

## Inaugural celebrations of Srimadbhagavata (Brahma-stuti) Jnana Yagna

Under the auspices of Pujya Acharya Sri Prem Siddharth, Arsha Vidya Vahini commenced the Srimadbhagavata (Brahma- Stuti) Jnana Yagna at Sundarayya Vignana Kendram, Baghlingampally with inaugural celebration and Jyothi Prajwalanam.

The joyous events of the evening began with devotees welcoming Pujya Acharya Sri Prem Siddharth with Purna Kumbham and Purusha Suktha parayanam. Pujya Gurudev blessed the devotees and greeted the chief guests of the evening;



Sri J.S.V Prasad, Commissioner, Endowments Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Sri P. Venkateswarulu-MD, Kakatiya Cements and a philanthropist of repute and Sri Gaddam Srinivas Yadav- Chairperson, City Central Library, Hyderabad. With Swamiji's kind consent, the events of the day unfolded with sankeerthan in the mellifluous tones of Sri Sankeerthana Srinivas singing bhajans and immersing the devotees in the devotional mirth of Lord Sri Krishna. It seemed like the marble-white statue of Sri Krishna adorning the stage smiled joyously at the Bhaktas and blessed them to soak their minds in the ocean of knowledge that was going to flow from Pujya Gurudev.

After the devotees were transported to Brindavanam and back by the bhajans, the inaugural address was delivered; explaining the importance of Srimadbhagavata as a Puranic text with Vedantic essence; in this context, the following sloka from Srimadbhagavata-that Swamiji blessed us with- is apt to summarize the message of the text -

*nigama-kalpa-taror galitam phalam*

*suka-mukhad amrta-drava-samyutam*

*pibata bhagavatam rasam alayam*

*muhur aho rasika bhuvi bhavukah*

In the first chapter (third sloka) Srimadbhagavatha describes herself as that ripened fruit on the wish-fulfilling Kalpatharu called Veda that has been blessed from the lips of Suka Maharshi (here suka also means the parrot). It is filled with the Amrutatvam or the Jnana Tatvam and should be enjoyed by the Bhakthas again and again till they attain salvation.



As the guests were invited to adorn the dias, they performed the Jyoti Prajwalanam to commence the one-week long Jnana Yagna, and were felicitated by the devotees with garland of flowers and shawls from Arsha Vidya Vahini. Sri J.V.S Prasad thanked Pujya Gurudev for delivering the lectures on Hindu Dharma for the employees of the Endowments department and told us that the employees have been relieved of many misconceptions and are able to appreciate the tenets of Hinduism better.

Sri P.Venkateswarulu stressed on the importance of such scholarly teachers of Vedanta and expressed his desire to enjoy the lecture as one in the audience. Sri Gaddam Srinivas reassured his unwavering support for all future activities of Arsha Vidya Vahini. The devotees expressed their love and devotion

towards Pujya Gurudev by requesting Sri J.V.S Prasad to adorn Pujya Gurudev with a flower garland. Pujya Gurudev spoke highly of the guests as the ardent supporters of Hindu Dharma. While Sri P Venkateswarulu's commitment towards Hindu Dharma is evident from the fact that he took a great task of printing of the 18 Puranic texts in Telugu, Sri J.V.S Prasad has been a back-bone and support to Arsha Vidya Vahini and Pujya Gurudev in all his activities beginning from the Bhagawad Gita Jnana Yagna in 2007. Sri Gaddam Srinivas has been an ardent well-wisher and dear friend of Arsha Vidya Vahini.



Pujya Gurudev commenced the Jnana Yagna in his inimitable style by explaining the importance and relevance of Puranic texts in the Hindu Dharma and the beauty of the Srimadbhagavata Puranam with the quintessential Vedanta Bodha as its heart. Pujya Acharya revealed the Advaitic essence of the Srimadbhagavatam by using the Shadlingas used for Tatparya Nirnayam and quoted the first and last slokas of Srimadbhagavatam to **establish the truth that Bhagavata Purana speaks only of Advaita – the essential oneness of Jeeva and Easwara (Jeeva –Easwara Aikyam).**

Explaining the Jnana-garima of Sri Narada, Pujya Gurudev established the relevance and symbiotic relationship between Bhakthi and Jnana; thereby dismissing the misconception that a Jnani cannot be a devotee –in fact, only a Jnani can be a true devotee!



In conclusion, Puja Acharya revealed the context of Brahma Stuti; when Lord Brahma, under the influence of Rajo gunam, is deluded to underestimate Sri Balakrishna and makes the children and calves of Vraj vanish; Sri Krishna appears as the calves and the children and runs the show for a whole year without anybody noticing anything amiss. This comforts the ego of Lord Brahma and he chants these verses in the praise of the Advaita rupa of Sri Krishna. The events of the day were concluded by offering Harathi to Lord Sri Krishna.

In the Brahma Stuti, Lord Brahma beautifully explains the Sadhana and the Sadhyam – the most essential teaching for a Sadhaka. It is this Bodha that Puja Gurudev would explain in his unparalleled style. All are invited along with like-minded kith and kin to partake of this spiritual blessing of Puja Gurudev and rejoice in the study of SrimadBhagavata.

