

January 2010

Following the Footsteps...

Prabhu Premi Sangh Newsletter



Volume 3, Issue 1

Upcoming events:

- **Maha Kumbh :**
February 5 to
April 20, 2010

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Reflections from Pujya Swamiji's Diary...

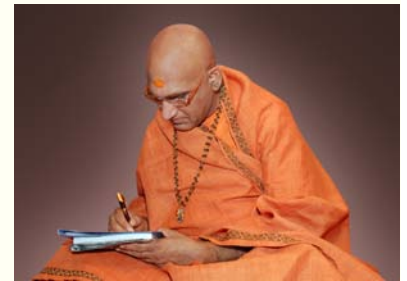


Dear Prabhu Premi,

Prabhu bless you.

Human life is the source of infinite power. Make noble resolves, and accomplish them through sincere and committed efforts. Always harbor good thoughts and carry out your spiritual practices with regularity and interest.

On the occasion of Maha Kumbh, I extend my cordial invitation to all spiritual seekers, disciples and honorable guests to come and experience the sanctity of this festival, being held in the holy city of Haridwar.



Inspiring pearls of wisdom from the diary of Pujya Acharya Sri...

*With love,
Swami Avdheshanand Giri*

News in a Nutshell

Hari Om!

The Kumbh Mela, often known as 'the world's largest spiritual gathering' has commenced in Haridwar. From an astrological perspective, Kumbh occurs at the time when Jupiter enters Aquarius and the Sun enters Aries. During this period, it is said that the waters of the River Ganges acquire manifold spiritual powers and possess immense healing capacity.

In this issue, we bring you an overview of the preparations for the Kumbh Shivar (camp) in Haridwar.

During the month of January, His Holiness conducted Shrimad Bhagavad Katha in Nagpur. He also attended the Dharma Acharya Sabha Conference in Hyderabad. In addition, he conducted spiritual discourses in various cities. On January 27th, Revered Swamiji

attended a function in Janakpuri, New Delhi. Soon after, He left for Ambala and on January 28th, He arrived in Haridwar. The 'Peshwai' or the official entry into Kumbh for the 'Juna Akhara' took place on January 30th.

H.H. Swamiji will be residing in Haridwar till April 20th 2010. During this period, various kathas, workshops, cultural events and spiritual discourses will be organized.

Recognize the Goal of Life

The aim of all our actions is to acquire peace and happiness. All our efforts are carried out in this direction. We spend our entire lives trying to be happy and peaceful, but very few people eventually experience this. If after having attained everything in life, we are not able to get in touch with our real Self, then we are leading a meaningless existence.

In the modern world, life has become a race, where we, as participants of this race, are struggling to move forward with our best efforts. Yet, how many of us really know what our destination is? That is why before participating in such a race, it is necessary to first recognize the goal.

Almost all human beings find themselves in this situation. While we may

be able to think actively and take fervent decisions, our selfish desires and numerous problems have impeded our progress. We have become overly influenced by external competition. In the race of evolution and progress, we have forgotten our core values and ethics.

We are slowly leaving behind the invaluable teachings of the Vedas, Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita that were passed on to us by our ancient forefathers. We cannot understand the fact that in spite of having reached the peak of worldly progress, we cannot achieve real peace and happiness without these teachings and virtues.

The primary reason for this is - Not recognizing the eternal goal as the aim of life and the lack of faith

towards it.

Contemporary thinkers around the world are realizing the importance of moral education but their thinking is limited only to certain social systems and organizations. That is why this path cannot lead us to the ultimate goal. Until and unless our education is not linked with spirituality, we cannot understand the real importance of virtues and moral values and neither will we be in a position to assimilate them. As such, only by making our virtues the basis of our life and actions, can we reach our supreme goal.

That is how that we will be able to find the solution to our problems. But we are trying to gain happiness by winning over nature with the help of science and are seeking peace amidst the

dazzle of sensual pleasures.

