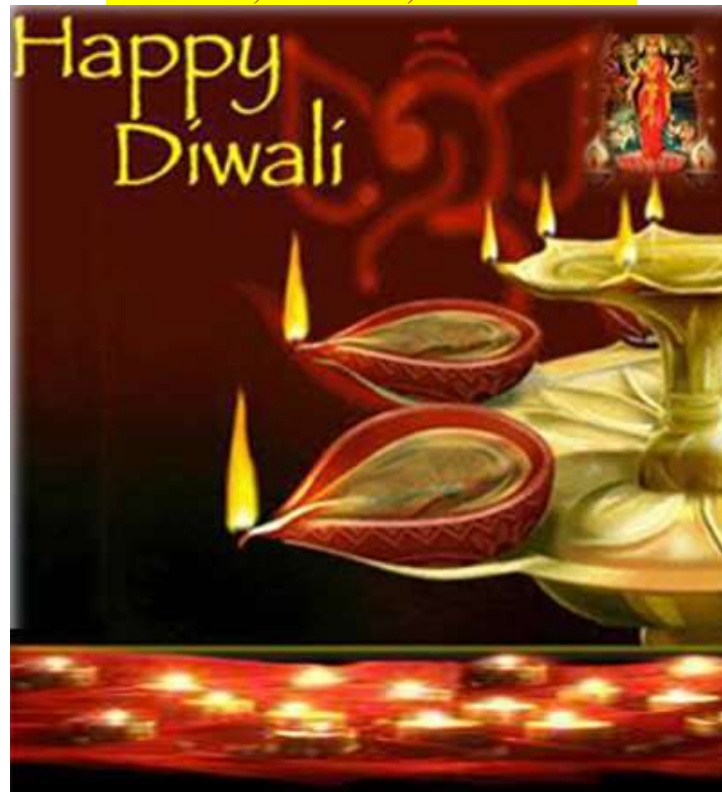


# Chinmaya Smrithi



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

Volume 30, Number 6, November 2020



Our salutations to the light of Knowledge

## 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 13].

अर्थस्य निश्चयो दृष्टो विचारेण हितोक्तितः ।  
न स्नानेन न दानेन प्राणायमशतेन वा ॥ 13 ॥

*arthasya niścayo dṛṣṭo vicāreṇa hitoktitaḥ |  
na snānena na dānena prāṇāyamaśatena vā || 13 ||*

Meaning: Neither sacred baths nor any amount of charity nor even hundreds of Pranayamas can give us the knowledge about our own Self but a firm experience of the nature of the Self can be gained when we send our thoughts along the rails of arguments laid down in the salutary advices of the wise.

In the previous verse, the Acharya explains that the Self is apprehended only by a sincere seeker. In this verse he further explains that the nature of the Self is realized only through inquiry. This is conveyed to us through the teachings of the sages who are our well-wishers. One cannot recognize the Self by taking a bath or true charity or even a hundred Pranayamas. The astronauts, who have gone beyond the earth's atmosphere and seen the earth rotating come back to earth and pass on this knowledge. Similarly, the sages have gone beyond the mind and intellect to realize the Self come back to provide this knowledge to the seekers.

The Rishis realized this Self based on their Guru's guidance. Imagine a person seeing a snake on a rope. Even after taking a bath this person will still see a snake. By doing charity, your misapprehension will not disappear. Even by doing hundreds of breathing exercises you will not achieve Self-realization.

Bathing is for physical purity. Charity and pranayamas will only help in purifying the mind and energizing the body.

All these are necessary but not sufficient for self - realization. If you are blessed to have more wealth than what you need, charity is recommended. It is the only way to prevent further indulgence in egocentric desires. Wealth can only be purified through charity. The Self can only be recognized by inquiry. Hence it is important to adopt the right means to reach the goal. If you want to experience color, you need eyes. Ears cannot experience color. Eyes cannot experience sound. In the same way, inquiry is essential to recognize the Self. To realize the goal of Self-realization, you need to approach a Guru. The six verses (8-13) summarize the means of wisdom.

Many students come to the same teacher. The subject taught is also the same. However, the success of the student in achieving Self-realization depends entirely on the qualifications of the student. This is referred to as Adhikari. The Acharya explains this in the next verse. The next four verses (14-17) summarize the qualifications of a fit student.

## Calendar and Upcoming Events

### Upcoming Events

- December 12<sup>th</sup>: Jai Jai Ramakrishna Hari, an evening of Bhajans by the Majmundar family accompanied by Balavihar artistes Anisha, Mitaali, Sanjana and Srijan from 4 to 6:30 p.m.
- December 26 -30 : Bhagwad Gita Jnana Yagna discourses on Chapter 2 Verses 1-18 by Swami Dheeranandaji from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- October 1<sup>st</sup> onwards: Weekly Vivekachudamani classes by Swami Dheerananda every Thursday from 7 to 8:30 p.m.
- January 1<sup>st</sup> : Welcome 2021 with Puja led by Balavihar children, Bhajans and a message from Swami Dheerananda from 10 a.m. to noon.
- Multiple online study groups available in the comfort of your own home – please see Flyers in this edition for details.
- August 3<sup>rd</sup> onward: Chinmaya Ashtottarashata Namavali lectures for 108 days on Chinmaya youtube channel.

### Study Groups

- Please contact Sri Sangamesh Konaraddi by email at [sang.kona@gmail.com](mailto:sang.kona@gmail.com), if you are interested in learning more about study groups.

### Bookstore/Library

- Browse Books, CDs, DVDs, etc. online at [www.chinmayapublications.com](http://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 – Sep 2020, are due by August 31, 2020
- Email submissions to [smrithi-editor@chinmayadc.org](mailto:smrithi-editor@chinmayadc.org).
- Browse Past editions at [www.chinmayadc.org/Smrithi/Smrithi.htm](http://www.chinmayadc.org/Smrithi/Smrithi.htm)

### Useful Links:

Central Chinmaya Mission Trust [www.chinmayamission.com](http://www.chinmayamission.com)  
Chinmaya Mission West [www.chinmayamission.org](http://www.chinmayamission.org)  
Chinmaya International Foundation, E-Vedanta Courses [www.chinfo.org](http://www.chinfo.org)  
Chinmayam Chapter – Silver Spring MD website <http://chinmayam.chinmayadc.org/chinmayam-chapter/>  
Chinmaya Somnath Chapter – Chantilly VA website [www.chinmayasomnath.org](http://www.chinmayasomnath.org)  
Chinmaya Frederick Chapter – Urbana MD website <http://www.frederick.cmwrc.org/>  
Chinmaya Richmond Chapter – Richmond VA website [www.chinmayarichmond.org](http://www.chinmayarichmond.org)  
CMWRC – Washington Regional Center [www.chinmayadc.org](http://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](mailto:smrithi-editor@chinmayadc.org))

Editor: K.A. Lakshmanan

Advisers: Vilasini Balakrishnan, Pujya Swami Dheeranandaji. Sitaram Kowtha

BV students – Please contact the editorial staff if interested to volunteer.

