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AMMAJI'S MESSAGE

SWAMINI PRAMANANDA

This year has been eventful for the whole world and nobody has been spared from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. It has been a year filled with upheavals, uncertainties and deaths yet at the same time the pandemic has given all of us multiple opportunities to reflect on the things that are truly important. Though it has stripped us of many things, the pandemic has definitely brought together a collective universal experience..



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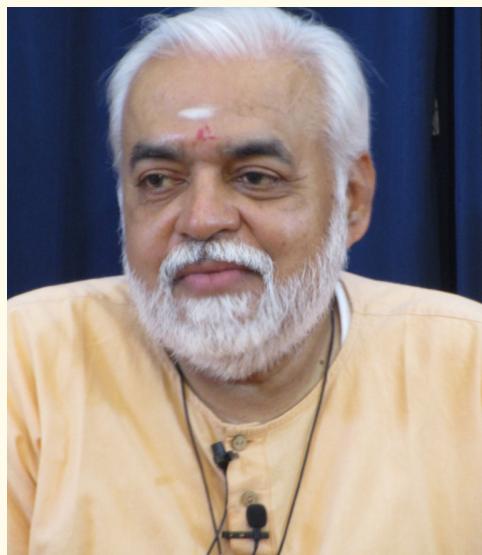
It has torn down physical, psychological and emotional barriers and has allowed people to reach out and connect with each other. It has opened-up opportunities for various services to mankind such as giving in kind, time, looking out for neighbours and extended global family. The pandemic not only has taught us to treasure what we have taken for granted all this time such as health, family and simple living, but has also retaught human-kind the value and importance of gratitude.

Gratitude is a human quality which leaves no room for negativity. The more grateful we are with reference to life, the more we experience contentment and satisfaction. Gratitude shifts our focus from what we don't have to what we have. It changes our perception and this changed perception changes the nature of our existence. It is a life-giving quality of the soul. Where there is gratitude, there is humility and where there is humility there is inner alignment and peace!

That we all survived the year of pandemic and were not torn away from our loved ones is enough for us to offer our prayers of gratitude and appreciate all the blessings that has been bestowed upon us! Thus, as we wrap up 2020 and usher in 2021, let's do so with gratitude in our thoughts, words and action to the universe that has sustained us and continues to sustain us all!

How many Gods does a man need?

Sri Dhira Chaitanyaji



Many Gods!--So many!—Is not that one too many?

One God!--So many Ones to choose from! Which one is real? Which one among them do I choose? Does my acceptance of one attract the wrath of the others?

No God?-A safe bet? Perhaps or maybe not! Much to gain or much to lose!

Wherfrom the understanding of so many Gods - A brief overview

A human being, like other beings has awareness of one's basic needs such as hunger, thirst and of others as friend or foe. In addition, human also has an awareness of oneself as an entity, with a self-identity and will that is free to a degree. He recognizes the passage of time and looks at the world in terms of cause and effect. His search for knowledge leads him to question the purpose of his existence, life, death, Universe and so on.

Vedic thought addresses the human quest as follows:

Looking at the universe of which one is a part, what one observes is that there is an order in its functioning. Things function, events are experienced, actions lead to results all following patterns many of which can be predicted based on one's knowledge of how things happen. There is an order be it physical, chemical, geological, astronomical and so on. In fact, because there is Order, there is such a thing called science which is an enquiry into the laws of how things function. The very presence of laws of science validates the existence of Order. Everything we see in the Universe seems to be put together in such a manner that each has a place, a purpose, a contribution to make in the total scheme.

Anything put together and functioning meaningfully is seen to have a two-fold cause; Knowledge, nimittam and Material, upaadaanam eg. in regard to a clay pot there is 1) nimitta kaaranam the potter and 2) upaadaana kaaranam, clay. In this example of clay pot the two-fold causes exist separate from each other.

continued ...

The cause of the entire manifest infinite Universe, jagat, is likewise looked upon as being twofold having intelligence and material cause of Universe called as jagadkaaranam; also called as Ishwara.

In case of the clay pot the two causes are separate. This is not possible in case of jagat which is infinite. Additionally, time and space are considered a part of creation. The manifest along with jagat. In other words, the Knowledge and Material cannot exist separately. They thus have to have their being on the same locus with reference to the cause of jagat. Thus Ishwara, is looked upon as both nimittakaaranam and upaadaanakaaranam, the intelligence and material cause of the manifest universe.

