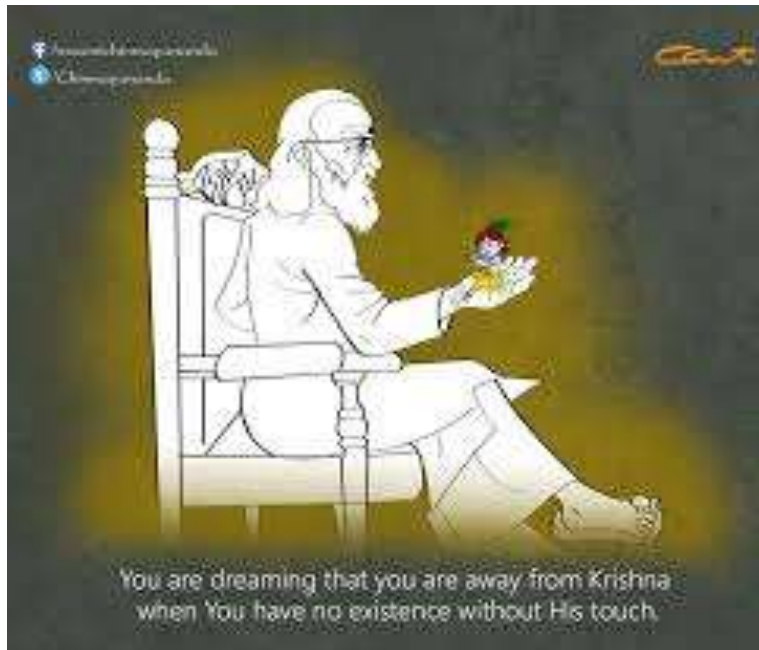


Chinmaya Smrithi



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

Volume 29, Number 5, September 2019



Our prostrations to Pujya Gurudev who embodied the principles taught by Lord Krishna

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 8].

अतो विमुक्त्यै प्रयतेत विद्वान्
संन्यस्तबाह्यार्थसुखस्पृहः सन् ।
सन्तं महान्तं समुपेत्य देशिकं
तेनोपदिष्टार्थसमाहितात्मा ॥ ८ ॥

*ato vimuktyai prayateta vidvān
sannyastabāhyārthasukhaspr̥hah san |
santam mahāntam samupetya deśikam
tenopadiṣṭārbhasamāhitātma || 8||*

Meaning: Therefore, the learned seeker who is striving to gain this freedom within and who has renounced all his desires for pleasures in the sense objects should duly approach a good and generous Master and must live attuned to the true significances of the words of the Master.

In the previous verse, Adi Shankara has explained how the cause for one's Shoka (sorrow) is one's Moha (delusion). Even getting to this level of understanding is not easy. A wise person, who has developed this level of understanding, will seek out a master (Guru) who can help him overcome his Moha. When the Moha is removed, the Shoka is automatically cured. Trying to

remove the Shoka without addressing the underlying cause, the Moha, is only curing the symptoms and will only be a short-term solution.

Adi Shankara further goes on to say that the way to get rid of Moha is to renounce the craving for the pleasures obtained from the external objects in the world. This renunciation is called Vairagya and can only be developed through Viveka. A good example of how craving drops off is that of a grown up person going to ToysRUs. While a child may have craving for the toys, the grown up person can enjoy the toys without developing a craving towards the toys.

When such a disciple approaches a true teacher (Sant i.e. one who has recognized the Sat principle), he can benefit immensely. A true teacher is kind and benevolent and will never abandon a disciple. However, the disciple should be eager to learn from the teacher and should start sincerely practicing the qualities that he learns from his teacher. A teacher, having been a perceiver, feeler, thinker himself before realizing the Self will provide guidance to a sincere seeker. However, one should realize that a teacher cannot carry the student to the goal – for that self-effort on the part of the student is an absolute must. The steps that a student needs to take is further elaborately explained in the following verse.

Calendar and Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events

- October 3rd: Think Big Think Chinmaya – online global Satsang with Swami Swaroopananda.
- October 13th: 2019 Montgomery county Unity walk at Silver Spring, MD from 1 to 6 p.m. along New Hampshire Avenue. See flyer for more details.
- October 2019: Discourses every Friday and Sunday on the essence of spirituality by Arvindji at Chinmaya Somnath, VA.
- October 17th – 20th: Divya Shakti retreat at Orlando, FL led by Vivekji and Vilasiniji. Finding your path – Encouraging women 21+ to Inspire, Love, Be.
- November 2nd: Diwali Celebrations at Chinmayam, MD.
- November 16th: Annual Fund Raiser at Julia Bindeman Suburban Center, Potomac MD.