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

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## News & Tidbits

### Annual Fund Raiser

The CMWRC community conducted the first ever online Annual Fund Raiser. Rising to the unique challenges posed by the pandemic this year, the group of dedicated Sevaks led by Uday Nanavatiji successfully organized this year's fund raiser Chinmayam Krishna inspired by Gurudev's blessings and Swami Dheeranandaji's guidance. Featuring an invocation by Shloka class children, the evening was graced by mellifluous Bhajans led by Swami Siddhananda accompanied by various local artistes from our CMWRC family.

### Navaratri celebrations

From October 17 to October 26, the CMWRC family celebrated a unique Navaratri. Every evening, there was Lalitha Sahasranam chanting followed by an inspiring message from Acharyas and Swamijis. The event also featured a Shodashopachara Puja led by Sri Gopalakrishna on one day. The online event organized by Deepa Krishnanji and other Sevaks provided the CMWRC family an opportunity to celebrate Navaratri together.

### Divya Shakti Reunion

An online dialog with Vilasiniji and Vivekji was held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

### Launch of CMWRC Youtube channels

CMWRC has launched a new Youtube channel which can be your one-place stop to listen to all the events, discourses and talks from various visiting Vedanta teachers. Please subscribe to this channel and you can

access the various events from one channel. Exciting new programs are constantly advertised in the weekly announcements.

### Food Drive

In order to alleviate the distress caused due to the pandemic and in keeping with the spirit of giving back to the local community, Sevaks have organized a monthly food drive where bags of groceries are distributed to needy families. Please review the flyers and weekly announcements to get more information on details of how you can help and contribute to this noble cause. Over 800 bags of groceries have been successfully donated as part of 4 monthly food drives over the past 4 months.

### 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!

 Chinmaya Mission® Washington Regional Center 

**|| श्री राम प्रसन्न ||**



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समर्थ श्री रामदास स्वामी

श्री. अरविंद भागवत यांचे मराठीतून विवेचन  
[इंटरनेट माध्यमातून]

दर सोमवारी संध्या. ७.०० ते ८.१५ व  
दर मंगळवारी संध्या. ७.४५ ते ९.००  
(East Coast time)



Every Monday 7 pm – 8.15 pm and  
Every Tuesday 7.45 pm – 9.0 pm  
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(with your choice of the session)

<https://tinyurl.com/dasbodh>

 CHINMAYA MISSION® WASHINGTON REGIONAL CENTER 

**STUDY VIVEKACUDAMANI**  
with Swami Dheerananda

**Every Thursday**  
**7:00 pm - 8:30 pm (EST)**  
**ONLINE**

Ā D I S A N K A R Ā C Ā R Y A ' S  
**VIVEKACŪḌĀMANI**  
COMMENTARY BY SWAMI CHINMAYANANDA

Vivekachoodamani classes will restart on 1st October, 2020

# FOOD FOR THE NEEDY

Chinmaya Mission has been distributing food through non-profit organizations in our communities whose values align with the CMWRC vision of serving the needy, by collecting food and donations from Mission members. CMWRC relies on YOUR generous contributions and volunteer services to serve the needy in the community.

## WAYS TO DONATE



- Make a check payable to CMWRC (in the memo section please write "Food for the Needy")
- Online - with eCheck (preferred) or with Credit Card at [www.chinmayadc.org/Food-For-The-Needy](http://www.chinmayadc.org/Food-For-The-Needy).

**YOU CAN ALSO DROP-OFF** non-perishable, unexpired, unopened Food Supplies at

### KAILAS NIWAS (Rear Entrance)

46 Norwood Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20905

*Before Dropping,  
Text or Email Dharmaraj*  
Ph: (301) 928-7753  
Email: [draghavan@Howard.edu](mailto:draghavan@Howard.edu)

### CHINMAYA SOMNATH

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Vegetarian  
ONLY

**Join the Team** Send email to [AnnaDaanaTeam@chinmayadc.org](mailto:AnnaDaanaTeam@chinmayadc.org)

# Arpanam

An Offering of Gratitude | Annual Donation Pledge

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



**GROW SPIRITUALLY AND HELP OUR CENTER EXPAND TO SERVE MORE**

*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*

## 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

## VEDANTA SESSIONS FOR ADULTS

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NEW THIS YEAR

3 Adult sessions with different curriculum available

Sessions do not run in parallel with Bala Vihar Classes



### HAPPINESS MADE EASY

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(Vedanta Teacher)

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11:00 AM - 12:00 PM



### EMPOWERMENT FROM WITHIN

Led by  
**Medha Bhagwat**  
(Vedanta Teacher)

EVERY FRIDAY  
8:00 PM - 9:00 PM



### BHAGAVAD GEETA CLASSES

Led by  
**Vijay Kumar**  
(Vedanta Teacher)

EVERY SUNDAY  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

For any questions, email [director@chinmayasomnath.org](mailto:director@chinmayasomnath.org)

# 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

Registration for 2017-18 Now Open!



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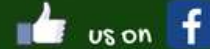
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Chantilly, VA 20151



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## YouTube CMWRC Discourses YouTube Channel

### Ashtottara Sata Namavali - Gurudev's Glorious 108 Names



Offer Your Gratitude  
Place an order for the artwork donated by CMWRC artist







CHINMAYA MISSION® WASHINGTON REGIONAL CENTER



# Chinmayam Devi Group

led by Medha ji

## UPANISHAD GANGA

Upanishad Ganga is a television serial produced by Chinmaya Mission and directed by Dr. Chandraprakash Dwivedi (director of famous TV serial Chanakya).

It covers the entire gamut of Indian culture, heritage, philosophy and wisdom. It addresses, in the form of a drama, the universal questions such as who am I, what are my duties, how to be happy and successful.

Join and discuss the practical applications of the knowledge in our day to day life.

