



Sanskar Gurukul Weekly Update



Class Name: Bhrgu

Week# 09: November 16, 2014

General Assembly

Sridhar Uncle started the GA with three Omkars followed by the Shanti Mantra and Prayer Before Studies.

Valmiki class students chanted the Gita Dhyanam in its entirety. The students did a lead and follow of the 2nd shloka of the Gita Dhyanam with two students from Valmiki class leading. They also explained the meaning of the 2nd shloka, which basically celebrates Sage Vyasa, who wrote the Mahabharata.

Namostu te vyaasa vishaalabuddhe phullaaravindaayatapatranetra;
Yena twayaa bhaaratatailapoornah prajwaalito jnaanamayah pradeepah.

Salutations unto thee, O Vyasa, of broad intellect and with eyes like the petals of a full-blown lotus, by whom the lamp of knowledge, filled with the oil of the Mahabharata, has been lighted!

Oil is synonymous with the different stories in the Mahabharata as they help spread knowledge (light). The Bhagavad Gita is written in Sanskrit, which only the rishis of those days could understand. So Sage Vyasa decided to write the teachings of the Gita in the form of stories in the Mahabharata, so that the common man could understand it.

We ended the GA with a short meditation session followed by closing prayers.

Class

Rashmi-auntly gave a brief introduction of "Shishyanushasanam" to everyone in the class and where did this origin from.

She explained that Taittiriya Upanishad contains a section dealing with what a student should do after he completes formal education. Called Shishya-anushasanam ('rules for a student' or 'Code of Conduct'), this section consists of timeless wisdom which the rishis had derived from their experience and a wholesome understanding of life. These rules for student hold good even now, despite changed circumstances and a different system of education. One may liken these guidelines to a convocation address given to the final year students who are about to leave the portals of an educational institution to pursue a career or get into an active life of earning and doing their family duties and contributing to the society.

We started class with three Omkars followed by the Shanti Mantra and before studies prayers.

Then we went over story from Chapter 17 in Bal-Bhagavatam 2.

We started with Kaliya Mardanam's story which is about the hundred head snake called Kaliya who was a poisonous snake living near the river Kalinda. The water all around him boiled and bubbled with poison. No bird or beast could go near, any living thing that came near it died immediately.



Sanskar Gurukul Weekly Update



One day the gopas and their cattle drank the water from the poisonous pool. As soon as they drank the water they immediately fell down dead. Sri Krishna brought them back to life using his divine look but Krishna decided that he should get rid of this snake once and for all. He jumped into the boiling water. Kaliya was surprised and angry to see that someone had actually disturbed his privacy. He wrapped himself around the divine boy's tender body in order to cut him into small pieces. The gopas who were watching this felt that Krishna would surely die.

The gopas fainted and cows and the calves too were calling out loudly fixing their sights on Him. In Vrindavan ominous signs of danger appeared. Seeing these signs Maharaj Nanda rushed to the river along with all other cowherds in distress as he knew that Krishna left without Balaram or any other help. As they reached the river they could see Krishna from a distance very much in the grip of the serpent Kaliya. They also saw the unconscious boys on the banks of the river and Krishna in danger. Yashoda, the mother of Krishna who with her gaze fixed on Krishna in the clutches of Kaliya wanted to move in. Balaram also saw Maharaj Nanda and other trying to enter the water. Balaram, who knew the extraordinary powers of his brother, restrained Maharaj Nanda and others from moving into the water.

Krishna fought with Kailiya for one hour, When Krishna inflated himself to such a huge size that Kaliya lost his grip and could no longer hold him. Krishna broke the hood of Kaliya and broke them one by one. Kaliya was very angry and spat out poison and fire. At last, Kaliya was exhausted and collapsed.

Kaliya's wives prayed to Krishna to spare Kaliya's life. Krishna told Kaliya to leave the pond and go live on Ramanaka Island where Krishna would protect him. Yamuna River was pure and sweet again. When Krishna came out of the water he was wearing rare gems and jewels. Everyone at the banks of river embraced Krishna with joy.

After year later on very hot day Krishna and boys rested in the shade of a tree. Krishna said. "Look! how admirable these trees are they have love for others. They bear wind, rain, sun and cold but give protection to others from it. They offer human beings their leaves, fruits, flowers, shade, roots, bark, sweet smell, ashes and much more."

We should learn from trees and spend our lives in the services of others by sharing our wealth and wisdom.

Following Bhagavatam, we explored value called '**honesty**' which we learned and discussed in our last class. Children shared few other stories related to honesty, which they experienced in their day to day life.

After that we had small joint session with Kanwa class where Aparna-aunty reviewed the Shishyanushasanam. We did lead and follow of the first few verses, as both a review for the older students and a learning opportunity for the new students in both of these classes.

We ended the session followed by closing prayers.



Sanskar Gurukul Weekly Update



Homework

Complete the exercises on chapter 17, page 22. Coloring pictures on page 23 earns bonus points.

Think about honesty as a value and find more example either from day to day life, from our scriptures, from Ramayana, Mahabharata, from real life incidence that happened in school or about a friend or a classmate. Please come prepared to share your 'Honesty' story in the class. We will share stories about honesty over next few classes.

Announcements

Parents - Please tell your kids to save the Shishyanushasanam handout in sheet protector, as they will refer to it frequently for chanting.

The theme for the 2014-15 Year Book is Ramayana. You can either draw something or write a poem / essay etc and turn in your work by early January for a chance for your work to be published in the year book