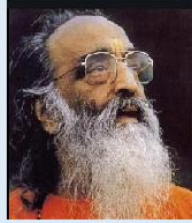




# CHINMAYA MISSION CHICAGO

**BADRI - A School of Vedantic Studies**

Monthly Newsletter – September 2022



# Chinmaya



## Wisdom Quote

*We collect things because our hearts are empty - Swami Chinmayananda.*

## Swamiji's Message



### What is an empty heart? by Swami Aparijithananda

An empty heart is a heart devoid of love for God. Such a heart is ruled by the ego. An ego-ruled heart is a brooding ground for all vices in life.

A young American soldier used to attend Sadhu Vaswani's Gita class at Karachi regularly. He was stationed at Mauripur, about 10 miles away from Karachi. In spite of that, every Saturday he would make this distance by jeep or otherwise and always managed to reach the class on time.

One Saturday evening he was absent. When he came on the following Saturday, others asked him the reason for his absence. He said, "A set of new weapons had arrived from the States and I had to test them. This kept me busy till late in the night. And much against my wishes, I had to remain absent from the Gita class."

Contd... [\[Click here to read the rest of Swamiji's message\]](#)

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### Upcoming Events -

- **Monthly Bhajan** [Zoom]: 9/10 @ 6 – 7:30 pm
  - Hosted by Sunitha Nair & Family
- **Balavihar Inauguration**
  - 9/11, 10 am @ Badri
  - Puja & Inauguration
- **Music Concert**
  - 9/16, 7 pm @ HTGC Auditorium
- **Monthly Group Vedic Chanting**
  - 9/25, 9:00 – 9:55 am @ Badri Shrine

## Musical Concert by Padmasree Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt – 9/16

**Shishu Vihar & Bala Vihar Enrolment Open – [Register Now](#)**

**Vedic Chanting/ Geeta Chanting/ Vishnu Sahasranamam – New Batches Starting**

### Highlights from Previous Month

The month of August was very auspicious and will always be remembered as we had the good fortune of hosting Puja Swami Swaroopananda for a week and Swami Shanthananda for a day. The auspicious month started with the Aradhana puja on Mahasamadhi day of 3<sup>rd</sup> August. This was followed by the 3 days discourse by Puja Swami Swaroopananda on 'Happiness, Peace and Love'. We also had our Bhajan Sandhya on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday and the monthly Group Vedic Chanting was cancelled as on the same day Yamunotri was celebrating their Moorthi Sthapana.

#### **1. Mahasamadhi Aradhana Puja**

[\[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OjCk8VS5-8s\]](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OjCk8VS5-8s)

Every year 3<sup>rd</sup> August marks the culmination of the Mahasamadhi camp and on that day its been our annual tradition to perform Mahasamadhi Aradhana Puja at Badri. The ceremony includes Guru Paduka puja, followed by Bhajans, a talk by our Swamiji and Aarthi.





## 2. Bhajan Sandhya

This month's monthly Bhajan Sandhya was hosted by Sangita Rangala & Anand Ramanathan's family. As is the regular custom, the program was over Zoom though a few other families joined the hosts at their home and this created a great environment to lead the bhajans and slokas. 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.





### 3. Pujya Swami Swaroopananda's Visit & Discourse

The Chicago centers of Badri, Yamunotri and Gangotri were blessed by the visit of Pujya Swami Swaroopananda, who is also the Global Head of Chinmaya Mission worldwide. He arrived at Badri from Chinmaya Omkara, which is our North West Indiana center and accompanying him was Swami Shantananda, who is the head of Chinmaya Mission West. This was a big surprise to us as the last time Swamiji visited us was during pre-pandemic for the Bhagavath Gita Saptah. Both the Swamijis were received with Purna Kumba at Badri and Pujya Swami Swaroopananda's discourse on '**Happiness, Peace and Love**' was for 3 days at Badri starting the next day.



#### 4. Janmasthami Celebration

This year Janmasthami was celebrated at Badri on two separate dates. On Janmashtami day, we had a Puja followed by a talk by Swamiji and a short play by Bala Vihar children. Also, the following Sunday, we had the Bala vihar celebration where all the children participated and cheered the performances.



