

BHAGAVAD GITA MAHAYAGNA BATCH 3 JOURNEY

THE DIVINE BEGINNINGS

“Mantra Moolam Gurorvakyam” explains Lord Shiva to Goddess Parvati in the holy scripture of Guru Gita. The phrase means that the words uttered by a Guru is the source of mantra for a disciple. Thus, in July of 2015, when Parama Pujya Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Swamiji expressed a desire to listen to at least 18 children memorize all 700 shlokas of Bhagavad Gita in a year’s time; it led to initiation of a Mahayagna – A Bhagavad Gita Mahayagna. Since 2015, 240 + students (children and adults) have successfully memorized the Gita under 10 months or less and have also had the once in a life opportunity to offer their parayana to Parama Pujya Sri Swamiji in the Nada Mantapa- Mysore (Dec 2016, July 2017), Kurukshetra (Dec 2016) and Frisco- TX (July 2016, Dec 2017).

BATCH 3

The Mahayagna program continued to gather steam in 2017, when new registrations began for Batch 3. Wonderful alumni testimonials and family experiences, amazing word of mouth via relatives and friends, Television and Newspaper coverage, publicity through social networking led to a record of over 400 participants signing up for Batch 3 from 10 centers spanning different states in US and other countries as well. With blessings from Parama Pujya Sri Swamiji and Sri Bala Swamiji classes began in August 2017 across all centers.

CLASSES, CAMPS & PERFORMANCES

Based on the location, students attended classes either in-person, via conference calls or through Skype. Similar to previous batches, bi-weekly classes with weekly assessments were conducted for Batch 3. Monthly competitions helped the students raise their game to the top notch. Help and guidance of dedicated teachers, parent volunteers, and middle and high school alumni helped the students tremendously with both memorization and pronunciations. A syllabus of this magnitude is impossible to achieve without the complete involvement of the amazing parent(s) with their immense patience and perseverance.

Special Camps held during Fall, Spring and Summer break helped students hone their skills and/or catch up with backlogs with one on one assessments and group parayanas. Students also benefitted immensely from sessions involving Shloka meanings. Fun Gita related games like chanting by numbers, Parallel Chanting, Antyakshari and Jeopardy also made the camps something to look forward to.

When Parama Pujya Sri Swamiji visited Dallas in December 2017, HE specifically asked to meet all Batch 3 students. The students were very lucky and blessed to chant Gita Dhyana Shlokas, Chapter 1 and Chapter 12 during Sri Chakra Puja on Dec 25 in HIS divine presence.

Post May 2018, students have also memorized Gita Mahatmyam, Gita Sara, Gita Arti, Datta Stava and Sadguru Stava.

THE 0-0-18 MANTRA

Parama Pujya Sri Swamiji has stressed that the Mahayagna program graduates should be able to chant the shlokas perfectly and pass the final assessments. Thus the 0-0-18 Mantra was born – zero pronunciation

errors and zero memory mistakes across all 18 chapters. Batch 3 students worked hard to attain this goal with rigorous practices, assessments, reviews and practice parayanas.

THE GRAND PERFORMANCE

A total of about 135 students (both children and adults) and about 79 fluent readers from Batch 3 will offer and dedicate their Sampoorna parayana to Pujya Sri Swamiji on September 15, 2018 at Karya Siddhi Hanuman Temple, Frisco, TX. It will coincide with 2018 Global Gita Conference (to be conducted for the first time in the US). Never have so many chanters joined their voices together to chant the glory of Srimad Bhagavad Gita. It will indeed be a divine treat to watch and listen to, in the Holy presence of Sri Krishna swaroopa Parama Pujya Sri Swamiji HIMSELF.

ONWARD AND UPWARD

To complete the Guru Gita Shloka quoted in the beginning- Lord Shiva answers Goddess Parvati “Moksha Moolam Guroh Krupa” – The Grace of Guru is the root of Nirvana (liberation/Salvation) for a disciple. By heeding to Sadguru Parama Pujya Sri Swamiji’s words, by memorizing the 700 shlokas of Gita, by learning and applying the lessons from the Gita, by spreading the fragrance of the sacred Gita, these Mahayagna students hope to receive their Guru’s grace and move closer to the ultimate reward of human life – Moksha/Salvation.