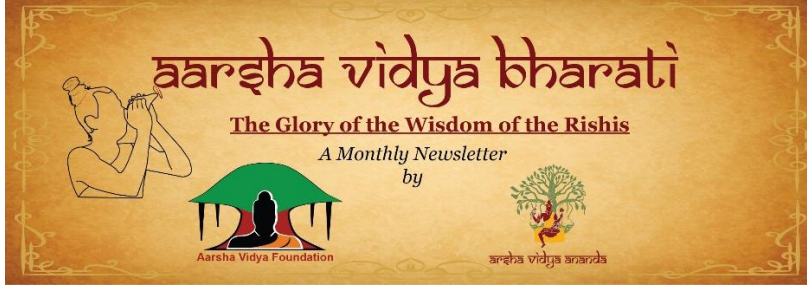

Aarsha Vidya Bharati - Aug 2021

A monthly newsletter that will bring you more happiness, more wisdom and more freedom



This is one of many articles from our monthly newsletter. Access the [Aug 2021 issue](#) or read any of the [articles](#).

Online Guru Purnima Celebration

By Rashmi Kaikini, Mumbai

Gurupūrnima is the day when the *śiṣya* expresses gratitude to the *Guru paramparā* and renews the commitment towards the learning. This year also being virtual, students across many countries joined in to listen to the *Anugraha Bhaṣanam* of their beloved gurus, Swami Brahmavidanandaji and Swamini Brahma Prajnanandaji on 24th July. Sunder Raghavan, Mumbai, being the compere gave a brief introduction to the events of the evening. The program began with a puja conducted by Rashmi Kaikini accompanied with the chanting of Guru stotram by Prashanth Mohan, Sydney and Kavita Shah, Mumbai. Vedanta students from different walks of life spoke on some interesting topics ranging from Seva in the modern context, Commitment to learning and much more.

Swamini Brahma Prajnanada spoke on overcoming four obstacles in understanding Vedanta. If *Viveka* and *Vairāgya*, two important qualifications for Vedanta are misunderstood then it will lead to a rejection and withdrawal from the world. She clarifies the right view on emotions and self-mastery. Vedanta does not involve denial, dissociation or rejection but instead is about embracing the entirety of the human experience.



Sunitha Suresh from Mumbai spoke brilliantly on 'Guru Seva in the modern context'. Seva, according to her, is the willingness to serve without any hesitation. Further she went on to describe nine reasons why we hesitate to do seva and why we need to get over these hesitations and see it as a growth

opportunity.

Naveen Niverthy from Pune spoke on 'What has Vedanta created in terms of change'. He compares himself to a sailor navigating the rough seas. Vedanta helps him sail through and to calm down his ocean of thoughts. Kamini Asrani from Mumbai, is an inspiration to many students and shared her thoughts on 'Commitment to knowledge'. To her, Commitment is devoted dedication to the study of Vedanta which is a *śabda pramāṇa*.

All those gathered were mesmerised by Sonali Ambasankar's devotional rendition of the Gurushtakam.

Varsha Shankar from Bangalore spoke on 'Seva in the modern context'. She said



that by working on our resistance, keeping our ego aside and doing what needs to be done we grow. Sheila Shewakramani from Mumbai, a long standing student of Swamiji, spoke on 'Commitment to learning'. Her commitment to Vedanta seems to be growing as it is helping her to deal better with her existential problems and she is slowly owning up the final reality - all that is here

is *Satyam, Jñānam, Anantam* Brahman.

Sunita and Suresh from Mumbai performed the *pāda* puja of Swami Brahmavidanandaji as Swaminiji chanted the Guru *Aṣṭottaraśatanāmāvaliḥ*.

A lot is said about who a real guru is and who isn't. Swami Brahmavidanandaji clarified many misconceptions leading to what the *śāstra* says.

The program was concluded by singing the *Dayānandapañcakam*.

[Subscribe](#) | aarshavidyabharati@gmail.com | [Aarsha Vidya Foundation](#) | [Arsha Vidya Ananda](#) | [SHINE](#)