

October 2008

Following the Footsteps...

Volume 1, Issue 2

Upcoming Events:

- Deepawali celebrations- October 28th
- Srimad Bhagwad Katha at Banswara- Nov 1 to Nov 7
- PrakashUtsav- November 13



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Prabhu Premi Sangh Newsletter



Reflections from Pujya Swamiji's Diary...



Dear Prabhu Premi,

Live at the present moment. This is the only potential moment available to you.

The present has to be lived totally, and anything that hinders has to be dropped.

Whatever you see in this world is your own projection. When you are beyond mind and all projections have dropped, then you see the world as it is. It is just unimaginably beautiful. The moment you go beyond mind, you reflect reality. Within the mind you project reality, you don't reflect.

Devotion and meditation make you go beyond mind.

With blessings,

Swami Avdheshanand Giri

News in a nutshell...



Subsequent to the completion of His successful tour to the US and UK, His Holiness returned to India on September 2. He then visited Vrindavan and Hisar to initiate prominent saints and confer upon them the prestigious title of Mahamandleshwar in the Juna Akhara.

On September 13, Swamiji reached Haridwar to attend Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Bharat Mata Temple and preside over the All India Trustee Meeting of Prabhu Premi Sangh. Following a short visit to Saharanpur,

Swamiji then conducted Sri Ram Katha in different places including Jodhpur, Mainpuri and Chitrakoot respectively. Devotees from different areas gathered to listen to Swamiji's katha.

Two major festive events are now round the corner - Diwali and Prakash-utsav. Like every year, these events will be celebrated with great enthusiasm at the Ashram in Swamiji's holy presence.

Prayer, charity, décor, fireworks and gifts form part of the Diwali festivities. Prakashutsav marks the

birthday of Pujya Swamiji and is known as the "Festival of Light". It is being awaited with great anticipation by prabhu premis around the globe. It is the perfect occasion for all to convey to Swamiji their deep gratitude and humble obeisances through their heartfelt wishes and loving prayers.

Here's wishing everyone a delightful Diwali and spiritually enlightening Prakashutsav! May you all experience everlasting joy and peace.

Following the Footsteps



Silver Jubilee Celebrations of Bharat Mata Mandir held in Haridwar



Week long programs and celebrations including Chaturved Mahayagya, Shiv Purana Katha and Rasleela were skillfully organized in Haridwar to mark two special events- the grand silver jubilee of the renowned Bharat Mata Temple and the birthday of the great Master, former Shankaracharya, and founder of the Bharat Mata Temple- His Holiness Param Pujya Swami Satyamitranand Giriji Maharaj.

On the landmark occasion of the completion of 25 years of this unique temple, situated on the banks of the holy Ganga River in

Sapt- Sarovar, several renowned saints were present and they all congratulated and greeted His Holiness Swami Satyamitranand Giriji Maharaj who lovingly accepted their wishes.

His Holiness Swami Avdheshanand Giriji attended the opening ceremony of the function. The prominent highlights of the opening ceremony included the ceremonial flag hoisting event and lighting of the traditional lamp by His Holiness Swami Satyamitranand Giriji Maharaj, Swami Avdheshanand Girji

Maharaj and Yogacharya Swami Ram Devji.

The presence of several holy saints all together on one single platform and the rare opportunity to listen to their enlightening words of wisdom sanctified the minds of the entire crowd of devotees which included members of Samanavaya Parivar and Prabhu Premi Sangh who had gathered in large numbers from around the world to convey their good wishes.



Mahamandleshwar Patabhishek in Hisar, Vrindavan



As the Head Acharya of the Juna Akhara, His Holiness has initiated several saints and appointed them as Mahamandleshwars in the Akhara. On September 3, Swamiji Maharaj visited the village of Balak, in Hisar with the purpose to initiate and honor Sri Swami Karuna Giri as Mahamandleshwar of Shri Panch Dasnam Juna Akhara.

A traditional 'Mahamandleshwar patabhishek ceremony' was performed by Swamiji and attended by all Secretaries of the Juna Akhada.

Following this, Swamiji left for Vrindavan where He conducted another Patabhishek ceremony to initiate two other revered saints, namely Swami Divyanand Ji Maharaj and Swami Avsheshanand Ji Maharaj. He conferred upon them also the Mahamandleshwar

title in the Juna Akhara. Many dignitaries, including prominent saints from throughout the country who had gathered at the function, took part in the coronation ceremony and bestowed their greetings.