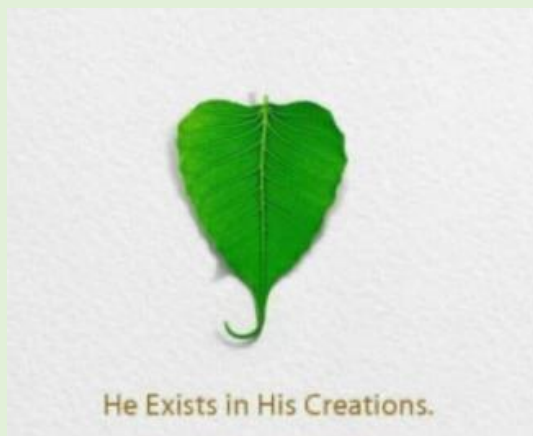
### 5. Indian Independence Day Celebration

August 15<sup>th</sup> marks the Indian Independence day and as we do every year, this year also we celebrated the occasion by hoisting the Indian National Flag at Badri and sang the Indian National Anthem. It was an occasion of surging patriotism towards our motherland for most of the adults who were present.



### 6. Ganesh Chaturthi Celebration

On Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> August we celebrated Ganesh Chaturthi at Badri by performing Ganesh Puja followed by bhajans, chanting of Ganapathyadharvasheershopanishad and a talk by our Swamiji. The evening concluded with Aarthi and prasad.





## Swamiji's Message contd...

Then turning to Vaswani, he asked with a grim face, "Master! Do you think these weapons of war will save humanity?"

Sadhu Vaswani replied, "In wisdom, not in weapons of war, is the hope of this broken, bleeding world. And wisdom is of the heart."

All the wars and destructions, crimes and bloodsheds, scams and corruptions, rapes and murders that we witness in the world come from one source – an empty heart.

True education makes our hearts contented and fulfilled. Such a fulfilled heart finds joy not in hoarding and aggrandizing, but in giving, loving and sharing.

In the recently concluded Tokyo Olympics, an incident happened which touched the hearts of millions all over the world.

The scene was the final of men's high jump. Italy's Gianmarco Tamberi was facing Qatar's Mutaz Essa Barshim in the final. Both of them jumped 2.37 meters and were on par. Olympic officials gave three more attempts to each of them, but they were unable to reach more than 2.37 meters.

One more attempt was given to two both of them. But Tamberi withdrew from the last attempt due to a serious leg injury. This was the moment when there was no other opponent in front of Barshim, the moment when he could have easily approached the gold alone.

Barshim approached the official, "If I withdraw from the final attempt, can we share the gold between the two of us?"

The official checked the rules of the game and said, "Yes. If you withdraw, then the gold will be shared between the two of you."

Barshim then had nothing to think about. He announced his withdrawal from the last attempt. Seeing this, the Italian opponent Tamberi was in tears! He ran and hugged Barshim, unable to express his joy and gratitude.

Empty hearts grumble and complain, fight and die miserably. Fulfilled hearts cooperate and adjust, share and celebrate.

Manikavachakar was one of the greatest saints of Tamil Nadu. He was a saint, poet and scholar. One day he was caught unaware by a sudden downpour of rain. As he was trying to find some shelter, he noticed a short length of dry floor on the raised veranda of a house. The inmates of the house were fast asleep behind the closed doors. He was happy that by God's grace he had found a place to rest. He rested his head on his arm and stretched his legs and fell asleep.

He was aroused from sleep by the noise of hurried footsteps on the veranda. He saw a man fully drenched. Manikavachakar welcomed him and said, "Please come, sir. We may not be

able to lie down, but we have enough space to sit. We shall sit and softly sing bhajans.”

After few minutes another man came running into the veranda. Manikavachakar greeted him and said, “Please come, sir. We may not be able to sit, but there is enough standing space for three. Let us stand and spend the night chanting the Divine Name.”

No doubt there is a joy in conquering others, in proving oneself superior, and in taking revenge. But these are meant for the egoistic empty hearts. The wise ones never revel in these inferior base joys. Their ways are of service and surrender.

Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel became the Deputy Prime Minister when Jawaharlal Nehru was appointed the Prime Minister of India. Patel was a true Gandhian and so was his daughter, Maniben.

One day, Mahavir Tyagi, a family friend of Patel, happened to visit Patel’s home. He saw Maniben engaged in household chores. She wore an old Khadi Sari patched up here and there. Mahavir Tyagi could not bear to see the daughter of the Deputy Prime Minister of India dressed thus and engaged in household chores.

He said, “Daughter, you should not be miserly like this. You are supposed to live like a princess. Don’t you think your way of living, dressing and behaving will be a disgrace on your father’s status?”

Maniben smiled and replied calmly, “Tyagiji, why should I bring a bad name to my father? I feel neither sad nor humiliated to wear this Sari with some patches because it is made out of yarn spun by myself. There is nothing wrong if a woman does her own household work. It is her duty. She must learn to live with the minimum and serve the maximum. I am proud of my father who has taught these important values of life.”

