



Reflections on Ammaji's Sastyabdapūrti (60th Birthday)

Reflections



Swamini Pramananda, affectionately known as AMMAJI, had her sixtieth birthday celebrations on 4th July, 2019 at the Purna Vidya Foundation in Coimbatore. The Vedic rituals started on the morning of 3rd July and were completed on 4th July. The two days intense pujas and rituals were duly performed and guided by Swami Pranavananda, Upamathadipati (assistant pontiff) of Sri Bhuvaneshwari Peetham, Pudukkottai, Tamil Nadu, along with sixteen Vedic scholars. It was a great blessing for all of us assembled to understand, appreciate and respect the power, significance, bliss and the spiritual vibrations associated with these rituals. In short, all of us assembled there were transported to a different dimension of reality and left speechless with a sense of peace, contentment and serenity.



Rituals begin on July 3rd morning with Guru-puja



Rituals begin with Guru-Puja to Pujya Sri Swami Dayananda Saraswati on 3rd July



The dawn of 3rd July began with Guru-puja to Pujya Sri Swami Dayananda Saraswati and was followed by powerful Fire Rituals all morning, invoking the deities and seeking their blessings. The morning concluded with Maha-abhisekam performed on AMMAJI on 3rd July, which left us with tears, seeing her serene and smiling face receiving the sacred holy waters.

The evening concluded with Bhagavati Seva during which AMMAJI herself performed the final pujas of the day for the Divine Mother! The ashram was filled with joy and celebrations as disciples and guests arrived from all over the world. Swamijis, Swaminijis from various ashrams, Purna Vidya Trust members, leading Industrialists, doctors, lawyers, correspondents of schools, principals, chartered accountants, Vedanta students, Purna Vidya teachers, Sevaks, staff of Purna Vidya Foundation and hundreds of well wishers attended the function.



Ammaji takes Sankalpam for Sasti-abdapurti Pujas and Rituals



Homam is performed by the priests



The Global Family of Purna Vidya and all disciples adorned the occasion



Maha-abhisekam to Lord Vanalingesvara



Everyone present is totally involved





The Global Family of Purna Vidya and all disciples adorned the occasion



Maha-abhisekam of Ammaji on the first day



All are engrossed in the prayers and



Students and disciples are partaking in the first day



Sacred waters being showered on Ammaji





The ceremonies close after the Sambhavana of the priests



Ammaji in Bhagavathi Puja



Blessings for devotees on 3rd July



Prayers being offered by one and all





The Fire Rituals continue on the July 4th - The day of blessings for one and all



Sri Swami Siddhabodhananda performing the Purna-ahuti.

The fire-rituals on the 4th July were rarest of rare experience for all assembled! As the fire from homa-kunda leaped up over 12 feet high receiving all the oblations, it felt as if the Devatas and Devis had themselves arrived to receive the offerings made! The Maha-abhisekam for AMMAJI after the culmination of all the Vedic rituals was yet another rare sight which left us all once again mesmerized. Swami Siddhabodhananda and Swami Pranavananda poured the sacred waters on Ammaji, who remained still, radiating peace and serenity around her! It was as if time froze – and everyone assembled captured the scene in their hearts, feeling divinely blessed!



Bhagavadgita students of the Asrham for the Reception Team



Ammaji in front of the temple



Rituals in the presence of Lord Vanalingesvara Temple



In rapt attention



Arsha Vidya Swamijiis make their presence





Presence of the sadhus during the function



Ammaji with the fire ritual



Respected Swamis at the dias with Ammaji



Attentive audience



Swami Pranavananda at the rituals



Offerings into the sacred fire



The sacred fire leaps up in the air



Sri Swami Siddhabodhananda performing the Purna-ahuti.



Ammaji absorbed in receiving the blessings of the Divine

Ammaji wishing all immediately after the Abhisekam





Ammaji blessing the devotees



Kiritam being offered to Ammaji



Special guests share Ammaji's Vedanta Propagation work in their countries



Ammaji flanked on either side by guests from the Vedic Tradition

During the formal function that followed, the Purna Vidya Teachers and Facilitators from various parts of the world talked about their work in the outreach activities of Purna Vidya Community Classes. This included representatives from the UK, Middle East, Singapore and Malaysia. The European countries Teachers and Facilitators shared how the Yoga Community had benefited from Ammaji's teachings in Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, France, Spain and so on. They shared their gratitude to Ammaji for bringing Bhagavad Gita teachings into their lives through weekly Gita-Satsang groups. During the meetings, the Global family shared their experiences, the challenges faced by them and their initiatives to take the vision and mission of Purna Vidya forward. This gave a new momentum, motivation and energy for the Indian counterparts to take up the various initiatives of Purna Vidya forward in India and especially in Tamil Nadu.



Purna Vidya South East Asia



Purna Vidya Europe shares their gratitude to Ammaji



Purna Vidya Middle East represented



Purna Vidya U.K. speaks



Kiritam being offered to Ammaji





Special guests with Ammaji



Patrons of Purna Vidya Trust



Sacred gifts being offered to Ammaji



Ammaji gives her blessings and message on her 60th Birthday



Dr. Ramani, Shankara Eye Hospital speaks





Concluding ceremonies



Blessings for one and all



1-Capturing the evening of the rituals, in front of the Temple and Homakund before nightfall.



AMMAJI's message for all of us kept the whole audience spellbound and gave us all a glimpse of the life journey she travelled with courage and commitment to reach the spiritual stature she holds today in the global spiritual communities. All present were stunned in wonder and amazement to see her power and sacrifices made in promoting and propagating the knowledge of our Rishi Parampara for the last four decades. Ammaji described the three spiritual milestones in her life from her childhood till date! Listening to her with rapt attention, everyone present were deeply humbled to know Ammaji personally as a silent, unassuming, loving spiritual mother. Ammaji personally met everyone present there and gave a beautiful gift containing the sacred Bhagavad Gita. What a day it was showering blessings of prayers, rituals, divine messages, gifts and to top it all, a great weather with rain-shower blessings for all!