**Every Tuesday | 8.30 pm - 9:45 pm**  
**via Zoom (Online)**

*Smt. Medha Bhagwat, a scientist by profession, CMWRC member since 1988, serving currently as a Vedanta Teacher, formerly as a Bala Vihar teacher.*

**To register, interested Devis can contact  
Chinmayam Devi Group Coordinators:**

**Pratima Jadhav | Deepa Krishnan**

**Email: [chinmayam\\_devigroup@chinmayadc.org](mailto:chinmayam_devigroup@chinmayadc.org)**





# Bhagavad Geeta Jnana Yajna

*(Free Online Discourses Open To All)*



## GEETA CHAPTER 2 Verses 1-18

Sāṅkhya-Yogaḥ - The Yoga of Knowledge

Sat, Dec 26th - Wed, Dec 30th 2020

7.00 pm - 8.30 pm

*By Swami Dheerananda*

Link to Join: <https://bit.ly/GeetaYajna2020>



# CELEBRATE NEW YEAR

*with*

Puja Led By Bala Vihar Children

Bhajans

Message By Swami Dheerananda

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1ST 2021

10.00 AM - 12.00 PM



Link to Join: <https://bit.ly/NewYearPuja2021>



# 2021 Geeta Chanting Competition

CHANT GEETA | ENCHANT KRISHNA | CELEBRATE CHINMAYA

**CHAPTER 2 | VERSES 1 - 18 | YOGA OF KNOWLEDGE**

For any questions, email [geetachantingteam@chinmayadc.org](mailto:geetachantingteam@chinmayadc.org)

*All are invited  
Children, Youth & Adults*

### PARTICIPATION CATEGORIES

- Memory
- Memory & Comprehension
- Reading
- Reading & Comprehension
- Writing (Reflection)



**CHINMAYAM**  
(Silver Spring, MD)  
March 20, 2021

**CHINMAYA SOMNATH**  
(Chantilly, VA)  
March 20, 2021

**CHINMAYA FREDERICK**  
(Urbana, MD)  
March 21, 2021

*\*\* Location & Timings - Details will follow \*\**

Register Today!

Registration pledge: Individual \$25 | Family \$50 [www.chinmayadc.org/geetachanting](http://www.chinmayadc.org/geetachanting)

Hari Om ! Pranams !!

Kindly find the link for "Tapovan Prasad" Digital version Magazine for October 2020.

<http://digitalbooks.chinmayamission.com/DM/Books-DM/TP/october-2020/digital/mobile/index.html>

# BOOKLIGHT FALL 2020

Mondays 9 PM ET | 8 PM CT | 6 PM PT

Online Satsang led by Swamins of Chinmaya Mission

**As I Think: Essays on Nation Building**



As I Think  
Swami Chinmayananda



Swami Mitrananda  
As I Think: Introduction  
September 7



Swami Swatmananda  
Dawn of Our Culture  
September 21



Swami Nirbhayananda  
Serve A New Religion  
October 5



Swami Chidrupananda  
Live and Preach  
October 19



Swami Shivayogananda  
Rediscover Our Religion  
November 2



Swami Ramakrishnananda  
Beware- The Cheap Gods  
November 16



Swami Advayananda  
Our Generation-The Modern  
November 30



Swami Sarveshananda  
The Sacred-The Secular  
December 14



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# Chinmaya Mission

## Chinmaya International Foundation



*Invites Applications for the First*



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**A one year residential Vedanta Course in English**

### Eligibility

- Age 32 to 65 years
- Keen interest in Vedantic studies and to live the life of a sadhaka (spiritual seeker)

### Course Objectives

- To gain an in-depth knowledge of Vedanta
- To acquire clarity about the spiritual path and the spiritual practices

### Course Acharyas

**Mukhya Acharya** – Pujya Swami Swaroopananda

**Resident Acharyas** – Swami Advayananda and Swami Sharadananda

### Venue

Chinmaya International Foundation  
Adi Sankara Nilayam  
(maternal birth-home of Sri Adi Sankara)

### Date of commencement

Vijayadashami,  
15<sup>th</sup> October, 2021

For Course Donation and Queries

For Application Form and other details

+91 92077 11142 | +91 97468 24142 | [vsc@chinfo.org](mailto:vsc@chinfo.org) | [chinfo.org/vsc](http://chinfo.org/vsc)

Chinmaya International Foundation, Adi Sankara Nilayam, Veliyanad – 682313, Ernakulam, Kerala, India

**What is Diwali – A message from Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda**



On this Sacred day of Deepavali (Diwali) at dusk when darkness intensifies, all homes are illumined by lights, tiny mud pots with oil wicks. I appeal that this day is a day of prayer and expression of love. Get out of your homes in the evening and embrace every other individual in society not because they are Hindus but, because they too are small flames of the same light Divine. This Pure Divine light can impart a joyous sense of perfection in the ways of men & women. Diwali is a day dedicated to inner purity and noble character. – Swami Chinmayananda

The story behind Deepavali (Diwali) is when Krishna, the Lord, went and came back vanquishing an enemy in a confrontation. When he came back the gopis, the community members, in order to celebrate that victory put lights in their houses. As there was no electric light in those days they took a mud pot with some oil and a wick and lighted it up, so that Krishna when returning, pretty late at night, the entire place was illuminated.

The victory of the Lord over negative forces, this is to be done within you. Within you, you are confronting at all times the tension between the noble aspirations and ideals, and the pull of the lower flesh, fleshly lust, greed and passions. This is a constant confrontation at your psychological level. But at certain moments, by His grace, we win a victory over the negative forces, as we are now because our mind is turned at something Higher. But in this tempo of goodness, you cannot remain constantly. Again they will collect themselves and come.

So whenever thus, the lower nature in us is conquered, and we maintain the higher values of life and come to live, there is a glow of beauty in you. Light stands for knowledge. So every individual lights up...not the outside light.

‘Deep-avali’ means rows and rows of light. This is the goal of our culture. Whether it is many cultures put together, or a particular religion being evolved in every other nation. What is the attempt? To bring the better man out of the vulgar, the animal, the baseman. When does an individual become civilized and we say that he is a cultured, educated man? When he is able to control his lower passions to an extent.

The good, cultured man also feels lust. Don’t say “No.” He also feels angry. But like an animal with no control – when the anger comes you express the anger, when lust comes you express the lust. Then he is an uncultured man. He, who is in spite of the anger knows this is not the right time, right place, right person. And therefore swallow it down and brings a smile on the face, is called a cultured man. Isn’t it?

So a readiness to make that sacrifice and win over the lower nature, is to light up the lamp of knowledge, wisdom and beauty in yourself. So Deepavali (Diwali) is, a reminder to the community that there is a greater way of cultured living, than the mere animal level. Whatever you feel, you just do it, that is not it! You must look around. You’ve been given a discriminative intellect; you are not an animal.

The animal is allowed to do because he doesn’t know how to discriminate. But man is supposed to live from the intellectual standpoint. And don’t do things which will bring harm to yourself later on, or sorrow to other members at this moment. That means you have to conquer your own selfish, immediate demand for the sake of the others. This is what Deepavali (Diwali) really stands for.