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 – Nov 2019, are due by October 31, 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

Krishna Janmashtami Celebrations

Krishna Janmashtami was celebrated at both Chinmayam, Maryland and at Chinmaya Somnath, VA. In Maryland, the celebrations featured devotional bhajans followed by a message on the spiritual significance of Janmashtami from Swami Dheerananda.

around the world. Both the artists Aks and Lakshmi are Balavihar graduates.

Jnana Yagna

Over the last week of August, Swami Ramakrishnanda, visiting the CMWRC area from India over the summer gave a series of talks at all three chapters covering various topics from Srimad Bhagawatam, Avadhuta Gita and Prashnottara Ratna Malika. In his typically humorous style, Swamiji brought out the deep philosophical truths contained in these texts in a way that the audience could easily relate to. Swamiji's talks were well attended and appreciated at all the three chapters.

Arpanam




Please refer to the CMWRC website to learn more about this exciting new consolidated fundraising initiative. 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.

Please make your pledge today !

Krishna – A musical experience

Aks & Lakshmi gave a series of divinely inspired musical performances which were well attended at all the three CMWRC chapters. Their songs, inspired by poet saints like Surdas and Meerabai as well as ancient composers like Kulashekhara Alwar were melodious and at the same time, carried a message of the importance of living a life that reflects the eternal values of Hinduism. Using a mixture of modern musical instruments to appeal to the younger generation, the artists have embarked on a journey to spread the essence of the Bhakti movement

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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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Classes are offered for children and adults. We provide an ideal environment for integrated physical, intellectual and spiritual development.

Thursday Class Commencement

Our Thursday classes will resume on **Thursday, October 3th, 2019** from 7-8:30pm in **Kailas Niwas**, and we will continue our study of **Vivekachudamani**.

In preparation for our study, please...

- Arrive before 7:00pm. If you arrive after 7:00pm, or after Aarti has begun, please wait in the foyer and enter once Swamiji begins the lecture.
- Bring the Vivekachudamani text to every class. Contact Vijay Singh if you need to purchase a book.
- Bring a japa mala to class.
- Help with classroom set up if you arrive early

Zoom Access Link:

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

Zoom Webinar ID: 872-939-557



CHINMAYA MISSION WASHINGTON REGIONAL CENTER



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**

Arvind ji presents

ESSENCE OF SPIRITUALITY

CHINMAYA SOMNATH

4350 Blue Spring Dr
Chantilly VA - 20151

OCTOBER 2019
Fridays & Sundays

Arvind Bhagwat ji has been actively serving CMWRC since he along with his wife Medha moved to Maryland in 1988. He made it a priority to attend Pujya Gurudev's camps from 1989-1993 and has continued his spiritual development with Gururji Swami Tejomayananda and other spiritual masters. Under the guidance of Swami Dheerananda ji and Vilasini ji, Arvind ji has been actively involved in various activities of CMWRC. He took early retirement from his active scientific career in 2017 and embarked on the next phase of his life by moving to Sandeepany Sadhanalaya at Powai, Mumbai to get formal systematic Vedanta training in the 2-year long residential course.



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



The poster features a black background with a large orange circle on the left containing a portrait of Swami Shantananda. Text is arranged in white and orange. The top left has a logo, and the top right has a musical note icon. The center text reads '2019 ANNUAL FUNDRAISER'. Below this, it says 'Many Problems One Solution' and 'A Spiritual Talk with Swami Shantananda'. The bottom right lists the venue, date, and time. A URL for more information is at the bottom.

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2019

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Many Problems One Solution

A Spiritual Talk
with Swami Shantananda
Chinmaya Mission, Princeton
Head of Chinmaya Mission West

& fun activities for Children

\$50 Adult
\$20 Children
(Below 18 years)

Venue
Julia Bindeman Suburban Center
11810 Falls Road
Potomac, MD - 20854

Date & Time
Saturday, November 16th 2019
4 PM to 9 PM

For more information, visit cmwrc.chinmayadc.org



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07.00 AM IST or 4.30 PM IST

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2019 MONTGOMERY COUNTY UNITY WALK



MANY FAITHS, ONE COMMUNITY

Sunday, October 13th

1:00 - 6:00 PM

James Hubert Blake High School

Come celebrate our unity with art and music, enjoy a resource fair and tour
houses of worship along the
"Highway to Heaven" known as
New Hampshire Avenue.

