

June to  
September  
2014

# Following the Footsteps...

Prabhu Premi Sangh Newsletter



Volume 7, Issue 6

Reflections from H.H. Swamiji's Diary...



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**Dear Prabhu Premi,**

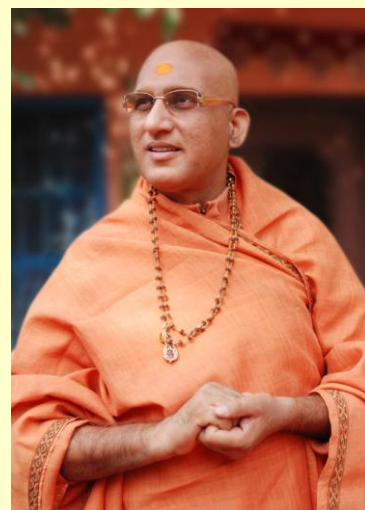
**Prabhu bless you.**

**Since centuries mankind is surrounded by the darkness of ignorance, and is making efforts to overcome this darkness.**

**Light is the natural requirement of life. Inner light illumines the Truth of life, and bestows success.**

**My heartiest wishes to all for Deepavali – the festival of lights. May you be blessed with peace, wisdom, knowledge, and devotion.**

**With best wishes,  
Swami Avdhesanand Giri**



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

## News in a Nutshell

Hari Om!

With the onset of the festive season, a spirit of joyfulness and enthusiasm fills the air. Diwali, the Indian festival of lights, marks the victory of good over evil, light over darkness. It is a sacred and pious festival during which we welcome Ma Lakshmi, the goddess of

prosperity into our homes and hearts.

In June 2014, Summer Camp was held at Haridwar which was attended by hundreds of devotees from across the country. On July 12, 2014 Guru Purnima celebrations were conducted at Ambala and Haridwar, as well as at

several branches of Prabhu Premi Sangh worldwide.

Shrimad Bhagvad Katha was conducted by Pujya Swamiji at Shri Ganganagar from September 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and at Bhiwadi, Rajasthan from September 25<sup>th</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014.

## Selfless Service

The virtue of *Seva* or selfless service is the source of supreme happiness and wellbeing in both, the material and the spiritual world. It is often seen that a person blessed with this quality neither lacks any material nor spiritual achievement. It has been said that those humble beings who offer obeisance and respectful greetings to elders, and diligently serve their holy Masters and preceptor, are blessed with an increase in lifespan, knowledge, fame and strength (*Aayu, Vidya, Yash and Bal*).

Longevity, knowledge, fame and strength – are four attainments desired by all. Even those who follow the path of renunciation often make endeavors to achieve these attributes. In the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna shared a secret formula with Arjuna. He said that if one wants to acquire knowledge from an enlightened saint, then there are three important

steps towards achieving this end: *Pranipaata* (Humble prostration) *Pariprashna* (Polite questioning or request) and *Seva* (Selfless service). The Lord says, 'If you wish to receive knowledge from the Realized Masters, respectfully prostrate before them, humbly ask questions, and serve them. Then they will initiate you into the divine knowledge of seers.

That knowledge, through which all can be known, can be acquired only through the benevolent glance or grace of Realized Beings, and the foremost means of acquiring their spiritual grace is – *Seva*. The primary basis to attain the happiness of the Guru is *seva*. The Guru, who is one with the Indivisible Universe, bestows the realization of the omnipresence of the Supreme Consciousness and is also successful in driving away the darkness of ignorance by opening of the



Divine Eye (through supreme knowledge). The grace of such a Guru or realized Master can be attained only through *Seva*. As a result, the knowledge which manifests within the Guru can be received.

Just like, through the incessant digging of the ground, water is acquired from underground; similarly, through the act of selfless service, knowledge from the holy Master (Guru) can be attained. In order to serve selflessly, the feelings of surrender are extremely essential. When an individual is dedicated towards someone, then a natural desire to serve him or her arises. No one has to instruct or say anything. The individual automatically becomes engaged in acts of service and considers it to be his good fortune.

Scriptures also deem the act of *seva*, to be extremely meritorious and highly beneficial. Penance, knowledge, restraint of the senses, non-violence and service of the Guru– all these qualities are extremely beneficial for mankind. By adopting these qualities in life, especially Guru-*seva*, the person's character, thoughts, personality and actions become divine.

The attribute of *seva* which is being emphasized here, implies selfless service of Realized Masters, of the poor and underprivileged, of those suffering, and refers to service performed with the purpose of spiritual welfare.

Real *seva* is remembrance of the Lord's name. The word '*bhajan*' in '*Bhaj Sevayam dhatu*' provides the inspiration to serve God, and His entire Creation.

*Excerpt from H.H. Swami Avdheshanand Giri Ji's 'Poornta Ki Or'*

## Summer Camp held at Haridwar

Annual Summer Camp was organized at Harihar Ashram in Haridwar from June 1<sup>st</sup> to June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

The camp was conducted under the auspices of Pujya Swamiji and attended by hundreds of prabhu premis from different cities.

During the Summer camp, daily yoga classes were conducted for the participants each morning followed by satsang and classes on Shrimad Bhagvad Gita. Each evening, aarti and bhajans followed by divine discourses by Pujya Swamiji were also held.



On 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2014 Ganga Dusshera celebrations were held. On this occasion devotees took a holy dip in the River Ganges.

### THOUGHT OF THE MONTH



*Bliss is our nature and our very existence.*

## Guru Purnima Celebrations held in different cities

The occasion of Guru Purnima has a great spiritual significance. It marks the beginning of *Chaturmas* – the four holy months of the Hindu Calendar. It is the day to worship one's preceptor and offer respect and gratitude.