CHINMAYA MISSION® WASHINGTON REGIONAL CENTER

*To give maximum happiness to maximum people for maximum time*

[www.chinmayadc.org](http://www.chinmayadc.org)



# JAI JAI RAMKRISHNA HARI



## An evening of Bhajans

by

The Majmundar Family

(Krushanu, Deeti, Shubhani & Vivaan)

+

Bala Vihar Artists

(Anisha, Mitaali, Sanjana & Srijan)

Krushanu & Deeti are accomplished performers in light and semi classical music and were finalists in Zee Tv's SA RE GA MA PA.

They have been serving Chinmaya Mission for past few years and offer their music to the feet of Gurudev and Swamiji.



# December 12, 2020

# 4:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Link to Join:

<http://bit.ly/2020-Bhajans-Majmundar-Family>

We are One Chinmaya Family! Blessed to be under the Glorious Wings of Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda!

## Subscribe to Inspiring Chinmaya Mission Magazines

**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](mailto: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](http://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](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](http://www.chinmayamission.com/our-magazines/chinmaya-udghosh/#.WE_MBPrJhE)

## Deeksha Ceremony at CIF

### Message from Central Chinmaya Mission



Swamins, Brahmacharins and Members of Chinmaya Mission Worldwide

Dear All,  
Hari Om!

I am pleased to share a report from Chinmaya International Foundation (CIF), Adi Sankara Nilayam, on the Deeksha ceremony and Valedictory function of the 3rd Malayalam Vedanta Course, which was held there on 2 October 2020.

The ceremony and function took place in the presence of Global Head of Chinmaya Mission, Pujya Swami Swaroopananda, Swami Viviktananda (Regional Head of Chinmaya Mission Kerala) and other Swamins, Brahmacharins and devotees of Chinmaya Mission. Three student Brahmacharis were given Brahmachari Deeksha by Swami Swaroopananda:

<u>Sr No</u>	<u>Old Name</u>	<u>New Name</u>	<u>Posting</u>
1	Ramesh	Br. Shankara Chaitanya	CM Thiruvananthapuram
2	Raghu Ganesh	Br. Prahlad Chaitanya	CM Palakkad
3	Adarsh	Br. Vishnu Chaitanya	CM Chengannur

Three student Brahmacharis will serve Chinmaya Mission in white clothes:

<u>Sr No</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Posting</u>
1	Br. Sudheesh	CM Alappuzha
2	Br. Vinay	CM Taliparamba
3	Br. Sudhir	CM Tripunithura

The programme included two benedictory addresses - the first by Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda in Sanskrit and the second by Swami Viviktananda. Swami Gabheerananda, Swami Aseshananda, Swami Satyananda and Swami Advayananda blessed the Brahmacharis with their words of wisdom, after which Shri T. M. Reghunandan (Trustee-Treasurer, CSTK) delivered the vote of thanks.

The event concluded with Shanti Path followed by recitation of the Chinmaya Mission Pledge. Please see some photographs attached.

Our best wishes to the Brahmacharis, who will continue to serve the noble vision of Pujya Gurudev, bringing joy, fulfillment and wisdom into the lives of those they touch by their selfless, dedicated seva.

With Prem & OM!

In His Service,

Manisha Khemlani,

Chief Executive Officer





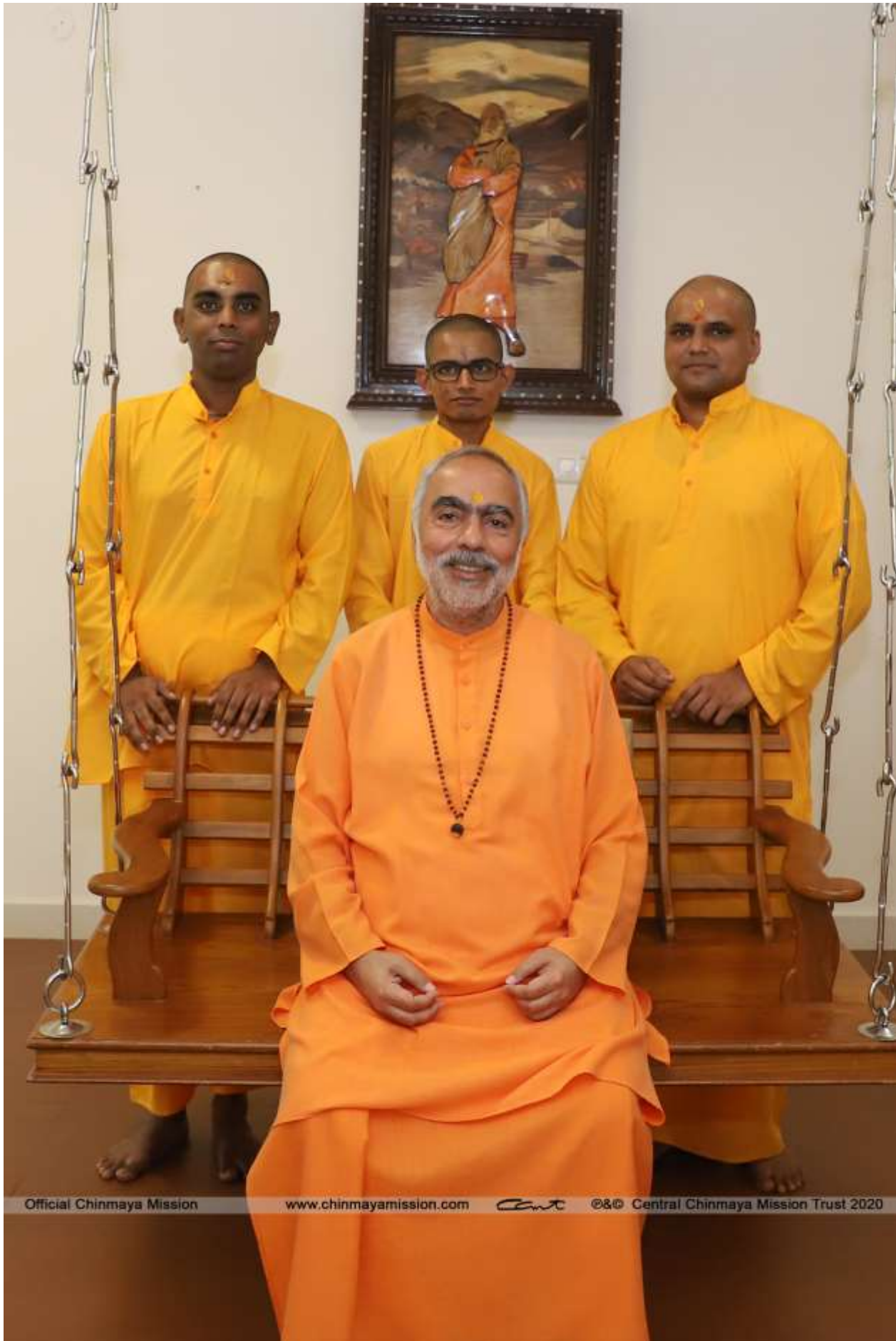
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## Painting of Durga Devi (Maa Durga)

