

ORBITUARY

ACHARYA GYANESHWAR JI



*Om ashwathe vo nishadanam parne vo vasatishkritā I
Gobhāja itkilāsatha yatsanavatha purusham || (YajurVeda 12.79, 35.4)*

Human beings should realise that life is only transient like dew, that is - the droplets of water on leaves resulting from condensation of water vapour in the morning. They either fall off with the slightest breeze or dry out with the rising sun. And if the breeze grows into strong winds, the leaves just fall off the tree. Worldly things are after all but perishable. Throughout this lease of life we should act virtuously at all times, be inspired by learned persons, and be ever conscious of the Omnipresent in us... by our side... and around us. We should pay reverence / obeisance to Him only. By following his guidance (through the inner voice in us) we shall progress to communion with Him and enjoy eternal bliss.

It is with deep regret that we learnt of the demise of Acharya Gyaneshwar ji at the age of 68 years in the early morning of Tuesday 14 November 2017. He was born in a family running a well-established jewellery business. He could not reconcile himself with business practices. His occasional meetings with Arya Sanyasis had a bearing in his life, reinforcing his convictions to be ethical in all dealings. He left home in 1974 to acquire knowledge about the real purpose of human life: *dharma-artha-kāma-moksha*.

Āchārya Baldevji of Gurukul Kalvā and Swami Satyapati ji Parivrājak had transformed him into a scholar of Sanskrit and Darshan Philosophy. He served as Āchārya at the Darshan Yog Mahāvidyālaya, Rojad, Gujārat (founded by his life-mentor, Swami Satyapati Ji Parivrājak) for some two decades along with Swami Vivekānandji Parivrājak (formerly Brahmachari Vivek Bhushan, Darshanāchārya). Students (brahmachāris) also learnt to excel in behaviour and communication skills in day-to-day life.

He founded the Vānprastha Sādhak Āshram, a focal point in the dissemination of Vedic philosophy through meditation camps (*Kriyātmak Yog Shivirs*), residential facilities cum learning centre for Vānprasthis, teaching of daily yajna (*Agnihotra*), Total Personality Development (*Vyaktitva Vikās*) Camps, Publications and world-wide distribution of Vaidik literature. Āchāryaji has visited several countries, namely –

Canada, USA, Mauritius (thrice), Gulf countries, Tanzania, Kenya, Zanzibar, Mozambique, South Africa at Mozambique, England, Switzerland, France, Italy, Holland, Belgium, Nepal, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Burma as roaming missionary (Parivrājak).

Deeds speak for themselves; a prolific writer on Vaidik philosophy, he has authored over two dozen books, various pamphlets in Hindi, Sanskrit, English and Gujarati; his forceful discourses will continue to resound in the minds of many; he remains a source of inspiration for thousands who knew him personally or through his writings.

He did his utmost to live the Vedic ideals: ... *Devā bhāgam yathā purve sanjānānā upāsate* || (RigVeda 10.191.2), which in prose form reads: *purvazon ki bhanti tum, kartavya ke māni bano*, i.e. act meritoriously to be rightly called 'descendants of sages of yore'. Our homage to such a towering personality will be truthful only if we live up to Vedic ideals.

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