

PUJYA SWAMI DAYANANDA SARASWATI

- A brief biography

By N. Avinashilingam

Foreword by:

Swami Vidadatmananda & Swami Paramarthananda



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**PUJYA SWAMI DAYANANDA SARASWATI-
A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY BY N. AVINASHILINGAM.**

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Arsha Avinash Foundation

104 Third Street, Tatabad, Coimbatore 641012, India

Phone: +91 9487373635 | arshaavinash.in@gmail.com

www.arshaavinash.in

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15.08.1930 - 23.09.2015

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PREFACE TO SECOND EDITON

Pranams to Brahmaleena Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati and his guru parampara. This book is my humble offering to Pujya Swamiji.

My heartfelt thanks to Swami Veditatmananda and Swami Paramarthananda for writing a foreword. My profound thanks to Swami Veditatmananda and Swami Sadatmananda for going through the entire typescript and suggesting necessary corrections.

Special thanks to Swami Suddhananda, Swami Sakshatkrtananda, Swami Tattvavidananda, Swami Pratyagbodhananda, Swami Prasantananda, Swami Guruparananda, Swami Omkarananda, Swami Shankarananda, Swami Sudeerananda, Swami Santatmananda, Swami Aparokshananda, Swami Prajnananda, Swami Jagadatmananda, Swamini Mahatmanada, Swamini Vedarthananda, Swamini Saradananda and Brni. Medha Michika for their constant support in my spiritual journey.

Thanks to all my Guru-bhais and Guru-baghinis who have given their valuable inputs for this second edition. The significant contributors among them are Sri P.S. Ramachandran, Sri R. Ganapathy, Sri Praveen Bhat, Sri R. Jayakumar, Smt. Latha Sundara Raman, Sri G. Balasubramaniam, Smt. N. Parvathavarthani and Smt. Ponmani Avinashilingam.

Thanks to the translators of this book in other languages Sri. N. Subramanian (Tamil), Swamini Prabhananda (Hindi), Sri Jonas Masetti (Portuguese) and Brni. Vanidevi (Japanese).

Thanks to M/s. Jay Deve Graphics for printing.

This book in the website www.arshaavinash.in was well received.

Many Arsha Vidya teachers and disciples of Pujya Swamiji have complimented that the book is a good compilation of Pujya Swamiji's eventful life and his teachings. 4,000 copies of first edition of this book have already been distributed free. Hence the decision to print the second edition of the book, with a prayer that this second edition would also be equally welcome.

Feedbacks on the book are most welcome.

N. Avinashilingam

104, Third Street, Tatabad, Coimbatore 641012, India

E mail: arshaavinash.in@gmail.com

Phone: + 91 9487373635

FOREWORD

Swami Veditatmananda

President
Arsha Vidya Gurukulam
Saylorsburg, PA
USA
December 27, 2016

I congratulate Sri Avinashilingam for bringing out this brief biography of Pujya Swamiji in the form of this booklet. In a nutshell, he provides a comprehensive picture of the development, work and the teaching of this great Mahatma.

The narrative begins with the birth of Pujya Swamiji, leading to the exposure to Pujya Swami Chinmayanandaji, then to Pujya Swami Pranavanandaji, then the Sannyasa Diksha and the stay at Rishikesh. Then comes Pujya Swamiji's most important contribution in the form of conducting a number of full-time residential Vedanta courses and creating more than 250 Sannyasi teachers and an equal number of household teachers. The booklet also narrates a number of initiatives of Pujya Swamiji for protecting Hindu Dharma and its traditions. Pujya Swamiji also promoted the temple traditions as well as music and art and scholars because he himself was a great composer and a writer.

We are sure this booklet will provide vital information to those not much familiar with the life of Pujya Swamiji and an inspiration to learn more about this great Mahatma to those familiar with his life and teaching. We also pray to Lord Dakshinamurti to bless Sri Avinashilingam with a long and healthy life, so that he can continue to contribute and advance in his spiritual growth.

Swami Veditatmananda

Date : 29-9-2016

I am happy to introduce
this book "Swami Dayananda
Saraswati - a brief biography".

