use Your Head,
BUT to Handle Others Use Your Heart !

In the darkness of ignorance, we attach ourselves to the unreal and fleeting world; In the light of Knowledge, we identify ourselves with the real and permanent.

Be openly happy in the joys of others.
Be sincerely sympathetic in others' sorrows.