All India Trustees Meeting at Haridwar

In addition to participating in the Silver Jubilee celebrations of Bharat Mata Temple in Haridwar, Swamiji also presided over the Prabhu Premi Sangh conference which was attended by all Secretaries and Trustees of Prabhu Premi Sangh. Such trustee meetings are held periodically to plan and arrange special programs for social and community welfare. The primary agenda for this meet was the forthcoming Srimad Bhagavad Katha which will be held at Vrindavan from December 11- 18. This katha will present a rare opportunity for prabhu premis to listen to the katha in the sacred land of Sri Krishna.

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Ram Katha conducted in cities of Jodhpur, Mainpuri and Chitrakoot

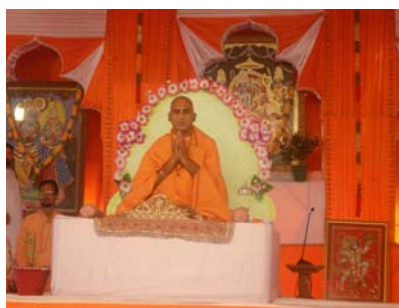


The radiance of the Sun City of India, Jodhpur in Rajasthan, was accentuated with the Ram Katha being organized from Sept 22nd to 28th.

Her Majesty Jodhpur Maharani attended the katha and sought Swamiji's blessings. The eager Prabhu Premi Sangh of Jodhpur organized this katha at Gandhi Ground. The backdrop of the stage was designed to be the Sun which represents the Sun City. Emerging from the Himalayas are Lord Shiva and Parvati bestowing their blessings. Swamiji graciously accepted the Rajasthani "pagari" turban to wear on the special occasion.



The string of Ram Kathas continued at Manipuri in Uttar Pradesh starting September 30th until October 6th. The venue of the katha was Ayodhya Dham ground. This was organized by Shri Ram Katha Yagya Samiti in honor and dedication of great saints of India.



Incessantly and tirelessly, with just a day to travel, Swamiji conducted another Shri Ram Katha in Chitrakoot, Madhya Pradesh. The location of this katha had special significance as Chitrakoot is a town of religious, cultural, and historical importance. It is this holy place that Bhagwan Ram, Sita, and Lakshman spent eleven and half years of their fourteen years exile.

It is believed that the great sage Atri, Sati Anusuya, Dattatreya, Maharshi Markandeya, Sarbhanga, Sutikshna and various other sages, seers, devotees and thinkers meditated in Chitrakoot. The Katha that lasted from October 8th to 14th took place at Ramayan Mela Parishar, and attracted Shri Ram's bhakts from all around the country.

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH



"True love demands nothing"

Divine love is that which is pure and unconditional. It encompasses giving without expecting to receive in return or without the fear of being unacknowledged. Such a pure state of desirelessness is achieved through devotion.

Straight From the Heart - Avantika Sharma.



As little children, my brother and I received great affection from both Swamiji and Didi. Our innocent acts of mischief were always lovingly forgiven. I vividly remember babbling away on many occasions to them about my school activities, including best friends, exam woes and favorite teachers while they patiently listened. The comforting warmth of their abode made us eagerly await spending our summer holidays at our hometown in Ambala.

Since then, up until now, every opportunity to meet them makes my heart beat with the excitement of a child.

The mere remembrance of the joyful moments spent in Swamiji's company has granted me the strength to endure challenging situations ranging from nerve cracking job

interviews and driving tests to illnesses and family tragedies.

I believe the scriptural assertion that "God comes to us through the Guru." This reality was beautifully expressed in words by a bhakt at Swamiji's satsang in New York leaving an unforgettable impression on my mind. She said, "Whichever form of God one thinks of or meditates upon, one can see through Swamiji". I pondered over that exemplary remark and have found it to be so true. Be it the calm, composed and forgiving nature of Lord Shiv, the purity of Lord Ram, the wisdom of Sri Krishna, the fearlessness of Durga Mata, or the strength of Lord Hanuman, I see all these qualities easily shine through Swamiji's persona.

The one thing I have learnt about Swamiji through the years is that He lives what He teaches. Through His own

pleasant nature in conjunction with an incessant ability to forgive, He sets the perfect example for us to live our daily lives. His love for nature and all its creatures, balanced and healthy daily regime, regard for good books, excellent organizational skills and cheerful disposition provides us with practical pointers to shape our own lives.

He doesn't just guide us in person, but I feel His subtle presence each day, which sometimes transcends the distance and months (sometimes years) between meetings.