Pujya Swamiji was a multi-
faceted personality. Swamiji
had an eventful life. His
contributions spread over
several areas. Naturally, any
book on Swamiji's biography
becomes a voluminous one.
Many readers may find it
difficult to go through a huge
book. This book will be a
boon for such people.

I congratulate Sri Avinashi
lingam for bringing out this
brief biography of Pujya
Swamiji covering all the
important aspects of Swamiji's
life.

May this book inspire the
readers to follow his teachings
which embody all the aspects
of traditional wisdom.

With Nareyanasmita
Swami Paramarthananda

Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati

A brief biography

15.08.1930 - 23.09.2015

by N. Avinashilingam

BIRTH: This great Mahātmā, known to the world as Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati, **was born on August 15, 1930 at Manjakkudi Village**, Tiruvarur District, Tamil Nadu, India. His parents named him Natarajan. His parents were Sri Gopal Iyer and Smt. Valambal. Seventeen years later, his birthday became the Independence Day of India. During the time of his childhood, Manjakkudi Village had only one elementary school, where he studied.

EARLY YEARS: As a young boy, Natarajan was clever, bold and mischievous. He was always willing to share and distribute whatever he had. When he was eight, his father passed away. Even at that young age, he was calm and bold, and could face the facts without being disturbed. His mother successfully brought up all the four sons – Natarajan, Srinivasan, Ramachandran and Dharmarajan with great care and discipline, inculcating the great qualities of Hindu dharma managing with the agricultural lands with the support of a sister-in-law.

Natarajan studied till matriculation i.e. 11 years of school education. He was introduced to Bhagavad Gītā and Sanskrit even in the school. He did Gāyatrī Japa everyday and performed Saraswati pujā on Fridays.

YOUTH: After completing secondary school, Naṭarajan went to Chennai. He learnt typewriting and stenography. He started reading English newspapers. He read books on English literature.

His first job was at Chennai with a weekly called 'Dhārmika Hindu', published both in English and Tamil. He learnt journalism and printing there. He left the job and joined the Air Force at Bangalore as a combatant. He got tough ground training. Shortly after, he left because he did not like the rigidity. Later, he joined 'Lens', in Chennai, a representative of Express News Service in London. He learnt advanced journalism there. His next and last job was as a typist in Volkart Bros.

STUDENT OF SWAMI CHINMAYANANDA: In 1953, Swami Chinmayananda came to Chennai for jñāna-yajña on the Muṇḍaka Upaniṣad. Natarajan along with his cousin Aksayam, attended the yajña which left a tremendous impact on his young mind. He was never again the same person. Since then he sincerely served Swami Chinmayananda during the yajña by assisting in proof reading and other sevā activities.

He also joined the vēda pāṭhaśālā to learn chanting of Vedas in the mornings. He learnt chanting of Taittirīya Upaniṣad. In the evenings he studied Sanskrit.

The following year, Swami Chinmayananda conducted another jñāna-yajña which was on Taittirīya Upaniṣad. He served his Guru again through various seva activities like typing, proof-reading, arranging homa, bhajans, annadanam, etc. He was by now fully involved in the activities of the newly formed Chinmaya

Mission. He was made the Secretary of Chinmaya Mission and organized satsaṅgas all over Chennai.

Later he had darśana of Swami Chinmayananda's vidyā-guru, Swami Tapovan Maharaj at Uttarakasi. The Swamiji told him **"To know one's own nature is one's primary svadharma. Fix a date, quit the saṁsāra"**.

In 1957, Natarajan went to Bengaluru as Editor of 'Tyagi', a Chinmaya Mission magazine. During this period he spent a lot of time deliberating on various spiritual topics. He used to have this question - 'There is a popular belief that ātmā has to be experienced as limitless 'I'. How can a **time bound 'I'** figure out the **timeless 'I'?**' He realised that there was a problem. But he could not find the answer at that time, which led him to advance his spiritual journey.

Later, Swami Chinmayananda sent him to Mumbai. He was given the task of editing Bhagavad Gītā and bringing it out in four volumes.