REGISTER HERE: [TINYURL.COM/2019UNITYWALK](https://tinyurl.com/2019unitywalk)

DONATE HERE: [TINYURL.COM/UNITYWALKDONATIONS](https://tinyurl.com/unitywalkdonations)

Resource Fair at 1:00 PM

Opening Ceremony at 1:30 PM

*Ride On bus transport to congregations
Please bring your own reusable water bottles*





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chinmayaorlando.org/dsr2019

Questions? Contact 813-486-7779 or email
divyashakti@chinmayaorlando.org

Registration deadline \$200 by September 15

CMWRC Silver Spring Diwali 2019 Saturday November 2nd, 2019



Let's celebrate Deepawali with Chinmaya Families for this joyous occasion with Puja, garba/raas followed by Annakut Dinner.

5 to 5:30: Puja

5:30 to 6:30 – Annakut Darshan

6:30 – 7:15 pm – Garba/Dance

7:30 pm – Annakut Dinner/Prasad

We plan to celebrate Deepawali with offering of variety (minimum 56 items and maximum 108) of food items (preferably homemade) for Annakut. Help needed for the preparation of Annakut items. Feel free to offer as many items as you can. We will have sign up spreadsheet available in the Chinmayam Foyer for offering of the food items with required quantity for the Annakut. Please contact us if you wish to help out in any other areas to make this event successful.

Contact: Priti Mehta @ pritiniraj@hotmail.com or Paulomi Nanavaty at paulominanavaty@hotmail.com for any inquiries related to Deepawali celebrations.



27TH CHINMAYA MAHASAMADHI ARADHANA CAMP

Chinmaya Mission San Jose | Hyatt Regency Hotel, Burlingame CA | 30th July to 3rd August 2020

**Super Early-Bird Registration Open for
27th Chinmaya Mahasamadhi Aradhana Camp
Read Below for Details**

**Don't miss out on significant cost savings -
Register ASAP, before September 15, 2019 to take
advantage of the Super Early Bird Discounts!!**

Hari Om!

Chinmaya Mission San Jose is very happy to announce that we are blessed with this great opportunity to host the 2020 Chinmaya Mahasamadhi Aradhana Camp.

Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda left His bodily form on 3rd August, 1993. Each year, Chinmaya Mission Worldwide observes this Holy Day as Chinmaya Aradhana Day honoring His Life and Legacy. The spiritual growth we are reaping today is the result of the tireless work of our beloved Pujya Gurudev and the flow of knowledge we have received from Him. We worshipfully contemplate on Pujya Gurudev and His constant Grace and honor His Life and Legacy by observing the Aradhana camp on His Mahasamadhi day.

The Theme of this camp is "**2020 - The Perfect Vision**". Pujya Swami Swaroopananda, the Global Head of Chinmaya Mission will conduct the camp with many of the Swamins, Brahmacharins and Teachers of Chinmaya Mission. There will be discourses on Adi Shankara's composition "**Maneesha Panchakam**" conducted by Swami Swaroopananda ji. Discourses on Bhagavad Gita chapter 2 "**Sthitaprajna Lakshana**" will be conducted by Swami Shantananda ji. There will be interactive workshops, panel discussions, and several fun filled and informative activities planned for the whole family. There will be Shishu Vihar, Bala Vihar, CHYK, Sethukari tracks also to incorporate an enriching experience for all age groups.

We humbly request support, participation and blessings from everyone in our Chinmaya Family. As this Perfect Vision is being brought to us by the various discourses and activities during the Mahasamadhi Camp in 2020, let us hold out our hands and receive these blessings. We invite the entire Chinmaya Family to come together to participate in the function.

You can register to the camp

at <https://forms.chinmayamission.com/v2/forms/5c96811ed0443d00011255d5>

Please register by September 15, 2019 to take advantage of the Super Early Bird Discount of 10%.

To help raise awareness for the Chinmaya family and beyond, we have the following materials to share. We would deeply appreciate if you could share it with your friends, neighbors and family members.

Flyer: Here is the flyer for the event <https://chinmayaaradhana2020.org/flyer/>

Website: The website <https://chinmayaaradhana2020.org> has all the registration information and other details. Please note that there is a 10% reduced registration fees if you sign up by September 15th 2019. There is an additional 1 % discount if you pay by check. Also, you can spread out the payment over 3 months, if you wish.

Promo Video: Please check out the promo video prepared for the event. Here is the Promo Video <https://chinmayaaradhana2020.org/welcome-video/>

Please reach out to any of the following sevaks if you have any questions or comments.

