

Chinmaya Mission is a world-wide organization whose primary focus is to provide spiritual knowledge to people from all walks of life. The mission provides this knowledge through the study of Vedanta, founded upon life enriching ethical and moral values. The Chinmaya Mission was founded by H.H. Swami Chinmayananda in 1951 and has been under the leadership of H.H. Swami Tejomayananda since 1993.

Chinmaya Mission is unique because of its integrated spiritual and secular vision. The mission also supports many social, educational and health programs in India and abroad. The Chinmaya Mission is an organization that blends spiritual knowledge, service and devotion as a means of Self Unfoldment, thus embracing people from all backgrounds.

Chinmaya Mission Vancouver: We are a non-profit organization with charitable status. We have been in Vancouver for over 25 years. We have study programs for adults, youth and children.

Those who are interested in knowing more about activities of the Chinmaya Mission may contact:

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www.chinmayavancouver.org

CHINMAYA MISSION VANCOUVER
PRESENTS
H.H. Swami Ishwarananda
LECTURE SERIES ON:

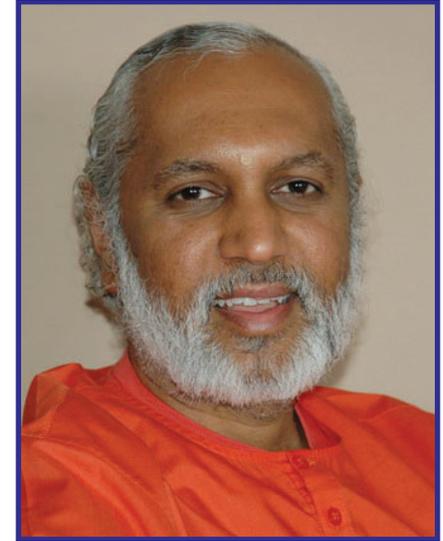
Self Integration
(Bhagawad Geeta: Chapter 15)
Monday, May 14th - Friday, May 18th
7:30pm to 9:00pm
Ukrainian Orthodox Church
154 East 10th Avenue
(Main & 10th Avenue)
Vancouver, B.C., V5T 1Z7



Beyond the Mind
(Amritabindu Upanisad)
Tuesday, May 15th - Saturday, May 19th
6:30am - 7:30am
155 East 54th Avenue,
(Main & 54th Avenue)
Vancouver, B.C., V5X 1K7



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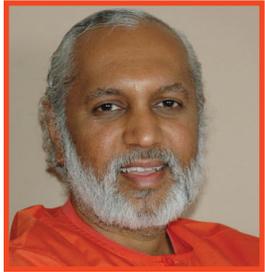
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Lectures in English

Swami Ishwarananda



Swami Ishwarananda met Swami Chinmayananda in 1986. Inspired by Pujya Gurudev, he left his career as a software professional to fully engage in the study of Vedanta - The Science of Life.

In 1991 he joined Sandeepany Sadhanalaya (the Vedantic Seminary founded by Swami Chinmayananda) to pursue his spiritual studies. Upon completing his training in 1993 he served Chinmaya Mission centres in Kolkata and Bangalore. In 1995, he was appointed as Acharya (resident teacher) of the Chinmaya Mission centre in Los Angeles.

Swami Ishwarananda was initiated into the order of sanyasa in 2000 by Swami Tejomayananda (current world-wide head of the Chinmaya Mission).

At present Swamiji is based in the Los Angeles area. He works with numerous centres throughout Southern California regularly conducting retreats and lectures on various spiritual topics. He places emphasis on practical application of vedantic principles in daily life, stress management and spirituality in the workplace. Swamiji has authored a number of acclaimed books: "Conscious Living", "Silent Search" and "Pathways to Peace."

A dynamic speaker and deep thinker, Swami Ishwarananda is able to convey subtle spiritual knowledge to the listener through insightful discourse, ready wit and humour.