STUDENT OF SWAMI PRANAVANANDA: Natarajan had so many spiritual questions. Swami Chinmayananda asked him to go to Swami Pranavananda. Natarajan stayed at Gudiwada Ashram of Swami Pranavananda in Andhra Pradesh and studied under him. The Swamiji explained the importance of looking upon **vēdānta as a 'pramāṇa'**, as the only means for self-knowledge. He dismissed the theory of 'negation of vāsanās' as a means for mokṣa. **'The teaching is to understand that I, ātmā am sat cit ānanda Brahman.** There is no question of realizing ātmā. I am always self-effulgent and self-revealing.'

Natarajan gained the vision of Vedānta. Subsequently, studying Sāṅkara-bhāṣyam helped him assimilate the teaching.

SANNYĀSA: Swami Chinmayananda was having a jñāna-yajña at Chennai. He asked Natarajan to spend the night at the home he was staying. He told him to observe fasting for the night. He also told him that a barber would come and shave his head in the morning. The Pandit came and performed viraja-homa. Swami Chinmayananda gave him the sannyāsa mantra. Natarajan had trust in Swami Chinmayananda so much, that the latter could give him sannyāsa even without prior intimation. Thus on Śivarātri Day, March 4, 1962, Natarajan became Swami Dayananda Saraswati.

Swami Dayananda Saraswati went to Uttarakasi and Gangotri to familiarize himself with the life of a sādhu.

In 1963, Swamiji stayed at Sandeepany, Mumbai. He was the Editor of 'Tapovan Prasad', a Chinmaya Mission magazine.

SĀDHU IN RISHIKESH: After some time, he left for Rishikesh to learn the Śāstra in-depth. Swamiji stayed at Andhra Ashram. He had his bhikṣā in the morning at Kāli Kambliwāla Kṣetram and in the evening at Nepāli Kṣetram.

After some time, he moved to Purāni Jhāḍi. He built a hut with the help of local artisans.

STUDENT OF SWAMI TARANANDA GIRI: Swamiji studied Brahma Sūtram with Ratna prabhā commentary from Swami Tarananda Giri at Kailāśa Ashram in the early hours of the morning. Later in the morning he used to teach a few

brahmacārīs in the hut. He also studied Pāṇini Sanskrit grammar from Swami Visuddhananda.

Studying under Swami Taranandaji helped him get a greater clarity. The vision of the Śāstra became clear. The three years from 1964 to 1967 in Rishikesh was a period of peace and joy for Swamiji.

SWAMI DAYANANDA ASHRAM, RISHIKESH: The first institution that came around Swamiji was Swami Dayananda Ashram, Rishikesh, as early as 1967. In 1982, the Ashram was expanded and later on, the place was named 'Arsha Vidya Pitham', in the Purani Jhadi area of Rishikesh. This is situated on the banks of river Ganga at the foothills of the Himalayas. Long-term and short-term courses in Vedānta are conducted here. Swamiji's sannyāsī disciples from all over the world, conduct spiritual camps here. Swamiji liked this place so much that he selected this place for his Mahā-Samādhi.

After his Mahā-Samādhi in Rishikesh Ashram, a Samādhi shrine named '**Adhiṣṭhānam**' has been built. A statue of Swamiji and a consecrated Śivaliṅga '**Dayanandesvara**' bless the devotees.

GĪTĀ JÑĀNA-YAJÑAS: As per the suggestion of Swami Chinmayananda, Swamiji conducted Gītā jñāna-yajñas all over India from 1967 to 1972.

SANDEEPANY MUMBAI: Swami Dayananda was the Ācārya at Sandeepany Sadhanalaya, Mumbai for two long-term courses during 1972 to 1979. He designed the courses suitably to teach Vedānta, Sanskrit, Chanting and Meditation.

SANDEEPANY WEST: In 1979, Swamiji became Ācārya for a long-term course at Sandeepany West, Piercy, California, USA.

PUBLIC LECTURES: In 1982, after the Piercy course, Swamiji continued to travel and lecture independently, not attached to any organization.

SAYLORSBURG GURUKULAM: In 1985, devotees in the USA requested Swamiji to start a long-term course there. As per their request, Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Saylorsburg, Pennsylvania, USA was established. One long-term course was conducted from 1986 to 1989 here. Now Saylorsburg Gurukulam is a popular destination for camps, classes for adults, teenagers and children. The Ashram has a Dakṣiṇāmūrti temple, as well as a bookstore. This Gurukulam has made significant contribution in raising awareness about Indian culture in the USA.