To use a metaphor, it is something like a dreamer creating the dream, where the dreamer is both the 'intelligence' and the material of the dream world. He is both the subject of the dream world and the dream world itself. As the subject dreamer he transcends the dream experience and the dream world. Where in the dream world is the dreamer located? One would have to say all over the dream. He is not only transcendent but immanent in the dream.

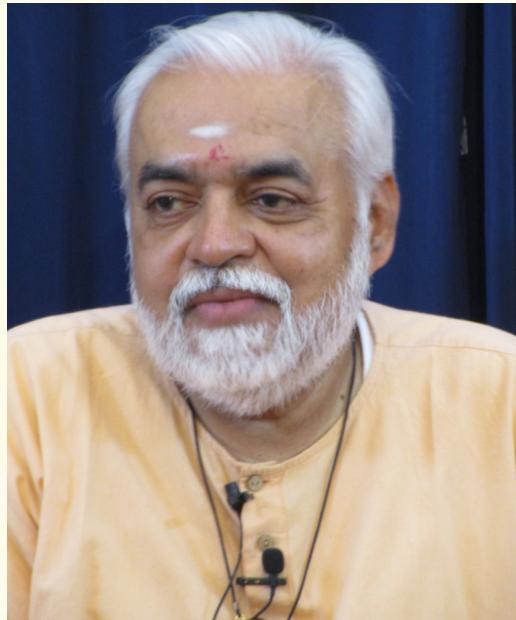
In Vedic culture, Ishwara being the infinite cause of the infinite effect jagat including inert objects and sentient beings is looked upon as both Transcendent and Immanent with respect to jagat. Thus, while Transcending jagat there is no place in jagat that Ishwara is not. In other words, Ishwara is also Immanent. It is a culture that recognizes the presence of Divinity everywhere and transcending everything. As such one can invoke it anywhere. The cause can be recognized and invoked anywhere in the effect. This implies that Ishwara includes the individual, just as the infinite includes the finite.

For an individual to relate to the total, he must necessarily separate himself from the total. He can therefore only relate to an aspect of the total. Ishwara is looked at from various aspects, laws, functions, qualities in creation. Thus, the infinite assumes many functional aspects. These are the various deities, 'Gods' and 'Goddesses' through which the worshipper worships infinite Ishwara. The various icons used for worship are traditional, symbolic, and represent various laws that are involved in the functioning of the universe. They are form symbols, murtis which may be anthropomorphic (human like), aniconic (non-specific shape), esoteric (yantras) and so on. They represent various aspects of the infallible order we see around us and by which we and the universe functions.

In the Vedic vision the uncaused cause is One (not the numeric finite exclusive one but the infinite all-inclusive one), recognized and invoked in its infinite expressions. There is only Divinity recognized as the essence of all and everyone that exists in the Universe.

Religious Belief, Faith and Practice

Sri Dhira Chaitanyaji



Part 3 of 3

Religious Practice

This brings us to the third item of the Title - Religious Practice.

There are - variety of practices in different religious traditions that are connected to the expression of one's faith and beliefs. These may include various forms of worship, prayers, and religious practices such as fasting, pilgrimage acts of charity and so on. These are the many expressions of one's sentiments of devotion, respect, love and so on that has their basis in one's culture and understanding.

Religious convictions are deep seated and influence the way we understand ourselves and others. They influence the system of values we live by as individuals and as a group and the way we relate to each other in the world that we share with all creatures. Even a secular society is made up of individuals who have convictions and who ascribe to various beliefs and ways of thinking that express in varieties of cultural practices.

continued ...

The Hindu culture is a religious culture. Hindu tradition sees Divinity as the essence of all beings. There is only one Truth however we choose to define it. Every being is connected to Divinity in the same manner as the created to the creator, as an individual to the Total. And an individual being a part of the Total can never be apart from the Total. In other words while one human being can excommunicate another from one of their groups, God, I believe does not, perhaps even cannot do so as where is He going to banish the individual since there is no place that is not within His realm. In reality the individual can never be outside the realm of the Total. Of course an individual may believe himself to be so due to ignorance and error.

All that is here is looked upon as sacred. There is nothing secular in Hindu tradition. Life is sacred in every form that lives and equally so. Knowledge is sacred and worshipped as a Goddess. Art in the form of both fine and performing arts, classical and folk art, carry themes of divinity and sanctity of the creation. Our forms of dress, the way people greet each other, their social customs and day to day expressions all carry this message of divinity.

