

Ramanamasankeerthanam Satsang on Ekadasi – 6th January 2016



At Vyakhya, our center for Vedanta Studies, on the auspicious day of Ekadasi (6th Jan 2016) we commenced the Sri Ramanama Sankeerthanam and Pujya Acharya's



discourse on Ramayana. We were blessed to inaugurate such a holy occasion in the divine presence of His Holiness Sri Ramswarupananda Saraswati Swamiji.

The events of the evening began with a Keertana on Lord Ganesha by Sri Venkata Rao ji. Following this Pada Pujya was performed. In our tradition, the feet of the Guru symbolize the entire Veda Parampara.



The disciples were blessed with the sight of their Acharya worshipping the Lotus Feet of His Gurudeva, Swami Ramswarupanandaji.

Pujya Swami Ramswarupananda ji Maharaj shared with us an anecdote on the origin and the importance of the Ramanamasankeertana Satsang.

With an incident from the life of Swami Sri Sivananda ji Maharaj, He explained the importance of being vigilant to keep a check on the ego.



The Anugraha Bhashanam was then followed by offering Panchopachara Puja to Lord Sri Rama. The devotees chanted Garuda Dandakam, Nama Ramayanam and Hanuman Chalisa.



In the discourse that followed, Pujya Acharya while giving an introduction to the Ramayana has briefly explained the meaning of the following sloka -

rAmAya ramachandrAya rAmabhadrAya vedhase |
raghunAthAya nAthAya seetAyAh pataye namah ||

RAmAya – one who enlivens all

Ramachandraya – Like the ever pleasant Moon, Sri Rama blesses us with both Light (Jnanam) and Peace (Chitta Prasantata)

RAmabhadrAya – Lord Rama alone grants us both - Yoga-Kshemam and Moksham, which is referred to as Bhadram.

Vedhase – Lord Rama is the Srushti Kartha (Creator)

RaghunAthAya – Born and brought a great fame to the glorious clan of Raghuvamsam

NAthAya – He is the Natha (Ruler) of all the worlds & Jeevas

SeetAyAh pataye – Nirguna Brahman is revealed as Saguna Brahman in the form of Lord Rama along with His Maya Shakti, Sita Devi.

Namaha – We offer our obeisance to Him



Pujya Acharya in His discourse, highlighted the influence that Ramayana has on many cultures across the world where it has become a part of their history and heritage. He mentioned that on his visits to China and Indonesia, he witnessed plays on Ramayana and there are sculptures and frescos in palaces of Thailand that depict the Ramayana.

Ramayana and Mahabharata being Itithasas, contain the teachings on the Four Purusharthas and the means to achieve them. Itihasa also establishes the historical context as the Purvavrutham and contains teachings in the form of episodes from the lives of Mahatmas.

Pujya Acharya narrated the life of Valmiki Maharshi and his transformation from a dacoit to a sage. Pujya Acharya explained that Hinduism is the only religion that encourages internal conversion, where the transformation is driven by knowledge and understanding.



Sri Rama epitomizes in Ramayana, two duties that we are all should adhere to - Dharma Acharanam and Adarsha Nirupanam – Following the Path of Dharma and inspiring the next generation to leading a life with noble ideals. The glory of Lord Rama is evident from the simple fact that even after about 9 lakhs of years, His life is still extolled, praised and is a relevant example for us. His life teaches us that Yashaha Kaayam (the body of fame that is born of Dharma Acharanam) alone survives the onslaught of time.



After the discourse, Harathi was offered to Sri Rama Parivaram as the devotees sang Ramachandra Mangala Stotram to conclude the celebrations after seeking the blessings of Pujya Ramswarupananda Saraswati ji Maharaj and Pujya Acharya Sri Prem Siddharth ji.

The next Ekadasi is on the **20th of January 2016** and all are invited to participate in this auspicious ceremony. Ekadasi dates and the details of other classes/activities are available on our website www.arshavidyavahini.org

Harib Om