BHAGAVAD GĪTĀ HOME STUDY COURSE: Gītā classes in the long-term course at Saylorsburg were transcribed. It has been brought out as a comprehensive Bhagavad Gītā Home Study Course. This is a significant contribution of Swamiji to humanity. One who studies this completely will certainly get a comprehensive knowledge of the teaching of the Gītā. This has enabled hundreds of study groups worldwide to pursue the study of our scriptures in an unbroken manner without having to travel to the Ashram.

ANAIKATTI GURUKULAM: In 1990, Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Anaikatti was established. This campus is situated in the sprawling 60 acres near a forest reserve. There is a devotional atmosphere in the Lord Dakṣiṇāmūrti temple here. Visitors are

captivated by the quiet, calm and serene atmosphere. This location provides an ideal environment for seekers of knowledge to pursue the study of Vedānta. The fifth long-term course was successfully completed here in September 2017. Swamiji's sannyāsi-disciples conduct spiritual camps here.

Now Swamiji's kuṭīra at Anaikatti Gurukulam has been converted into **Swami Dayananda Memorial** named '**Guru Tirtha**'. Large picture windows with views of Swamiji's study room, bed room and dining room have been enabled. The living room has been modified as a quiet meditation room with a statue of Swamiji.

The restructured photo gallery, **Swami Dayananda Gallery** named '**Guru Smṛti**', is a comprehensive pictorial presentation of life and contributions of Swamiji.

DHARMA RAKSANA SAMITI: In 1999, Swamiji formed Dharma Raksana Samiti to spread awareness of the richness of the Vedic culture among the masses. In July 1999, Swamiji made a speech in Chennai with the message '**Conversion is Violence.**' This created a global awareness about the conflicts and violence that result due to conversion. Since then, he has spoken extensively on this important topic and inspired a generation of leaders.

MILLENNIUM PEACE SUMMIT, UNITED NATIONS: Swamiji addressed Millennium Peace Summit at the United Nations in the year 2000. It led to the formation of World Council of religious and spiritual leaders, opening of international inter-faith dialogue and organizing a Congress on the preservation of religious diversity.

HINDU DHARMA ACHARYA SABHA: In 2000, Swamiji convened Hindu Dharma Acharya Sabha at Chennai. This was the first 'coming together' of Ācāryas of various sampradāyas of Hinduism. From 2000, the Ācāryas have met once in three years and discussed ways and means to protect Hindu Dharma. This is now the single official voice of Hindu Dharma.

In 2006, through Tirupati Declaration, the Sabhā fought relentlessly to restore the seven hills, when the Government tried to restrict the jurisdiction of Tirupati temple to two hills only. To preserve the sanctity of holy places it also took up the Ram Sethu issue and the Tehri Dam issue in 2006.

GLOBAL INITIATIVES: Acarya Sabha engages in dialogue with other non-aggressive traditions like Judaism. Hindu-Jewish meetings have been held since 2007. The dialogues concluded, declaring that Hinduism is not an idol-worshipping religion as is the common misconception.

In Hindu-Buddhist dialogue, leaders of both religions agreed that followers of the Eastern wisdom should stand together.

In 2008, at the Inter Religious Conference held at The Hague, Netherlands, Swamiji was instrumental in ensuring that the clauses redefining human rights were included in the final document. The clauses stress the need for peace and harmony through mutual respect and cooperation. They declare that religious conversion is opposed to freedom of religion and the spirit of mutual respect. In other words, freedom to practice one's religion should not transgress mutual respect.

AIM FOR SEVA: In 2000, Swamiji initiated a movement, All India Movement (AIM) for Seva to reach out to the people of India who are living in remote areas and who are most backward economically. Now, AIM for Seva runs over 100 free student homes, 10 educational institutions and 9 health care centers. Presently 3,500 economically under-privileged students from 1,680 remote villages are benefited by the free student homes. So far, 14,000 students have benefited.

