

January 2015

# Following the Footsteps...

Prabhu Premi Sangh Newsletter



Volume 8, Issue 1

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



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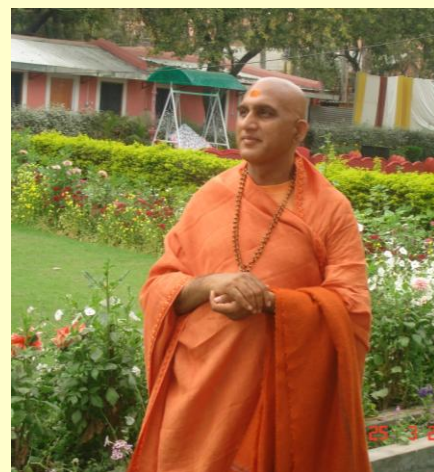
**Dear Prabhu Premi,**

**Prabhu bless you.**

***The key elements for making life successful are noble resolve, dynamism, positive thinking and precise planning. Actions performed with self-confidence bring success.***

***Discretion, discipline, and optimism bring enthusiasm in one's life. Keep alive the wave of spirituality; you will certainly progress.***

**With best wishes,  
Swami Avdheshanand Giri**



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

## News in a Nutshell

Hari Om!

The auspicious festival of Mahashivratri is an occasion of prayer, worship, fasting, chanting and meditation. It is believed that by keeping awake all night and remembering Lord Shiva on Shivratri, one becomes freed from negativity, and rejuvenated, both mentally

and spiritually.

In the month of January 2015, Shrimad Bhagvad Katha was conducted by His Holiness at Chennai, and Shri Ram Katha was conducted at Nagpur. Bhumi Pujan of Swami Avdheshanand Public School was also held on January 25<sup>th</sup> at Vihirgaon, Nagpur.

In February, Mahashivratri will be celebrated at Haridwar on February 17<sup>th</sup> 2015. Lecture series by Pujya Swamiji will be held on February 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at Mumbai. Discourses by Pujya Swamiji will also be conducted in different parts of the country during this month.

## Lord Shiva and His Worship

According to the principles of Sanatan Dharma, 'Brahman', 'Paramatman' and 'Bhagavan' are all One and the same. The same Supreme Entity is worshipped in different names and forms and through various modes of worship. The same Brahman has numerous diverse forms as well as a universal form.

That omniscient, omnipresent Lord is the prime cause of all other causes, existing within all, and is the Supreme Inner Being of All. He is subtler than the subtlest, changeless and not subject to transformation.

He is the sole, undifferentiated, and the efficient as well as the instrumental cause of creation of this material world. His greatness and divinity lies in being omniscient and omnipresent. Entirely complete in Himself, the holy and supremely peaceful Lord Shiva epitomizes all of the world's auspiciousness.

With respect to knowledge, strength, desire and action, there is none other like Lord Shiva. Shiva, being the root cause, foundation, protector, nurturer, controller and Lord of all, is known as Mahamaheshwar;

Lord Shiva is worshipped and adored by all gods; He is the Lord of Lords. He is

Unborn, Eternal, Infinite, without beginning or end, and beyond the states of waking, dreaming and deep sleep. He is completely established in the state of *turiya* (the transcendental state of Absolute Reality), and thus is the foremost Supreme Being of All.

Being '*Ashutosh*' and '*Avadharadaani*', He becomes easily pleased with His devotees and grants everything – *dharma* (righteousness), *artha* (wealth), *kama* (desire), *moksha* (salvation), as well as knowledge and wisdom.

In the Vedas and other sacred texts, the Lord is known as the 'Pure form of knowledge'. Not just the gods but also the saints, sages, wise ones, meditators, demigods, demons, celestial beings, humans etc, through consistent meditation, worship of the Lord, and performance of *yajna* (sacrifice), obtain His grace and become one with Shiva.

Lord Shiva is very generous in nature and filled with compassion. He is the Supreme ideal of knowledge, renunciation and piety.

During the *Samudra Manthan* (churning of primordial ocean), He retained the *kaalkoot* (poison) in his throat through his '*yoga-shakti*',



causing his throat to turn blue and hence came to be known as '*Neelkanth*'. On holding the holy Ganges in His matted hair, He came to be known as '*Gangadhar*'. Apart from these, Shiva has innumerable other names. The glory of Lord Shiva is boundless, He is the Divine Lord worshipped by devotees.

The same Shiva is manifesting and appearing in several different forms. All is Brahman and there is nothing other than Brahman. Due to ignorance and a vision of manifoldness, the individual under the influence of *maya* begins to think of God as a separate and different entity. Moving and immovable, all are forms of Shiva. All is Shiva and Shiva is all. Knowledgeable beings become acquainted with *Shiva Tattva*, and become liberated. Having become established in the *Shiv Tattva*, they themselves become identical to Shiva (and one with Shiva). Knowledge of *Shiva tattva* is possible through *Shiva bhakti* i.e. devotion to Lord Shiva.

Shiva, who completes the task of creation, sustenance and destruction of the three worlds, who takes on the forms of Vishnu, Rudra and Chaturanan, and whose Shakti is impenetrable by the speech and minds of all creatures, that self-illuminating, Shiva, is eternally imperishable, the source of wellbeing, granter of *moksha*, and the source of peace. The *saguna* aspect (form with attributes) of Shiva is extremely beautiful, alluring, pleasant, and attractive, and all the gods are fascinated and enamored by Him.

