

VEDIC WISDOM FESTIVAL 2021

VEDIC VISION FOR A COMPLETE LIFE



Aarsha Vidya Foundation

www.vedicwisdom.in

From top to bottom:

Bhagavān Śrī Dakṣiṇāmūrti (Lord Śiva as the guru)

Bhagavān Veda Vyāsa

Adi Śankarācārya Bhagavatpāda

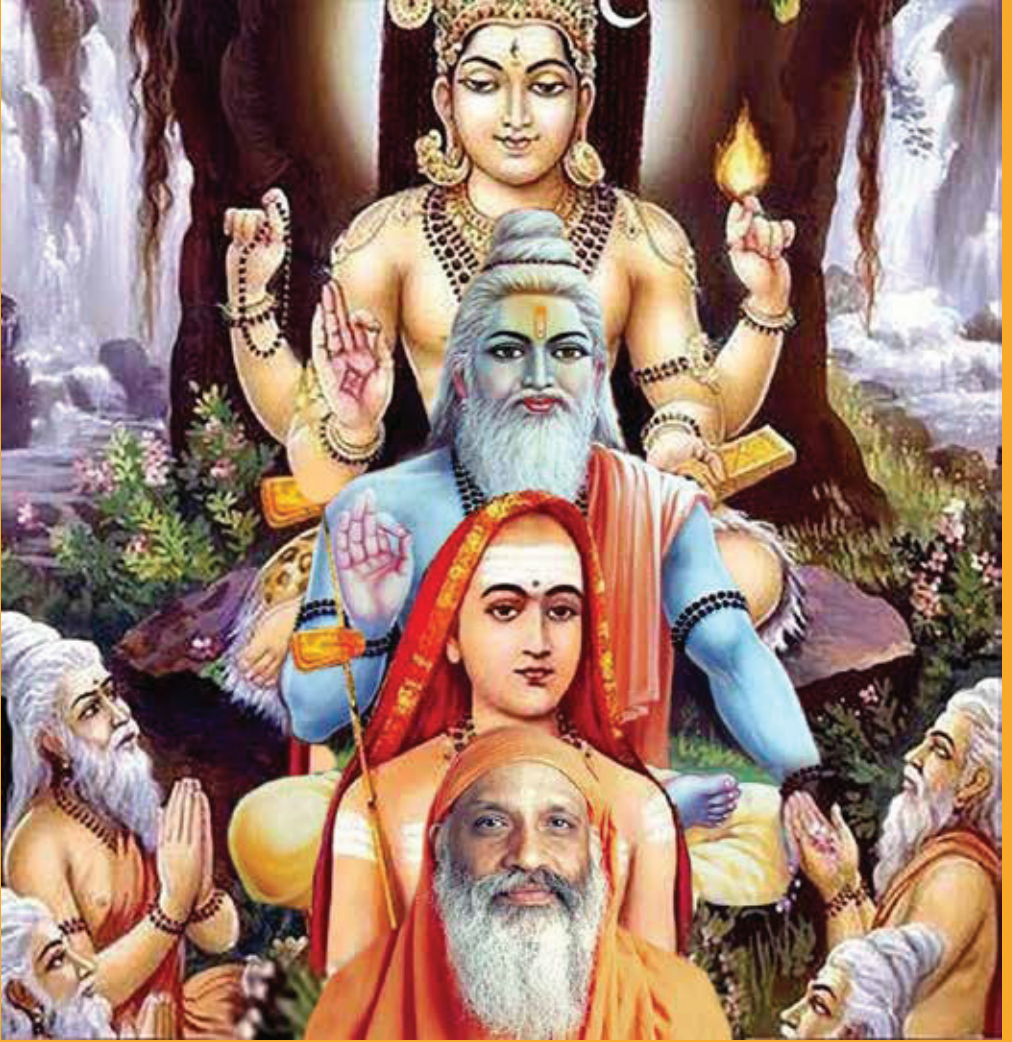
Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati ji

॥ सदा शिवसमारम्भाम् शङ्कराचार्य मध्यमां
अस्मदाचार्य पर्यन्तां वन्दे गुरु परम्परां ॥

I salute the lineage of teachers beginning with the ever auspicious
Lord Shiva (linked by) Adi Shankaracarya in the middle and extending
upto my own teacher.

Aarsha Vidya Foundation is a registered trust in
Mumbai dedicated to sharing the teachings of Vedanta.

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Guru- śiṣya paramparā

FOREWORD

Dear Reader,

We are delighted that you have enrolled for the fourth edition of our Vedic Wisdom festival 2021 and look forward to your participation.

Drawing the connection between Vedic Wisdom and the Vedic way of life, our beloved guru, Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati ji said, 'The way you live your life needs to unfold the view of life. Your language, music, dance, attitude towards elders, spouse, children, money, success and your own body-mind-sense complex should have intimate bearing of the view of life. The way you live should unfold the view all the way because Vedic view and way of life are never at variance throughout life'.