SWAMI DAYANANDA EDUCATIONAL TRUST, MANJAKKUDI: In 2003, devotees of Swamiji formed the Swami Dayananda Educational Trust at the birth place of Swamiji at Manjakkudi. The trust inherited the Swami Dayananda College of Arts and Science and Semmangudi Higher Secondary School from the Swami Dayananda Saraswati Educational Society. The Trust runs three schools, one Arts and Science College, four student homes, an Ayurvedic health care center, a vocational training center, an old age home and a Veda-pāṭhaśālā. Presently 4,800 students from 180 villages study here from Kindergarten to Masters programme, including M.Phil.

NAGPUR GURUKULAM: In 2004, Swamiji inaugurated Ārsha Vijnana Gurukulam, Nagpur. Here, long-term courses in Vedānta and Sanskrit have been going on since inception.

CARNATIC MUSIC: Swamiji has composed many kritis in Sanskrit which have been rendered by renowned carnatic musicians. He has awarded 'Ārsha Kalā Bhūṣaṇam' title to many eminent artists in the field of music and dance for the promotion of this prominent form of culture. His composition 'bho shambho' is very popular in the classical music community.

VEDA PATHASALA: Swamiji has been instrumental in establishing many Veda-pāṭhaśālās in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

ODUVAR TRADITION: Those who traditionally sing praises of Lord Siva in Tamil in Siva temples are called Oduvars. Swamiji appointed 35 oduvars in ancient Siva temples and organized honorarium for them to sing the Panniru Tirumurai, songs explaining Śaiva Siddhānta philosophy.

TIRUVIDAIMARUDUR TEMPLE CHARIOT: Swamiji was instrumental in building five chariots for Sri Mahalingaswamy Temple at Tiruvidaimarudur near Kumbhakonam in 2010. The chariot tradition which had been suspended for 80 years was revived by Swamiji.

PURNA VIDYA: Swamiji guided and inspired Swamini Pramananda to design a comprehensive programme to teach Hindu culture for school children. This programme is taught in a number of schools in India and is taught in weekly classes to children in many locations all over the world.

ARSHA VIDYA RESEARCH & PUBLICATION TRUST: Swamiji's books are printed aesthetically by Arsha Vidya Research & Publication Trust, Chennai, which was formed as per his guidance. Many of their books have received awards from the Federation of Indian Publishers, New Delhi.

DIGITAL LIBRARY: Swamiji established a digital library at Chennai to digitalize and preserve old Sanskrit books, some of which are available only in palm leaves. More than 5,00,000 pages of old books have been digitalised.

SANDHYA GURUKULAMS: In the evenings, for children hailing from the economically weaker section, free tuitions of their school lessons are given. In addition, they are taught Bharatiya culture.

SDJ AYURVEDALAYA: In 2014, Swamiji inaugurated 'Swami Dayananda Jayavarthanelu Ayurvedalaya'. It offers authentic ayurveda treatment with personalized care and attention in a 20 bedded facility. It is located 3 kms from Anaikatti Gurukulam.

WEBSITE FOR FREE E-BOOKS: Swamiji launched the website www.arshaavinash.in in December 2014. This website is managed by Arsha Avinash Foundation. The purpose of this website is to make books and resources on Vedānta, Sanskrit and Indian culture of the Arsha Vidya family readily accessible to all seekers. Books are currently available in English, Tamil and Sanskrit.

ŚATĀBHIṢEKAM CELEBRATIONS: Swamiji's śatābhiṣekam celebrations were held from July 20 to 22, 2011 at CODISSIA, Coimbatore and were attended by an unprecedented 5,000 of his disciples.

ĀDI SANKARĀCĀRYA AWARD: Swamiji is known as 'The Master Communicator' in the spiritual world. He can communicate the vision of the Śāstra to a beginner in spiritual studies as well as to the most learned scholar. He taught Vedānta in accordance with the vision of Ādi Sankarācārya. Acknowledging his great contribution to the tradition, he was decorated with 'Ādi Sankarācārya Award' on April 26, 2012 by the most respected Śṅgerī Pīṭham.

THE FLAG OF USA: The national flag of USA was flown over the US Capitol on July 28, 2013 in honour of Swamiji's 83rd birthday in accordance with Hindu calendar, at the request of Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Member of Congress.

