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日本ヴェダンタ協会ニュースレター

The Vedanta Kyokai Newsletter

NEWS, UPDATES AND MISCELLANY FROM THE VEDANTA SOCIETY OF JAPAN

SEPTEMBER Calendar

Birthdays

Swami Abhedananda

Wednesday, 17 September

Swami Akhandananda

Wednesday, 24 September

Kyokai Events

• New Study Classes •

The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna

Monthly 1st & 3rd Tues of each month.

Swami Medhasananda Sanskrit Mantra Chanting and Study with explanations in Japanese.

September 1st and 15th
10:00 to 12:00

• September Zushi Retreat •

Morning Session

Sunday, 21 September

10:30 Talk by Swami Medhasananda
Lunch Prasad

Swami then returns to Namaste India!

All are welcome!

• Namaste India •

Ganga CD / Bookstore

Tokyo's Yoyoki Park
September 20~21st
www.indofestival.com

For Expanded Calendar of Events See Page 2



✧ Thus Spake ✧

“One man may read the Bhagavata by the light of a lamp, and another may commit a forgery by that very light; but the lamp is unaffected. The sun sheds its light on the wicked as well as on the virtuous.”

– Sri Ramakrishna

“God is in everything as well as above everything.”

– Sri Krishna

July Zushi Retreat 2014

Since the Society's annual Summer Outdoor Retreat was scheduled for July 19~21 at Mount Kōya Nannin in Wakayama Prefecture, the monthly Zushi Retreat schedule was moved up one week to July 13th.

Morning Session

The morning session began with meditation from around 10:30 a.m. and Swami Medhasananda called the congregation of about 30 attendees to order with Vedic Peace Prayers and a few moments of silent prayer at 11:00 a.m. Ms. Yoko Sasaki was called upon to interpret as Medhasanandaji announced a quiz and asked who said, “Religion without science has no fruit, and science without religion has no root.” The answer of course is Albert Einstein.

Swami then noted that what is important and needed is balance,
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July Retreat (from page1)

and that modern humankind had lost its balance. "Why?" he asked. "We devote so much attention to our physical health, with little regard to our mental health, even though we cannot live well without a sound mind."

He offered that another example of man's loss of balance is evident in the attention we pay to our body's cleanliness and clothing, while giving little thought to our inner cleanliness. As such we end up with a clean and groomed bodies and unclean minds, and this is imbalance. So our focus is physical beauty, while don't give a thought to the beauty of our mind.

He continued, "Many a good housewife take great care in organising their households, yet their minds and thoughts appear to be disorganized."

Medhasanandaji then said that the topic the July Retreat, 'The Practice of Jnana Yoga,' addresses this imbalance and continued the discussion on Jnana Yoga mostly in Japanese, calling upon Ms. Sasaki to clarify Japanese terminologies

or interpret when needed.

At about 12:45 p.m. Swami brought his comments to a close and a lunch prasad was served followed by an hour of Karma Yoga for devotees to attend to cleaning and other maintenance of the Centre.

Afternoon Session

At 14:45 Ms. Sasaki was called upon to interpret once again as Doctor Krishnamurthy Pilaka, a reputed homeopath of India, was called upon to give a talk on the subject, 'What is the Homeopathic System of Medicine?' This talk ended with an interesting Q&A session regarding all manner of modern day afflictions such as hypertension and stress and the homeopathic approach to cures and healthy living.

The afternoon session ended with a brief meditation. This was followed by tea at 16:30 with snacks.

At 18:15 Evening Vespers with aratrik bhajans, reading and meditation brought the July Zushi Retreat to a close.



- EXPANDED MONTHLY CALENDAR - SEPTEMBER 2014

September 1st and 15th (Tues)
10:00 to 12:00 Zushi Centre
Study of The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna

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September 1st and 15th (from page 2)

Monthly 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month.
Swami Medhasananda leads Sanskrit Mantra
Chanting and Study with explanations in Japanese.

September 6th (Sat)

14:00 to 16:00 Tokyo Embassy of India meetings
Speech: Bhagavad Gita (Free)
Location: Embassy of India: 03-3262-2391
Contact: Zushi Centre 046-873-0428

September 7th (Sun)

Satsanga in Sapporo, Hokkaido
Contact: 080-1180-8121 Tanabe

7th (Sun), 14th (Sun), 21st (Sun), 28th (Sun)

Weekly Hatha Yoga Classes 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Location: New Zushi Building Annex
Contact: Zushi Centre 046-873-0428

September 13th (Sat)

Satsanga in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture
Contact: Zushi Centre 046-873-0428

September 14th (Sun)

Satsanga in Tajimi, Gifu Prefecture
Contact: 090-6363-8558 Ueno-san

September 20th (Sat)

13:30 to 17:00 Kansai area lecture
Location: Osaka Training Center
Contents: "Study of the Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita"

September 20th and 21st

Namaste India (Tokyo Yoyogi Park) Vedanta Society's "Ganga CD Shop"
Specially priced goods, books, CDs and more. Please come by and say, "Hello!"
"The largest Indian festival of its kind in the world!"
Reference <http://www.indofestival.com/index.html>

September 21st (Sun)

Zushi Monthly Retreat

10:30 to 12:30
Morning session talk, then Swami will return to Namaste India.
Contact: Zushi Centre 046-873-0428

September 26th (Friday)

Nara Narayana (Outreach to the homeless as God)
Meal distribution ... Yokohama
Contact: 090-6544-9304 Sato-san

• **Thought of the Month** •

"To live is the rarest thing in all the world. Most people exist, that is all."