Chinmaya Mission Vancouver welcomes Swamiji back for this series of lectures on chapter 15 of the Bhagavad Geeta and the Amritabindu Upanisad.

Mission Statement:

To provide to individuals, from any background, the wisdom of Vedanta and the practical means for spiritual growth and happiness, enabling them to become positive contributors to society.

Evening Lectures:

SELF INTEGRATION

BHAGAWAD GEETA: CHAPTER 15

The 15th chapter of the Bhagawad Geeta - "The Yoga of the Supreme Spirit" - is well known. Comprised of only 20 verses, it summarizes the essential knowledge of the entire Geeta. This chapter is regarded as a complete scripture in its own right, for all of the Vedantic Knowledge is presented in it.

In the opening verse, Lord Sri Krishna points out the indescribable Reality through a "thought painting" on the screen of the mind of the student Arjuna. The famous metaphor of the Tree of Life is described with its roots above and branches below. This imperishable, eternal Peepal tree depicts all of creation on both microcosmic and macrocosmic levels - the gross and subtle, the seen and unseen worlds. It is called "ashvattham" meaning "that which does not remain the same tomorrow". Our experience in life is that the world appears to be eternal and changeless. On enquiry, however, we understand that life is rather a flow of constantly changing experiences.

The roots of the tree of samsara are "as though up" being established in Brahman - the apparent cause of this world - most subtle and auspicious, beyond time. The branches are mainly "as though down" representing all aspects of the individual personality and worldly experience. The vedas are the leaves which maintain and protect the tree - for scripture reveals the nature of righteous and unrighteous action for the fulfillment of worldly desires. Man has the choice to rise or fall - to create greater entanglement in egocentric experience, or cut down the illusory tree with the sharp sword of discrimination and dispassion. The nature of the Absolute Substratum is to be realized, or knowledge of the world is meaningless.

Through practice of karma yoga and jnana yoga the student slowly comes to understand that the lower finite world is ever rooted in the Higher. The text explains development of necessary qualities in the seeker, and the importance of mental purification for fruitful reflection and meditation. The nature of the wise man, and the relationship between the Lord, the individual and the world are unfolded. Beautiful verses sing the glories of the Lord in and through all creation - the Light

of lights, the very vitality and essence in everything. The saguna (conditioned) and nirguna (unconditioned) Brahman are explained.

The concluding verses of this chapter directly reveal the Purushottama - the Non-dual Consciousness beyond both the perishable and imperishable world. The knower of this Truth becomes wise and totally fulfilled in life.

Morning Lectures:

BEYOND THE MIND

AMRITABINDU UPANISAD

The Amritabindu Upanisad directly unfolds the goal and path of spiritual life: realization of Truth and the means for attainment. In 22 terse, powerful verses, the text reveals the nature of non-dual Reality. The very name of this upanisad declares its lofty vision - "amritabindu" meaning "a drop of nectar" the nectar of spiritual knowledge and direct Self experience.

Found in the Atharva Veda, the Amritabindu Upanisad is one among the group of minor upanisads. The term "minor", however, does not refer to the text's subject matter. Rather, the term is used to distinguish these upanisads from the 10 well known major upanisads which have commentary by Adi Shankaracharya.

The sections of this upanisad unfold spiritual knowledge in a logical sequence. The nature of the mind is the first topic: impure and pure mind, and related states of bondage and liberation. The text analyses our common experience of subject/object duality, and the removal of this duality by knowledge and meditation to merge the mind in its source, "the heart". Methods of meditation are given: meditation on the meaning of OM (AUM); meditation on the Self as the 4th state (turiya) beyond the usual three states of waking, dream and deep sleep; pot and pot-space; and the "churning" of the mind with the rope of knowledge to kindle the flame of direct realization.

In conclusion, the upanisad clarifies the significance of the scriptural text: the words of the scriptures are to be clearly understood as "pointers" indicating the Truth. The student must come to experience That which the words reveal. This vision the sage declares in the final verse of the text... "I am That alone".
