



Sanskrit Gurukul Weekly Update



Class Name: Bhargava

Week# 18: February 9nd, 2014

General Assembly

We started with 3 Oms. We chanted Gurustotram.

Sridhar uncle asked questions:

Why we chant Gurustotram?

Answer: We chant to thank Guru who provide us understanding and knowledge.

Who is Guru?

Answer: Everyone or anyone from where we can learn.

Books are form of knowledge. We worship Mahabharata, Gita, Ramayana etc. books. People follow Sikhism worship Guru Granthsaheb (their holy book).

We are learning about sages in General Assembly. Today we learn about Sage Veda Vyasa. The knowledge was brought down to us by Rishis from Lord Brahma. These Rishis brought the knowledge to us in form of one Veda. About 8000 years ago, the Veda was written down using Sanskrit language with Devanagari Script. Vyasa in Sanskrit means one who splits. Sage Veda Vyasa split one Veda in four Vedas - Sam, Rig, Yajur and Atharva. Therefore, he is known as Sage Veda Vyasa. Sage Veda Vyasa wrote Mahabharata. His great grandsons were Kauravas and Pandavas. Sage Veda Vyasa wrote many Puranas. We chant Taittiriya Upanishad - Shiksha Anusasanam. Shiksha Anusasanam is part of the Vedas.

Sage Veda Vyasa is one of the avatars of Lord Vishnu. Sage Veda Vyasa's father's name is Sage Parashara and mother's name is Satyavati. We know the Sage Veda Vyasa's parents names from Sutras he wrote. The Mahabharata and Puranas are written with Sutras. These Sutras contains Sage Veda Vyasa's parent's names. Sridhar uncle give us an example - Hanuman Chalisa is written by Sage Tulsidas - last stanza of Hanuman Chalisa contains the name of Tulsidas. On same manner, Sutras written by Sage Veda Vyasa contains his name and his parents names. Sage Veda Vyasa is also known as Krishnadwaitpana - meaning one with dark skin and born on a island.

When we chant Gurustotram to thank Gurus, we are also thanking Sage Veda Vyasa.

We ended the GA by chanting Shiksha Anushashanam.

Class

We introduced the students with a new value – Friendship (Sanskrit word - Mitratva). There are certain qualities that a friend has – consistency, honesty, willingly shares thoughts and feelings, provides companionship and ongoing support, does not have jealousy or rivalry. True friends stand by each other during good and bad times.

We then continued with the Mahabharat story...

After getting permission from Dridashtra, Dronacharya arranged for a competition in a huge arena that would show off the skills he had taught the Pandavas and Kauravas. The entire kingdom of Hastinapur was eager to see the princess's. On the day of the competition, Bheeshma arrives first followed by Dridashtra, Gandhari, Kunti, Dronacharya, Kripacharya and finally the young princess's. Yudhishtra starts the competition by showing off his javelin skills. Then Duryodhan and Bhima have an unhealthy competition to show off their "Gadha" skills. Drona tells Ashvathama to stop the competition between the



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two. After that came Arjun to show his archery skill. He was blind folded and was asked to shoot at the target. Arjun was successful and the crowd cheered for him. While Arjun was feeling very proud of this accomplishment, Karna walked into the arena and wanted to challenge Arjun for one more competition. Kripacharya asked Karna to introduce himself. Karna was confused and did not say anything since he did not belong to a royal family. Seeing the confusion on Karna's face, Duryodhan was thrilled because finally he could see someone who has challenged Arjun. He quickly rose from his seat and introduced Karna as the king of Anga. Karna was very happy to hear that and he became a very good friend of Duryodhan from that day onwards.

Homework

Please complete pages 21 and 22 from Mahabharat book.

Announcements

We will have History session next Sunday.