

Vedanta Adhyayana Mandali

Sharad Navaratri Sessions

The inaugural class of the Sharad Navaratri Sessions of the Vedanta Course organized by Arsha Vidya Vahini under the guidance of Pujya Acharya Sri Prem Siddharth ji, was conducted in the evening of the 25th of September 2014. These classes are being conducted at our new venue that is dedicated solely to the study of Vedanta.

The previous session of the Vedanta Adhyayana Mandali which was on Upanishad Avalokanam had begun during the Devi Navaratri of 2010; by the grace of the Goddess, we have now begun the Vedanta classes with discourses on Durga Suktam. Durga Devi is the embodiment of Brahma Vidya as instructed by the Veda, where she is invoked as Uma Hymavati in the Yakshopakhyanam of Kenopanishad. It is indeed by Her blessing that we are able to pursue this study of Vedanta.



Having begun our Adhyayanam on the auspicious first day of Devi Navaratri at our new premises, the class was started by offering prayers to Goddess Durga with the chanting of Vedic hymns by the students and Pujya Acharya. Sri Sankeerthan Srinivas added more piety to the ambience with Namasankeertana. Aarati was offered to the Goddess seeking Her blessings for the unobstructed completion of Vedantic Study.

The first class of the Vedanta Course provided clarity on the purpose of this study of Vedanta.



- Pujya Acharya established that to claim something as Spiritual, two conditions need to be satisfied - universality and complete validity i.e. it should not be constrained by spatio-temporal limitations.
- Spirituality is the search for a higher dimension of our Being said Pujya Acharya.
- Man, is the source for his problems. There is however, a stiff resistance to accept this reality. This resistance in course of time transforms itself into the Inner Pain.

- The Human mind is a highly evolved self-conscious entity. Thus it has an ability to find some lacuna in the current situation. Such a void, though manageable for a short time, is unbearable in the long-term.
- The Mind has its own commentary of the situation that is far from the existing reality. This gives rise to an increasing dissatisfaction.
- The first thought of dissatisfaction at the sight of an object or situation is required for one to grow spiritually. In this context, dissatisfaction does not have a negative connotation, as Pujya Acharya had elaborated.
- In our case, the sense of dissatisfaction is a part of the hierarchy of associated thoughts – that will not lead us to a higher pursuit.
- From dissatisfaction arises a need for “something else” that summons us to seek a solution for such discontentment.
- In such impelling situations, one runs after many things such as Meditation, Yoga, etc. in the name of Spirituality. However, the only answer that has been handed over from the ages by our ancestors is in the form of the study of Veda



under the tutelage of an Acharya who unequivocally instructs the teachings of the Veda along with His Swanubhava (Experience) and Yukti (Logic).

In conclusion Pujya Gurudev, substantiated that the Veda alone can provide an answer to the “something else” since Human intellect cannot perceive the answer that is impenetrable by the Pourusheya Pramanams.

The first session of this Vedanta Course shall be on Sri Durga Suktam - a Vedic hymn.

We also take this opportunity to thank all those who have been instrumental in the commencement of the Vedanta Classes.

Harih OM