Lakshmy Prakash Lakshmy prakash@cmsj.org 510-378-1264

Ramkumar Subramanian ramkumar.s@cmsj.org 408-893-6637

In His Service,
MSC 2020 Organizing Team
Chinmaya Mission San Jose



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Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth | An Appeal



CHINMAYA
— VISHWAVIDYAPEETH —

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Hari Om Chinmaya Family,

The World Chinmaya Sevaks' Conference was a grand opportunity to connect with the global Chinmaya Mission Centre representatives and we are overwhelmed by the support extended to the **Chinmaya University**.

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

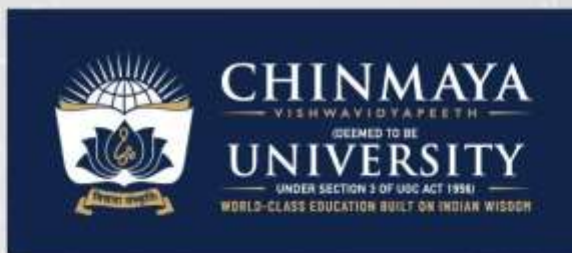
Swami Advayananda's presentation : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AO9ts04tSM8&feature=youtu.be>

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/>



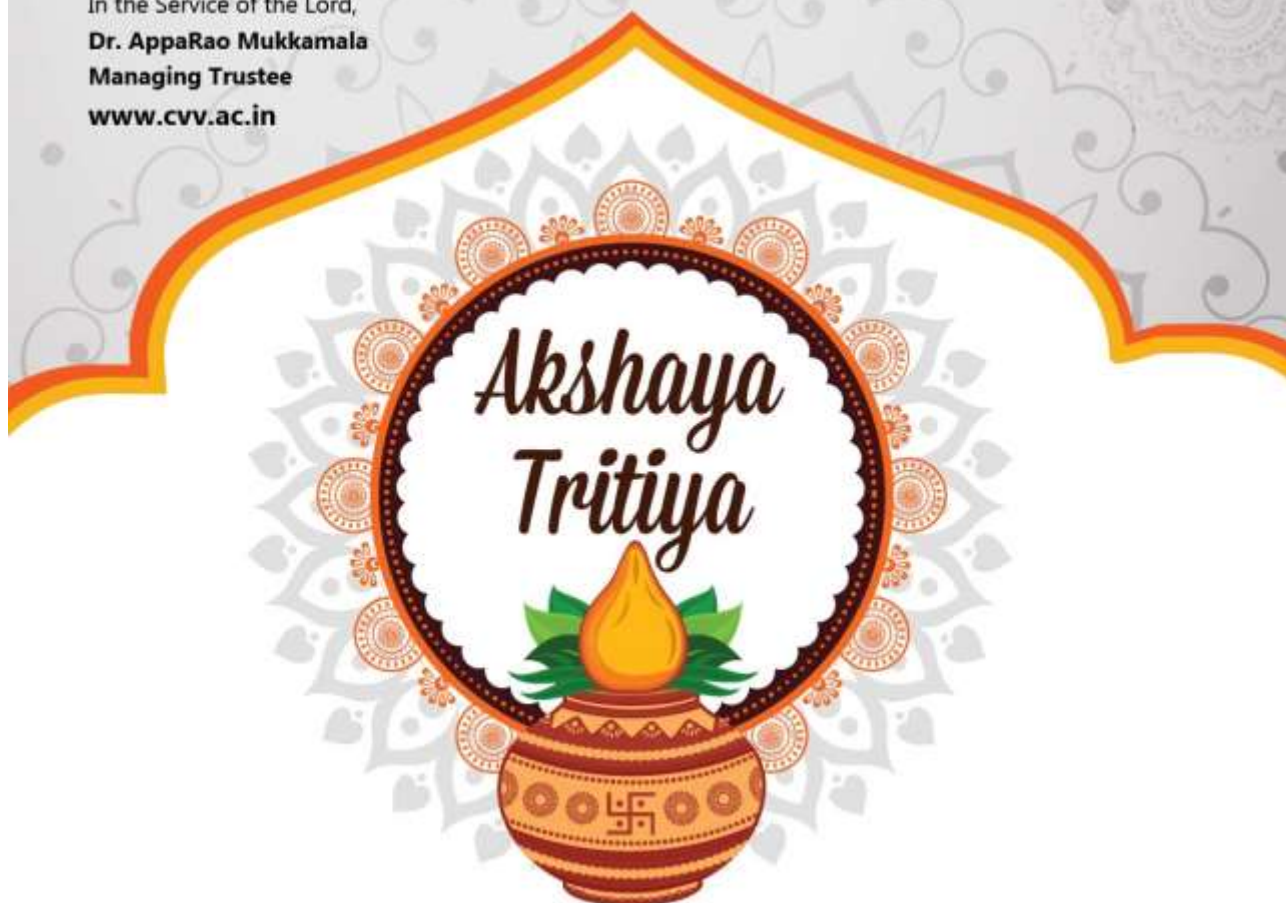
Greetings from Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth on the auspicious day of AkshayaTritiya. This sacred day marked the beginning of Satya Yuga and it is said that all sat-karmas undertaken on this auspicious day become Akshaya (अक्षय) that is 'imperishable, eternal' in the sense of 'prosperity, hope, joy and success'.

The Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth Trust expresses deep gratitude to all the well-wishers, supporters, donors, students and their parents, faculty, staff and the community that is supporting the University. On this auspicious day Chinmaya University is launching the **Vidya Lakshya Nidhi (विद्या लक्ष्य निधि)** schemewhereby a donor of ₹1 lakh (USD 1500) per year for 5 years, will be titled **Vidya Mitra (विद्या मित्र)** – a friend of the Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth, and the donor's name will be permanently engraved on the donors list at the Chinmaya University. In Puja Guruji Swami Tejomayananda's words, Vidya stands for Vishwavidyapeeth and Lakshya means the goal or aim. May this endeavour build an Akshaya Nidhi or Eternal Bounty for the Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth to serve the global community for posterity.

We invoke the grace of Bhagavan and blessings of Puja Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda on all the Family members that have and are supporting the Chinmaya Vishwavidyapeeth.

Thanking You,

In the Service of the Lord,
Dr. AppaRao Mukkamala
Managing Trustee
www.cvv.ac.in



The great day of Dussehra
literally means 'dasa-papa-hara' –
the end of the ten sins. It also means 'Vijayadashami' day –
the day of Shri Parameshwara prapti.

Dussehra is the victory over the senses, signifying
end of Mind; which ends in the disappearance of
the dreadful shadow 'I'.

- Swami Chinmayananda



Light the arrow of knowledge



and destroy the ten headed
ego, Ravana within.

SWAMI SWAROOPANANDA



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Mananam Series of Books These are inviting and engaging series of books that go into depth into one selected spiritual theme per edition (Truth, Compassion, Education, Fear- face it, Science of Sciences, and so on) and bring perspectives on it from different thinkers, writers and traditions of the world. The recent editions of Mananam have focused on the life, teachings, inspiration and legacy of Sri Gurudev, in honor of his birth centenary.

Subscription: please write to editor@mananam.org. Current and past editions can be purchased at our bookstores.)

Tapovan Prasad Subscription (print version or E-version). Tapovan Prasad brings out each month - excerpts from teachings of Swami Tapovan Maharaj, Sri Gurudev, Swami Chinmayananda, Guruji, Swami Tejomayananda and CM acharyas. In addition, it captures the pulse of Chinmaya Mission world-wide with reports on happenings and upcoming events.

Tapovan Prasad Subscription Instructions:

1. Please go to www.tapovanprasad.com website
2. Click on 'Subscribe-advertise-donate' and select 'Print version'
3. Subscription - Overseas'
4. Choose the required subscription package and then Click on 'Add to Cart' and then 'Go to checkout'
5. Please provide username, password, email...details, etc...and proceed.
6. When you click on Axis Bank / CCAvenue payment gateway, enter details and complete the process. (Do revert in case of any problem)

Please consider Other Chinmaya Magazines for your subscriptions:

- Bala Vihar magazine for children, parents and Bala Vihar teachers. subscription link: http://www.chinmayamission.com/balvihar-subscription-overseas/#.WE_LYvkrJhE
- Chinmaya Udghosh - magazine for youth - appropriate for 13-30 year olds subscription link: http://www.chinmayamission.com/our-magazines/chinmaya-udghosh/#.WE_MBPrJhE

Naishtika Brahmacharya Deeksha

Tamil Vedanta Course graduates by Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda



Swamins, Brahmacharins and Members of Chinmaya Mission Worldwide

Hari Om! On the auspicious occasion of Krishna Janmashtami on 24th August, 2019 the Tamil Vedanta Course from 2017-2019 was successfully completed under the resident Acharya Swamini Sampratishtananda.

Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayanandaji initiated two Brahmacharins into naishtika brahmacharya deeksha. The others will serve full time from their respective Centres. Swami Shridharananda and Swamini Vimalananda blessed all the students on the occasion.