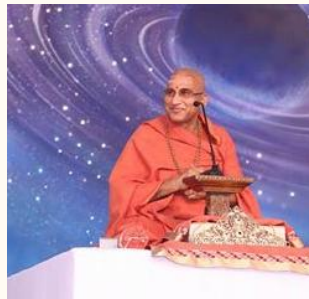
The divine three eyes, the crescent moon adorning His wide forehead, and the stream of the pristine Ganges flowing down from the crown of His matted hair, captivate the wandering and restless mind. With a tall, strong, and well-built body, covered with holy ash, wearing a garland of snakes and deer-skin, having fair complexion like the Himadri, seated on the immaculate Nandi and accompanied by the affectionate Goddess MahaShakti, Lord Shiva is an embodiment of everlasting joy and blissful nectar who bestows happiness upon all. He is the extremely compassionate Lord.

(Excerpt from H.H. Swami Avdheshanand Giri Ji's '*Atma Anubhav*')

## Shri Ram Katha Conducted in Nagpur

Shri Ram Katha was conducted by Pujya Swami Avdheshanand Giri Ji Maharaj at Nagpur, Maharashtra. The katha was organized by Prabhu Premi Sangh, Nagpur and held from 21<sup>st</sup> January to 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at Resham Bagh, Nagpur. The katha was attended by more than 35,000 devotees who had gathered from different parts of the world.

During the katha, H.H. Swamiji explained that the meaning of being human is to (spiritually) evolve, and to attain divinity. He said that the journey of human life can be complete, only when



we attain God-realization. The end of this journey called human life is – the realization of oneness with the Lord.

Pujya Swamiji said that Shri Tulsidas ji says that Ram Katha meant is for one's own self. This gives us the message that if we want to bring peace and happiness in society, then first we

should begin with our own selves. During the katha, H.H. Swamiji also stated that in the Ramayana it is said '*Ishwar Ansh, Jeev Avinashi*', which means that we are a part of the Lord, and we are immortal or eternal. It is further said, '*Chetan Amal Sahaj Sukh Rashi*', which means we are Pure, Consciousness and a source of joy. On the seventh day, prominent saints including H.H. Swami Madhav Priya Das Ji of Shree Swaminarayan Sansthan and H.H. Swami Paramatmanand Saraswati Ji attended the katha, and conferred their blessings on the devotees.

## BHUMI PUJAN

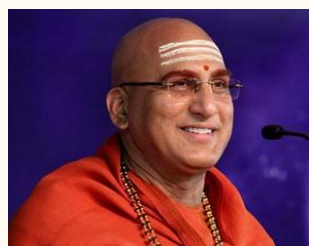


Bhumi Pujan ceremony and laying of the foundation stone of Swami Avdheshanand Public School to be built at Vihirgaon, Nagpur was conducted on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2015 around 11 am by the auspicious hands of Pujya Swamiji. Following this, Pujya Swamiji addressed the devotees.

## Shrimad Bhagvad Katha held at Chennai

Shrimad Bhagvad Katha Saptah by H.H. Swami Avdheshanand Giri Ji Maharaj was conducted from January 9, 2015 to January 15, 2015 from 4 pm to 7 pm at Bhavans Rajaji Vidyashram, Chennai.

During the katha, H.H. Swamiji said, 'Whatever is visible in this world is nothing but God – *Anek Roop Roopaya Vishnave Prabha Vishnave*. Vedas also state, *Sarvam Khaluidam Brahma*, i.e. God is pervading everywhere. He is omnipresent and omnipotent. Due to lack of knowledge, we are unable



to experience the omnipresence of the Divine. Thus, the foremost problem of mankind is *Agyaan* – ignorance or lack of knowledge. It is due to this that man considers himself as the body and believes that 'I am the body'. But in reality, just like clothes cover our body, similarly the body also covers the real Self. Ever since the

beginning of human existence, there is one fundamental question – *Kohum* – Who am I?

'Sometimes man associates himself with the subtle body, and thinks that I am the mind, intellect, thought, imagination etc and on account of this, he experiences joy and sorrow. Hence one of our main problems is that we consider ourselves the body, but in reality we are neither the physical body (*sthool shari*), nor the subtle body (*sooksham shari*) nor the causal body (*karan shari*).

That is why scriptures state that the first *purusharth* (duty) of mankind is – to know His true Self, i.e. to reveal the meaning of his existence and become acquainted with His true identity.'

## THOUGHT OF THE MONTH



**Respecting others is to worship God.**

### The Cracked Pot



A farmer had two large pots – each was hung at the ends of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had several cracks in it while the other pot was perfect and unbroken. The unbroken pot always delivered the full portion of water while the cracked pot always arrived half full at the end of the walk from the water stream.

This practice continued for two years. The unbroken pot felt proud that it was able to deliver all the water, while the cracked pot felt miserable that it was able to deliver only half of what it should be delivering. One day it said to the farmer, 'Master, I want to apologize to you that I am able to deliver only half the quantity of water as the water leaks out due to the cracks.'

The farmer felt sorry for the cracked pot and said, 'Have you noticed that on your side of the trail there is now a beautiful bed of flowers, which does not exist on the other side. I had planted some seeds along the path, and you have watered them for me all this while. It is only because of you I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers, which would not have been otherwise possible. You are indeed special'.

Each person is unique in his or her own way. We should learn to appreciate the inner beauty of each one and overlook their flaws as everyone has a specific role in God's creation.

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



**February 16 to 18: Mahashivratri Celebration at Haridwar**

**February 19: Ramanreti, Gokul**

**February 21 to February 25: Different places in India**

**February 26 to February 28: Mumbai**

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### About the Organization...

'Prabhu Premi Sangh' is founded, directed and led by His Holiness Param Puja 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).*

**"Give yourself the joy of giving without measuring what others give to you."**