VEDĀNTA RATNAM: Swamiji was awarded the title 'Vēdānta Ratnam' by Advaita Ashramam, Kolathur, Kerala on January 10, 2015.

MAHA SAMADHI: Swamiji had a fulfilled life. He left a huge footprint in diverse fields like Vedānta teaching, social work, carnatic music, leadership of Hindu community and representing Hinduism in international arena. **He attained mahā-samādhi on September 23, 2015 at Rishikesh.**

PADMA BHŪṢAṆ AWARD: Swamiji was posthumously conferred with Padma Bhūṣaṇ by the Government of India on Jan 25, 2016 in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the nation in the field of spirituality. The Padma Bhūṣaṇ is one of the most prestigious civilian national awards in India. Many learned people opine that the award itself became glorious, when it was conferred on Swamiji.

RELEASE OF SPECIAL POSTAL COVER: The Honorable Governor of Uttarakhand released a special postal cover in memory of Swamiji during Swamiji's first anniversary ārādhana on September 12, 2016.

PURANI JHADI RENAMED SWAMI DAYANANDA NAGAR: The Honorable Governor of Uttarakhand renamed the area where Swami Dayananda Ashram, Rishikesh is situated as Swami Dayananda Nagar changing it from the old name Purani Jhadi on September 12, 2016.

SWAMIJI'S MESSAGE: Swamiji's message was the ancient wisdom of the Vedic Rishis: **"You, the self, are the whole. Yet, you feel small, limited, only because you do not know the reality of yourself.** So you need self-knowledge to remove this self-ignorance, for which you need a teacher who knows the texts and who can use the words deftly, like a master artist." All religions present that Īśvara is the nimitta-kāraṇa (intelligent cause). But only Hinduism reveals that Īśvara is, in addition, upādāna-kāraṇa (material cause) also. When we understand that Īśvara is both the intelligent cause and the material cause of this universe, then we can appreciate that **"All that is here is Īśvara"**. Swamiji also explained that the physical order, the psychological order and any other order we see in the universe is not only Īśvara's order, but also Īśvara himself. **When we understand this great order, then there is no reason for complaints.**

SWAMIJI'S UNIQUENESS: Swamiji's way of handling Vedānta was unique. He stressed that **"Vedānta is the only pramāṇa for self- knowledge"**. He explained that values are essential to prepare a student. He preferred to use important Sanskrit words rather than translating them into English and diluting their meaning. He kept the students attentive throughout his classes with the profound statements mentioned in a simple way and his amazing sense of humour. He explained that **"Karma-yoga is only a change of attitude, of doing action with a Īśvara- arpaṇa-buddhi and accepting results with prasāda-buddhi."** Karma-yoga is not skill in action.

He dismissed the theories which were deviations from the sampradāya even though they were from world famous teachers. Swamiji dismissed the idea that there are multiple paths for mokṣa.

He dismissed the opinion that all religions lead to the same goal. He asserted the idea that **"Mokṣa is here and now; Mokṣa (the highest spiritual goal) can be attained in this body and in this birth itself"**, is there only in Hinduism. He said that mokṣa is not possible by meditation, but only by the study of Śāstra. He explained how complete 'vāsanā cleaning' is not possible. He clarified that, a thought-free mind for ever, is not possible and that a thought-free mind is not required for mokṣa. He asserted that ātmā cannot be known by mere 'Who am I?' enquiry. He de-mystified Vedānta through the clarity in his teaching.

He taught in a language so effortlessly effective that it kept the audience spell bound, as he drove home the message. He was at home with people of all ages, and of all cultures.

Swamiji was a Teacher of Teachers. He has created more than 250 sannyāsi Teachers and more than 250 house holder Teachers. His teaching of Vedānta as per the sampradāya continues through the Jñāna paramparā of his disciples all over the globe.

In spite of his advanced age, physical discomfort and sometimes excruciating pain, he taught enthusiastically to the students always displaying 'ānanda'.

SWAMIJI'S QUALITIES: Swamiji's qualities such as compassion, simplicity, love, care, empathy, accommodation, equanimity, were manifestation of the glories of Īśvara. One quality that was very prominent was compassion or dayā. He has often said that **"Compassion is the dynamic manifestation of limitlessness centered on oneself"**.