In the light of this, the talks by wisdom masters have been curated to offer insight, expand perspective, create delight, share tools and methods so that there can be more happiness, more wisdom and more freedom in our lives.

The relevance of Vedic Wisdom is brought out beautifully by Pujya Swami Dayananda ji in the short article that follows – A tradition of immediate blessing.

With love and prayers,

Brahmavidananda &
Brahmaprajnananda



Swami
Brahmavidananda Saraswati
Festival Founder



Swamini
Brahmaprajnananda
Festival Founder



A TRADITION OF IMMEDIATE BLESSING

Swami Dayananda Saraswati*

The knowledge of the Vedas is ārūa-vidyā. Like any body of knowledge, such as physics, we do not know when it started. You can say Newtonian physics started with Newton's propounding certain laws, but before Newton discovered the laws, physics was there. Even monkeys know some physics. When a monkey jumps from one tree to the other, it makes sure that it catches the other branch, because if it doesn't, the monkey knows it will fall. And thus physics is a body of knowledge of laws that already exists, which animals instinctively know in order to survive.

As with physics, ārūa-vidyā didn't start at a given time. The Vedic tradition that has been coming down to us in an oral form has no beginning. Therefore, we say ārūa-vidyā is beginningless.

This knowledge is too ancient to be Indian. There is no Indian God, there is no Indian ātmā; there is no Indian truth, much less is there Indian electricity. And therefore, there is nothing Indian about ārūa-vidyā. India happens to enjoy the privilege of retaining this living tradition which belongs to humanity. Not because of us, but in spite of us, it has somehow survived. That is because of our rūis—thanks to all of them and many other people, whose names we don't know. Whether in the south of India, or in the east or west or in the Himalayas, there was this flow, this Ganga of knowledge. It has always been flowing in a simple form between the banks of gurus and śiūyas and between the banks of parents and children flooding the hearts. All we know is that in their glory this Ganga of knowledge has been flowing.

It is all due to the efforts of our forefathers. In their long history, there were times when everything was at its lowest ebb. There were times when they were proud rulers of their own destiny. There were times when they were ruled by some others who didn't have a value for this kind of knowledge and culture. But in spite of all that, you find ārūa-vidyā has survived because of its intrinsic worth and because it works. Eight hundred years of calculated destruction by foreign rulers wouldn't have allowed this tradition to exist anywhere in the country if it didn't have intrinsic worth.

It is not a mystic tradition, a set of beliefs, which will die when the person holding it dies. Any belief's survival requires organization. But here, without organization, without a hierarchical structure, without a papacy, without diocese, without congregation and parish, it has survived. To do this, it must have intrinsic worth. It is not simply beliefs handed down; it is knowledge handed over. In order for a belief to survive it only requires repeated saying and some anesthetized minds. A belief, being a judgment before knowledge, is not like a provisional belief that you have for a teacher until he proves himself wrong, or that you have for a theory until it is proved to be wrong. A belief has no proof of reference. When I say I am the mouthpiece of God, for example, what is the proof? There is no proof at all except to believe what I say. Therefore, there is no proof at all.

Whereas, knowledge is different. Knowledge is something which is communicable, like one plus one is two. That the sum is two is not a belief. If it is, someone will believe one plus one is twenty-five and someone else will believe one plus one is one-and-a-half. There would have been different beliefs about the sum of one plus one. But then, one plus one is always two for Americans as well as Indians. It is a fact and therefore it is communicable.

Ārūa-vidyā is communicable. It is a vision that can be communicated and shared by a person who himself or herself has been exposed to the sampradayā, methodology, of teaching. This methodology of teaching is so thorough; it doesn't leave anything to be desired. Ārūa-vidyā is a tradition of immediate blessing. It is not something that blesses you later. It is a tradition of immediate blessing and this why it works.

**An excerpt from Swami Dayananda's opening talk at the First Annual National Committee Members' Convention at Arsha Vidya Gurukulam on May 27, 1989. Published in the 5th Anniversary Arsha Vidya Gurukulam Souvenir, 1991.*



GURUKULAM PROJECT

Aarsha Vidya Foundation is committed to keep this parampara of immediate blessing flowing. We seek to build an ashram close to Mumbai. The aim is to create traditional and contemporary teachers of Vedanta who can bless the lives of our children and grandchildren with timeless wisdom. We are confident that this will happen with your help and support.

For involvement in fundraising and related projects kindly get in touch with us at **gurukulam@vedicwisdom.in**

Thank you for joining us and sharing our commitment to Vedic Wisdom.

All contributions are welcome

Donations can be contributed, only in INR, through netbanking here –

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All Indian donations are exempt under Section 80 (G) of the Income Tax Act.

॥ Om shree gurubhyoh namah ॥