I am pleased to announce the names of the students and their postings below:

1. **Krishanth – Br Krishna Chaitanya (CM Sri Lanka)**
2. **Murugesan – Br Isha Chaitanya (CM Kotagiri, TN)**

The following students will serve the Mission with dedication at the following centres:

1. **Hema – (CM Trichy, TN)**
2. **Rajeswari –(CM Kumarakovil, TN)**
3. **Sarvanan – (CM Hosur & CM Salem, TN)**
4. **Prema – (seva from home)**

May the grace of God and Pujya Gurudev's blessings be upon one and all.

Love,

At His Feet,

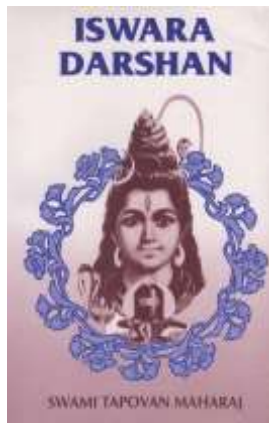
Swaroopananda



Messages from an autobiography of a Mahatma -14 (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 4 – Formal Sannyasa - Becoming Swami Tapovanam & Winter in Uttar Kashi

Veneration (great respect, honor, love, admiration)

Of all the objects of veneration, the Self is the most venerable. It is the noblest 'teertha (a destination for a pilgrim seeking peace and purity)', the holiest of the holies, the fairest of the fair, the dearest among dear, priceless and unsurpassed. It is of the nature of Sat (existence), Chit (knowledge), Ananda (bliss). It is to be sought after by everybody. It shines by itself, like the Sun, in every heart and at all times.

Then why seek other teerthas? Where shall a man go to purify his self? Why rush here or there to enjoy the beauty of beautiful objects?

Immerse yourself in happiness in this principle of the Self; purify yourself; keep the Self in view every moment of your life; find joy in this ever-beautiful thing. A fool rushes out to beg pieces of copper, as he sees not that he has hoarded gold in his house. To search for peace and happiness in the external world is not different from this. He who seeks happiness outside himself will never find satisfaction.

The enlightened sannyasi finds the joy of the Self, when he goes about on pilgrimage visiting teerthas and

mountains. The Self itself is the world. When one realizes that there is not a single atom apart from the Self, how can he find himself in a foreign land? He is ever moving about in the Self finding his joy. To the left, right, above and below, in the front or behind, he perceives only the Self. Whether he is engaged in action or in stock-still meditation, no longer identifying with the body, he finds everlasting joy in the Self

Settled back at Ashram in Rishikesh

Swamiji having realized the Self, was not arduously affected by the pilgrimage to Kailas. It may be said that he had made several worldly gains by the pilgrimage. He settled down in a hut that belonged to Swami Govindagiri. It took him some time to recoup strength in his body and return to steady and austere tapas. The sannyasins at the ashram helped him recover. During his recovery his patiently passed the time and did not succumb to worry. If one gives way to worry and sorrow in the face of pain, how can he come to know the Truth?

After regaining health, Swamiji resumed study of texts at the Kailas Ashram and took up study of Brihadanyaka Upanishad Bhashya and Varthika under guidance of a sannyasi of mature age and wisdom. Thus, he continued study of other texts, joyfully.

Swami Tapovanam

Swamiji's sannyasin friends urged him to go through a formal initiation into Sannyasa order. He would respond, "Just think, what do these samskaras (rites of initiation) purify – body, mind or the Self?" They cannot purify the body or the mind, and as for the Self, being ever pure, it requires no purification. That I have been purified by the samskaras, that all those who have failed to receive the Samskaras remain impure – are illusions cherished only by fools. Irrespective of samskaras, it is good action that purifies man. That being so, a sinner, even if he undergoes samskaras does not become pure".

He however yielded to the pressure of his well-wishers, "a custom may be logical or illogical; but when it is honored by long tradition, by immemorial practice, it becomes bounden duty. He who repudiates such a custom goes beyond the pale of 'dharma', beyond the pale of community life. Social boycott and non-cooperation

cannot affect one's life hereafter; but life here may be slightly affected. It is therefore better to accept 'sannyasa' with proper rites and become a society of sannyasins. Thereby with the help of other sannyasins, life here runs smooth."

Swamiji did not approve of these arguments. His own view was "there is much to learn by association with the society. Without becoming a member of a particular society, it will not be possible to come into intimate relation with the society itself. In these circumstances, even though formal acceptance of sannyasa is superfluous, it is better to become a member of the order of 'Dasanami Sannyasins'.

He approached His Holiness Srimad Janardanagiri Swami, who was then the head of Kailas Mutt. According to His Holiness direction, he completed formal rites on the next Maha Shivaratri Day. Swamiji took on the name 'Tapovanam'. Swami Tyagananda has now become Swami Tapovanam. Thus, all the rites of the order of Sri Sankara were completed.

