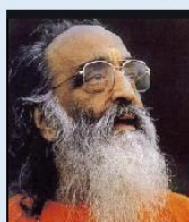




CHINMAYA MISSION CHICAGO

BADRI - A School of Vedantic Studies

Monthly Newsletter – August 2022



Chinmaya

Wisdom Quote

Knowing is not doing. Doing is doing. - Swami Chinmayananda.

Swamiji's Message



Re-incarnation – Caused by Ignorance by Swami Aparijithananda

There is no reincarnation at all, either now or before, nor will there be any hereafter. Reincarnation exists only so long as there is ignorance. – Ramana

"I can't believe this!"

Thus, many will protest after reading the above quote.

Listen to an incident that happened in the times of Swathi Tirunal Rama Varma, the king of the kingdom of Travancore.

Swathi Tirunal Maharaja had a great friendship with Tampan, the great magician. Once Tampan was asked to perform in the public. The venue was arranged. Men and women assembled. King Swathi sat in his throne along with his relatives and friends. The queen was also seated behind the transparent curtain.

Contents –

[Highlights of previous month](#)

[In HIS Loving Memory](#)

[Worldwide Chinmaya Updates](#)

[Badri Programs](#)

[Swamiji's Weekly Program](#)

[Badri Vedic Chanting – New Batch](#)

[Vishnu Sahasranamam – New Batch](#)

[Swamiji's Message contd.](#)

[Swami Swaroopanandaji's visit](#)

[Music Concert - Details](#)

[Bala Vihar/ Shishu Vihar Enrolment](#)

Upcoming Events -

- **CHYK & CSK Retreat Camp – 8/6, Saturday**
 - At Badri (full day)
 - Camp theme – You, Me and Identity
 - Guided by Sw. Sharananandaji
- **Monthly Bhajan [Zoom]: 8/13 @ 6 – 7:30 pm**
 - Hosted by Sangeeta Rangala & Anand Ramanathan
- **Krishna Janmastami Puja & Celebration:**
 - 8/18, 6:30 pm @ Badri
 - Puja & Bhajans
- **Pujya Swami Swaroopananda's Visit**
 - 8/23 – 8/25: Badri
 - 8/26 – 8/27 & 8/28 Morning: Yamunotri
 - 8/28 Evening : Gangotri
- **Monthly Group Vedic Chanting – 8/28**
 - 9:00 – 9:55 am

Pujya Swami Swaroopananda ji's Chicago Visit – 8/23 to 8/28
Musical Concert by Padmasree Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt – 9/16
Shishu Vihar & Bala Vihar Enrolment Open – [Register Now](#)

Highlights from Previous Month

The month of July is always remembered for lean participation at Badri as it's the summer school break for children. And this is the month when the Summer Vedic Camps for children is also conducted. The Maha Ssamadhi Aradhana camp whose ending coincides with Gurudev's Maha Samadhi on 3rd August. We also had the Guru Purnima celebration at Badi by performing a Guru paduka puja and bhajans. We also had our regular events of Bhajan Sandhya and the monthly Group Vedic Chanting.

1. Bhajan Sandhya

This month's monthly Bhajan Sandhya was hosted by Rashmi & Raghuvir's family. As is the regular custom, the program was over Zoom. All the slokas and stotrams were chanted by the Bala Vihar children followed by the Bhajans. After a short message from our Swamiji, Nirvana Shatakam was chanted leading to a 2 minute silence. The event was very refreshing and the solemn evening ended well.



2. Guru Purnima Puja & Celebration

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AWZIfdtdR50>)

On Wednesday, 13th July Guru Purnima was celebrated at Badri. In the presence of all the participants Swamiji performed the Guru Paduka Puja accompanied by the chanting of Guru Slokas by the Bala Vihar children. There were also Bhajans sung to end the precious evening. Boxed maha prasada was also distributed for all the participants.



3. Vedic Youth Summer Camp

After a gap of two years, this year the in-person Youth Summer Camps resumed this year at Badri from 23rd to 28th July. On all days the activities stretched from 9 am to 4 pm.

This year's camp theme was on Dharmaratha - Chariot of Success. Children learnt about Lanka Kanda of Shri Ramacharita Manasa by Saint Goswami Tulasidas, through a well prepared syllabus for classroom instruction by our Swamiji.