– Oscar Wilde

Summer Outdoor Retreat to Kōyasan a Great Success!



The Vedanta Society of Japan held its Annual Summer Retreat at Mount Kōya in Wakayama Prefecture. This Retreat was held for 3 days and 2 nights, from July 19 to 21, at one of a complex of Buddhist Temple buildings at Kōyasan dedicated to accomodating visitors.

Swami Medhasananda is reported to have commented, 'This is the best of our Summer Outdoor Retreats because it is a most pleasant and holy location and the greatest

number of devotees and friends attended.'

The swami also gave a comprehensive discourse on 'The Practice of Karma Yoga' over the course of the Retreat (*available as a 6-disc DVD set - Japanese language only - contact Zushi Centre*) as well as directing the schedule of activities.

Over eighty people participated with seventy attending the complete 3-day schedule, including twenty-one males and sixty-



five females from eighteen of Japan's forty-seven prefectures, as well as a couple from overseas.

Attendees spent their time keeping to an active schedule from morning to bedtime of prayer and meditation, readings, discourse classes, group outings, mealtimes, Vedic chanting and devotional singing, simple gatherings and even Hatha Yoga exercise classes. But this schedule also allowed for free time to relax, read, take hikes, more

sightseeing or just contemplation in a holy atmosphere. There are many points of interest around the area from temples, pagodas, graveyards and historic, as well as religious, monuments and museums.

Kōyasan is home to an active monastic centre dedicated to the study and practice of Esoteric Buddhism.. The entire area, surrounded by eight mountains like the leaves of a lotus, is known as Kōyasan.

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Kōyasan (from page 4)

This is a holy location for the Japanese, located in the middle of Japan's main island of Honshū, and was designated by UNESCO in 2007 as part of the "Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range."



Namaste India 2014

at Tokyo's Yoyogi Park, Saturday and Sunday, September 20th and 21st
Please visit the Vedanta Society's 'Ganga CD/Bookstore!'

Namaste India 2014
日印交流と親善のために

Incredible India

インドへの航空券が300円割引で当たる!! 

日本最大級のインド・フェスティバル



ナマステ・インディア 2014

ナマステ・インディアはインドと日本の相互理解を深めるための文化交流イベントで、今年で22回目になります。



9/20 sat・21 sun
入場無料
開場 10:00 AM ~ 8:00 PM
(9/21は ~ 7:30 PMまで)

会場 東京都代々木公園イベント広場
Place Tokyo Yoyogi Park

JR山手線・原宿駅(徒歩8分)、小田急線・代々木八幡駅(徒歩8分)
メトロ千代田線・代々木公園駅(徒歩5分)又は明治神宮前駅(徒歩5分)
JR渋谷駅又はメトロ渋谷駅(徒歩20分)



お問い合わせ
NPO日印交流を盛り上げる会 TEL 025-752-2396
ナマステ・インディア実行委員会 TEL 090-6943-1406 (当日のみ)
www.indofestival.com

共催：ナマステ・インディア実行委員会/NPO法人日印交流を盛り上げる会/
インド大使館/インド政府観光局
後援：外務省/東京都/日印経済委員会/日本商工会議所/
東京商工会議所/(公財)日印協会
協力：インド文化交流評議会(IICPF)
助成：(公財)アイヌ文化振興・研究推進機構(平取アイヌ文化保存会ステージ公演)
(公財)内田エネルギー科学振興財団(インド政府共進舞踏団のステージ公演)
特別協賛：特定非営利活動法人 世界芸術文化振興協会

• Story to Remember •

Shiva, Parvati and the Bull

Once Lord Shiva and his consort, Parvati, were travelling with their vehicle - the Bull. The Lord had taken the form of an old man, while Parvatiji remained young and beautiful. On the road all passersby looked on with amazement at this odd couple of an old man and a young woman.

On the way, Shiva said, "Parvatiji, my dear, please sit and ride on the bull during this journey." She obeyed and mounted the bull while Shiva walked alongside.

The village folk and other strangers bitterly criticised, "What a selfish woman! She is young and healthy and yet she chooses to comfortably ride while forcing the old man to walk."

Shiva changed his mind. "Parvati Devi, the people are mocking you. It is wiser that I sit and you walk." So saying, Shiva sat on the bull's back.

Further along, other strangers came with sharper comments, "O look at this mean, bully of a man. He's fat and robust, and evil too. He enjoys a ride while forcing this young and gentle lady to walk on foot." Hearing this both of them climbed the bull. At least, this would ward off the criticisms.

But they were gravely mistaken and no sooner had they come to the next village, people sneered and jeered. "Look at this nasty couple. Both of them have mercilessly climbed upon the bull. They'll kill the poor creature!" Now there was only one option left. They dismounted and allowed the bull to walk freely. They accompanied it on either side.

While they walked, they met new people with new bitterness. They laughed at them, shouting "What foolishness! They have taken a bull as a vehicle and neither of them is using it.

"Straight away Shiva told Parvati, "Come let us do what we think is right, and live the way we want to. The world will never appreciate or see what we do as correct."

In this world, even if we perform a good deed not everyone will like it and support it. The problem lies with the nature of our world. If a Sadhu shows miracles people say, "He's into black magic and possesses evil powers." And if a Sadhu avoids miracles, some will mutter complaints, "O! He shows no miracles. He's ordinary and is of no use." This is the line of thinking our world works on. It is crooked from both ends and whatever you do, the world will never see you straight. Therefore, pay no attention to the words of the worldly people and continue to devoutly worship God.

- Tales of Wisdom as told by Yogiji Maharaj

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