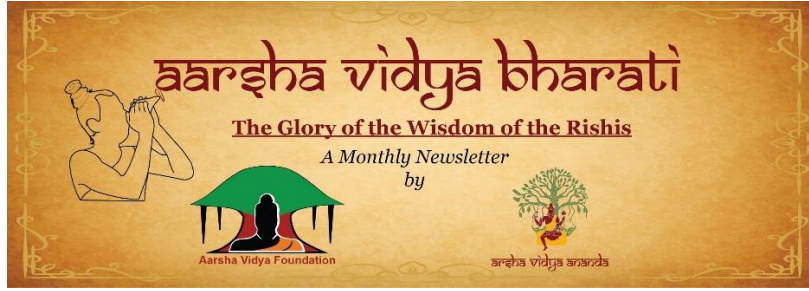

Aarsha Vidya Bharati - April 2023

Chaitra - Vaisakha 2080

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 [April 2023 issue](#) or read any of [the articles](#).

Opening Words

To see *Bhagavān* and be seen by *Bhagavān* is a blessing. More so, when we had darshan of *Bhagavān* Sri Venkateswara Balaji at Tirupati. It was the auspicious day of Rama Navami, Guru-vaara (Thursday) and the day of Netra darshana, when Sri Venkateswara Swamy is decorated with minimal flowers and no ornaments. Beautifully lit with glowing lamps surrounding him in the dark *garbha-gr̥ha*, we saw him and his divine eyes. He saw us!

In the seeing was the blessing!

This darshan was different from other days when his forehead is adorned with the *nāma* which partially covers his eyes with "pachkarpoora" (raw camphor) to protect the devotees from his phenomenal power. Called *Bhūloka Vaikunṭham*, the abode of Vishnu on earth, we understand that *Bhagavān* Vishnu manifested on earth to guide and direct devotees during Kali Yuga. Yes, we prayed for success in *Dharma*, *Artha*, *Kāma* and *Mokṣa* pursuits for all of you. We especially sought his blessings to build our gurukulam, that will teach *Brahmavidyā*, so that all may be free from a 'sense of lack'.

We also had darshan of Padmavathi Devi the consort of Lord Venkateshwara at Tiruchannur. She looked gorgeous, embellished with fragrant garlands of red and yellow flowers and luminous golden ornaments and gems. We also had darshan of Sri Varaha Swamy with Sri Mahalakshmi, who had donated land to Venkateshwara on his request. The visit to Tirupati is complete only by going to these temples also.

Since we finished darshan early, Hanuman ji beckoned us to visit him at Japali Hanuman temple, in worshipping *Bhagavān* Sri Rama on Ramanavami day. We approached the temple through a quiet, forested path, flanked by lush, big bamboo trees as the chants of Sri Rama sanctified the air. Additionally Sri Kalahasti, where *Bhagavān* Shiva is worshipped as Vayu, also beckoned us and hence we had a glorious darshan there too, of *Bhagavān*.

The irony of darshan is that we make the effort to go on yatra and yet if you try to recall the exact image of the darshan, it is difficult. Such are his beautiful manifestations that we cannot fully see and capture the image. We can only try and yet we can 'see' the *svarūpa*, intrinsic nature of *Bhagavān* as oneself in the light of Vedanta.

We look forward to seeing those who are in Mumbai as we celebrate Swami Brahmavidananda 's 70th birthday. We will see all of you online on *Ādi Śaṅkarācārya* Jayanti later in the month and ofcourse in the weekly classes as well.

With love and prayers,

Brahmavidananda
Brahmaprajnananda



At Devi Padmavathi temple, Tirupati with Sunitha and Suresh who made the yatra happen