Uttarkasi

Swamiji spent the winter at Rishikesh in the study of Vedanta and scriptures, and the practice of spiritual sadhana. At the onset of summer, his eyes and heart have been charmed by the sights on height of Himalayas. He decided it was time to go higher up in the mountains. He was healthy but weak owing to 'bhiksha' one time a day and drinking Ganga water.

On an auspicious day of MeghaSamkranti (around middle of April), he headed to Uttarkasi. An English knowing young Brahmin from Tamil Nadu, who had been initiated into sannyasa had become his disciple. This young man, Natesan, accompanied Swamiji. The journey took them a week, enjoying landscapes and resting at wayside villages. Swamiji took up residence at Kailas Mutt, where he had stayed earlier. The natural beauty of Soumyakasi and the music of the Pranava sound (OM) arising from Ganga were as such to produce in his heart a feeling of peace and tranquility. He busied himself with japa, pranayama and asanas, and meditation. He narrated stories from Shanti Parva in the Mahabharata at the request of other residents of the Ashram. He also taught Panchadasi.

Places near Uttarkasi are famous due to their mention in the Vedas and puranas – Uddalaka Ashrama, Jamadagni Ashrama, Varanavatha mountain, etc. Many local stories have sprung up and are still in vogue today. Swamiji would engage in examination of the veracity of these stories. Here and all over India, there are many locations

identified as teerthas. Many of the stories are invented to give credence to holiness. What is needed is critical thinking. Thoughtless acceptance and blind imitation only lead to harm. Thus, he spent 6 months at Uttarkasi. Mostly focused on the Self, and occasionally turning mind outward to address devotees who came seeking contact with the enlightened one. The local 'Pahadi' inherit faith and devotion, but being uneducated and uncultured, evinced no interest in the study of the scriptures or philosophical principles.

A German scholar accompanied by his wife and a government official came to see Swamiji. The scholar, well versed in English, had travelled to India to see Mahatma Gandhi and to get acquainted directly with the spiritual wealth of India, to visit Himalayas and the great saints that dwell there. Swamiji had to draw upon English he had learned while in school to converse, "True indeed! If India has been able to acquire such a great reputation, it is not because of its material wealth but because of her spirituality. The greatness of material wealth is evanescent, charming at the start but sorrowful at the end. On the contrary, the wealth arising out of the realization of Truth is everlasting, uniformly beautiful and blissful. So, it appears great and attractive to all". Over the course of discussion spiritual life, the scholar said, "We of the West are unwise and indiscriminate, for we waste our life sailing in vain over the ocean, on whose bed priceless gems lie strewn. You of the East, on the contrary, are wise and fortunate because, with courage and adventurous spirit, you dive deep down under water and pocket those rare stones, bring them up, enjoy them and render your life fruitful". Our great Rishis of yore, having learned by long experimentation and experience, that material prosperity however great cannot give us ultimate happiness; turned to spiritual perfection which alone can assure man of real, lasting bliss. India ought to remember that the great glory acquired by their motherland as the birthplace for renunciation, dispassion, love and knowledge.

Autumn and Winter

The rainy season had ended. With the arrival of autumn, Ganga water had become clear. The sky shined in the wonderful blue of Para Brahman. Ganga was blue, sky was blue, the dense forest also appeared blue. Swamiji decided to head further north to Gangotri. He proceeded on his way with a chance morsel of food here and there. One day at noon he sat down under a tree with nothing to appease his gnawing hunger. An aged Brahmin approached him and placed boiled potatoes in front of him and prostrated. Swamiji could see how God manages

the universe in His wonderful ways. He also learned how full of faith and devotion the native of the mountains are towards sannyasins.

Swamiji arrived at Gangotri and decided he had to make arrangements for food before he can spend time there. He also wished to visit Gomukhi where Ganga emerges into the open for the first time. But for lack of a guide, he decided to pursue that later. He then embarked on a return journey to Uttarkasi. At a place called Bhaskar Prayag, he met a saintly person, Goswami Sri Ganesdatta Sastri. He was the founder-secretary of 'Sanatana Dharma Pratinidhi Sabha' of Punjab. He had heard about Swamiji and was eagerly looking to meet him. They spent time discussing philosophical topics, and thus started a friendship between them in 1926, and grew stronger and deeper as time passed.

