

JAYA GURU DATTA!

INTRODUCTION

The holy Shrimad Bhagavad Gita is a treasure trove of life lessons. One who is able to understand and implement even a percentage of these lessons in their lives, is a blessed person indeed. Perhaps this is one of the reasons why HIS Holiness Parama Pujya Sri Ganapati Sachchidananda Swamiji has been reviving and renewing interest in this Holy Scripture, across the globe, in this age of Kali Yuga.

Thus, in HIS grand scheme of things, during the Kumbhabhishekkam celebrations of Karya Siddhi Hanuman Temple (KSHT) in July 2015, Parama Pujya Sri Swamiji instructed children to memorize the entire Gita and be ready by HIS next visit. This was how the historic and path breaking Bhagavad Gita Maha Yagna program was born.

Since 2015, 308 students (children and adults) have successfully memorized the Gita in 10 months over three batches and have had the divine opportunity to offer their Parayana to Parama Pujya Sri Swamiji in Nada Mantapa, Mysore (Dec 2016, July 2017), Kurukshetra (Dec 2016) and Frisco, TX (July 2016, Dec 2017, Sep 2018).

BATCH 4

Interest in the program continued to grow due to positive publicity on TV, newspapers, social media and above all, exceptional referrals by alumni members and families.

Batch 4 classes started in August of 2018. Overwhelming registrations for both Memorization and Fluent reading category from 18 States in the USA and 5 Countries were recorded.

Similar to previous batches, bi-weekly classes, monthly competitions, weekly assessments, and special camps during school holidays greatly helped students in getting closer to the goal of authoritative memorization and authentic pronunciations. Gita meaning sessions by teachers, as well as Gita related activities and games enhanced and enriched the students' learning experiences.

In addition to entertaining games, students immensely benefited from spiritual discourses related to the Bhagavad Gita and additionally, lectures by prominent speakers, such as Swamini Shraddhand Saraswati and Sri Satyam Upadrashta.

Batch 4 students were blessed Pujya Bala Swamiji's visit to Dallas in April. They chanted Chapter 11 and 12 during Sri Chakra Puja. Pujya Bala Swamiji encouraged and motivated the students, while also stressing the importance of revisions. HE said, "Understand Bhagavad Gita with a good heart. You have to sing BG. Chant with happiness, joy. Singing BG itself is worth a Gold Medal. BG should be a pleasure, not pressure. Enjoy singing BG".

BATCH 4 PARAYANA – JULY 2019

After the completion of their syllabus, students from centers all across the world went through the all 18 chapter signoffs. Once cleared, they were assessed by External Judge Sri Gopal Babu. The results determined their participation and gold medal eligibility.

In preparation for the grand Parayana, a camp was held in Dallas for all participants. The camp extensively helped with Parayana practices, synchronization in tune and pitch, seating arrangements, etc.

Parama Pujya Sri Swamiji, in his infinite love, took time off HIS busy Guru Purnima schedule and spent time with all Batch 4 students, families, teachers and volunteers. HE encouraged all Mahayagna families to participate in the Sahasra Gala Gita Parayana Mahayagna (1000 participants chanting Gita from memory) to be conducted in the years to come.

On July 20, when all 235 participants were seated on a beautifully decorated multitier stage at KSHT, Dallas, in the divine and loving presence of their Sadguru, the sight itself was a visual treat to the august gathering. This was enhanced by the presence of 100 Batch 4 fluent readers and previous Mahayagna students that were a part of various batches.

With Parama Pujya Sri Swamiji's blessings, the Sampurna Parayana Chanting was rendered beautifully and flawlessly. After the completion of chapter 18, followed by Gita Saara, the packed audience unanimously rose to its feet in a standing ovation. Parama Pujya Sri Swamiji lovingly awarded the lucky and blessed students with Gold Medals, Certificates and nice Hug!! Almost an entire year of penance came to fruition when Parama Pujya Sri Swamiji appreciated the performance and said the students put in their 120 % effort.

FUTURE

The future holds bright for all the Mahayagna students. They now have the opportunity to participate in the HARI (HA*r gha*R g*I*ta) program, attend meaning classes and workshops, inspire their family and peers, and above all, to be great role models for the modern society.

We eagerly look forward to the grand event of the Sahasragala Bhagavad Gita Parayana, when 1000+ students across all the batches will chant the entire Gita in one unified voice to fulfill their beloved Sadguru's divine will.