*Sajni Srinivasan*



By **Sajni Srinivasan**, Sundaram Sunday AM Balavihar

## Painting of Lord Krishna

*Pahal Majumdar*



By **Pahal Majumdar**, Sundaram Sunday AM Balavihar

## Musings by JCHYKs

### *Various Chinmayam JCHYKs in 12<sup>th</sup> grade.*

"I remember being six years old, wandering the halls and desperately trying to find the Satyam classroom. I remember being twelve years old, sprinting through the rain to Devi Nivas, trying not to slip on the gravel. I remember being sixteen years old, standing on the stage to present my Gita verse analysis to the audience of my peers and teachers. It's unreal to think that after this year, I will no longer spend every Sunday creating new memories at Chinmaya Mission.

As a senior in Balavihar, I have recently reflected on my time here and what it has meant to me. Chinmaya Mission has been part of my life for as long as I can remember, and with each change in my life, my takeaways from my classes changed as well.

When I entered middle school, Balavihar taught me how to navigate relationships with friends and family. When I entered high school, Balavihar taught me how to detach from thinking about the end result in any competitive environment. Now, as I apply to college, Balavihar is teaching me to enjoy every moment to the fullest and keep an open mind for the road ahead.

Through the guidance and teachings of Swamiji and my Balavihar teachers, I have strengthened my faith in Hinduism and gained clarity in pursuing my goals. I am thankful to all of them, and Gurudev, for creating an environment where I continue to learn and grow. While it is bittersweet to leave Balavihar, I am excited for the next step of my life and to continue to be involved in Chinmaya Mission."

Anisha Shankar

"Hari Om! This year is my last year in both high school and Bala Vihar.

For me, it feels almost like a hoax. Having grown up in Chinmaya Mission, it feels surreal to be heading into my final year as a Bala Vihar student. Make no mistake, I'll always consider myself a "Bala Vihar kid," but my journey through it is indeed coming to an end.

Chinmaya Mission has always been a second home to me, through summer camp, Bhiksha, and of course, Bala Vihar. As I enter my final year of Bala Vihar, I have had time to reflect on all I've learned and understood. The biggest takeaway I have comprehended is that I must observe and adapt to the world around me - but I must also complete my dharma, my duty, as I go through each stage of life.

The world is ever evolving, and as I've grown up, I've had the opportunity to view it through different perspectives, namely because of my Bala Vihar Teachers. They each gave me a different colored lens that I have used to understand the world around me. Each one of them has taught me countless lessons, ranging from what each Deity represents, all the way to messages in the Bhagavad Gita. Swamiji, of course, has remained a constant presence in my life. Swamiji gave me the courage to try blackberries while simultaneously explaining the meaning of life. (Hint, the meaning of life is to fulfill your purpose - everlasting happiness.)

To all of my teachers from Madhuram to Chinmayam: thank you for being a continuous inspiration."

A Chinmayam student.

**The opinions expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official views of Chinmaya Mission or CMWRC.**

## Tapovan Jayanti Celebrations

### Message from Central Chinmaya Mission

ॐ

Swamins, Brahmacharins and Members of Chinmaya Mission Worldwide

Dear All,  
Hari Om!

As Pujya Swami Swaroopananda shared via email a few weeks ago, the Global Chinmaya Mission family will be coming together for **Tapo Geeta Jayanti Fest** from 5 December 2020, a 21-day celebration on Chinmaya Channel (YouTube) centred around the Bhagavad Geeta, which is Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda's life breath.

#### **Highlights:**

#### **18 Chapters in 18 Days**

Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda will begin on 5 December 2020 with an inaugural discourse followed by different Swamins from all over the world speaking on one chapter of Bhagavad Geeta each. The Geeta Jnana Yajna will be concluded by Pujya Swami Swaroopananda on 24 December 2020.

#### **Bhagavad Geeta in over 18 Languages**

To celebrate the universality of the Bhagavad Geeta, Swamins, Brahmacharins and Sandeepany graduates will be speaking in various languages about the relevance of the Geeta in today's world, starting on 6 December 2020.

#### **Special Celebration of Geeta Jayanti & Shri Tapovan Jayanti**

#### **25 December 2020**

A virtual tour of Uttarkashi, talks by Pujya Guruji and Pujya Swamiji and a special documentary release followed by mass worldwide chanting where Chinmaya Mission members will chant selected verses of the Geeta together. The shlokas will be shared with all in due course.

More details about this first-of-its-kind programme are available via this link:

<http://share.chinmayamission.com/docs/TapoGeetaJayantiFest.pdf>

Please share this information as widely as possible, via email as well as all Social Media avenues.

And there's more for Geeta Jayanti & Shri Tapovan Jayanti too! The website [theholyyeeta.com](http://theholyyeeta.com) will be launched by Pujya Swamiji on 5 December 2020, there are special promotions on publications being planned and lots of inspiring audio-visual content coming your way! Stay connected!

ॐ गीताज्ञानयज्ञप्रचारकाय नमः

With Prem & OM!

In His Service,

Manisha Khemlani,

Chief Executive Officer

## Shraddhanjali

### *Samadhi of Swami Subodhananda*



Swamins, Brahmacharins and Members of Chinmaya Mission Worldwide

Dear All,  
Hari Om!

It is with a heavy heart that we inform all devotees of Chinmaya Mission that our dear and respected Swami Subodhananda, Regional Head of Chinmaya Mission Centres of North India, attained Mahasamadhi in Sidhbari in the early hours of 27 September 2020, having suffered a cardiac arrest. He has reached the Lotus Feet of Pujya Gurudev.

Swami Subodhananda's natural and deep interest in Vedanta brought him to the portals of Sandeepany Himalayas, Sidhbari, in 1981, where he attended the first Hindi Vedanta Course under the tutelage of Pujya Guruji. After the Vedanta course he worked at Prayagraj as Brahmachari Vishal Chaitanya. Later on, Pujya Gurudev himself initiated him into the order of Sannyasa, bestowing on him the name Swami Subodhananda.

Swami Subodhananda had taught Hindi Vedanta Courses in Sandeepany Prayag and Sandeepany Himalayas. He remained in Sidhbari and taught and guided students of several batches.

