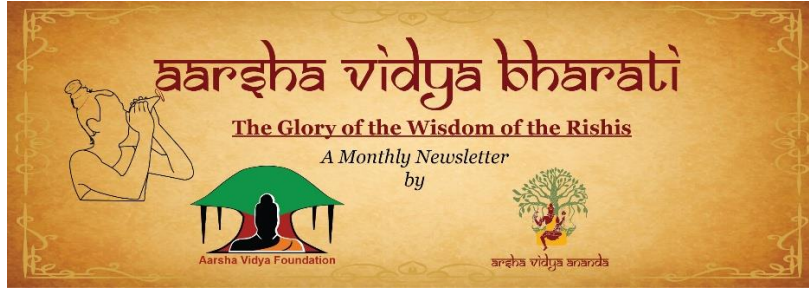


# Aarsha Vidya Bharati - May 2023

Vaisakha - Jyeshtha 2080

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



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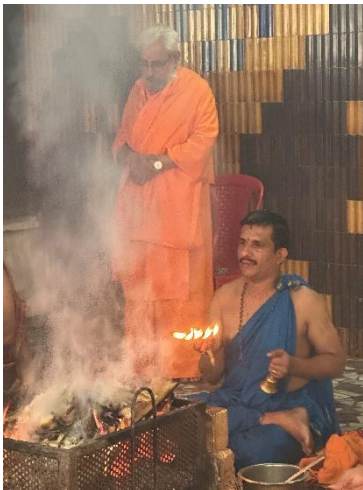
## Swami Brahmavidananda ji's 70th Birthday Celebrations in Mumbai

By Sundar Raghavan, Mumbai

Many of you may know that Swami Brahmavidananda Saraswatiji's birthday is on 27th March. As per the Indian calendar, it coincides with Magham star in the month of Chaitra (March to April). Swamiji turned 70 this year and *Dhanvantari Homam* was conducted to mark the auspicious occasion and also to bless everyone with good health. Nearly a hundred students and friends of Swamiji gathered at Sri Subrahmanya *Maṭha* and enjoyed the happy occasion.



While the pandits conducted the *Homam*, several students meditated upon the mantra “*om namo bhagavate vāsudevāya dhanvantaraye amṛtakalaśahastāya sarvāmayavināśanāya trailokyanāthāya śrīmahāviṣṇave namaḥ*” (Salutations to *Śri MahāViṣṇu* who is *Vāsudeva*, *Dhanvantari*, the holder of *Amṛtakalaśa* in his hands, who destroys all illnesses and the Lord of the three worlds). The birthday celebration also proved to be a happy get-together for many students who had not seen one another for long, due to the pandemic and also on-line classes.



The *Homam* was followed by a brief talk by Swamiji wherein he recounted his life journey. Swamiji shared how *pūrva-janma-samskāra* showed up while he grew up – be it in chanting something or the other even though he was not surrounded by extremely religious background, or being open to all forms of Gods, or being attracted to martial arts without any family background to Boxing, Judo etc. At a very young age, Swamiji saw death from close quarters on account of the voluntary role he played in the Indo-Pak war in 1971. When he met Pujya

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Swami Dayananda ji to request him to take him as a Vedanta student, “What should I do in order to study under you?” was the question in Swamiji’s mind and Pujya Swamiji replied, “I will be happy to teach you.”

Swamiji adopted his very down-to-earth style while narrating his critical life moments hearing which many in the audience were motivated sufficiently to feel that the ultimate goal of Vedanta is not a far cry for them.



“Take care of your health. Most of you are ok at handling your emotions; Take care of your priorities; Some of you may need to devote a little more for the study of Vedanta. In time, you will know that you were never bound and you are always free” was the concluding remarks by Swamiji, worth treasuring as *Prasādam*.



As all of us were gratefully acknowledging the *Prasādam* from Homam and soaking in Swamiji’s inspiring speech, Swamiji blessed us with an additional *Mahā Prasādam* - a super-sumptuous high calorie south Indian feast on banana leaves.

We pray to *Bhagavān* to bless Swamiji with great health so as to not only guide us in our quest for liberation but also to generate many teachers for the future generations.