

ज्ञानं ब्रह्मा

jñānam brahmā



Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations
INDIA

“Young men and women! The world’s good fate, world’s progress is dependent on the transformation of the youth, today. Only when the youth transform themselves with good character, will the world be able to experience ideal virtues.”

Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, World Youth Conference, 1997

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jñānam brahmā – Supreme Knowledge

Bhagawan Baba would very often sing the *Taittiriya Upanishadic* bhajan “*Satyam Jnanam Anantam Brahma*” which means Absolute Eternal is the Truth, Knowledge (wisdom) and Infinity. *Jnanam Brahma* or the knowledge of Brahman is the Supreme Knowledge. The following gives a perspective in this regard on the basis of His Divine exposition.

The word ‘Veda’ originated from the root ‘Vid’, meaning ‘to know’, “*Vidana thu anena ithi Vedah*”, “That which reveals and makes clear all knowledge is Veda”. The divinity of Veda is all pervasive and splendorous. Veda is the *Prajnana* or which is called as supreme knowledge, the unchanging and eternal principle present in everybody at all times and under all circumstances. He said, Veda is *Prajnanam Brahma* or Knowledge is Divinity and expounded it very beautifully as, “The correct translation for this term ‘*Prajnana is Constant-Integrated-Awareness*’. This Constant-Integrated Awareness is present all over the body. How it is that man is not able to recognise such all-pervasive divinity, which exists in all the three periods of time, past, present and future? You are the embodiment of *Prajnana*. (Consciousness, Knowledge). It is not worldly or secular knowledge. This true knowledge is within you. It is not something that

Divinity is Knowledge
Knowledge
Supreme Knowledge
Wisdom
Vedas
Prajnanam Brahma
Vedanta
Duality to Non Duality
Dvaita to Advaita
Atmic Principle



born. It is with you right from your birth. But you have forgotten this truth and, consequently, you suffer from delusion. In this world, everything is an illusion; nothing is permanent. You have to carry on with your life sojourn and discharge your duties keeping in view the eternal Atmic principle."

The intense *sadhana* of Vedic practices can ultimately lead one to the state of Constant Integrated Awareness, which is always being in touch with the inner Divinity. In other words, living our lives in the world without actually being a part of the worldly illusion (transcending the physical whilst acting out the game of life) the state of Constant Integrated Awareness is achieved. This is when the knowledge gets digested through actual experience. The great sages were enriched by such experiences and they had extolled it as the source of wisdom. Therefore Swami said, *"Knowledge should foster Wisdom leading to Awareness"*.

He always exhorted, *"Study is a purposeless exercise if the essence is not imbibed and practised "*. He showed the path along the Work, Worship & Wisdom in the context of acquiring the knowledge that leads one to transcend from duality to non-duality with the *Vedantic* practice. The first step is Work, i.e. learning the Vedas with proper recitation. The next step Worship is to know the meaning of the Vedic verses with their inner significance by going deeper, to understand them and finally the Wisdom is, experiencing the knowledge with the inner significance thus leading to acquisition of the ultimate supreme knowledge. It is an education as well as spiritual practice thus cutting across all the wings of Work, Worship & Wisdom leading to transformation. This is the essence of Taittiriya Upaniṣad of Kāñṇēa YajurVeda that exhorts how to lead a purposeful life with the philosophy of Work, Worship & Wisdom.

Swami said, *"Human Progress is raising the level of moral life and brightening daily lives with goodness and Godliness. Life has to be an incessant process of repair and & reconstruction of discarding evil and developing goodness."* Vedas seek to promote good thoughts eliminating the ideas of evil and help mankind leading a good life. Every sound in Vedas is



eliminating the ideas of evil and help mankind leading a good life. The Vedas are *Anadi* (Beginningless) and *Sanathana* (Eternal), since the origin and the ending of the Vedas are not known; it is *Nitya* (Everlasting). Every sound in them is sacred because it is part of the *Prajnana*. They confer peace and happiness on the humanity. That is the reason He had declared, that He would rebuild Vedic Dharma, as the Vedas are the bases for *Dharma* (righteousness) and *Dharma* is panacea for the illness of mankind.