Mission has conducted week-long camps with great success for many years and hundreds of children in our community have benefited from them over the years.

Emphasis of the camp was on value based education on our religion and culture. Children had lot of fun participating in Religious classes, Yoga, arts, crafts, sports, and cultural program.







Swamiji's Message contd...

Tampan greeted the king and the audience and spread a blanket on the stage. After invoking the gods, he was about to start his performance.

Suddenly a thread came down from above, with a letter tied to its tip. It gently touched Tampan's head giving him a sudden surprise. He untied the letter, opened it and read it carefully.

He then turned to the king. "Your Highness, I am sorry. I cannot perform today. Devendra, the king of gods, has sent this letter asking me to report to him urgently to help him in the war against demons."

He gave the letter to king Swathi. The king went through the contents of the letter which was in the Devanagari script.

Before he could even respond, Tampan had caught hold of the thread and climbed up. He disappeared within a minute. The king looked on helplessly as the audience sat spellbound. There was absolute silence.

After a while, it began to rain. But it was not an ordinary rain. It was raining blood, followed by a rain of human limbs and carcasses of horses, elephants and men, all piling up at the venue. The king soon realised that the whole thing was Tampan's magic.

But when the bleeding head of Tampan dropped from above with a thud at the venue, king Swathi was bewildered. The audience sat terrified. The queen fainted behind the screen. King Swathi got to his feet to go to his wife, and suddenly he heard Tampan calling him from behind:

"Had enough for the day, Your Highness?"

The king turned back and saw Tampan standing near the chair with a glee on his face!

The queen regained consciousness in a few minutes and grumbled to the king for scaring the wits out of her! A sigh of relief escaped the king.

He showered many fabulous gifts on Tampan even as the audience greeted him with thunderous applause!

If even an ordinary magician can make us see and believe the non-existent, what to talk of the Maha Maya of the Lord!

Q= How can you say there is no jeeva (individual), no jagad (world), no karma (actions), etc.? We clearly experience it?

A=Our experience is not proof of the existence of a thing. The blueness of the sky, mirage waters, dream world etc., are all experienced. But they are non-existent. A magician, like the above story, makes us experience many non-existent things. Hence experience has nothing to do with Reality.

Q=Then how to know what is Real?

A=Silence the mind. What remains? The Self. That alone is Real.

Q=Then what about all this creation?

A= As long as the Self-ignorance exists, the mind will exist. As long as the mind exists, these imaginations – jeeva, jagat, eeshwara, karma(actions), karma-phala (fruits of actions),

Karttrva (doership), bhoktrva (enjoyership), punarjanma (re-incarnation) – all will exist. They are mere imaginations of the mind projected on the Self.

Q=Hard to digest!

A=Then develop your digestive capacity]

Truth cannot be diluted to suit your digestion!

Q=How to silence the mind?

A=By silencing the ego. Know that this ego is an illusion.

There is a very beautiful incident in the life of Houdini, the great magician. His whole life was a tremendous success; he was a miracle-monger. He did so many miracles that if he was a man to cheat humanity, he could have cheated everyone very easily. But he was a very sincere man. He would say, "Whatsoever I am doing is nothing but skill; there is no miracle in it."

No magician has ever done as much as Houdini has done. His power was almost impossible to believe. He was thrown in almost all the great prisons of the world, and within seconds he would be out. He was chained, locked, and within seconds – the

chains wouldn't work, locks wouldn't work – something would happen, and he would be out. He would be out almost within seconds, not even a minute. Even the well-trained police force became helpless in front of his talents.

But in Italy he failed – only once in his life. He was thrown in the central prison of

Rome, and thousands of people had gathered to see him come out. Minutes passed and there was no sign of him. It was almost half an hour, and people started getting restless

because it had never happened: "What has happened? Has he gone mad, or died? Or has the great magician failed?"

After two hours, he came out perspiring and laughing loudly. And the people asked, "What happened? Two hours? We were thinking that you had either gone mad or you were dead! Even the authorities were thinking to go in and see. What happened?"

He said, "They tricked me; they made me a fool. The door was not locked! All my skill is to open the lock, and I was trying to find out where the lock is, and there was no lock.