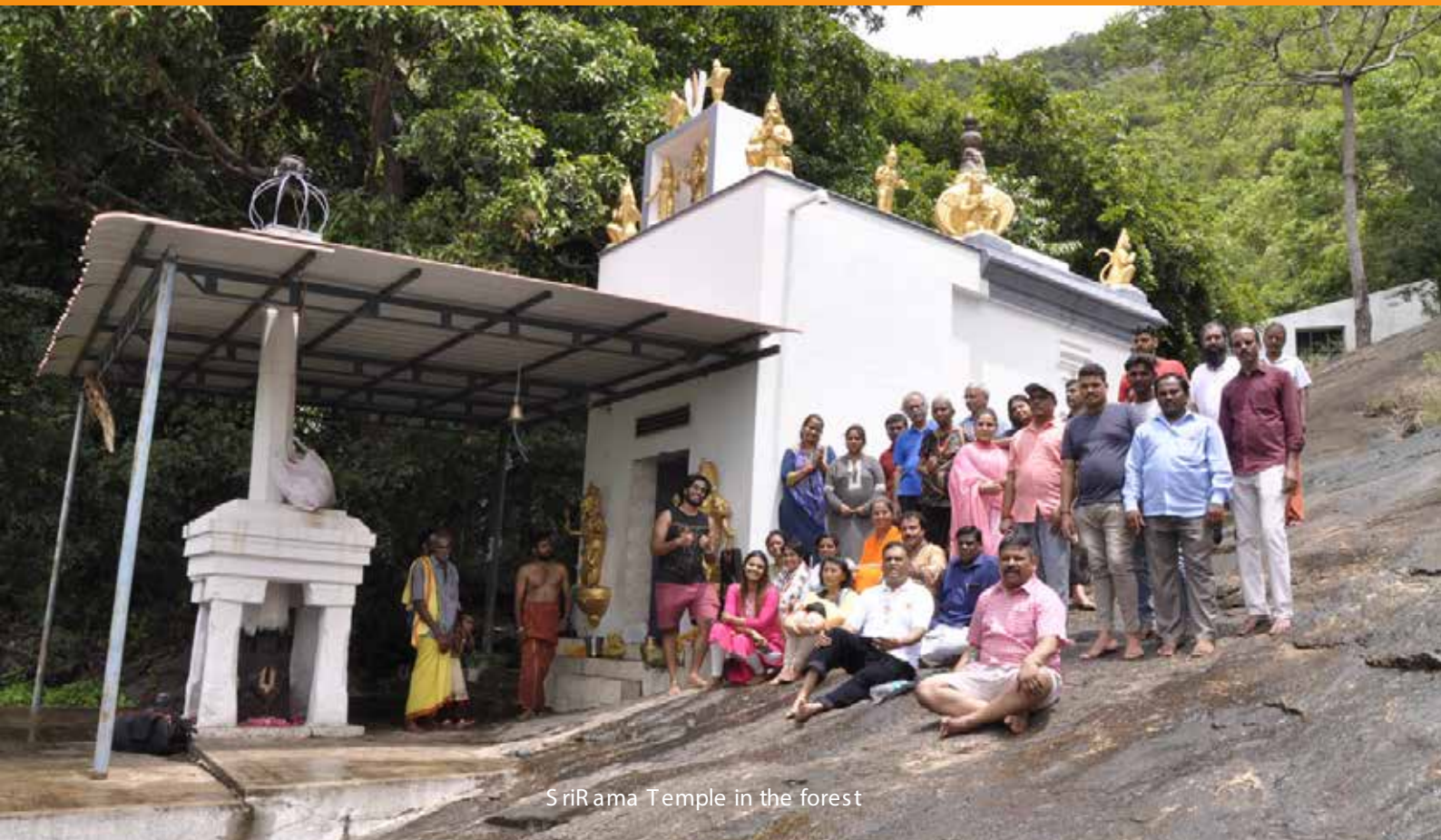
A Special Retreat follows the celebrations



Ammaji gave a surprise gift, for all those who stayed beyond 4th July in the ashram. We had meditation sessions with Ammaji, classes on Shankara's 'Maya Panchakam' on 5th and 6th July. What a spiritual retreat it was for all of us!! During the retreat we also had a meeting of the global team of Purna Vidya. Apart from discussions on the various issues and challenges faced over a decade of the global trust work, the remedies were identified by the team and milestones were set till 2021, for the growth of the global work of Purna Vidya for the next five years. What stood apart was the synergy and bonding energy present and deep lasting connections were established with everyone in global Purna Vidya Family.



Entering SriRama temple in Koothadi Hills near ashram



SriRama Temple in the forest





Annadanam to the Adivasis



Ready for the Perur temple trip



Visit to Bhagavati Temple in Palakkad



Adivasis leave for their hamlets



Entering Collimuttam Village, Palakkad



At the river bank near the Murugan Temple, Palakkad



SriVenugopalaswamy Ashram



More birthday gifts to Ammaji



Sumptuous traditional Feast at our Ashram in Palakkad



Final Parting moments in the village



The whole week of celebrations of AMMAJI's 60th birthday slipped away very quickly and came to an end as we waved each other goodbye, and returned to our abodes with hearts filled with love and gratitude towards our Gurus, Swami Siddhabodhananda and AMMAJI. Silently they had instilled in us a renewed enthusiasm, vigour and commitment for our Inner Spiritual Journey as well as taking the noble work of Purna Vidya forward for the global Spiritual and Cultural Awakening. Om Tat Sat.