In summary, the essence of Hindu Faith is that All that is here is Divine and is an expression of the one single Truth that sustains the whole creation. Truth of oneself and God is to be discovered by and in oneself, is revealed by scripture, not opposed to logic and verifiable by personal experience. This basic understanding pervades this ancient culture as seen in its forms of worship, culture, literature, art and way of life expressed in a multitude of forms and expressions.

Past events

Vedic heritage teachers training program

A Marathon session of Teachers Training with 300 teachers from Chettinad Vidyashram group of schools, conducted by Ammaji, online was concluded on Dec 16th.

Principals of 6 schools were panelists. They concluded their "takeaway" from Ammaji's classes spread over 3 months in the context of Purna Vidya Books :

- Purna Vidya books foster Cultural Consciousness of the younger generation
- Purna Vidya books form a very important tool in Teacher's hands to set the context of Dharma for children to imbibe
- how very well the books are structured to empower Para Vidya in addition to Apara Vidya as the child grows physically
- how Ammaji's motivation guides teachers to walk the Vedic Heritage Talk

Gita Muthiah the correspondent of the schools is a visionary in her field and about 17 years before, embraced the Purna Vidya model for Value Education in her group of schools, similar to many other schools spread across the country,

Feedback of Ms. Bhuvaneswari.D , Chettinad Vidya Mandir, Karur

Q: .How do you think the sessions with Ammaji have broadened your perspective about Dharma in our Indian culture?

A: Dharma is the greatest quality in human life. Before attending Ammaji's sessions, I thought dharma is something which are good actions. After attending that I got a different perception on it. One person's Dharma seems to be ADharma for others and vice versa. The purpose of your particular action decides whether it is Dharmic or ADharmic.

Q :How do you think children at this present age (era) can benefit through the session?

A :They will learn the deep rooted values in the Indian culture.

It will help in self realization and helps them to gain higher wisdom.

Their education becomes complete with this session.

Feedback of Ms.Sowmiya Priyaa V.S , Chettinad Vidya Mandir

Q :How do you think the sessions with Ammaji have broadened your perspective about dharma in our Indian culture?

A: It made me understand the direct connection between the individual and the societal phenomena that bind the society together' which enables the individual to satisfy the striving for stability and order, a life that is lawful and harmonious, striving to do the right thing, be good, be virtuous, earn religious merit, be helpful to others, interact successfully with society.

Q: How do you think children at this present age (era) can benefit through the session?

A: Children will know that different people look at the world differently. Children will be provoked to be curious when hearing the stories. This enables a child to make the connections between religion, and day to day life in the modern world, to be an open-minded, well-adjusted global citizen who is deeply aware of their own religion but is able and willing to embrace learning from others as well

Ashram Events

Lighting up the ashram with rows of lamps in Lord Vanalingesvara Temple and Gurusthanam, Purna Vidya Foundation observed its annual celebration of Kartigai Deepam, the largest festival of Tamil Nadu!



Online Events

Samskrtram Introductory Level-3rd Batch Completion



Feed back from Students:

"From August to December 2020, I was part of Samskrtam Beginner's class. The class helped me immensely in building my knowledge base for Samakrtam and preparing me adequately for the next level. All this was possible only with tremendous efforts put in by our Ammaji. Her method of teaching was creative, connective and engaging that made our class joyful and fun. Ammaji paid close attention to pointing out fine nuances in the vocabulary from the perspective of different ways of writing and interpreting. Overall, this class was the most amazing experience and I am looking forward to the next level of learning Samskrtam." -Udita Gupta.

It was a blessing to have taken the Introductory Samskrtam class from Ammaji. By way of background, I am a native Hindi speaker with exposure to several years of Samskrtam in middle school. With an introductory class, I was expecting to "remove the rust" and no more. But I was wrong. I learned more in these 30 classes from Ammaji than I ever did previously, especially on the extreme oral and written precision that the language demands. Ammaji is a teacher extraordinaire – her love for teaching and for Samskrtam is infectious. In fact, it is an experience in itself watching and learning how Ammaji teaches, with just a simple whiteboard over a challenging medium such as Zoom.

What a blessing!

-Manu Goyal

Upcoming Events



Launching 4th batch of Intermediate Samskrtam by Ammaji and Introductory Alphabet class by Kavitha ji

Spiritual seekers desiring to learn Samskrtam for the study of Vedantic scriptures.

Namaste

After successful launch of completion of few batches of Samskrtam Introductory and Intermediate batches, Purna Vidya is happy to announce two new courses in January.

Our unique methods of weekly online classes followed by homework and mentorship sessions in additional have been helping many students learn grammar in the right way from scholars of the language.

