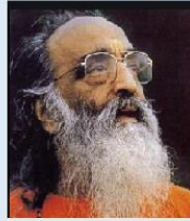




CHINMAYA MISSION CHICAGO

BADRI - A School of Vedantic Studies

Monthly Newsletter – June 2022



Chinmaya

Wisdom Quote

More important than what is behind you and what is ahead of you is what is in you. Seek it. Centred in it, act and live. - Swami Chinmayananda.

Swamiji's Message



The Gita is Relevant Even Today

Often we wonder at the relevance of the Bhagavad-gita in the present day context. However, a study of this scripture is enough to proclaim its universal appeal. Across the board, in the home as well as at work its philosophy is applicable in all situations.

A simple example of an advertisement for growing hair will bring more clarity.

Most such advertisements present two images – the head before and after the treatment. This impresses on us the purpose or the utility of the treatment or medicine. The Bhagavad-gita also presents two striking pictures - Arjuna's state of mind, both before and after listening to the Bhagavad-gita.

The Mahabharata war was forced on the Pandavas despite their best efforts to avoid it. Arjuna arrived...

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Upcoming Events -

- **Lectures for Children & Parents**
 - 6/5 @ 10:00 am – Badri
 - Hindu Model of Science
 - Did Ramayana & Mahabharatha really happen
- **Monthly Bhajan [Zoom]:** 6/11 @ 6 – 7:30 pm
 - Hosted by Venkat Davarapalli's Family
- **Bala Vihar Seniors Graduation:**
 - 6/12 10:00 am – 12 noon
 - Talk by Guest of Honor Smt. Aditi Banerjee
- **Monthly Vedic Chanting –** 6/26, Sunday
 - 9:00 – 9:55 am
 - Monthly Group Chanting @ Badri Shrine

[Subscribe] - [CM Chicago YouTube Channel](#)

Balavihar Seniors Graduation Ceremony – 6/12

Vedic Heritage Youth Camp: Dharmaratha – 7/23 to 7/28

Highlights from Previous Month

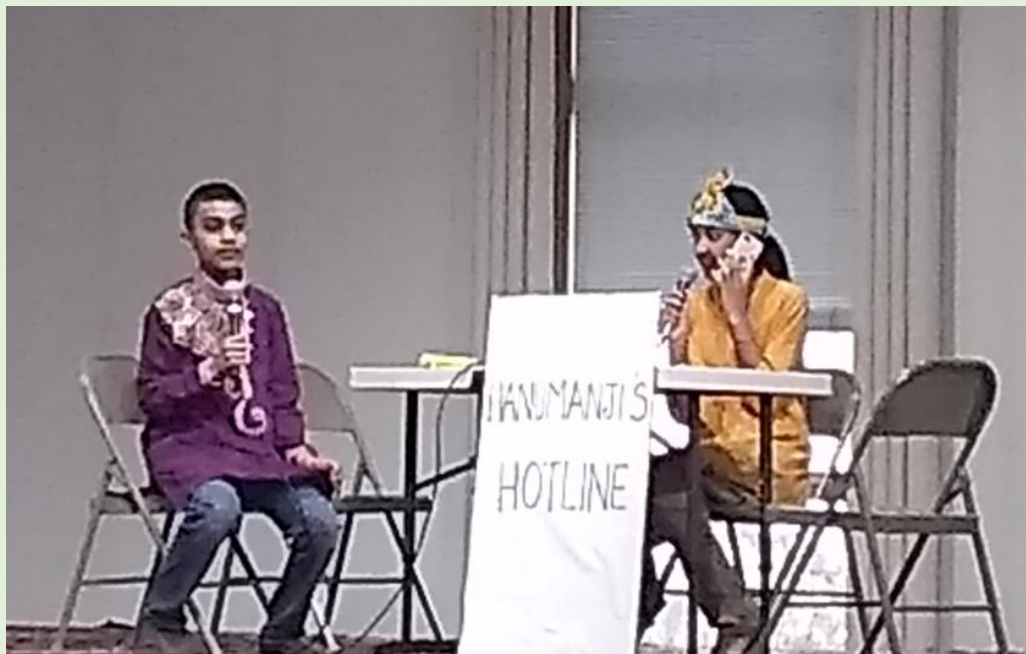
The month of May, always has seen one of the biggest events hosted at Badri which is the Mother's day celebration. This year it was even more special as Gurudev Jayanthi also fell on the same day. Mother's day was celebrated at Badri the traditional way after a gap of two years owing to the pandemic. The month also started with the celebration of Hanuman Jayanthi by the Balavihar children. We had medal distribution for the Bhagavad Gita chanting competition as well as for Stuthi Vandana. The monthly group Vedic Chanting was cancelled owing to the memorial day weekend.