Tyagi became silent not knowing what to advise. Maniben continued, “Tyagiji, true happiness in life comes not from political power or luxurious lifestyle, but from a joyous heart. Be humble, love all, serve all, and be ever content – these are the sure ways to experience this joy of the heart. See how Bapuji (Gandhiji) and father live these principles in their day-to-day life and inspire millions to walk this path! We also must follow their footsteps if we want to experience true fulfilment in our lives.”

As Mahavir Tyagi sat there wondering at her simplicity, wisdom and maturity, Maniben, with her usual smile on her face, hurried into the inner apartments to busy herself with the household chores.

When Maniben went in, Dr Susheela Nayar who was watching all these happenings, spoke to Tyagi, “Sir! You don’t seem to have understood Maniben. She is a Karma Yogi who considers her work as worship. Right from morning till evening she keeps herself busy. She cleanses the vessels, washes the clothes of all members of the family, cooks food for all and whenever she finds time, she will be at her spinning wheel. She not only spins yarn but also makes and stitches dresses for all. She does not waste anything. When her Sari is torn to pieces, she will patch up two dhotis of her father and wear them. She is a living example of ‘simple living and high thinking’ which Gandhiji has taught all of us.”

Blessed indeed are they who have learnt this art of maintaining a joyful heart amidst the ups and downs of life.



Blessed indeed are they who have learnt this art of maintaining a joyful heart amidst the ups and downs of life.

A lady, who was over 90 years old, after the departure of her beloved husband, and having no children and no one in the family to care for her, decided to move to a nursing home.

After arriving at the nursing home, she had to wait patiently in the lobby for hours before getting her room allotted. Finally, the room was ready, and an attendant led the lady to her room. As they were walking along the veranda, the attendant gave a verbal description of the tiny space that she was meant to occupy.

"O so beautiful! So nice! I love it." The lady expressed with great enthusiasm.

"Madam, you haven't even seen the room yet!" The attendant remarked smilingly.

"Well, my joy has nothing to do with the room," the lady replied.

To the confused attendant, the lady replied, "Whether I like my room or not, doesn't depend on the size of the room or how the furniture is arranged. It entirely depends on how I arrange my mind. Happiness is something you can decide ahead of time. And I have already decided to love my room, to love the people around me, to love my life. It is a decision that I make every morning when I wake up. You know what, the greatest asset we all have is the power to choose how we feel."

The lady continued speaking, as the attendant listened attentively with her mouth wide open.

"I can spend my entire day in bed thinking of the pain I am in, focusing on the parts of my body that no longer work... or I can get out of bed and be thankful for those body-parts that do work.

"I can brood on what I lack in life and become miserable. Or I can think of all that the Lord has blessed me with and be happy. I have decided to be happy..."

The choice is ours – to complain or to be grateful, to hate or to love, to be disturbed or to be peaceful, to have an empty heart or to have a fulfilled one.

May we make the right choice and live well.

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, 18<sup>th</sup> 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. For contact info, [click 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, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 6 – 7 pm**. The classes are conducted virtually over Zoom. Anyone looking for more details, please email Sudha Gouthama at [sudhagouth@yahoo.com](mailto:sudhagouth@yahoo.com)

### 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 –

A cardiologist devotee was getting Gurudev checked at a hospital in Philadelphia where he was working. At the same time, a lady gynecologist was making her rounds. The cardiologist introduced her to Gurudev by saying, “Swamiji, she delivers babies to the world.” The gynecologist asked Swamiji what he did. Swamiji replied: “You deliver to this world, and I deliver out of this world.” As a teacher of Vedanta, his mission was to liberate people.

### 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
- **Shvestasvatara Upanishad** – 11 months course
  - Starting on 13<sup>th</sup> July @ 6:45 – 7:45 am IST
  - Every Saturday
- **Subodh Vedanta** – by Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda
  - 3 – 17 September 2022 @ 9 – 9:30 am CST
  - Talks in English

### 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



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# Enthralling Musical Extravaganza

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## Friday, September 16, 2022

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### 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



## 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 &amp; Retreats</i> <i>Study Groups</i> <i>Yoga Classes</i> <i>Festivals &amp; Pujas</i> <i>Community Service Projects</i>

**CHINMAYA MISSION CHICAGO**  
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 Deepak Chande (708) 253-3570 • Ashok Dholakia (708) 602 3901

Subodh Vedanta – by Guruji



CHINMAYA MISSION PRESENTS

*Subodh Vedanta*

Talks in English by  
**Swami Tejomayananda**

03 - 17 September 2022  
7.30 PM - 8.00 PM IST daily

Tune Into **You Tube**  
Chinmaya Channel

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--Hari Om--