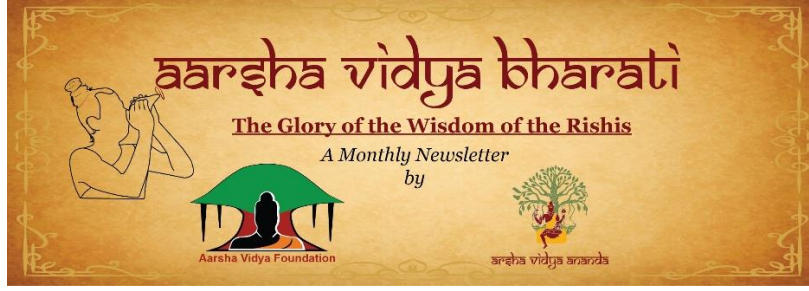


Aarsha Vidya Bharati - Nov 2022

Kartika – Agrahayana 2079

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



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Devī Mahatmyam – The Glory of Devī

(9-day course by Swamini Brahmajnananda)

By Rikesh Vaghela, UK

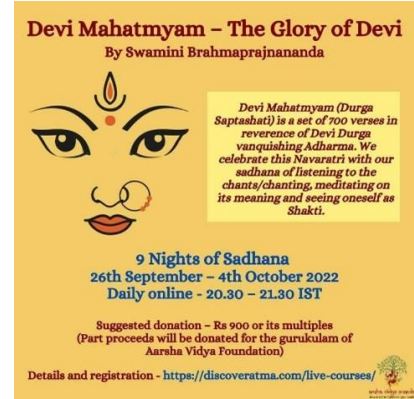
सर्वमंगलमांगल्ये शिवे सर्वार्थसाधिके ।

शरण्ये त्र्यम्बके गौरि नारायणि नमोऽस्तु ते ॥

sarvamangalamāngalye śive sarvārthasādhike |

śaraṇye tryambake gauri nārāyaṇi namo 'stu te ||

In all that is auspicious, you are auspiciousness, you are the means and the fulfiller of all pursuits, to the one who bestows refuge, that three-eyed, shining with brilliance *Nārāyaṇi*, I pray to you.



This year's auspicious festival of *Śaradīya Navarātri* was special as Swamini Brahmajnananda unfolded the meaning of the *Devī Mahatmyam* to keen students. The *Devī Mahatmyam* is a text, containing 700 verses, in praise of and retelling the glorious stories of *Devī*, the Mother Goddess. Held over Zoom, students from across the world, participated and listened with *Bhakti* and *Śraddhā*.

Swamini Brahmajnananda began, as traditionally recited, by reading *Stuti*-s and *Stotra*-s such as *Devī Kavacam* and *Argalāstotram*. I have heard the chants of *Devī Mahatmyam* before but this time, hearing Swamini chant and explain the meaning behind the different chants and hymns made it more beneficial. Deepening the understanding of what we read, learn and chant helps to strengthen the connection to *Devī* and *Īśvara*.

The three sections, each devoted to *Mahākālī*, *Mahālakṣmi* and *Mahāsaraswati* represent (just like the 3 days of *Navarātri* dedicated to each of these *Devī*-s) the destruction of our *adharmika* qualities (*āsuri sampatti*), the establishing of *Dharmika* qualities (*daivī sampatti*) and the acquisition of knowledge of our true nature.

In the first section, the story of *Madhu* and *Kaiṭabha* is told. The second tells the story of *Mahiṣāsura* and *Mahiṣāsurasarmardini*. The third section reveals the story

of Śumbha and Niśumbha. Different manifestations of Devī are also elaborated upon throughout the text.

"Listening to Swaminiji chant and explain the beauty of Devī svarūpa, brought me one (small) step closer to both a connection and surrender to Devī and 'going' from Devī asti to Devī asmi." - Kumkum Mukherjee, USA

"Listening to the Devī pāṭh in your voice felt very very strong, the bījākṣaras, devī-s enormous effulgence and grandeur... felt Devī in and around me as we ended." - Gunjan Arora, Delhi

"My heartfelt thanks for these 9 nights of Devī sādhana during Navarātri. It was a very divine experience. It was my 1st time listening to Devī Mahatmyam and I understood Durgā-s energy and Her forms much much more." – Tanita, Russia

"During those 9 days especially, I felt as if all the small bits of good fortune that I experienced was all because of Her blessings and grace. I felt Her presence in my life, as the cause of everything." - Priya Gopie, Trinidad and Tobago.