1. Bhajan Sandhya

The monthly Bhajan Sandhya did not have any hosts this month. Due to some unforeseen circumstances the previously signed-up host had to withdraw and at the last minute Smt Priya Ramasubbu and Parthiban came forward to do the Aathi at their home. With this unique arrangement, this month the Bhajan Sandhya did happen but without a host and with the benevolence of a devotee family, it all ended with a divine Aarthi.

2. Hanuman Jayanthi Celebrations @ Badri

This year's Hanuman Jayanthi at Badri was celebrated on 1st May by a series of performances by the 5th and 6th Grade Balavihar students. They staged short plays with Hanuman's grace as the theme.



3. Gurudev Jayanthi & Mother's Day Celebration

The Hectic preparation related activities at Badri related to Mother's day begin the previous day. An army of volunteers turn up to setup the tents, arrange the halls and finish any other pre-requisites needed for the next day's extravaganza. The true spirit of seva can be witnessed on this day as everyone will be tirelessly working to setup tents meant to serve others food the next day.

On the day of celebration, the Traffic regulating seva team can be seen quite early at Badri, ready with their tagged shuttle vehicles and parking guides. All the different food stall teams will also start arriving early to setup their food stalls and get started with the food preparations.



The preparations inside the Shrine for the Pujas also start early including the allocations of spots for all mothers during Maatru Puja. The celebrations started at 10 am with Guru Paduka puja followed by Maatru Puja. There are also Gita Chanting sessions and Bhajans. The celebrations at the Shrine end with a procession with music and lezzeme dance.



On conclusion of all the events inside the Shrine, the focus shifts to the outdoor picnic and food mela. The great variety of dishes cooked by the fathers and served to all. The open to all picnic treats all visitors to a variety of food delicacies ranging from Fresh cut fruits to ice creams and tea including various regional flavors like masala chats, chola baturas and dosas. We also have an exclusive vegan stall.



Seva – Opportunities at Badri

We understand 'Seva' means volunteering to serve. While this is very true, there is also the critical requirement of keeping the 'my' away from the activity. While this is to be practiced in everything we do, our attachments to everything that belongs to us, comes in the way.

In the case of volunteering opportunities at Badri, this critical requirement can be easily included. There are numerous occasions coming up at regular intervals where volunteers are needed for different activities. Each of you may pick the tasks based on your interests and availability and benefit from this seva.

Join [Badri Facilities Setup](#) WhatsApp group or contact '[Mahesh Chandramouli](#)' at (630) 301-0795

Balavihar Seniors Graduation Ceremony


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115080 Kingery Hwy, Willowbrook, IL 60527 • www.mychinmaya.org


**Bala Vihar Class of 2022
Graduation Ceremony**

We request your presence with family and friends for the graduation ceremony on

Sunday June 12th, 2022
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (Central time)
Pictures slideshow begins at 9:45 AM



2022 Graduates
Abhiram Mullapudi, Akul Dachepalli,
 Aparna Ramakrishnan, Gia Varshney,
 Hridya Abhilash, Kanchi Suri,
 Lathika Potnuru, Mallika Malhotra,
 Pranav Viswanath, Rithika Tudmilla,
 Saatvik Palli, Sachin Kumar,
 Sanath Dachepalli, Shivam Patnaik,
 Shriya Venkit, Shruti Panse,
 Swati Maheswaraguru, Urmilla Rajesh,
 Vinay Ramanathan, Vishnu Dachepalli