Fight to end
Moksha-Liberation
Finish at the goal
Purushartha-Goal of Human Life
Dharma-Righteousness
Follow the master
Face the devil
Artha-Wealth
Kama-Desire

The *Chaturvidha Purushartha* (the four fold goals of human life) as declared by Vedas are Dharma Artha Kama Moksha. Bhagawan Baba expounded it very beautifully with four F's

“Follow the master (Conscience)- Observe righteousness – Dharma (Dharmaacharana or Performance of right action implies Karma)
Face the devil- Overcome the temptations that beset you when you try to earn wealth or the wherewithal to live in comfort - Artha
Fight till the end- Wage war against the six enemies led by lust - Kama,
Finish the game - Do not stop until the goal of liberation is reached- Moksha.

These four Fs are fundamental for the pursuit of the four Purusharthas derived from the Vedas, exhorting man to 'arise, awake, and stop not till the goal is reached'. Phala (result) accrues according to the Karma. The Karma is dependent on Jnana. Of the four Purusharthas, the last goal Moksha or liberation (from ignorance and delusion) is attained only through jnana or Wisdom. ”

Therefore, the human birth takes place to perform *Karma* (action) filled with *Dharma* (righteousness) to realise the ultimate goal of *Brahman* (Divinity). *Jnana* (knowledge) is indispensable for doing *Sathkarma* (good actions) and the same is to be obtained from the Vedas.



The Divine will of Bhagawan Sri sathya Sai Baba is to revive the Vedic Dharma as *Veda Poshana* is one of the important aspects of His Avatharic mission. The small golden, brilliant sapling of Veda that He had planted is growing into a bigger tree with each passing day, heralding the voice of Vedas, forgetting the difference of caste, creed and religion. People have joined as one voice; there is only one God who is the embodiment of the Vedas as He declared in His nectarine voice that the whole mankind is beholden to the Vedas. The Divine grandeur of unfolding of Veda movement is witnessed across the length & breadth of the country over the years. Therefore, it would be nothing less than a narrow view of the Divine sovereignty of Vedas unless the phenomenon of the whole movement in the Divine mission is termed as '*Veda Poshana* 'owing to its very purpose of promoting *Manava Kalyana* or Welfare of humanity.

Like all Divine Leelas, the shower of Grace too came about for *Veda Poshana* in the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations, India as Bhagwan's manifestation in a quiet spontaneous manner, no one noticing the 'grand design' or the harvest of precious grain. Everyone kept our eyes open and wide, to bear witness to yet another wonder of the advent as a new chapter unfolded in the form of Śrī Sathya Sāi Samyukta Śruti Śreni.



With Bhagawan's Divine blessings, this programme for online e-learning of Vedas was inaugurated on the auspicious occasion of Gurupoornima on July 5th, 2020 by the All India President of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations. Thus it has successfully completed one year since then. This online platform fosters Vedas and Vedic lore leveraging technology. It is exclusively meant for the youth in the age group of 15-35 years to learn Vedas mostly from *Krishna YajurVeda Samhita Taittiriya Shakha* sitting in the comforts of their homes via internet.



It is Swami's Divine inspiration to achieve excellence in teaching & learning with an objective to ensure proper intonation and pronunciation in the recitation of Veda mantras. He said, *"Different sounds have varied effects on the human psyche. The Vedic hymns, when chanted correctly, create higher vibration and resonate with higher visions and realization that help in calming the physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual planes of the chanter, even if the meaning is partly assimilated, the sounds influence the manner we conduct ourselves and help in unifying the thought, word and action."* With reference to the philosophy of Work, Worship & Wisdom the knowledge acquisition necessitates the ability to recite the Vedic hymns with proper intonation and pronunciation which is known as Skill. Because knowledge precedes with the skills aquired by a person through education with practical understanding, facts, information etc. Thus Imparting and Learning the art of Veda Chanting both require Skill which is the ability to teach effectively for the chanting with proper intonation and pronunciation. Both the aspects of teaching as well learning have been taken care of.



