



Sanskar Gurukul Weekly Update



Class Name: Bhrgu

Week# 12: December 15, 2013

General Assembly

We started with the 3 Oms and the shanti Mantra. Then we discussed the event that is upon us - Christmas and the New year. The children shared what Christmas meant to them - tree trimming, presents, fun and excitement. When asked the meaning of Christmas - the children again shared - birthday of Jesus, and love. We asked whether it was ok to celebrate Christmas when we were Hindus - some kids agreed while others didnt.

Smita Auntie then asked us to imagine a mountain - every mountain has only one peak - lets imagine that that peak is God. She then asked the children how many ways there were to climb that mountain - many answers were received - climb (mountaineering), hike to the top, drive up, if there is road, or get dropped by a helicopter. Although these were different ways - the ultimate goal is to reach the peak - that is to achieve God. Thus, since Christmas also celebrates the love of God - it is ok to celebrate it...refer to the Vedanta alphabet of brotherhood - in the spirit of brotherhood of all around us...remembering to be charitable, giving, and helping those who do not have as much as we do. Think not of giving expensive gifts but heartfelt ones.

As the new Year approaches, we should also think of new year resolutions. One that we are asking all children to do is to always - always say the prayer before meals before every meal. We reviewed the shloka today in GA.

We then ended the GA by singing the birthday song for all children whose birthdays were in November and December.

Class

We started the class with three Omkars followed by the Shanthi Mantra and before studies prayer.

We discussed Bhagavatam-part I – Chapter 7 which was a story of honest, good young man named Ajamila who had a good wife and was leading happy life. He also knew Vedas very well. One day he went to forest to collect flowers, fruits for his puja. On the way back, he met a beautiful woman and forgot about his wife and went to live with her. He gave up thoughts about god and worship, spent his money on his new wife and started cheating and stealing money from people. He had 10 sons with this new wife; youngest one was Narayana who was his favorite. Then came a time for Ajamila to die and 2 messengers from god of death, Yama, came for him. Ajamila was scared and started calling his son, Narayana, Narayana. Since he uttered Lord's name at his last moment, he would go to Heaven. As Yama's messengers were trying to leave with Ajamila, 2 messengers from Lord Vishnu appeared and stopped Yama saying that they can't take Ajamila as he had called Lord's name at the last moment. He will go to Vaikuntha. Yama's messengers said, "although this guy was good in the beginning, he



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became unholy and wicked and committed many crimes. We have a right to take him". However, Lord Vishnu's helpers insisted that by taking Lord's name at the last moment all his crimes were washed off. Yama's messengers were defeated in the argument and left without Ajamila. Ajamila was shocked and touched by this conversation between Yama and Lord Vishnu's messengers. He realized his mistakes and power of Lord's name. He went to the banks of river Ganga and meditated upon Lord Vishnu's name till his death at which time Lord Vishnu's messengers came and took him to Vaikuntha.

Homework

Complete the exercises on Chapter 7 (page 30).

Announcements

- For those children who want to contribute drawing of Devi Lakshmi for the yearbook, and were unable to meet the deadline of Dec 8, you can still submit. A place in the yearbook may not be guaranteed, but the entries will be accepted through Jan 4 (right after the break).
- No class on Sun, Dec 22 and Sun Dec 29. We will see everyone back on Sun, Jan 5, 2014. Happy new year to all.