The goal of life is to gain freedom from sorrow and to attain peace and happiness. As we become more and more materialistic, we begin to lose the nectar of life, and the world today is heading in this direction. To be immersed in sense objects is an animal like tendency and we will be free from such bestiality only when we embrace humanity. Here it is important to know what the requirements of life are. In life, what we need to do is imbibe positive qualities like renunciation, penance, mutual affection, sacrifice, charity and selfless service.

(Excerpt from H.H. Swami Avdheshanand Ji's Gyaan Sutra)

Serving Humanity

In general, we tend to serve people whom we feel close to. However, when one serves without any prejudice and with complete selflessness, then one automatically develops an affinity for the person that he or she serves.

When a mother brings up a child, it is considered a kind of service. Because a mother is filled with affection for her child, she performs her duties selflessly. Due to this, the child also feels close to the mother, and is in turn inspired to reciprocate by serving her back during her old age. As the saying goes, "Do unto others as you would expect they should do unto you".

The foundation of strong relationships lies in selfless service. Every individual



influences society with his actions and behaviors. If his actions are service-oriented, then he can be an instrument for uniting society.

The basic difference between a home and a house is service-mindedness. This is because a home is built with love and a house is built with hands. Service mindedness is born from the heart and flourishes in a home. It is in the home that one is trained to selflessly serve. Those

who are deprived of such training, have a greater tendency towards misconduct and they can become anti-social. In such situations, instead of service, what prevails is covetousness and self-centeredness. From a serving person, he turns into a selfish person, and all these changes eventually result in social conflicts.

Service is the mother of sacrifice. When the sun of service rises, the flower of sacrifice automatically blooms. The individual ceases to live for himself, but lives for his loved ones. By thus practicing love for others through service, one is gradually inspired to serve and love God. This is how a person becomes sacrificing, selfless and a true devotee of God. He

feels close to all, and lives peacefully and happily by rendering constant service. This happiness and peace is nothing but the fruit of his selfless acts of service.

In reality, what inspires us to serve is the feeling of closeness. The magnetic power of closeness towards one another motivates us to serve. This attraction makes you realize your intimacy to God. There is no expectation of results from service. If there is an expectation of outcome, then it is not true service. Like compassion, service is a divine quality which puts humanity in an elevated position. This is the true meaning, outcome, and the goal of service.

(Prabhu Prem Pukar, Jan 2010)

Prabhu Premis gear up for Maha Kumbh 2010

Preparations are in full swing at Harihar Ashram in Haridwar as prabhu premis are all set for the Maha Kumbh Mela of 2010. Approximately a hundred karya-kartas (volunteers), construction workers and camp executives, bravely enduring the winter weather, are already working day and night, under the guidance of H.H. Swamiji towards establishing and organizing the Kumbh Shivar (camp).

With several construction projects being undertaken in the ashram and many new edifices springing up in the past few months, Harihar Ashram now sports an altogether different look. In addition to the Maha Kumbh cottages, designed to accommodate some of the incoming guests, there will be many other new

additions, including a modern dining hall, a reception area, a fully equipped office, public restrooms etc. In addition, many hotels and dharamshalas in the vicinity of the Ashram have been reserved for the convenience of the devotees.

H.H. Swamiji arrived here in Haridwar on 28th January, 2010. On the eve of His departure from Delhi, devotees organized a small function to convey their greetings as He leaves for the Kumbh. On this occasion, H.H. Swamiji described the significance of Kumbh. He explained that in ancient times, people from all walks of society including kings, philosophers, pundits, and saints would get together once every 12 years, with



the aim to share their perspectives on different issues, engage in healthy discussions and put forth suggestions to bring about positive changes in society. Kumbh is also a time when many Himalayan sages come out of their caves and forests and meet with the regular people. Revered saints share with devotees their knowledge and spiritual experiences and for many, their divine speech is like 'amrit' or 'nectar'. He said, that in the olden days, people kept their valuables in a 'Kumbh' or 'pitcher',

hence it signifies a means of safeguarding valuable knowledge, morals and inspirational thoughts.

Kumbh News Online

For the convenience of prabhu premis in different parts of the world, we will be providing regular news updates, photos and other information about the latest happenings from Kumbh Shivar in HariHar Ashram, Haridwar. These will be available online starting February 5 at:

www.prabhupremisangh.org

Peshwai - Entrance into Maha Kumbh

The official entry of the Panch Dasnam Juna Akhara into the Kumbh also known as "Peshwai" took place on January 30th, in the city of Haridwar and lasted from approximately 1 pm to 7pm.



