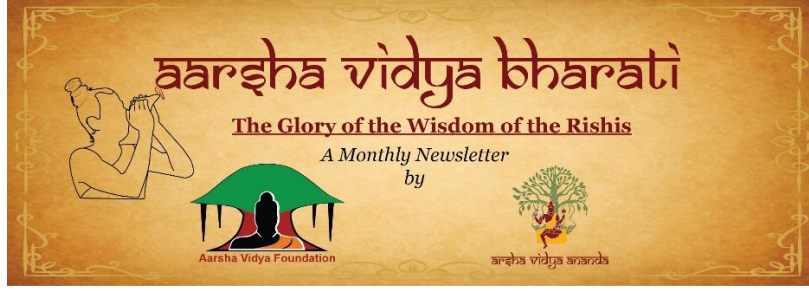

Aarsha Vidya Bharati - May 2023

Vaisakha - Jyeshtha 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 [May 2023 issue](#) or read any of [the articles](#).

Namaḥ to Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya – on Shankara Jayanti

श्रीशङ्कराचार्यवर्याय नमः

śrīśaṅkarācāryavarīyāya namaḥ

Namaḥ to the noble and respected Sri Shankaracharya

ब्रह्मानन्दप्रदायकाय नमः

brahmānandapradāyakāya namaḥ

Namaḥ to Sri Shankara who bestows *ānanda* which is the nature of *Brahman* through self-knowledge

शिष्योपदेशनिरताय नमः

śiṣyopadeśaniratāya namaḥ

Namaḥ to Sri Shankara who is committedly teaches his disciples.

कार्याकार्यप्रबोधकाय नमः

kāryākāryaprabhodakāya namaḥ

Namaḥ to Sri Shankara who illumines what needs to be done and what does not need to be done.



It is with these words and more that Rashmi Kaikini performed the puja on our behalf to *Bhagavān Ādi Śaṅkarācārya*, during our online celebration. [Swamini Brahmaprajnananda spoke on the topic, "Is jīva=Īśvara or is jīva a part of Īśvara"](#), drawing from *Śaṅkarabhāṣya* of the *Brahmasūtra*-s (*aṁśa adhikaraṇam*).

Then, it was time for students to share a glimpse of what they are learning and assimilating. Eric Oddleifson, USA speaking about a verse from *aparokṣānubhūti* said, ‘When Adi Shankaracharya’s teaching were unfolded for the first time by teachers in this *paramparā*, most importantly our beloved Swaminiji, I knew this is the final answer and his teachings will

bring an end to searching as I know more and more that I am the sought and the seeker. For me, this brings tremendous joy. Not the joy of obtaining another experience or object of the



sense, but the joy of discovering my *svarūpa*.' Priya Gopie, Trinidad and Tobago beautifully recited some verses of *Ātmabodha* and explained the meaning. Kavita Shah, Mumbai took us to Kashi through her singing and when she explained the meaning of Kashi *pañcakam*, we abided in Kashi that is light that is oneself. Nirmala Iyer, London sang Shiva *Pañcākṣara stotram* and we marvelled at the range of compositions and texts by Adi

Shankaracharya. Kiran Golla, Mumbai highlighted the importance of the direct impact and benefit to the student of jnana-phalam and exhorted fellow students to make the most of the *manuṣyatvam*, *mumuṣutvam* and *mahāpuruṣasaṁśraya*, that all were blessed with. Karthik Narayanan, London spoke about how Adi Shankaracharya's presence entered their home with a beautiful photoframe and since then has been blessing the couple with the 'ambitious attempt to study Shankara *bhāṣya* of the *Gīta*' closing with recognising his *Vibhūti* across the *Śāstra*. [Revelling in the *Adhyāsa bhāṣya* of *Brahmasūtra*-s, Swami Brahmadevananda ji](#) closed by teaching us that the *ahaṅkāra*, which we try to improve and protect so much is just a changing self-concept that is *adhyastham* on the *Ātmā*.