

Sri Hampi Sankaracharya's visit to Astavakra Geeta Jnana Yagnam(20.02.2010)

On 20th February, His Holiness the 57th Peetadhipathi of **Sri Sri Sri Jagadguru Shankaracharya Sri Hampi Virupaksha Vidaranya Mahasamsthanam, Sri Vidyaranya Bharathi Swamiji** has visited our Jnana Yagna Premises.



As Pujya Acharya Sri Prem Siddharth ji commenced the 15th day programme of the Astavakra Geeta Gnana Yagna with prayer and sankartheena, the premises were sanctified by the arrival of His Holiness Sri Sankaracharya of Sri Hampi Virupaksha Peetham. Sri Sankaracharya had accepted the invitation of Pujya Acharya to grace the occasion and bless the seekers with his address on the relevance of Hindu Dharma in the present day and age.



His Holiness Sri Sankaracharya spoke of the importance of “Matru trayam” – Go Mata, Bharata Mata, and Gayatri Mata. Sri Sankaracharya educated the disciples about the exalted position that the Cow has in the Hindu Dharma and its inclusion in many religious rites and rituals. It is believed that the body of the Cow is the abode of many gods. He drew our attention to the pitiful state of the cows in India and the treatment meted out to them in slaughterhouses across the country exporting meat and leather.

India as a country is to realize its cultural roots and Indians, especially the youth of the nation, should take pride in the cultural ethos of Bharat Mata. He spoke of the treasure trove of knowledge of the ancient Indian culture that has been unsurpassed by any contemporary Western wisdom. Taking the example of the sculptures at Hampi, he stressed on the architectural and engineering grandeur of our civilization and urged us to understand and practice our culture instead of aping the West. Finally, the significance of religion in our daily life was beautifully revealed by Sri Sankaracharya. He spoke about the necessity of religion in shaping an evolved society and reiterated its role in the spiritual pursuit.

His Holiness Sri Sankaracharya appreciated Pujya Acharya’s efforts in the propagation of Hindu scriptures and applauded the disciples and blessed them to advance in their Sadhana.



Pujya Acharya and Smt. Jyotsna Siddharth presented His Holiness Sri Sankaracharya with a shawl and Dakshina as a token of gratitude and respect on behalf of all the disciples and the well wishers of Arsha Vidya Vahini. Thereafter Pujya Acharya resumed the talk on Astavakra Geeta and took all the seekers into the vast skies of Atma Swaroop as taught by Sage Astavakra. After the discourse the sponsors of the day were felicitated. Smt. Jyothsna Siddharth has offered Karpoora Harathi to Lord Sri Venkateshwara.



Hari Om

Report by:

Swathi and Anil.