Significance of Brahma Murtha



***"The breeze at dawn has secrets to tell you.
Don't go back to sleep.
You must ask for what you really want.
Don't go back to sleep.
People are going back and forth across
the doorsill
Where the two worlds touch.
The door is round and open.
Don't go back to sleep."***

- Rumi

'Brahma Murtha' is that beautiful time of the day when one can best connect with the Divine, and experience His presence within us. Just before dawn, it is a time ideal for deep spiritual practice such as prayer, naam- japa, yoga, svadhyay and meditation. The almost perfect silence due to absence of material disturbances enables one to concentrate and tap one's spiritual energies. All great saints and wise sages have known and explained the crucial importance of this time of the day to mankind with the hope that they would inculcate the regular habit of waking up early.

Also known as Amrit vela (or ambrosial time), Brahma Murtha is technically about two and a half hours before sunrise, and spiritual practice this period yields excellent results. Awakening in these hours is the secret to building a strong, vibrant personality and laying the basis for a peaceful, spiritually centered life.

During the morning hours, one can wholly appreciate and embrace nature's continuous gift to us – a brand new day, which it unfailingly sends our way via the early rays of sunshine, chirping of birds, blooming of flowers, tiny dew drops and the scent of clean fresh air.

Spiritual seekers of all ages, young and old must try their best to getting accustomed to the practice of rising early, if possible taking a shower and undertaking their prayers, study or meditation in Brahma Murtha. However, the task is not so simple since abandoning sleep is not easy. Laziness is an enemy not easy to conquer and habits formed over numerous lifetimes, will not change instantaneously. It requires discipline and regular practice. A great saint had once said, only one that remembers death can awaken in the Brahma Murtha. Such is the importance of Brahma Murtha. We need to strengthen our resolve to break old habits, so that we can discontinue being a victim to the laziness which has so often brought us downfall. Once the new habit is formed, one will not be able to live without rising early even for a single day. But the toughest part is to make a beginning in the right direction.

We can start by taking small steps at a time and incorporating minor changes in our daily routine. A light dinner, regular exercise routine and retiring to bed early can be some ways to achieving this end. Often people are heard saying that waking up at dawn is an unimaginable task for them as they are not 'a morning person', but really, "**Nothing is impossible when you believe**".

The seemingly difficult practices become easy when one seeks the help of a SadGuru. The Guru will work with the disciple's weaknesses, lovingly guide him and inspire him to reach for the highest goal. He showers him with His infinite grace and grants him the strength to overcome all obstacles. Obedience towards the Guru's command, continuous self efforts and a positive attitude will help us to achieve our goals.

Strong faith can enable you to reach the zenith of success. In the world and beyond. You can attain material, mental, and spiritual advancement. And finally unlock the gates that lead to the abode of the kind Lord that so patiently awaits His precious child.

The key lies in your own hands.

Prabhu Premi Sangh

Swamiji's Travel Schedule

- 26th to 28th Oct: Ambala
- 29th Oct: Haridwar
- 30th to 31st Oct: Transit
- 1st to 7th Nov: Banswara (Bhagwad Katha)
- 8th to 9th Nov: Transit
- 10th to 13th Nov: Ambala
- 14th to 15th Nov: Various places
- 16th Nov: Panipat
- 17th to 23rd Nov: Korba (Bhagwad Katha)



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About the Organization...

'Prabhu Premi Sangh' is founded, directed and led by His Holiness Param Pujya Swami Avdheshanand Giriji Maharaj. Sri Swamiji is the spiritual Head of the age old JunaAkhada group of saints, the biggest of the thirteen saint akhadas in the country. Swamiji has also been nominated as Member of World Council of Religions, a council of great religious leaders devoted to the noble purpose of promoting world peace and communal harmony.

His divine vision for the spiritual and social welfare of mankind and his devoted efforts in this direction, led to the formation of Prabhu Premi Sangh. It has beautiful ashrams established in a divine, peaceful setting in the cities of Ambala and Haridwar, as well as numerous branches throughout India and abroad. Prabhu Premi Sangh is constantly engaged in various spiritual pursuits and programs with the mission to promote amongst society a spirit of selfless service, and impart spiritual knowledge via the study of scriptures, yoga camps, discourses and spiritual gatherings (satsang).



Please visit us online at: www.prabhupremisangh.org.



Feedback

Prabhu Premi Sangh's e-newsletter welcomes your suggestions, comments and queries. We invite you to share with us your viewpoints concerning spirituality, prayer and meditation. You can also send us your personal views, experiences with Swamiji which we will publish under the "Straight from the Heart" section. Please email us at prabhupremisanghnews@gmail.com.

"Seva is the best means of destroying vanity. Through seva one becomes egoless."