Presided By
Pujya Swami Sharanananda
Pujya Swami Sarveshananda
Guest of honor Smt. Aditi Banerjee

Hosted by the parents of the graduating class

Contacts:
Shridhar Andurkar (630) 362-2138
Abhijit Joshi (312) 296-1477
Shanker Pillai (630) 886-6442

"More important than what is Behind you and what is Ahead of you is what is In you.
 Seek it, Centered in it, act and live." - Swami Chinmayananda

Badri Vedic Chanting – Global Reach

The Vedic Chanting program at Badri that was confined to a 30 mins of chanting on Sundays after the morning session at Badri, quite naturally moved to Zoom when the pandemic struck. Taking advantage of the features of Zoom, the chanting sessions were split into three groups – Beginner, Intermediate & Advanced. In a matter of two years, close to 100 people had joined and benefitted from this program.

A few weeks back, we had a person from Japan reach out to us expressing her interest in learning Vedic Chanting. Kanako Izawa, after starting to learn Bhagavad Gita, came to know of Vedic Chants and did a Google Search on 'Shamno Mitra'. Among the top few search results, was the Badri Vedic Chanting page, and that was the only site where it was mentioned about chanting sessions being conducted.

Today Kanako Izawa from Japan is a participant of our Vedic Chanting Beginner Group.

Badri Programs

<https://mychinmaya.org/virtual-satsanga-and-e-study-groups/>

- **Swaranjali** (For Balavihar Children)
- **Stuti Vandana** (For Balavihar Children)
- **Geeta Chanting** (For Everyone)
- **Vedic Chanting** (For Everyone)
- **Sri Rudram Chanting** (For Everyone)
- **Sanskrit language** classes (For Everyone)
- **Adult Study Groups** (Registration required)
- **Vishnu Sahasranamam** (For Everyone)
- **ACT/ SAT Classes** (Registration required)

In HIS Loving Memory –

Once a devotee, who later became a full time worker of Chinmaya Mission, got a heart attack. When he recovered, he went to meet Gurudev with a glum face, expecting sympathy and concern.

The moment he entered the room, Gurudev said: **“Welcome to my club.”** And they both laughed. The heart patient had got more than just sympathy. He got admission to Gurudev’s **“Heart Club”**, as Gurudev himself was a heart patient with 17% heart function.

The devotee was happy as **“heart”** in philosophy means the core of one’s being — the inner essence.

Updates from around the world -

- **Swadhyaya Series of Self Learning** – Online learning with access to materials for a lifetime
- **Home Study Vedanta Courses** - @ Chinmaya International Foundation
 - Foundation Vedanta Course
 - Advanced Vedanta Course
 - Bhagavad Geeta
 - Upanishads
 - Master Geeta Master Life
 - Make it Happen
 - Sanskrit Learning – Beginner & Advanced
 - Vedic Mathematics

Chinmaya Academy, UK - Certificate Courses - Courses start on 1st May 2022

- Registration open
- **Online Foundation Vedanta Course**
- **Bhagavad Gita Course**
- **Introduction to the Essence of Truth**

Swami Sharananandaji's Weekly Program Schedule

Program Name	Details
Saddarshanam (on Zoom)	Sunday/ 8:00 – 8:45 am
Bhagavad Gita Discourse (In-person at Shrine)	Sunday / 10 – 10:30 am
Viveka Choodamani (on Zoom)	Tuesday/ 7 – 8 pm
Mandukya Upanishad (on Zoom)	Wed/ 7 – 8:15 pm
Drik Drishya Viveka (on Zoom)	Saturday/ 8 – 9 am

