

February to May
2015

Following the Footsteps...

Prabhu Premi Sangh Newsletter



Volume 8, Issue 2

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



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Dear Prabhu Premi,

Prabhu bless you.

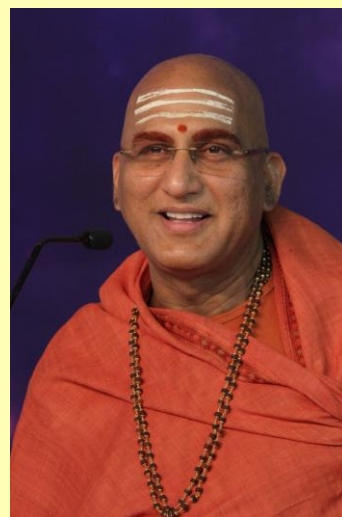
Benevolence is the highest dharma.

Safeguarding the interests of others, protecting their dignity and reverence towards all is the first step of sadhana.

The same Lord exists within all. God is equally present in each one. Hence, to respect each and every one is true worship of the Lord.

'Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah' - May all be happy.

*With best wishes,
Swami Avdhesanand Giri*



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

News in a Nutshell

Hari Om!

In the recent months of February to May 2015, spiritual discourses were conducted by His Holiness in different parts of the country and abroad.

A two day lecture series was organized at Shri Prem Puri Ashram, Mumbai on February 27th and 28th,

2015. Shreemad Devi Bhagvad Katha was held at Johannesburg in South Africa from 4th April to 12th April, 2015.

Dayitva Pradan Utsav (Conferral of Succession) was held on April 21st 2015 at Bharat Mata Mandir, Haridwar.

Annual Summer Camp was

conducted in Haridwar from 26th May to June 2nd, 2015 while Ganga Dusshera celebrations were conducted on 28th of May, 2015.

In the current month of June, Pujya Swamiji will be travelling to various cities in India and will also be visiting South East Asia.

Silence is the Nature of Man

In our culture, *satsang*, spiritual discourses and religious talks are an essential part of life. Words have the power to reform, and yet, sometimes we find that their effect on people can be short-lived.

In the life of the seeker, correct listening is extremely important. However, this is not a simple task. The meaning of correct listening is – to listen without thinking of anything else, with full concentration and in complete silence. It is not about gathering information; rather it is the assimilation of experiences. It requires constant introspection.

While listening, one has to become witness of the changes taking place within oneself. It is important for the seeker to be alert

towards what is being said to him.

Discipleship occurs in silence. There is a fundamental difference between a 'disciple' and a 'student'. A student comes to the teacher to learn and know something, while a disciple's search is for happiness and joy. He is the traveler on the road to immortality and eternity. A student wants to fill up the emptiness inside, while the disciple surrenders himself completely. In order to live life in totality, it is essential for us to become disciples.

Dignity lies in silence. In general, people's minds are filled with borrowed knowledge, which includes varied kinds of information and opinions. Every word, quality, and opinion belongs to others. When a person, instead of talking from his



own experiences, speaks the language of others, he cannot be speaking the truth, because it is not from his own experience. It is indeed possible to discard those things which are received from others, and this state is known as '*Maun*' or 'silence'.

The meaning of silence is – To live in your own fundamental knowledge.

Energy lies in silence. In this state, one begins to understand the source of energy and truth of objects, but the problem with man is that he lives only on the

plane of the mind. He does not want to be silent.

When all external thoughts subside i.e. when man enters the state of thoughtlessness, only then does true silence occur. Words are always in the context of other people. To speak is a habit, but silence is the nature of man.

Silence does not come from the outside, i.e. one cannot achieve silence through external efforts. All turmoil is in the mind. When the seeker becomes established in silence, then he experiences the Supreme Being. Silence is the road to a happy life.

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

Kindness – The Key to God's Heart

Kindness is a divine quality; it is the hallmark of God. It is a quality that can influence, touch and motivate millions of people. Just by being kind to others we can do a great service to our families, society and the whole world. For comprehension purposes, we could say that kindness involves four things –

1. Forgiveness
2. Compassion
3. Acceptance



4. Affection

For us to be kind to all, we first need to forgive those whom we have prejudices against. We should let go of any pain or agony that is troubling us, but this will only be possible if we develop heartfelt

compassion towards all. We should view each one as a reflection of God and learn to accept them as they are.

We should ignore and overlook their little mistakes committed on account of inefficiency or ignorance. Compassion eventually leads to absolute acceptance of all and acceptance can result in affection or unconditional love.

