



Vyasa Puja
&
42nd Chaturmasya Vrata
of

Jagadguru Shankaracharya
Sri Sri Bharati Tirtha Mahaswamiji



Sri Sri Jagadguru Shankaracharya Mahasamsthanam
Dakshinamnaya Sri Sharada Peetham, Sringeri

Dear followers of Sanatana Dharma,

The 36th Peethadhipati of Dakshinamnaya Sri Sharada Peetham, **Jagadguru Shankaracharya Sri Sri Bharati Tirtha Mahaswamiji** will be observing His Chaturmasya Vrata of the Durmukha Samvatsara along with His Uttaradhipati Shishya in Sringeri.

The Jagadguru will commence the Chaturmasya Vrata with Vyasa Puja and Sankalpa on Tuesday, the 19th of July 2016 and end it on Friday, the 16th of September 2016.

Devotees have always deemed it a privilege and duty to offer Bhiksha Vandanam to the Jagadguru during the Chaturmasya Vrata. It is also an important occasion to have Darshan of the Jagadgurus and receive their Blessings.

I am sure that all devotees would offer their Sevas at the Lotus Feet of the Jagadguru during this period and get blessed. Prior information of your programme and Sevas to be offered will help us in proper co-ordination.

I am pleased to convey the Benign Blessings of the Jagadguru for the welfare of you and your family members.

Yours Sincerely
Guruseva dhurina
Padmashri awardee
Dr. V.R.Gowrishankar

Administrator and CEO,
Sri Sharada Peetham, Sringeri

Sringeri
02.06.2016

About Chaturmasya Vrata

Chaturmasya Vrata is observed in accordance to the Shastras by Sannyasis for a period of two months (three in case of Adhika maasa). During the Chaturmasya, Sannyasis refrain from moving from place to place, enabling them to devote greater time to meditating on the Supreme Brahman, teaching the Shastras to eligible disciples and clearing the doubts of all sincere spiritual seekers.



Guru Poornima or Vyasa Poornima

The Chaturmasya begins on the Poornima (full moon day) in the month of Aashaadha Maasa. This day is called 'Guru Poornima'. On this sacred day, worship is offered to Brahma Vidyaacharyas – the great luminaries of hoary antiquity, who through their Supreme grace, have bestowed the knowledge of Brahman – Brahma Vidya – through a long, continuous and uninterrupted line of Acharyas.

The day is also called "Vyasa Poornima" and the Puja performed is titled "Vyasa Puja". In our Guru Parampara that originates from Ishwara Himself, Bhagavan Veda Vyasa is held with the highest esteem. Bhagavan Veda Vyasa has brought about everyone's welfare by classifying the Vedas into four, by summing up the messages of the Upanishads in His Brahma Sutras, and by penning the great epic Mahabharata as well as the eighteen Puranas. Sri Shuka, Sri Gaudapada and Sri Govinda Bhagavatpada kept the light of the Parampara burning. Then came the Great Master Sri Adi Shankaracharya, who revived Sanatana Dharma and carried it far and wide throughout Bharata Varsha.

The Vyasa Puja

As part of the Vyasa Puja, special pujas are performed to the hierarchy of Gurus, the Brahma Vidyaacharyas, seeking their blessings to realise the Supreme Truth.

The Guru is the object of our highest reverence as the Upanishads teach us that the Guru and God are but one and the same. The Shvetaashvatara Upanishad says

यस्य देवे परा भक्तिर्यथा देवे तथा गुरौ ।

तस्यैते कथिता ह्यर्थाः प्रकाशन्ते महात्मनः ॥

- All welfare is showered on the pious one, who has intense devotion towards the Guru just as he has intense devotion towards God.

In the course of this Vyasa Puja, worship is offered to three groups of Acharyas, each group consisting of five Acharyas.

The first Puja is for Krishna Panchakam - Bhagavan Sri Krishna is placed in the centre and Sanaka, Sanandana, Sanatkumara and Sanatsujata are placed in the east, south, west and north of Bhagavan. The Lord is worshipped with Sri Krishna Astottara Shatanama Archana.

The second Puja is for the Vyasa Panchakam, Bhagavan Veda Vyasa is placed in the centre. His four disciples namely Sumantu, Jaimini, Vaishampayana and Paila are placed in the four quarters to the east, south, west and north of Vyasa respectively.

The third Puja is for Shankaracharya Panchakam - Sri Adi Shankara Bhagavatpada is placed in the middle and His four shishyas, namely, Padmapadacharya, Sureshwaracharya, Hastamalakacharya and Totakacharya are placed in the four directions.





Puja and Arati are offered to all the three groups of Acharyas by the Jagadguru.

After the Pujas, the Sringeri Jagadguru Parampara Stotra is recited and worship is offered to the Guru Parampara beginning from Lord Sadashiva to Bhagavan Veda Vyasa to Sri Adi Shankaracharya to all the illustrious Acharyas who gracefully adorned the Sringeri Dakshinamnaya Sri Sharada Peetham up to Jagadguru Sri Sri Abhinava Vidyatirtha Mahaswamiji.

On this Vyasa puja day, the Jagadguru makes the Chaturmasya Sankalpa for staying at one place in accordance to the Shastras, and the Shishyas having got a precious opportunity to serve the Guru, promise they will serve the Guru to the best of their ability.



Jagadguru Shankaracharya Sri Sri Bharati Tirtha Mahasannidhanam and Jagadguru Shankaracharya Sri Sri Vidhushekhara Bharati Sannidhanam