These sessions are devised to not only give you live interactive online learning with the gurus but also to followup with appropriate home study with help of mentors giving a very strong foundation the the principles taught.

Register now at purnavidya.org/samskrtam/

For any information, please contact +91 9701222770 - call or WhatsApp



संस्कृतम्

Learning Samskrtam Intermediate Level - Part 1

"A Sanskrit Manual" by S.J. Antoine

4th Batch of Online Students begins on
January 4th, 2021
Monday & Friday from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (IST)

Part-1(28 Sessions) Syllabus covered

- Verbs-Present tense Conjugations of Roots belonging to 1,4,6,10 class.
- Phonetic Combination – Vowel Sandhi & Visarga Sandhi
- Nouns - Masculine & Neuter
- Syntax – All Cases

The course starts on Jan 4th 2020 and will be covered in 28 sessions of 1 hour each followed by Q&A. Additional support will be provided such as weekly Mentoring sessions, Homework Corrections and Phonetic studies.

Swamini Pramananda is a Vedanta teacher and a Samskrtam scholar. She has been studying Samskrtam from a young age. She has taught Vedanta texts with Shankara-bhasyam and Paniniyan Samskrtam grammar as an Acharya in her Guru's gurukulam for a decade. Ammaji's medium of instruction will be English.

Teacher :
Swamini Pramananda

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Email : purnavidya@gmail.com



Register at : www.purnavidya.org/samskrtam
Download and install the **Zoom** app from Playstore or App Store

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Purna Vidya's Live



LEARNING SAMSKRTAM INTRODUCTORY LEVEL

(30 SESSIONS)

With the blessings of Ammaji

by

Ms. Kavitha Senthil

4th and 5th Batch of Online Students begins on

19th JANUARY 2021

Tuesday & Thursday

Batch 4 - 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm (IST)

Batch 5 - 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm (IST)



Syllabus Covered:

- Devanagari Alphabet Script Writing
- Devanagari Alphabet Pronunciation
- Conjunct Consonants
- English Transliteration Key

Kavithaji is a keen student of Samskrtam and has trained under Ammaji and Swami Siddhabodhanandaji. She teaches Bhagavad Gita chanting classes as well as other stotrams. She is a teacher trainer for Purna Vidya's Heritage classes. She continues her Vedanta studies with Ammaji and Swamiji and is an inspiration for many.

Register Now at:

www.purnavidya.org/Samskrtam

Download and Install the Zoom app from Playstore or App Store

Purna Vidya Foundation

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🌐 purnavidyapage

Children's Corner

Utsav 2020 was celebrated with great enthusiasm. About 200 children participated in various categories - Chanting and Creative Design.

12 Purna Vidya Sevaks officiated as judges. Amid a lot of challenges along the way in organising and conducting the on-line event, The Utsav Team cheerfully completed all Utsav Duties.

Winners from the various categories are announced here:

CATEGORY 1

Shloka Chanting, Sarada Shlokam, Age 7-9 Years Participation

First Prize: P.V.Mukunth

Second Prize.Vangmayee

Third Prize.Niharika Thada & Pranav Anandh

CATEGORY 2

Shloka Chanting, Lingashtakam, Age 10-13 Years

First Prize: Shreyas

Second Prize : J.V.Sri Haren & V.Vedha

Third Prize : Nandana Vipin & D.K. Aryamaan

CATEGORY 3

Recitation of Bhagavad Gita Chapter 15, Age 14-15 Years

First Prize: Priyanka Jothi.B

Second Prize : Vidya C.S

Third Prize : Shree Subarna

CREATIVE DESIGN COMPETITIONS

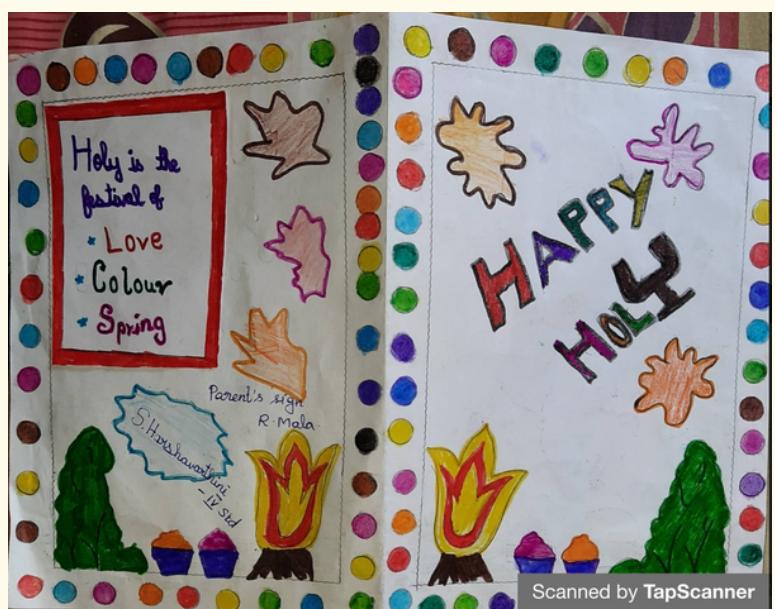
CATEGORY 1, Age 7-9 Years

Topic : e-Greeting card preparation for Functions and Religious Festivals based on Sanatana Dharma

First Prize: S.Harshavarthini

Second Prize : V.Ilamugil

Third Prize : Saathana



CREATIVE DESIGN COMPETITIONS

CATEGORY 2, Age 10-13 Years

Topic : e-Poster
on Environmental Protection

First Prize: Imaya Varsha S.P

Second Prize : Rithanya

Third Prize : Kamyia Krishna



CATEGORY 3, Age 14-15 Years

Topic : Power Point presentation on
Covid-19-Awareness and Safety measures

First Prize: P.Teja Sri



CATEGORY 4, Age 16-167 Years

Topic : Short movie or short animation
on History of Pandemics in the
world over the span of 25 years

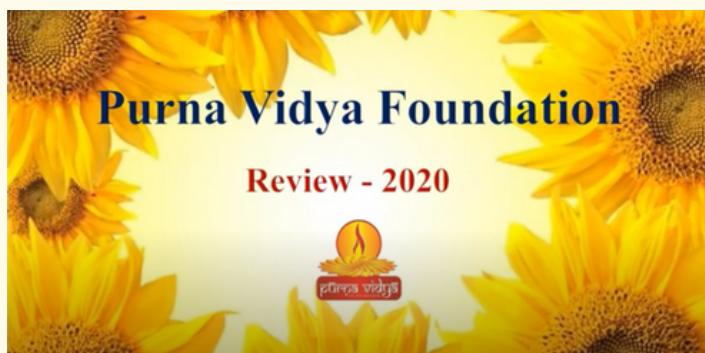
First Prize: Pradeep



A Glimpse..... of Purna Vidya 2020

Please select below link and click to see the video

Video link- <https://youtu.be/Sj51yzt9zW4>



Gratitude



Isabel



Chandrasekar



Kavita



Vittoria

Bhagavad Gita & Samskrtam Seva Team

With

Deep Gratitude and Appreciation

to all the Facilitators

Meggi

*for supporting the Bhagavad Gita and Samskrtam
Classes*

Andrea

Sarah

in the Online Space

during the 2020 Pandemic Year!

Wishing You All a Joyous & Prosperous Year

A head!

- The Global Management Team



Sreenivas



Archana

Ravindran





Chandrasekar Janaki Kavita Vasumati Madhurima Balasubramaniam

Vedic Heritage Teachers

Shobha



Padma



Lakshmi



Sundari



Kasturi

*With Deep Gratitude and Appreciation
to All the Vedic Heritage Teachers,
Purna Vidya's Cultural Ambassadors,
for joining hands with us in the Cultural
Awakening Propagation Work
in the Online Space
during the 2020 Pandemic Year!*

*Wishing You All a Joyous & Prosperous
Year A head!
- The Global Management Team*



Anil

Sree Lakshmi

Vandana

Smruti

Ramananda



Janani

Isabel

Nina

Tina

Publication-Seva Team

With

Deep Gratitude and Appreciation

to The Publication Seva Team



*Sreenivas for Your Time, Skill and Contribution to Purna Vidya Archana
in Transcribing, Editing, Proof Reading and
bringing out Articles on Vedanta and related topics*

during the 2020 Pandemic Year.

Wishing You All a Joyous & Prosperous Year A head!

- The Global Management Team



Shobha



Sudhashri



Madhurima



Gayathri





Anuradha



Creative Design-Seva Team

With

Deep Gratitude and Appreciation

to The Creative Design-Seva Team

for Your Support in Sharing

your Skills, Time and Commitment

for Purna Vidya's

Creative Designs and Calender Work

during the 2020 Pandemic Year.