The door was not locked at all, it was already open. Tired, exhausted, worried, puzzled, I fell, and when I fell and struck the door, the door opened. That's how I am out; not because of my skill."

This story has a deep Vedantic message.

1. Houdini was imprisoned.

We are all imprisoned in this world, in this BMI.

2. Houdini imagined that doors were locked.

We imagine that our individuality, our ego, this 'I' in us is real.

3. Houdini never questioned the lock.

We never question this 'I'.

4. Houdini tried everything except doubting the lock.

We do everything in life, except questioning this 'I'.

5. After a long time, tired and exhausted, when Houdini fell on the door, the door opened.

After very many births, tired and exhausted, when we surrender this 'I', the real 'I' shines forth.

6. Houdini became free.

We are released from the clutches of egoistic 'I', and the prison of birth and death.

7. The truth is, the door was never locked!

The truth is, we were never bound!

8. Who saved Houdini? Not his effort, but God's grace.

Who saves us? Not our effort, but God's grace.

9. But it was his effort which led to his collapse.

So too, our efforts are unavoidable for complete surrender.

While summarising the entire Bhagavad Geeta in 'Geeta Saara' in just 42 verses, Bhagavan Ramana Maharshi glorifies surrender by choosing this verse as the conclusion:

तमेव शरणं गच्छ सर्वभावेन भारत । तत्प्रसादात् परां शान्तिं स्थानं प्राप्स्यसि शाश्वतम्॥

O Arjuna! Surrender to Him alone with all your being. By His grace, you will attain supreme peace of the Self and also the eternal Abode of liberation.

O M T A T S A T

Badri Vedic Chanting – New Beginner Batch

After successfully conducting Vedic chanting in 3 levels for close to 3 years, Vedic chanting group at Chinmaya Mission Chicago's Badri center is happy to announce the starting of a new Beginner batch on **Sunday, 11th September at 7:30 pm**. This will be over Zoom and is open for all - children and adults alike.

Chanting sessions are held on two days - Sundays and Thursdays at 7:30 pm, where one is the repeat of the other session.

Kindly reach out to Shashi Narasimhan (630-922-7072) or Sunil Narayanan (630.923.2534) if you have any questions or need any additional information. Details of the Vedic chanting sessions can be found [here](#).

Badri Vishnu Sahasranamam – New Batch Starting

After successfully completing two batches we are pleased to announce that a new batch is planned to be started on **Sunday, 11th September 2022 at 6 – 7 pm**. The classes are conducted virtually over Zoom. Anyone looking for more details, please email Sudha Gouthama at sudhagoutha@yahoo.com

To enroll join this Whatsapp Group (scan QR code)



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 complained to Swamiji in his ashram in Sidhbari, Himachal Pradesh, about another devotee. “Swamiji, it’s not fair. She eats so much and never puts on an ounce of weight. Whereas I starve myself to death, and look at my size.” Swamiji looked at the people around and announced, “Come everybody and see. She says she is an effect without a cause.”

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
- **Hamsa Geeta** – 6 months Course
 - Starting on 13th July @ 5:30 - 6:30 pm IST
 - Every Saturday
- **Shvestasvatara Upanishad** – 11 months course
 - Starting on 13th July @ 6:45 – 7:45 am IST
 - Every Saturday
- **Rig Veda Chanting & Learning** – 3 days Camp
 - Starting on 5th Aug 2022
 - At Adi Shankara Nilayam

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

Upcoming Event – Musical Concert @ Badri



Chinmaya Mission Chicago

A School of Vedantic Studies

Badri ✧ Yamunotri ✧ Gangotri



Enthralling Musical Extravaganza

Friday, September 16, 2022

✧

VENUE: Hindu Temple of Greater Chicago

10915 Lemont Rd, Lemont IL 60439

✧

TIME: 7:30 pm



Pandit Subhen Chatterjee
on *Tabla*



Padmashree & Grammy Award Winner
The Legendary Pandit Vishwamohan Bhatt
on *Mohan Veena*

Donation: VIP, \$100, \$50, \$30


Boxed Snack included at the end of the program

Shanker Pillai (630) 886 6442 • Ashok Dholakia (708) 602 3901 • Sujata Patnaik (630) 544 1044 • Uma Iyer (630) 715 6889

