

Sri Sankara Jayanthi 2016 – Inaugural Report



*“Moksha is not freedom **FROM** something but freedom **IN** everything.”*

-Pujya Acharya Sri Prem Siddharth ji (an excerpt from the talk on Tatva Darshanam of Sri Sankaracharya)

This emphatic definition of Moksha is an example of the scintillating inaugural discourse by Pujya Acharya Sri Prem Siddharthji during the 5-day Sri Sankara Jayanthi Jnana Yagnam that is being conducted by Arsha Vidya Vahini at Balaji Bhavan, T.T.D Kalyana Mandapam in Hyderabad on the 11th of May 2016.

Following the conclusion of the first part of Sri Mahabharata Jnana Yagna Pujya Swamiji took a brief hiatus when he travelled to many places in the Tibetan border and visited famous monasteries like the Tigress’ Nest Monastery in Bhutan. In spite of the tight travel schedule, He graciously accepted our request to deliver discourses on “Vijnana Nouka” a prakarana grantha by Sri Sankaracharya, in commemoration of Sri Sankara Jayanthi.

We have been blessed to commence this Jnana Yagnam on May 11th 2016 – Sri Sankaracharya’s Jayanthi that is an auspicious and important day for us spiritual seekers.



As Pujya Acharya arrived at the venue, the disciples welcomed Him with Purna Kalasam by chanting Vedic Hymns like Sri Purusha Suktam. After Jyoti Prajwalanam was performed by Smt. Jyothsna Siddharth ji, Keertana and Namasankeertanam were offered to Ishwara by the disciples. This was followed by Guru Puja offered at the altar of Sri Sankaracharya accompanied by Vedic Hymns being chanted by the disciples.

This evening, we were happy to have in our midst Sri J.S.V Prasad garu, (I.A.S) Principal Secretary (Endowments) Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and Board Member, T.T.D. Sri Prasad garu is himself a student of Vedanta and has always extended unfailing support towards the activities of Arsha Vidya Vahini.

Advaitam and Ayomayam CD release

As requested by Shastra For You Publications Sri Prasad ji released a new title of discourses by Pujya Swamiji – “Advaitam and Ayomayam” on the eve of Sri Sankara Jayanthi. The title includes two discourses in Telugu by Pujya Acharya delivered in 2009 aimed at expelling the confusions and misconceptions surrounding Advaita.



In the course of His discourse, Pujya Swamiji said that the Tatvika Darshanam of Sri Sankaracharya can be encapsulated in three words – **Brahma Satyatvam, Jeevanmukthi**



and **Vicharana Margam**. Pujya Acharya elucidated on each of these aspects by comparing and contrasting the teachings of Sri Sankaracharya with other schools of philosophy thereby establishing that Sri Sankaracharya's teachings are the last word. Any philosophy in the world is qualified to

be so, if it deals with the following five aspects

1. Jeeva
2. Jagat
3. Ishwara
4. Bandhana
5. Moksha

Pujya Swamiji began with the explanation on Bandhana. He defined Bandhana or Bondage to be caused by the spatio-temporal limitations that one cannot tolerate. This sense of Limitation is the essence of Dukham or sorrow. All the philosophies of the world aim to understand the cause of this suffering and thus identify the ways to alleviate it.

In this discourse Pujya Swamiji explained the point of view of different schools of thought on Bondage, beginning from the Material Philosophers who see the solution in conquering nature to Buddhists who feel that desire is the root-cause for sorrow. The logical fallacies in these schools were clearly explained by Pujya Swamiji as he established Sri Sankaracharya's astute observation that Sorrow is caused by Avidya. This forgetfulness is the root-cause of Bandhana.



Similarly, Pujya Acharya also presented the opinions of world philosophies on Moksha or Liberation and negated them primarily because they are based on aspects of Enjoyment be it in now or in after-life. Again, Bhagawan Bhashyakara established that Moksha is Freedom. However this is not the conventional freedom that needs to be renewed, it is freedom IN everything, where having understood his true nature, one is Free. In the discourse, Pujya Swamiji explained 2 of the 5 aspects of Philosophy. The following discourses will reveal many such important points that are crucial for our understanding of Vedanta.

The events of the day concluded with offering Harathi to Sri Bhagawan Bhashyakara and the prasadam was distributed to the disciples.

These discourses are being conducted from the 11th to 15th of May 2016 at Balaji Bhavan, TTD Kalyana Mandapam, Himayat Nagar, Hyderabad from 6.15 pm to 8.30 pm every evening. Please inform other friends who are interested in participating in the Jnana Yagnam.

All the discourses by Pujya Acharya Sri Prem Siddharth ji are also available for purchase at the venue including the latest release.

Harih Om