Swamiji took up abode in Kailas Mutt again. In time, the Himalayan winter had arrived. This year the winter was rather unprecedented in its rigor. Most sannyasins had left for relatively warmer places such as Rishikesh. Swamiji decided to test his endurance. He also decided to see for himself the solitary and beautiful moods of the Himalayas which can only be experienced in the wintertime.

In the benumbing cold, he bathed in the Ganga every day and carried on the study of scriptures and meditation. He experienced snow coming down like whiffs of cotton. The snow-covered regions shining like molten silver in the bright sunlight. In front, behind, to the right, to the left, above and below – everywhere it was snow. No bird stirs, no animal moves and even man has become stock-still. The sight of this natural beauty could not satiate Swamiji. He found the Self reflected in nature. Reveling repeatedly and long in such natural beauty, the mind will finally turn to the Creator. Forgetting the external world, it will get immersed in the Auspicious One.

Advaita (monism)

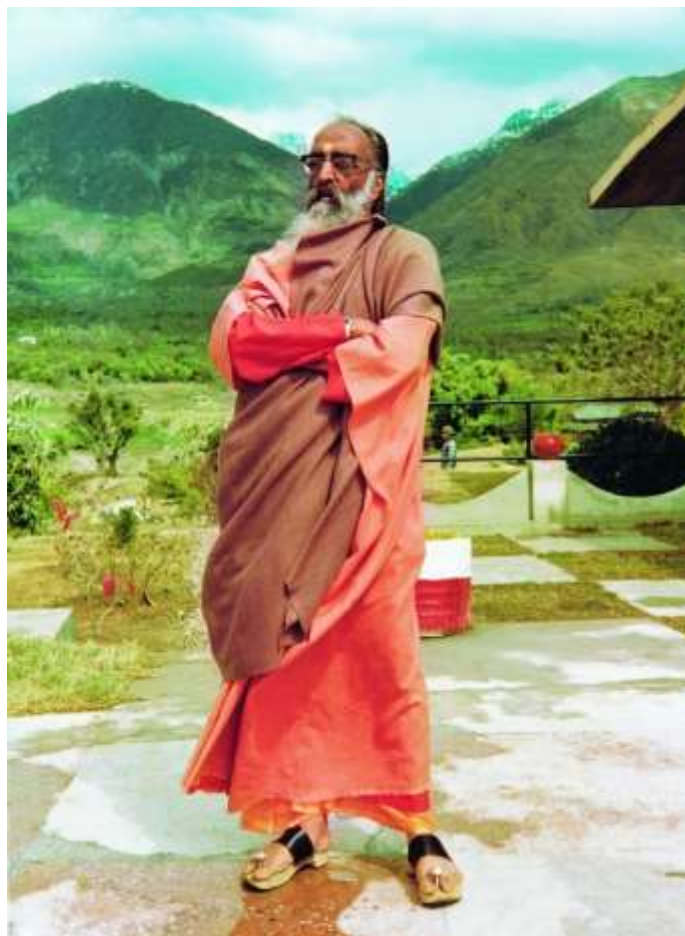
Advaita alone can assure an aspirant for liberation that bliss and peace that he desires; dvaita (dualism), which is the cause of endless sorrows and miseries hardly deserves to hold Advaita face to face. Even as the mind becomes one with love, aversion (to material wealth) and mercy according to the sights before the eye, it attains the highest happiness from the joy of the Self by ascending the peak of Advaita. The enlightened and liberated soul withdraws the mind from all external activities and surrendering itself at the feet of the Supreme Lord, rises above all thought and attains the supreme bliss. Thus,

imbibing the elixir of joy from the beautiful sights of the Himalayas, Swamiji lost the dual consciousness and immersed himself in the ocean of Advaita so much so, that he was hardly aware of the hardships caused by snowfall.

To Be Continued

Gurudev Uvacha

Inspiring Quotes from Pujya Gurudev Chinmayananda



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

The paramount duty of a Sanyasin who has renounced the world is the uninterrupted practice of spiritual discipline which alone leads to moksha.

The utter fulfillment of all seeking is indeed in the total experience of the Absolute Oneness, and this alone is the theme of Sankara, the Advaitin.

Mind is "thought-flow". Drop your mind.... thoughts cease.... mind ends.... There where the mind has ended, there stands the Self -- YOU.

The Divine Song discusses the immortal Goal of Oneness which is the theme of the Vedanta--the Upanishads.

The farther the ego is from the Truth, the more deluded it is. The attempt to come nearer the Truth is what a Bhakta is striving for. Such a seeker, such a tireless striver after Truth is a Sadhaka.

It is a pilgrimage of the alone to the Alone all alone. it is a subjective unfoldment.