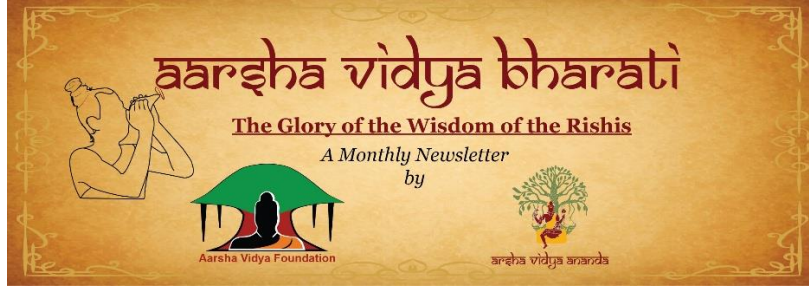

Aarsha Vidya Bharati - Oct 2023

Ashvina - Kartika 2080

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



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Sampūrṇa Gīta pārāyaṇam on Janmāṣṭamī

Janmāṣṭamī marks the day when *Bhagavān Viṣṇu* took the *avatāra* of *Śrī Kṛṣṇā* and was born to the blessed couple Vasudeva and Devaki in the previous *Dwāpara yugā*. The form of *Śrī Kṛṣṇā* is enchanting and gives joy to our senses and mind. The Lord's pastime stories or *līlā-s* mend the broken hearts and purify the minds of the listeners. *Bhagavān's* teachings in the form of the *Bhagavad Gītā* puts an end to all human suffering by revealing our oneness with Him. Countless devotees invoke *Bhagavān* in several ways and offer their worship in manifold ways. As Vedānta students, we relate to *Bhagavān* as *Jagadguru* who is the source of all knowledge including *brahmavidyā*.



A group of more than 30 Vedānta students of Swami Brahmaavidananda ji and Swamini Brahma-prajnananda ji chanted the entire *Bhagavad Gītā* as part of *vācika pūjā*, a verbal offering of worship. The participants from across the world (India, the USA, the UK, Europe, Australia) joined an online event and took turns to chant the verses. Many dialled in to listen to the *pārāyaṇam*. The list of chanters included first timers who put in a lot of effort to learn the verses. The devotional fervour, enthusiasm and commitment of the participants were very evident.

Here is what some of the participants had to say about their experience.



The thought of chanting few verses of Shri Bhagavad Gita, especially for someone like me with no formal training in Sanskrit presented overwhelming challenges. But the compulsive passion to contribute and overcome the initial fear by relying on abhyasa and vairagya was undeniable. With the constant handholding and motivation of Prashant, with the blessings of Acharya Swaminiji, and above all the will of Ishwara, the task transformed itself from a mere assemblage of complex Sanskrit words and sentences into a compelling

commitment. In the end, it was super fun and a profound contribution to my understanding of Shri Bhagavad Gita.

- Tilak Mishra, Delhi

Together we share the pursuit of life, a desirable way of living, a vision of the existence. Bhaktas from all over the world honored Bhagavan Kṛṣṇa and the teaching by him given. In the air there was a sensation of community and belonging which definitely worked as a reminder to the fulness that I am.

- Joao Goulart Ribeiro, Portugal

Chanting the Gītā for Janmashtami was far beyond than a simple chanting experience. It was a moment in which I found myself join hands with other people with an attitude of honoring the teaching, in recognition of it's greatness and with deep gratitude. Regardless of the ability to do it and the mastery of Sanskrit required, my heart felt full for the opportunity to participate. My deep namaskāram to Swaminiji B and much thanks to Prashath for the support and to everyone who participated.



- Betty Dias, Portugal

For the first time I participated in Srimad Bhagavad Geeta Parayanam. It has made me more enthusiastic to chant (larger sections) and I feel more connected with Sanatana Roots. Hearing The Whole Bhagavad Geeta in one sitting also gives me a subtle satisfaction.

- Bharati Chandiramani, Mumbai