

Guru Pournima celebrations – a report

On the 25th of July, the devotees of Arsha Vidya Vahini celebrated Guru Pournima under the auspices of Pujya Acharya Sri Prem Siddharth. The celebrations began with Sankeerthan that was lead by Pujya Acharya himself while the devotees joined in chorus.



It must have been the effect of the Srimadbhagavatha (Brahma-Stuti) Jnana-Yagna conducted by Pujya Acharya, that the devotees showed renewed enthusiasm in doing sankeerthan, their minds completely absorbed in Bhakthi and their hearts filled with the images of the Lord.

After the sankeerthan, the devotees performed Guru Puja by offering Vedic prayers to the holy Padukas that represented the entire Guru-Parampara. The devotees, under the guidance of Pujya Gurudev invoked the blessings of The Adi-guru, Sri Dakshinamurthy and offered prayers to the most effulgent links in the parampara – Sri Vyasa and Sri Adi Sankaracharya by following the Guru-Puja Vidhanam under the guidance of Pujya Gurudev. The vedic chants of Namakam, Durga Suktam, Purusha Suktam and Manthra Pushpam resounded from the hearts of the devotees while performing abhishekam with specially prepared Panchamrutham.



The celebration ended with more sankeerthan and the devotees offered Guru-Dakshina to Pujya Gurudev and left after enjoying the Annaprasadam that was given to them along with the blessings of Pujya Gurudev. Though the morning's celebrations had ended, Lord Krishna had blessed the devotees with more celebration in the evening.

A successful Purnahuti of the Jnana Yagna

The series of lectures by Pujya Gurudev on **Brahma-Stuti** from *Srimadbhagavatham*, which had begun on the 19th of July, were successfully concluded on the evening of Guru-Pournima at Sri Sundarayya Vignana Kendram, Baghlingampally. The evening's programme began with sankeerthan by Sri Sankeerthana Srinivas. The audience who were soaked in the intoxicating power of Sri Krishna Bhakthi rejoiced in doing the Bhajan.



Pujya Gurudev spoke in his inimitable style, unfolding the concluding verses of Brahma Stuti that Lord Brahma recited in praise of Sri Balakrishna who was enjoying his curd and pickle and had not spoken a word for the past seven days! In the process, Lord Brahma was mining jewels of wisdom for the Sadhakas, that were being polished by Pujya Acharya with his unparalleled grasp of Vedanta to exude brilliance that would drive away the darkness of ignorance from the minds of devotees. Pujya Acharya spoke of the importance of Bhakti in the life of a Vedanta Sadhaka – enjoying the Bhakti rasa is as important as inquiring into the meaning of the Sruti Vakyam, as the absence of any one of these would result in a complete failure of both the sadhanas.

Pujya Acharya went on to speak of the historical relevance of Sri Krishna and Lord Rama to establish that these Avataras are not mere figments of mythology and creative imagination but an integral part of ancient Indian history and culture that was being misinterpreted by many scholars. In this regard Pujya Acharya mentioned a book by Prof. Sri

Narahari Achar and the documentary by Dr Manish Pandit – **“Krishna-History or Myth”** that was an attempt to establish the relevance of Lord Krishna as an important character of the Indian history that had taken place in the past.



The will of Lord Krishna played itself so beautifully that on the eve of Guru-Pournima, the devotees had the chance to felicitate Dr.P Sasirekha – HoD Sanskrit Department, Osmania University for her efforts in translating a highly complex and technical Vedantic text – Vedanta Sara by Sri Sadananda Swami. This telugu translation was very helpful for most of the students who had used the book for their adhyayanam.



The felicitation was followed by an eloquent speech by Dr. Sasirekha who laced her speech with humor to engage the audience. Dr. Sasirekha paid respects to her Gurudev, Mahamahopadhyaya Sri Pullala Ramachandrudu a great Sanskrit scholar and offered praises to Pujya Acharya with clever witticisms; blaming him for taking away all the Advaita Jnanamrutham, thus leaving nothing for the scholars to partake.



She offered to assist Pujya Gurudev in his efforts for Shastra Prachara in anyway possible. In conclusion, she unraveled the mysteries about the origin on language from Maaheshwara Sutras that emerged from Lord Shiva's damarukanadam.

The joyous celebrations of the evening ended with the offering of Mangala Harathi to the Lord. The Disciples offered Guru-Dakshina to Pujya Acharya and partaking of the Laddu Prasadam along with the Jnana Prasadam from Pujya Acharya. With their hearts filled with the nectar of Sri Krishna Bhakti, the devotees left with the will to move forward in their spiritual pursuit.



**May Pujya Acharya's blessings impel us
towards Shastra Adhyanam and Pracharam...**



HARIH OM