With His constant Divine guidance, the pedagogy of teaching *Krishna YajurVeda Mantras* has been designed uniquely with an innovative 9 step module to achieve the objective of transferring the knowledge to the students with necessary skill by the teacher . Basics of Vedic Sanskrit precludes the Samhitā Pāṭha teaching the students on the nuances of Sanskrit syllables to ensure that the Veda chanting is not influenced by the mother tongue. The module emphasises on the phonetics to expose the learner to various sounds and how the sound is produced from different parts of the mouth. The most important aspect of accent neutralisation is to get over stronger vernacular accents to bring parity with Sanskrit for *Akshara, Maatraa & Swara Shuddhi* while imparting effective *Vedic Samhita Patha*. For *Akshara Shuddhi*, the basics are taught through audio visuals with pictorial depiction to demonstrate as to how the tongue twist happens to produce the exact requisite sound from various parts of the mouth with different places for articulation.

The student intake in the online class is restricted to only nine learners. This small group is chosen with a duration of forty five minutes for



each class to ensure proper instructions. The uniqueness of the module is that it consists of interactive as well as personalised sessions to ensure effective teaching of Vedam chanting with proper Intonation and Pronunciation on the online platform.

Since Vedam is a specialisation, where the intricacy requires a person to have the aptitude as well as necessary skills in teaching, the resource persons are selected by screening. A national pool of resource persons is created at the national level where they make it to this pool after a rigorous selection process of various levels of screening. Upon their selection they are put through an orientation program on the pedagogy of the module to ensure the highest standards. After going through the orientation they play a pivotal role in imparting the knowledge separately to ladies and gents. The standardised format of the module and teaching methodology help to ensure uniformity across the length and breadth of the country.



There are well defined Instruction Manuals to assist the resource persons at every level, apart from the orientation. The learners are not allowed to refer to text till the nine step module is complete thus they get exposed to the sounds repeatedly for the proper pronunciation and intonation.

The course is driven persistently with an academic rigor by a dedicated national pool of 193 Resource Persons comprising both ladies and gents. The necessary assessment of learning is conducted from time to time. This diligent team is supported by the enthusiastic state coordinators and a highly committed centralized working group.

Bhagawan Baba said, *"The stream of Bharatiya culture always emphasized the Vedas as the supreme authority for deciding the values of human living."* With the Divine Blessings of Bhagawan "Śrī Sathya Sāi Samyukta Śruti Śreni" commenced the lecture series entitled *gama āgama* once a month on every second Sunday to disseminate the Vedic knowledge, as Vedas are the repositories of Indian culture. The lecture series based on the



teachings of Bhagawan Baba, intends to provoke thought on how to harmonise the ancient culture with the needs of the modern world to lead life governed by truth, righteousness, and peace and above all, love toward all living being. The platform provides the students an exposure to Indian culture along with their normal studies. It acquaints them with the knowledge of spirituality that in turn induces them for practice.

With the Divine blessings, it is envisaged to institute a process for convocation to award certification to students at Bhagawan's Divine *Sannidhi* in Prasanthi Nilayam, upon successful completion of all the three levels of syllabus. With His Divine guidance, Śrī Sathya Sāi Veda Poshana under the aegis of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations, India is overseeing the propagation of Vedas through Śrī Sathya Sāi Samyukta Śruti Śreni across the country. This program will continue for the generations to come in perpetuity in His Divine mission to revive the Vedic Dharma.



The global pandemic of corona virus has been very distressing for the whole of humanity. The whole world is confronted with this unprecedented crisis which was never experienced before. But, Bhagawan has kept a team dedicated to this cause, away from the anguish by providing the glimmers of hope in times of hardship to stay focused on Veda Poshana as sadhana. Swami, out of His immense benediction and Divine compassion, handpicked each one of them as student, resource person, state coordinator, programme coordinator et al to enact their respective roles with His Divine Direction thus giving a very precious opportunity of many life times, so that all their accumulated karmas are redeemed.

The whole team is paying tribute at His Divine Lotus feet with love reverence and gratitude for the opportunity provided by Him to sanctify their lives.





साईश्वरार्पणमस्तु

Sāiśvarārpaṇamastu

*It is an offering to the Divine Lotus Feet of
Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba for His
Blessings on the auspicious occasion of
Guru Poornima 2021*

By
Śrī Sathya Sāi Veda Poshana