The procession, headed by Pujya Acharya Ji, seated on a beautifully decorated chariot, and accompanied by mystics, saints and brahmacharis was indeed an exotic sight. At the procession's forefront were two people holding the banner that carried the name of the respective Akhara.

Following this, one was able to witness many different saints, including naga babas with matted long hair and their bodies smeared with ash.

While some saints travelled on foot, others were mounted upon horses, while yet others whizzed by on their motorbikes. Every now and then, there was a saint who displayed some remarkable feat to the crowds. And then there were also some elderly saints and 'babas' who walked by cautiously. Sounds of 'Om Namo Narayana' echoed everywhere.

Amid tight security, hundreds of people had gathered to witness the procession. There was a kind of excitement amongst the crowds who were eager to obtain darshan of the



saints.

As H.H. Swamiji's chariot traversed along, He smilingly waved to the public, who had been waiting enthusiastically to catch a glimpse of Maharaj Ji.

As the crowds joined their hands to do 'pranam', H.H. also reciprocated their greetings by folding His hands and acknowledging them. The procession finally came to an end when it entered into its respective 'Akhara', which is also the

term used to refer to the camp area where many sadhus of the Juna Akhara reside.

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH



"Perfection lies not in doing extraordinary things, but in doing ordinary things extraordinarily well."

Work is Worship



There was once a devotee who was very eager to meet God. He went to His Guru and expressed this desire. His Guru instructed him to go and meet a butcher, named Sadhna, and said that he would be able to help him out. The devotee immediately set out to meet the butcher. Seeing the devotee arrive at his shop, Sadhna said, "Your Guruji has sent you to meet me. Once, I have completed my daily work at the shop, I will be with you."

The devotee was surprised as to how the butcher knew the reason of his visit, without anyone having mentioned anything to him. After shutting down his shop for the day, the butcher left for home with the devotee accompanying him. At the entrance, he saw a small bed, on which the butcher's father was lying down. He was repeatedly coughing and the butcher offered him some medicine. He then entered his home and was immediately surrounded by his young kids who were excited to see him. He picked them up one by one, showering love and affection on each and every one. He asked his wife how her day was. He gave her some instructions as to what he would like cooked for dinner, and then turned towards the devotee.

By now the devotee was filled with suspicion about the butcher. Seeing him so involved in worldly affairs, he began to doubt his authenticity. He thought, "This man is so deeply engrossed in family life and the household, he sells meat and lives such a deprived life, how could he possibly show me God?"

While he was thinking of a way to get out of the situation, the butcher said "You must be thinking how a butcher like me can give you the secret of devotion? He is himself stuck in the worldly life from morning to night. He leads such a difficult life, then how can he possibly show me the right path?"

The devotee was astonished hearing the butcher speak, it was almost as though he was reading his mind. The butcher said, "Is it my fault if I was born in a family of butchers? It is a matter of coincidence my parents were butchers. I have a wife, children and I have a responsibility towards them as well. And while doing all this, I keep remembering God at all times. My body is here, but mind somewhere else." The devotee realized his mistake and fell at the butcher's feet. He said, "My visit to you has been successful. I have found the path to God realization."

Prabhu Premi Sangh

Swamiji's Upcoming schedule

- February 1st to April 20th : Maha Kumbh 2010

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About the Organization...

'Prabhu Premi Sangh' is founded, directed and led by His Holiness Param Pujya Acharya Swami Avdhesanand Giriji Maharaj. H.H. Swamiji is the spiritual head of the JunaAkhada, the biggest and the oldest order of the Sanatan Vedic Hindu Dharma, which has millions of saints. Revered Swamiji is the Trustee of Hindu Dharma Acharya Sabha, the apex body of the Hindu dharma. H.H. Acharya Sri is playing a vital role as a board member of the 'World Council of Religious Leaders', 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.

"As long as you live, live with knowledge and truthfulness."