

Satsang on Sri Sambasiva Rao's birthday

Amidst showers of blessings from the Lord Varuna, Pujya Acharya Sri Prem Siddharth bestowed his divine grace on the devotees at the Satsang held on the 4th of September to celebrate the birthday of Late Sri Nandiraju Sambasiva Rao.- a committed student of Vedanta and a dear disciple of Pujya Gurudev.



Upon the humble request of Smt. Umarani, wife of Sri Sambasiva Rao, Pujya Gurudev blessed her abode with his presence and presided over the celebrations. The devotees chanted Vedic hymns like Purusha Suktham, Sri Suktham, Narayana Suktham and Durga Suktham in unison and later reveled in the Sankeerthan lead by Sri Sankeerthan Srinivas and Pujya Gurudev.



Every bhajan was an offering of devotion to the feet of Bhagawan and the devotees were lost in a trance – some held captive by the divine dance of the Lord in their minds while others enjoying the fragrance of the Bhakti bhavam that permeated in the Satsang. It seemed that Ishwara was performing his divine Tandava – to bless these devotees.

After the sankeerthan, Sri Anil, son-in-law of Sri Sambasiva Rao spoke of his sweet memories with Sri Sambasiva Rao especially during his final days, when Sri Sambasiva Rao was experiencing bodily pains but it was evident that his mind reveled in the Bodha Sagara that was bestowed on him by the Kripa of Pujya Acharya. The life he lead is an instruction on commitment and devotion that any Sadhaka should develop and the qualities that should be inculcated for Sadhana.



Later, Pujya Gurudev blessed the devotees by reiterating the importance of Shravana, Manana and Nidhi Dhayasana in the Vedantic journey. These should be practiced in accordance with the Vedic teaching – how Veda instructs us – and not according to our own whims.

Shravana requires the seeker to understand and examine the hollowness in the Bhavasukham – or worldly pleasures, this automatically develops Vairagya or detachment. With this detached outlook towards the world, the seeker should take up the technical study of the Vedanta Shastra under the tutelage of a competent - Shrotriya and Brahma Nishta - Guru.

Mananam is the practice of revising the Vedanta Bodha that has been acquired by Shravanam. This is important for the Sadhana to ensure that the Sadhaka does not fall into the trap of “I know it all” as it helps in doubt-resolution. Though, understanding is an oft repeated word, true understanding can be gained only by

practising Mananam. While revising the bodha can be done by revisiting the notes or reading other supporting Granthas, another important practice is to read about the lives of Mahatmas. Such genuine biographies unfold a hidden teaching because the mind and life of a Gyani are soaked in Vedanta rasa so much that every word, deed and action reveals teaching for a true-seeker. Knowing about the lives of such saints not only inspires us to do Sadhana, but also helps in making the teaching clear for better understanding.

Nidhi Dhayasanam – the process of internalizing the teaching and allowing it to work in our lives to lead a life of absolute freedom from bondage of the samsara. For this, the seeker needs to inculcate two important qualities – Mounam or silence – to speak only when relevant and necessary and the preference towards solitude. While Mounam supports Vairagya by allowing us to be disinclined towards the matters of the world that are not of importance to us, Solitude –

allows us to encourage the thoughts about the Brahman and allows us to absorb the teaching that will change our outlook towards life.

Pujya Acharya cited examples from the life of Sri Sambasiva Rao to highlight commitment towards the Shastra and devotion towards the Guru. This was made possible by his withdrawal from the worldly affairs. In his final days, his mind was steadfast in the Akhandakara Vruthhi - so much that he was oblivious to the excruciating physical pain.

As a part of the celebration, Pujya Gurudev inaugurated the booklet – “**Vision of Veda**” that is based on a talk by the same name. This talk was delivered as a blessing to the devotees at Olympia, Washington State where Gurudev, on their humble request made a stop at Sri Suresh’s residence, enroute Portland – as a part of his tour of USA in the year 2009. In this divine discourse, Pujya Gurudev reveals the importance of Vedapurva in preparing the seeker for the study of Vedanta.



The joyous celebrations of the day ended with Bhajan and Harathi followed by Anna prasadam offered to the Lord and his devotees

Pujya Gurudev will be visiting China for a month from the 6th of September. As a part of this visit, He will be conducting Satsangs and classes across China. Also, Pujya Acharya will celebrate the Vinayaka Chaturthi along with the Indian families at Shenzhen.

You can watch Astavakra Gita discourses on:

<http://bhaktisamacharam.com/admin/upload/guru/Ashtavakra%20Gita/Day-1/Acharya%20Sri%20Prem%20Siddharthji.html>

HARIH OM