RaviKumar



Baldeep Singh



Yuvarajan



Thulasi

Wishing You All a Joyous & Prosperous Year

A head!

- The Global Management Team



Selvam



Hari Raja

Newsletter-Seva Team

With

Deep Gratitude and Appreciation

to the Newsletter-Seva Team

for Your Skills, Time and Consolidated Efforts

in Compiling the Monthly Newsletter

for Purna Vidya Foundation

in a manner that beautifully shares

the Noble Activities of the Trust.

Wishing You All a Joyous & Prosperous Year A head!

- The Global Management Team



Rama Devi



Janani



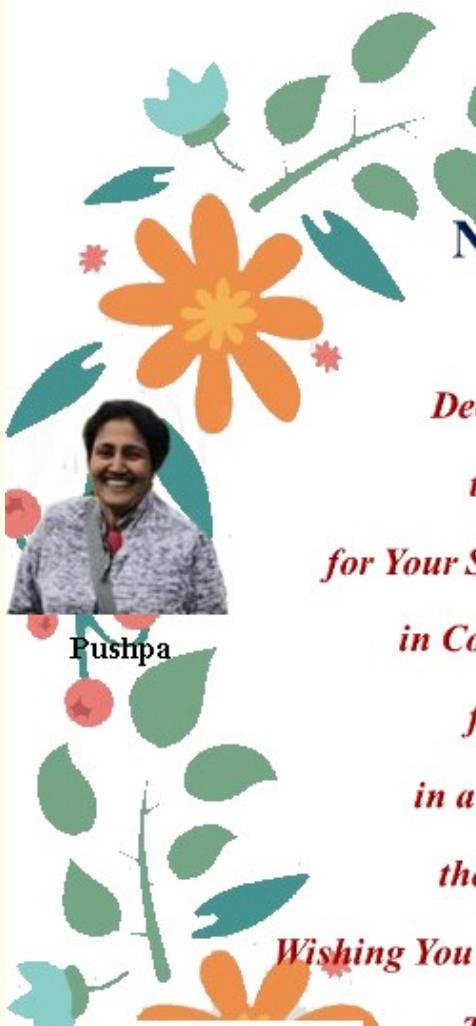
Yogesh



Janaki



Pushpa



Patrons and Donors

*"With Divine Grace,
Gurus' blessings, and
the patronage of our Trustees and donors,
we have crossed these challenging times.*

*As the year closes, we take
this opportunity to thank from the bottom
of our hearts, all our Global Donors who
extended their good will and generous
financial support to fulfil Purna Vidya's
sacred mission in society this year.*

*We wish our Patrons and Global Donors a
Very Happy and Joyous New Year.*

- The Global Management Team

Management-Seva Team

Dear Friends,

Namaste!

Purna Vidya, a noble mission, committed to the propagation of Advaita Vedanta Teachings, empowers the young and old, to learn and share the sacred teachings of the Guru-parampara!

We are ever grateful to our gurus, Swami Siddhabodhananda, Swamini Pramananda, Sri Dhira Chaitanya and Arulji for giving us such rare life-opportunities to serve the Spiritual Traditions of India with our global human family.

With the dawn of the New Year, we continue to serve with renewed zeal and fervor and seek blessings of our Spiritual Masters for guiding us in our spiritual journey of life!

- The Global Management Team of Purna Vidya

Lalitha

Helga

Ravichandran

Mariona

Senthil

Nora

Vinod

Dr.Arun

Venkat

Renganathan

Brahma

Anand

Message from Editorial Team

Namaste Dear Friends!

Gratitude is an important human quality for it always uplifts and allows us to appreciate and give thanks to all that we have. Here are some simple ways that we can practice the attitude of gratitude in our daily lives.

1) *Learning to appreciate everything and not being picky*

Gratitude doesn't have to be the "big" things in life. Make a list of all the good that has come into your life and recognize that there is nothing too small for me to be grateful for. Savour, absorb and really pay attention to those good things.

2) *Finding gratitude in our challenges*

Sometimes thinking about difficult situations can help to point to us what we have to be thankful for. Wearing the "gratitude goggle" brings us a little deeper into some of our past experiences and how they have shaped us into the person we are today.

3) *Appreciation*

Thank someone if you appreciate something they had done for you. Be specific in your details.

4) *Paying it forward*

Volunteering for the purpose of helping others increases our well-being. The key to having more gratitude is to pay it forward to others.

We hope that you have enjoyed this volume of our newsletter. We warmly welcome your feedback and contributions through purnavidya.newsletter@gmail.com

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