If we make a firm resolve,

then kindness may not be such a difficult thing after all.

It may take a little bit of effort to act kindly towards someone who we may think does not really deserve it, but then who are we to judge? If the Lord doesn't ever differentiate, then why should we? And if He can be a continuous and inexhaustible source of kindness, then we can at least try.

Spiritual Discourse at Shri Prem Puri Ashram (Mumbai)

Pujya Swamiji was invited to speak at a two-day motivational lecture series organized by Shri Prem Puri Ashram on 'Challenges of Modern Life' held at Mumbai on February 27th and 28th, 2015. The central theme on the first day was '*Dharma, Artha, Kama*' and on the second day was '*Moksha*'.

On this occasion, President of Shri Prem Puri Ashram Trust Mahamandaleshwar Swami Vishweshvarand Ji Maharaj, many revered saints and hundreds of devotees were present.

During his lecture, Pujya Swamiji said the root cause of all confusion is '*agyaaan*', i.e. lack of knowledge or ignorance (about the Truth). It is due to this that we find ourselves surrounded by doubts, fear, and disappointment which results in laziness, as a consequence of which we become distanced from our true nature.

Pujya Swamiji said, 'Spirituality is our very nature.' In context to the 'Challenges of modern life', He said "When we speak about modern life, what we really mean is scientific

progress, technological advancement, revolutionary forms of communication etc. The truth is that greater the resources and items of comfort, more is the unrest.

All the modern forms of transport, communication, and information, want to achieve one thing - they want to conserve your time. However, the surprising part is that this great revolution of science and technology and the innumerable resources have brought into our lives endless dissatisfaction."

"We have become part of an age where we have undeservingly acquired the right to criticize, disrespect and condemn. There is such a great haste to express ourselves, give our instant reaction that we do not think twice before speaking. We speak more, and listen less. We listen only to answer, react and express ourselves. So the first challenge of modern life, is that we do not wish to listen. Tolerance and patience have drastically reduced."

Speaking of dharma, Pujya Swamiji said, the dharma of



all human beings is one. Dharma is divine, it is the nature of God. Dharma is the regulatory authority of the world. Dharma is that entity which enables you to return to your own nature. Just like the dharma of fire is to burn, the dharma of water is to provide moisture, dharma of sky is to be infinite, similarly there is a unique dharma of human beings. Dharma of humans is *anand* - bliss. When we return to our true form, our intrinsic nature, we will discover bliss.

He said that in our scriptures, there is one main *upadesh* (instruction) for us humans i.e. to recognize our Eternal nature. To recognize your own Truth, your existence and real identity is your dharma. Also, harmony of thought, action and deed is dharma.

Pujya Swamiji further said that wealth must be earned on the foundations of dharma. Wealth that comes

without dharma, will generate various kinds of disorders. He said that the fundamental essence of wealth is - intellectualism.

Wealth doesn't imply just money, rather wealth means relationships, time, etc. He said that in fact each and every person is a source of wealth and every individual of this country is an asset, not a liability.

The result of wealth which is earned under the influence of dharma is that - *kama* or desires will become restrained. Swamiji explained that *mukti* or liberation is the result of *dharma, artha, kama*. Hence, *moksha* is the outcome. When we speak of *moksha* or *mukti* it means freedom from fear, lethargy, ignorance, etc.

Mukti refers to the attainment of the highest state of divinity, which can happen only when one is living, not after one dies. The day one becomes freed from ignorance and ego, one experiences *mukti*. This is possible by the grace, wisdom and association of holy saints and Guru.

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH



Peace lies in renunciation.

Conferral of Succession

His Holiness Padmabhushan Former Jagadguru Shankaracharya Mahamandaleshwar Satyamitranand Giri Ji Maharaj announced His retirement from the Presidency of the renowned Bharat Mata Mandir and Samanvaya Seva Trust, Haridwar and appointed his senior most disciple, His Holiness Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Swami Avdheshanand Giri Ji Maharaj as His prime successor. This sacred event celebrating the conferral of succession and transference of responsibilities was held on 21st April on the auspicious occasion of Akshay Tritiya in the divine presence of eminent saints and spiritual leaders from all over the country.

The program commenced with the *Deep Prajvalan*



ceremony, i.e. traditional lighting of the lamp by the holy hands of Karshni Peethadhishwar Mahamandaleshwar Swami Gurusharanand ji Maharaj, Nirvaanpeethadhishwar Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Param Pujya Vishokanand Bharti Ji Maharaj, Anandpeethadhishwar Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Swami Gahananand Ji Maharaj, Mahamandaleshwar Swami Vishveshwaranand ji, Surat Giri Bangla Ji, Mahamandaleshwar Swami Kailashanand Brahmachari, Swami Govind Dev Giri Ji Maharaj. This was accompanied with *swasti vachan* i.e. soulful chanting

of prayers and mantras for auspiciousness, peace and wellbeing.