With deep and reverential devotion, Swami Subodhananda served Pujya Gurudev when he was unwell in Sidhbari. Swami Subodhananda was known for his in-depth and scholarly knowledge of Vedanta. His talks on Bhagavad Gita, Ramayana and Bhagavata were very popular. He was fond of discussing Vedantic topics with students and would encourage reflection on such topics.

Our respectful homage to Swami Subodhananda.

At His Feet,

Swami Swaroopananda

## Reflections on Narayaneeyam – Dasaka 3 -The Qualities of the Perfect Devotee

*Kodanate Lakshmanan*

**Editor's Note:** *With the grace and blessings of Swami Dheeranandaji, this is a series of reflections on Narayaneeyam, a devotional composition by Melpathur Narayana Bhattathiripad, containing the essence of Srimad Bhagawatham.*

### Narayaneeyam



Om Ganeshaya Namaha. Om Saraswatyai Namaha. Om Shri Gurubhyo Namaha.

This Dashaka is chanted in the Sikharini metre.

After describing the glory of the Lord in the first Dashaka and the Form of the Lord used by devotees for meditation in the second Dashaka, the poet Narayana Bhattathiripad turns to the qualifications of the perfect devotee in the third Dashaka. This conforms with traditional classics where the seeker's qualifications are highlighted at the beginning of any work.

पठन्तो नामानि प्रमदभरसिन्धौ निपतिताः  
स्मरन्तो रूपं ते वरद कथयन्तो गुणकथाः।  
चरन्तो ये भक्तास्त्वयि खलु रमन्ते परममू-  
नहं धन्यान्मन्ये समधिगतसर्वाभिलषितान् ॥ १ ॥

*paṭhanto nāmāni pramadabharasindhau nipatitāḥ  
smaranto rūpaṃ te varada kathayanto guṇakathāḥ।  
caranto ye bhaktāstvayi khalu ramante paramamū-  
naham dhanyānmanye samadhigatasarvābhilaṣitān ॥ 1 ॥*

In the first verse, the poet gives us an insight into the pure devotees' mind whom he describes as constantly engaged in chanting the Lord's name and meditating on His form. Thus, they are very fortunate as they remain ever submerged in the ocean of bliss. Even when the devotees meet each other, they are always narrating to each other the excellent qualities of the Lord. They spend their time visiting temples and other holy places without any fixed places of residence. Furthermore, their hearts are filled with devotion to the Lord and they have no desires in this material world.

The poet started this poem as advised by his well-wishers to overcome the physical ailment that he was suffering from (for details, please refer to the introductory installment of this series). In this second verse, he bemoans that he is unable to even desire for the intense bliss of the worship of the Lord's feet tormented as he is by the afflictions of the body and the mind. He beseeches the Lord to have compassion on him and shower His grace so that he may be able to chant the Lord's names single mindedly. In the third verse, the poet requests the Lord to put an end to his afflictions so that he may also be like the Lord's devotees who are free from all sorrow and move about as they please enjoying bliss having attained the state of liberation-in-life (Jeevanmukti).

In the fourth verse, the poet expounds further upon this idea and gives the examples of Devarishi Narada and Brahamarishi Suka (who narrated the Bhagwatam to King Parikshit when the King had only seven days left on earth since he had been cursed by a Brahmin boy that he would be bitten by the serpent Takshaka). These great Rishis embody the greatest achievement in knowledge and devotion and they can move about anywhere at will having attained the knowledge of the Self which is very



difficult to obtain. Having quoted the examples of these great devotees, the poet cries out to the Lord in the fifth verse to increase the poet's devotional intensity. He wants to be immersed in the devotional experience so that he can come out of his sufferings. The poet quotes sage Vyasa in the Bhagawatam Purana and Lord Krishna's own words to Arjuna (Bhagwad Gita Chapter 9 Verse 22) and Uddhava as well as the statements of the Vedas to reinforce his own prayers. He goes on to tell the Lord that if his ailments are not cured, the Lord's words would become untrue.

मुनिप्रौढा रूढा जगति खलु गूढात्मगतयो  
भवत्पादाम्भोजस्मरणविरुजो नारदमुखाः ।  
चरन्तीश स्वैरं सततपरिनिर्भातपरचि-  
त्सदानन्दाद्वैतप्रसरपरिमग्नाः किमपरम् ॥ ४ ॥

*munipraudhā rūdhā jagati khalu gūdhātmagatayo  
bhavatpādāmbhojasmaraṇavirujō nāradamukhāḥ ।  
carantīśa svairam satataparinirbhātaparaci-  
tsadānandādvaitaprasaraparimagnāḥ kimaparam ॥ 4 ॥*

In the sixth verse, the poet describes the benefit and joy derived from devotion to the Lord's feet. In the beginning, even a bit of devotion to the Lord is sweet and the joy which arises from listening to the Lord's excellences. As this devotion grows even a little bit, it destroys all sorrows completely. Ultimately, this devotion grows and confers the supreme bliss of Self-realization. The poet exclaims that there is no greater power than devotion to the Lord's feet.

विधूय क्लेशान् मे कुरु चरणयुग्मं धृतरसं  
भवत्क्षेत्रप्राप्तौ करमपि च ते पूजनविधौ ।  
भवन्मूर्त्यालोके नयनमथ ते पादतुलसी-  
परिघ्राणे घ्राणं श्रवणमपि ते चारुचरिते ॥ ७ ॥

*vidhūya kleśān me kuru caraṇayugmaṁ dhṛtarasaṁ  
bhavatkṣetraprāptaui karamapi ca te pūjanavidhau ।  
bhavanmūrtiyāloke nayanamatha te pādātulasī-  
parighrāṇe ghrāṇaṁ śravaṇamapi te cārucarite ॥ 7 ॥*

In the seventh verse, the poet requests the Lord that He may bless his devotee to perform all his physical actions as offerings to the Lord. Similar to the famous verse in Shiva Manasa Puja where all the physical actions are offered to Lord Shiva, the poet here says that he wants his feet to delight in going to His temple, his hand to perform His worship, his nose to enjoy the fragrance of the Tulasi leaves (considered very dear to Lord Krishna) offered at His feet and his ears to listen to the accounts of the Lord's

wonderful deeds. Here, the poet clarifies that he is praying for full recovery from his physical ailments only so that he may be able to concentrate on His worship and dedicate all his organs of action and perception to the Lord's worship. In the eighth verse, he goes on to request the Lord to manifest His divine Form, one which is of the nature of supreme bliss and consciousness in the poet's mind. This will give supreme bliss to the poet's mind currently agitated by mental and physical afflictions. The poet desires to experience the true external symptoms of devotion, often described in scriptural texts as horripilation all over the body and uncontrollable tears of joy profusely flowing down.