Words fall short and are inadequate to express Him who was a Jñānī as described by Lord Kṛṣṇa in the Bhagavad Gītā. At the same time He was dynamic in advancing the causes, such as the need for human effort (Seva) towards overall up-liftment of the society, highlighting the loss of cultures due to proselytization, advancement of arts and development of teachers, sannyāsis and leaders all over the world.

SWAMIJI'S QUOTABLE QUOTES:

- Be more of a contributor and less of a consumer. Give up the grabbing mentality and develop the sharing mentality.
- Conversion is violence. Conversion is violation of human rights.
- All that is here is Īśvara.
- Give the world the best you have, the best will come back to you.
- Living begins when one contributes something that will bring about more happiness, more wisdom and more freedom. Until then one merely drags one's life.
- To the extent you give freedom to others to be what they are, to that extent you are free.
- You want to change others, so that you can be free. But it never works that way. Accept others totally and you are free.
- It takes a certain heart, a certain way of looking at things to worship even books and tools. The concept of Īśvara makes it unique. Nothing is separate from Īśvara.

- We do not worship many Gods; we do not even worship one God; we worship the only God. We also invoke Him in various names and forms. Every aspect becomes a Devatā. This is the vision of Īśvara of a mature person.
- Your real nature is sat (existence), cit (consciousness), ānanda (limitlessness). As consciousness you are identical with Brahman.

POPULAR PREVAILING NOTIONS DEBUNKED BY SWAMIJI:

- Hinduism is Polytheistic is a wrong notion. We worship not many Gods, not One God, but Only God.
- Hindus worship idols is a wrong notion. Nobody in this world worships an idol. We invoke God in mūrti or idol, and worship God through the mūrti.
- The concept of Karma is fatalistic is a wrong notion. The understanding of Karma makes the human being responsible.
- Karma-yoga is 'Skill in performing Action' is a wrong notion. Karma-yoga is an attitude of awareness of Īśvara. Karma-yoga is not action.
- Mokṣa is an experience is a wrong notion. Experience is dumb; Mokṣa is knowledge of what is.
- Moksa can be attained through karma-yoga, bhakti, nama sankirtana or meditation is a wrong notion. Sadanas can give a prepared mind. But moksha can be gained only through

jnana. Jnana can be attained only through Vedanta Sastra study under the guidance of a traditional Guru.

- Moksa (the highest spiritual goal) can be attained only after death is a wrong notion. Moksa can be attained in this body in this birth itself.
- Religious conversion is an expression of religious freedom is a wrong notion. Conversion is violence.
- All religions lead to the same goal is a wrong notion. All religions do not lead to the same goal.

LOST THE LAMP, BUT NOT THE LIGHT: Swamiji continues to be with us in the form of his teaching, books, audios, videos, compositions, teaching of his disciples and through the various institutions established by him.

RECOMMENDED READING:

Swami Dayananda Saraswati- Teacher of Teachers by Smt. Padma Narasimhan. Revised by Smt. Sheela Balaji. Publishers: Arsha Vidya Research & Publication Ltd.

Swami Dayananda Saraswati- Contributions & Writings by Smt. Sheela Balaji. Publishers: Arsha Vidya Research & Publication Trust.



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Arsha Avinash Foundation

104 Third Street, Tatabad, Coimbatore 641012, India

Phone: +91 9487373635 | arshaavinash.in@gmail.com

www.arshaavinash.in

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



N. Avinashilingam



N. Avinashilingam is a Chartered Accountant. He is also a qualified Comany Secretary and Information Systems Auditor. He is a student of Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswati from 1994. He has done a long term course in Vedanta at Arsha Vidya Gurukulam Anaikatti during 2014-17

He teaches Vedanta, Sanskrit and Indian Culture. He has written more than 200 articles in Arsha Vidya Newsletter, Published by Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Anaikatti.

He is the Founder and Managing Trustee of Arsha Avinash Foundation. Pujya Swamiji launched the website www.arshaavinash.in in December 2017. From this website books on Vedanta, Sanskrit grammar and Indian culture can be downloaded free in the languages English, Sanskrit and Tamil.



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