First and foremost Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Swami Avdheshanand Giri Ji Maharaj offered His humble *pranaam* to the lotus feet of Param Pujya Gurudev and reverentially sought His blessings. Following this, H.H. Mahamandaleshwar Swami Satyamitranand Giri Ji Maharaj, alongwith H.H. Karshni Peethadhishwar Gurusharanand Ji Maharaj, affectionately anointed a *tilak* on the forehead of Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Swami Avdheshanand Giri Ji and completed the traditional rituals of the conferral of succession.

On this occasion, Param Gurudev H.H. Mahamandaleshwar Swami Satyamitranand Giri Ji Maharaj expressed immense

joy in endowing H.H. Swami Avdheshanand Giri Ji Maharaj with the management and leadership of the organization.

On this occasion, senior saints from all the various akhara, Mahamandaleshwars, and prominent saints from different parts of the country were present. General Secretary of Akhara Parishad and Secretary of Shri Panchdasnam Juna Akhara Swami Hari Giri Ji Maharaj, Secretary of Shri Taponidhi Niranjani Akhara Shri Mahant Swami Ramanand Puri Ji Maharaj, Secretary of Shri Panchayati Nirvani Akhara Swami Ravindrapuri Ji Maharaj, were present.

In addition, all the revered saints and trustees of Bharat Mata Mandir were present.

Summer Camp Held in Haridwar

Like every year, the annual Summer Camp was organized at Harihar Ashram, Haridwar from 26th May to 2nd June 2015. Prabhu premis from different parts of the country and abroad came together to participate and rejuvenate themselves in this camp.

During the camp daily yoga classes were conducted from 5:30 am to 6:30 am by



Yogacharya Ashutosh Kumar. Sanskrit classes were conducted during the camp daily by gold medalist Swami Keshavanand Ji, professor of Philosophy at Vidya Bharti University, Varanasi. Desirous learners

of all age groups attended these classes with full enthusiasm. Spiritual discourses by Pujya Swami Avdheshanand Giri Ji Maharaj were conducted every evening from 8 pm onwards. Celebrations for the sacred festival of Ganga Dusshera were held on 28th of May, 2015.

On 2nd June, 2015, a new Conference Hall named '*Mritunjay Mandapam*' was



inaugurated by the holy hands of His Holiness Padmabhushan Former Jagadguru Shankaracharya Mahamandaleshwar Swami Satyamitranand Giriji Maharaj in the presence of many other holy saints.

Patience



Once there was a gentleman who always wore black colored clothes. One day he visited a rich businessman. The businessman asked him, 'Why do you always wear black clothes?' The man replied, 'My friends namely anger, lust, ego and greed have died. It is in their sorrow that I wear black clothes. The businessman found this answer very surprising and thought that the man was trying to mock him. He became extremely angry and ordered him to leave. The man quietly left.

The businessman then sent his assistant to bring him back, and the man returned. As soon as he entered, once again the businessman began to rebuke and insult him, and asked him to leave. Again the man left. This happened around thirty times. The businessman continued to hurl abuses and insults upon the man. But the man showed no signs of anger or despair.

At last, the businessman said, "You are indeed worthy of honor. In spite of me rebuking you thirty times you still remained composed. I tried my best to annoy you, but you did not get upset. Now I give up."

The man humbly replied, "You need not praise me, I am just an ordinary human being. Have you ever noticed the nature of dogs? Even if you drive them away a hundred times, they will still lovingly approach you as if nothing has happened. They are truly forgiving.' He further said, 'I wear these black clothes to constantly remind myself to remain peaceful, and be free from anger and hatred.'

The businessman realized that this was not some common man; he was truly divine who had acquired victory over his weaknesses.

Each of us should also learn the art of forgiving and give up pride, anger and desires. By practicing patience and humility we can learn to remain calm in every circumstance.

H.H. Swamiji's Upcoming schedule



June 10 to June 12: Kolkata

June 12 (evening): New Delhi

June 13 to June 15: Patnitop (Jammu & Kashmir)

June 16 to June 17: New Delhi

June 18 to June 23: South East Asia

June 24 to June 25: Ambala

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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.



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.

"Life is like a wish fulfilling tree. Learn to respect it always."