As the poet gets immersed deeper in his contemplation of the Lord's greatness, he changes his approach and adopts a tone where he is mildly chiding his Lord. He laments that even the people who are immersed in worldly pleasures and apparently indifferent (or even atheistic in the extreme cases) to the Lord seem to be living very happily indeed. In contrast, the poet says that he is suffering very much even though he is devoted to the Lord. Calling out to the Lord as a benevolent bestower of boons, the poet exclaims that this apparent unfairness on the part of the Lord towards the poet would bring disrepute to the Lord! He once again prays to the Lord to cure him of all his physical ailments and make him His greatest devotee.

किमुक्तैर्भूयोभिस्तव हि करुणा यावदुदिया-  
दहं तावद्देव प्रहितविधिधार्तप्रलपितः ।  
पुरः क्लृप्ते पादे वरद तव नेष्यामि दिवसान्  
यथाशक्ति व्यक्तं नतिनूतिनिषेवा विरचयन् ॥ १० ॥

*kimuktairbhūyobhistava hi karuṇā yāvadudiyā-  
dahaṁ tāvaddeva prahitavidhīdhārtapralapitaḥ ।  
puraḥ kḷpte pāde varada tava neṣyāmi divasān  
yathāśakti vyaktaṁ natinūtinīṣevā viracayan ॥ 10 ॥*

At the conclusion of this Dashaka, having described the greatness of the Lord's devotees and their immersion in the Lord's blissful nature, the poet once again re-affirms his resolve that he will continue to spend his days composing these hymns of praise and worshipping and prostrating to the Lord. The poet is determined to stop lamenting and invoke the divine grace of Lord Guruvayoorappan till the Lord's compassion descends on the poet. We see here that the poet begins to pray for steadfast devotion to the Lord's feet in addition to the cure for his physical and mental afflictions.

To Be Continued

## Swami Tapovanam Poetry: Hymn of Ganga -1 (Excerpts)

*Sitaram Kowtha*

**Editor's Note:** We are pleased to introduce this new series of articles by Sitaramji, excerpts of poetry by Swami Tapovanam.

Source: Sri Ganga Stotram (Hymn to Ganga) by Swami Tapovanam

Commentary by Swami Chinmayananda

Source: Pujya Guruji, Swami Tejomayananda, discourse on this work. Discourse available on ChinmayaClix



Param Pujya Gurudev, Swami Tapovanam, nurtured his disciple, Swami Chinmayananda on the banks of River Ganga at Uttar Kashi and Gangotri. Tapovanji himself 'wandered' across Himalayan peaks, traversing the glaciers, streams, rivers and mountain peaks to include such places of lore as Mount Kailas, Char Dham (Gangotri, Yamunotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath), Sri Sarada temple, Amarnath and Vaishnavi Devi temples in Kashmir, and so on. His journey prior to becoming a sannyasi took him to Kolkota, Kashi, Haridwar and Rishikesh. In other words, he traveled to the source of Ganga in Goumukh glacier as well to various locations where the river journey down the mountains to the plains, onwards to Bengal. In this composition, he invokes mother Ganga as a divine mother and the supreme Self, and expresses the manifestation of the divine beauty and divinity indicated in the Upanishads. In this work he exalts Ganga and Gangotri, and it also serves as his teaching of Upanishads to us.

Altogether there are 125 verses in 5 sections of 25 verses each. In the following series, we will excerpt 5-10 verses, with meanings and highlights from Sri Gurudev's commentary, and further elaboration in discourse by Guruji, Swami Tejomayananda (Note: Guruji discourse video is available on Chinmaya Clix).

Section 1 of 5; Verses 1-5

जय जय जगदंब श्रीगल श्रीजटायां  
जय जय जयशीले जह्नुकन्ये नमस्ते।  
जय जय जलशायी श्रीमदान्ध्रिप्रसूते  
जय जय जय भव्ये देवि भूयो नमस्ते ॥ १ ॥

jaya jaya jagadamba śrīgala śrījaṭayāṁ  
jaya jaya jayaśīle jahṇukanye namaste ।  
jaya jaya jalaśāyī śrīmadāndhriprasūte  
jaya jaya jaya bhavye devi bhūyo namaste  
| | | |

O Mother of the Universe! O Jagadambe! Revel in the matted locks of Sri Sankara! May you ever win!, O Mother Victorious! O Jayashee! O daughter of Jahnu Rishi! O Jahnu Kanye! My prostrations unto thee! The divine nymph born from the sacred feet of Vishnu! May glory be to thee! O Mother Divine! O Devi! O mass of auspiciousness! O Bhavye! Again and again I salute thee!

To the Hindu saints, Ganga is not merely a geographical river, but she is a permanent symbol of the Infinite and the eternal Truth. Swami Tapovanam invokes Ganga in devotion and six glorifying names to begin the hymn. The story of Ganga from the puranas and itihisas are highlighted in the six names.

त्रिपथपथिकपाथः स्रोतसा सिद्धिर्भूर्तिः  
दिनकरकुल भूषआल यत्नोदयोत्था।  
प्रणतजनतसुरद्रुः पावनी पावनानाम्  
जयति जगति गङ्गा भग्य पूगो जननाम् ॥ २ ॥

tripathapathikapāthah strotasā  
siddhirbhūrṭiḥ  
dinakarakula bhūṣāatna yatnodayotthā |  
praṇatajanatasuradruḥ pāvanī pāvanānām  
jayati jagati gaṅgā bhagya pūgo janānām  
|| 12 ||

For the pilgrims on the three spiritual paths, you, in the form of waters flow, are a blessing! Due to the glorious tapas of the glorious son of the Sun dynasty, Sri Bhageeratha (who with austerity and determination to invite her to come down to the earth from heavens to purify and liberate his ancerstors), you have manifested! You are a tree of fulfilment to those who surrender to you in devotion. Nobler than the noblest of things in this world, Ganga, due to the good fortune of the seekers, you remain ever victorious!

The three paths suggested here is necessarily vague to refer to many three-fold concepts in Vedanta, particularly, Bhakti, Karma and Jnana Yoga paths. As a flowing river, she is a support and a blessing to her devotees who journey on their chosen path to the divine. Her blessing glorified the great King of Sun dynasty, Sri Bhageeratha, who had undertaken a severe penance to invite Ganga to the earth to purify and liberate his ancestors. In so doing, Ganga, to this day, blesses the land and its inhabitants.