Siva Ramamurthy (630) 258 2960 • Sujata Chande (708) 253 3571 • Ashok Bhatia (847) 477 5157


Pujya Swami Swaroopananda's Chicago Visit

For an opportunity to offer 'Bhiksha' to Swamiji, contact Sudha Gouthama: (630) 502-9341



CHINMAYA MISSION CHICAGO

Badri * Yamunotri * Gangotri
A School of Vedantic Studies



DISCOURSES

by Swami Swaroopananda
GLOBAL HEAD, CHINMAYA MISSION

Happiness, Peace & Love

BADRI
115080 Kingery Hwy,
Willowbrook, IL 60527

Tue, August 23 - Thu, August 25
7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

We are all in search of Happiness, but the struggle to achieve Happiness brings restlessness, discontent, and hatred. *Bhagavad Gita* shows that true Happiness can be achieved, which is the abode of peace and a means to obtain this peace is through love.

Radha Krishna Divine Love based on Srimad Bhagavatam

YAMUNOTRI
30877 N. Fairfield Rd., Grayslake, IL 60030

Fri, August 26 ♦ 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Sat, August 27 ♦ 10:30 am - Noon
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm
Sun, August 28 ♦ 11:00 am - Noon

Love is truly Divine when the name of Radha is uttered before the name of supreme Godhood Krishna. Come and witness what made their love Divine and how their Love inspires, illumines, designates, and leads the way.

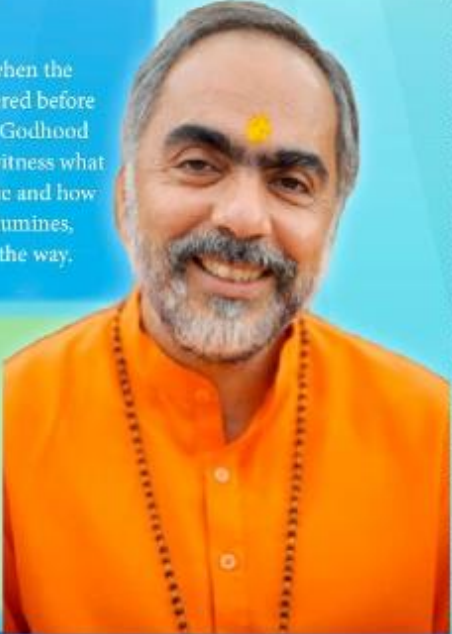
It's All About the Mind

GANGOTRI
Venue: Home of Harmony
3801 N Keeler Ave, Chicago, IL 60641

Sun, August 28
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

A mind under our control is our best friend and without control is our worst enemy. Let us learn to be mindful instead of having our minds full of material thoughts.

Shanker Pillai (630) 886 6442 • Ashok Bhatia (847) 477 5157 • Nitish Kanabar (347) 829 9099



Enrolment Open for Shishu Vihar & Bala Vihar Registration



Bala Vihar provides spiritual and cultural values for children and youth -- value-based education through study of Hindu scriptures, stotrams & hymns, discussions, and cultural activities.

- Weekly Classes for children 4 yrs and older, from Grades Pre-K through 12th
- Shishu Vihar classes for children 2 and 3 years of age
- Classes for parents and adults
- Every session starts with discourses on Bhagavad Gita by Swamiji



**Enrollment Open
All Year**
<https://mychinmaya.org/bv>

New Bala Vihar Session begins

September 11, 2022

Sundays, 10 am - Noon



ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES	
For Children	For Families
<i>Language Classes</i> <i>Stuti Vandana (stotrams)</i> <i>Bhagavad Gita Chanting</i> <i>Swaranjali (bhajans)</i> <i>SAT/ ACT Classes</i> <i>Math Enrichment</i>	<i>Spiritual Discourses & Retreats</i> <i>Study Groups</i> <i>Yoga Classes</i> <i>Festivals & Pujas</i> <i>Community Service Projects</i>

CHINMAYA MISSION CHICAGO

Badri - A School of Vedantic Studies

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Suresh Kumar (630) 362-0104 • Shanker Pillai (630) 886-6442

Deepak Chande (708) 253-3570 • Ashok Dholakia (708) 602 3901

--Hari Om--