Guru Purnima was celebrated at Prabhu Prem Ashram, Ambala on July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014 during which discourse by Pujya Swamiji was held from 10 am onwards. In the evening, Guru Purnima celebrations were held at Harihar Ashram, Haridwar.

On this divine occasion Purnima, Pujya Swamiji said, "The result of all spiritual endeavors is – humility. We should try to develop kindness towards others and always remain modest and polite. The day our persona is separated



from our ego, that day we will realize that we are Pure Consciousness, an infinite ocean of everlasting joy and bliss."

Pujya Swamiji also said that each of us should make the requisite efforts to acquire knowledge. In this context he quoted Buddha, who has advised, '*Appo Deepo bhava*' i.e. 'Be your own lamp' and 'Awaken the light of knowledge inside you'.

"Actions bind us, while knowledge grants freedom. The world tries to bind us (in the cage of our actions) but the one who returns our freedom and flight back to us is – the Guru. Lack of

knowledge signifies bondage, while knowledge epitomizes freedom. Liberation is not possible without knowledge, and the basis of such knowledge is – positive thoughts."

He also said that an individual is greatly influenced by the company he or she keeps. We tend to become like the people who surround us. In this current material age we have ourselves become like an object. *Viveka*, which means the power to discriminate between right and wrong, is acquired through constant practice.

Pujya Swamiji further explained that the meaning of spirituality is to return to your nature. "The result of all our spiritual practices is to enable us to return to our real nature. What is our nature? It is – love,

compassion, bliss."

Swamiji further said, "There is only one method to remove the feelings of incompleteness residing in us – spirituality. That is the only way."

### SHRIMAD BHAGVAD KATHA HELD AT GANGANAGAR

Shrimad Bhagvad Katha Saptah organized by Prabhu Premi Sangh was held from September 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at Ramleela Maidan, Shri Ganganagar. The katha was attended by thousands of devotees from different parts of the nation.

During the katha, His Holiness said that 'as much as possible, we should try to speak less, and listen more. One should not argue with elders, mother, father and Guru, rather we should be respectful and loving towards them. Even with God, a relationship cannot be established through mere speech, but through one's heart.'

'Whenever we express hatred or anger towards others, in reality we do not harm anyone but our own selves. By listening to Bhagvad katha all types of defects and flaws in our personality can be overcome.'

## Shrimad Bhagavad Katha held at Bhiwadi

Shrimad Bhagvad Katha was organized at Kali Kholi Dham, Bhiwadi, Rajasthan from September 25<sup>th</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup> 2014.

This Katha was organized by Baba Mohan Ram Samiti, Bhiwadi.

During the Katha, His Holiness explained that "God is Truth, and Shrimad Bhagvad katha helps us to realize this. The cause of our pain is that we lack knowledge about ourselves.

The root cause of all sorrow is our indifference towards divine knowledge. To know God should be the objective of our life."

H.H. Swamiji explained "Our nature is to acquire completeness or perfection, and this completeness lies in knowing God. It is only by knowing God that we can become peaceful and natural."

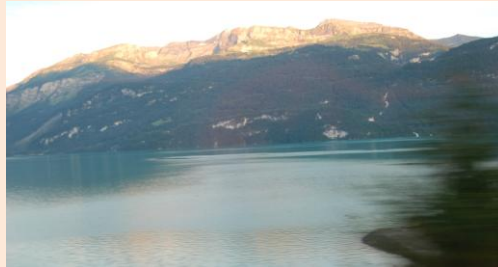
He further said that the result of listening to



Shrimad Bhagvad Katha is – *moksha* i.e. liberation.

By listening to the katha, the mind progresses towards worship of the Divine, and thereby the seeker proceeds on the journey to the Infinite.

## The Invaluable Teaching



Once a young poet visited a renowned sculptor residing in his town. Seeing the beautiful idols and sculptures, he became fascinated and greatly appreciated the sculptor's talent. Praising his work the poet asked the sculptor "Sir, what is the secret of your beautiful and unique art? Who is it that inspires you to create these remarkable sculptures?"

The sculptor smiled and replied, "To know this you will have to live with me for a few days."

The poet agreed and stayed with the sculptor for many weeks. He quietly helped the sculptor in his work and did all the household chores. Many days passed but the sculptor did not tell him anything.

One day the sculptor said to the poet, "Whatever there was to teach you, I have already imparted."

Hearing this poet was surprised and said, "How is that possible? On your advice I stayed here and did all the work without saying anything, but I did not get to know or learn anything about your art."

The sculptor kindly replied, "Yes, you completed all the duties laboriously without saying a word. This is the secret of my success. If you complete a task with full dedication, concentration and single-mindedness, you be able to accomplish great heights. This is what I wanted to make you understand."

Having understood the sculptor's message to him, the poet thanked him for the invaluable teaching.

### H.H. Swamiji's Upcoming schedule



October 12: Narela Satsang, New Delhi

October 13 to October 21: Different places in India

October 22 to October 23: Ambala

October 24: Haridwar

October 25 to November 1<sup>st</sup> : Shrimad Bhagvad Katha, Kaithal

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### *About the Organization...*

'Prabhu Premi Sangh' is founded, directed and led by His Holiness Param Pujya Acharya Swami Avdheshanand Giriji Maharaj. H.H. Swamiji is the spiritual head of the JunaAkhada, the biggest and the oldest order of the Sanatan Vedic Dharma, which has millions of saints. 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](http://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. Please email us at [prabhupremisanghnews@gmail.com](mailto:prabhupremisanghnews@gmail.com).*

**"Knowledge resides where Truth is honored."**