गङ्गे मतर्नुस्मरमि सततं त्वन्मूर्तिमत्यद्भुतां  
दैवीं दैवतदुर्लभां यमुनया वाचाऽन्नसंपूर्णया ।  
भक्तेनाथ भगिरथेन भदवदूपादैश्च पादार्चकै -  
र्या नित्यम् समुपध्रिता विजयेन  
गङ्गोत्तरीसद्मनि ॥ ३ ॥

gaṅge matarnusmarami satataṁ  
tvanmūrtimatyadbhutāṁ  
daivīṁ daivatadurlabhāṁ yamunayā  
vācā'nnasampūrṇayā |  
bhaktenātha bhagirathena  
bhadavadpādaiśca pādārcakai -  
ryā nityam samupaṣṛitā vijayena  
gaṅgotarīsadmani || 3 ||

O Mother Ganga! O Gange! You revel at Sri Gangotri, worshipped by mother Yamuna, mother Saraswati,

mother Annapurna, Sri Bhageeratha, Sri Adi Sankara, and many other devotees. O Divine Mother! O Mata! I ever remember your wondrous form, so rare even for Gods to gaze at!

According to the puranas, Sri Bhageeratha's penance resulting in Ganga arising as a river in Gangotri. The place and the Ganga temple are invoked in this verse.

तुहिनशिखरिशृङ्गे दिव्यसौभाग्य संप -  
न्महिमनि विहरन्तीं पुष्पवासे विशाले ।  
सुकृति समधिगम्ये सम्यगालीजनाली -  
विलसितमलसकशीं नौमि गङ्गामभीक्ष्णम् ॥ ४ ॥

tuhinaśikhariśṛṅge divyasaubhāgya saṁpa -  
-  
nmahimani viharantīṁ puṣpavāse viśāle |  
sukṛti samadhigamye samyagālijānālī -  
vilasitamalasakśīṁ naumi  
gaṅgāmabhikṣṇam || 4 ||

I Salute thee, O Mother Ganga! Enchanting all with your playful, langorous eyes! Who dwells in the pushpa vihara with your maids-in-waiting, where glows the wealth of rare divine fortune. There on the peak of the mount of snow, where the virtuous and righteous alone really reach!

The snowy peaks of Himalayas above Gangotri, and the Gomukh glacier is invoked, along with the forests and flowery shrubs that dot those peaks. While it is easy for the modern day traveler to reach Gomukh, only those with purity and devotion really reach the beauty of the place where Ganga sports before arriving at Gangotri.

Langorous eyes are half-opened, half-closed eyes, typically depicted with Lord Shiva and other divine forms in deep meditation. Her eyes are playful, yet deeply meditative is how Swam Tapovanam describes her presence at Gomukh, among the snowy peak in the garden of flowery shrubs.

पादाम् गुष्टाद्बोदिता देवी विष्णुः

गङ्गोत्तर्यां गौमुखीमस्तकाद्वा ।

गङ्गा गङ्गावस्य बाधोनकिंचित्

सर्वेशित्री सर्वथा हि त्वमंब ॥ ५ ॥

pādām guṣṭhādvoditā devī viṣṇuḥ  
gaṅgottaryāṁ gaumukhīmastakādvā ।  
gaṅgā gaṅgaivāsya bādhonakiñcit  
sarveśitrī sarvathā hi tvamaṁba ।। 5 ।।

O Mother Divine! O Devi! May your source be the feet of Lord Vishnu, or may you spring from the peaks of Sri Gomukh; whatever it may be, you are Ganga and Ganga alone! Nothing can defile you! You are the one who rules over all in all ways! O Sarve- eeshitri!

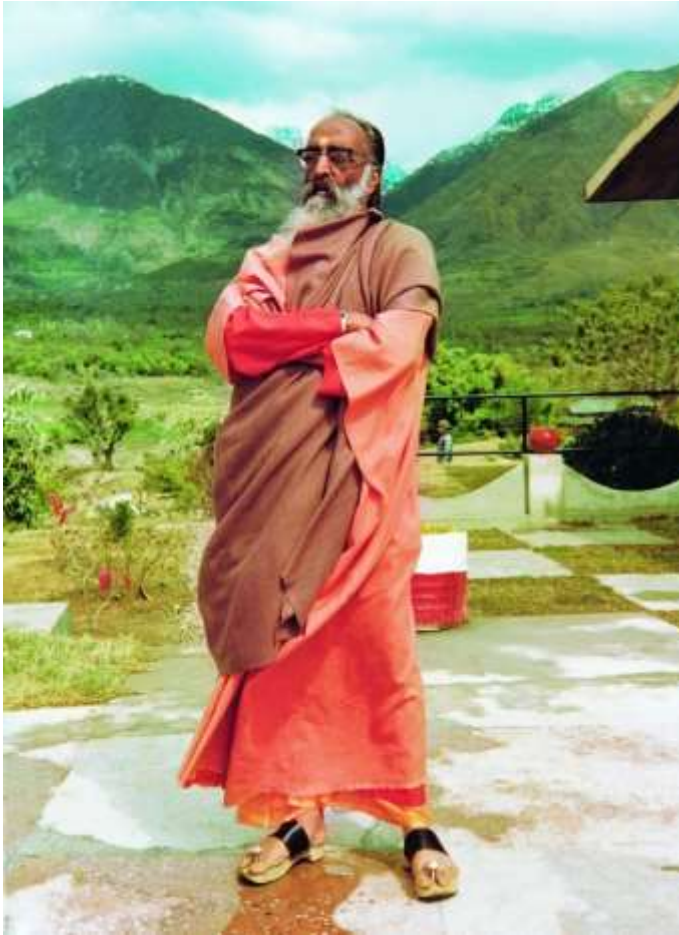
The common argument is whether Ganga emerged from the feet of Lord Narayana, as described in the Puranas, or springs from the Gomukh glacier above Gangotri. Swami Tapovanam dismisses those arguments and visualizes the glory of divine river, Ganga, and invokes its purity as it purifies – Ganga herself is not defiled, and with her blessings, she sustains a land and its inhabitants, at physical, mental and spiritual levels. She rules over all. She is invoked as Ishvari.

To Be Continued

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## Gurudev Uvacha

### *Inspiring Quotes from Pujya Gurudev Chinmayananda*



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

When I slip outside, I fall. When I slip inside, I rise. Without, I go only to come down. Within, I go only to rise above.

It is certain that the faithful never fall. Faith, unwavering faith alone is the supreme means to the supreme goal.

Man at any given point, is the sum-total of his thoughts which he consciously entertains.

When the world kicks you, use it as an experience to grow.

Both renunciation of action and performance of action lead to freedom. But of these, performance of action is superior to the renunciation of action.

That which feels "I am," this 'I' is neither mind nor matter. It is eternal. The external things exist because of the imaginations of this 'I'.

Where there is light, darkness cannot be, Where knowledge has come, ignorance must quit !

Detachment from the world of objects is never possible without attaching ourselves to something nobler and divine.

We may often give without love but we can never love without giving.

The action of today becomes the destiny of tomorrow.