Vedic Heritage Youth Camp: Dharmaratha - Chariot of Success



Chinmaya Mission Chicago

Badri - A School of Vedantic Studies

115080 Kingery Hwy, Willowbrook, IL 60527 • www.mychinmaya.org



Vedic Heritage Youth Camp

Saturday, July 23, 2022 - Thursday, July 28, 2022 * 9 am - 4 pm

Dharmaratha - Chariot of Success

Based on *Lanka Kanda of Shri Ramacharita Manasa* by Saint Goswami Tulasidas

Vibhisana, an ardent devotee of Lord Rama, out of attachment, forgot for a moment that Shri Rama is the incarnation of the Supreme Lord and has immense power to create, sustain, and dissolve the entire Universe. As a result, his mind was overpowered with the doubt regarding the consequence of the war. How can Shri Rama match the mighty Ravana who has a huge well-trained, well-equipped army and state-of-the-art chariot, whereas Shri Rama is bare-footed, standing on the earth, with monkeys and bears as the frontline soldiers? Lord Rama, out of compassion for Vibhisana, said that he has the invisible and invincible chariot which will bring only success. Vibhisana felt reassured. *Let us see what kind of chariot is this one.*

This topic is based on the dialogue between Lord Rama and Vibhisana, and is from the *Lanka Kanda of Shri Ramacharita Manasa* by Saint Goswami Tulasidas.

For grades Pre-K to 12

*Religious Classes, Yoga,
Arts and Crafts, Cultural Program*

Donation: \$150 per child

*(Donation includes camp material, meals, snacks,
& supervision before- and after-hours)*

Register at

<https://mychinmaya.org/camp>

Camp conducted under the guidance of

Swami Sharanananda, Shri Dhiren Khatri, and Smt. Nirmita Dholakia

CONTACTS

Sudha Yelamanchi/Parimi 925-890-7284 • Suresh Kumar 630-362-0104 • Deepak Chande 708-253 -3570

Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayanandaji's Message contd...

...on the battlefield with enthusiasm but very soon presented a disillusioned and confused picture. First, he began to doubt the very purpose of the war. He felt he was fighting for a mere kingdom or a piece of land. He did not understand that the Mahabharata war was a war between ideologies, between Dharma and adharma, between justice and injustice.

Second, facing a huge army, with leaders like Bhishmacharya, Dronacharya, Krupacharya and others, there was anxiety - fear of the result. There was grief over destruction and in a final moment of showdown – nervousness.

He misunderstood the purpose and was anxious over the result or outcome of the war. There was grief over destruction of near and dear ones and lastly nervousness.

On various occasions we have all experienced nervousness. Also most often we do not want to show it and try to run away from it. Under similar circumstances, Arjuna suddenly became a messenger of peace and began an advocate for abandoning the war. He expected Lord Krishna to approve but when the approval did not come, he was even more nervous and confused.

The two responses in such a situation are either fight or flight. Arjuna wanted to take the second option. Our Shastras and Upanishads advise that in such moments of confusion one must seek advice from the wise, learned, pure hearted and those who have your welfare in mind. The only right thing Arjuna did then was to admit to his confusion and ask Krishna for advice:

karpanya dosho pahat swabhavah
prachami twam dharma sammoodha chetah yachshhreyas twam nishchitam bruhi tanme
shishyastehum shadhi mam twam prapannam

Karpanya is misplaced pity. Pity or compassion at the right time and place is good but when misplaced, becomes a negative quality. Arjuna felt pity for the unrighteous. He declared: Bhagawan I am confused about my course of action, duties, and my Dharma. Please tell me what is best for me, I am your disciple, I surrender myself to you.

When Arjuna surrendered, Bhagavan decided it was his duty to teach him. And that is exactly what He did in the second chapter. The first chapter is called Arjuna Vishad-Yoga or The Yoga of Arjuna's Dejection. All dejections do not become yoga. Unlike other dejections, Arjuna's dejection became a Yoga because it united him with the Lord and the knowledge of the Absolute Truth. It helped him come out of dejection and confusion by the only way possible through knowledge and wisdom - knowledge of the Absolute Truth and the means to live in the day-to-day world.

Often at work, we are confused about our objectives and goals and cannot give our best. Sometimes the challenges are over-whelming and we become nervous. The Bhagavad-gita teaches one to live through any situation, in the world and is as relevant today as when Lord Krishna taught it to Arjuna on the battlefield.