



FRIENDS OF BHAKTI MARGA

NEWSLETTER JULY 2020

If you practise the chanting of the Divine Names consciously during the day you will be chanting continuously even while you are sleeping. It will become ajapa mantra

Paramahansa Vishwananda

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Introduction

Dear Friends of Bhakti Marga,

Many things in the world and in the Bhakti Marga Centre have changed since we sent you our last newsletter in early March. On 12 March 2020, we had to close Shree Peetha Nilaya for all visitors. Every day there had been additional legal regulations from Germany and the federal state of Hessen which we followed. The prayers in the temple were also not allowed to be visited even by the Residents, because meetings of religious communities were not allowed. Only the pujaris celebrated the morning Guru Puja as usual and the pujas to the deities on the altars. We tuned into the prayers in our own rooms and celebrated them with Guruji and the murtis on our own altars.

Our thoughts were often with you! We really missed you and included you all in our prayers!

Since the beginning of May, the rules have been gradually loosening. Please visit the Bhakti Marga website www.bhaktimarga.org for information about the most current regulations which are often decided at short notice. Check in there for upcoming events, too.

Swamini VishwaKarunaanandaMa aptly described this special time of the pandemic in the International BM Newsletter May 2020. Here is an extract from her letter:

'Living during these times of great change and upheaval, on every level, can be seen as an amazing blessing from Guruji. Bringing us a deeper experience of Love to His devotees and Mother Earth.

At Bhakti Marga, there are two prominent experiences at this time: isolation and connection. At first glance, they seem two different ends of a spectrum, but that masks a deep relation between them on our spiritual path.

Our experience at times can feel increasingly solitary, leading to the ultimate goal of experiencing God everywhere. By realising God within our being, we become connected to every human being and all His earthly creation.

During this time, in individual/family isolation, Guruji has emphasised what a great blessing it is for us to have "time" to go inwards. To experience a deeper and deeper peace arising from the limitation on our external activities.

Time has been offered for us to reflect why we are here and what is our purpose. Time has been given for us to reflect and deepen our relationship with Guruji.

Our isolation, by limiting our external activities, is bringing about a deep healing for Mother Earth. Equally, our daily prayers with Guruji giving our Love to Mother Earth activates a deeper healing for Mother Earth and all Her creation.'

Commenting on Guruji's daily online Japa session and prayer for Mother Earth and His daily Satsang, Swamini writes:

'Every day when I listen Guruji's satsangs, I feel I am sitting at His feet. The isolation is encouraging us to connect globally, via technology, with each other and with spiritual searchers in different ways, whether it is OM Chanting, meditation, scripture or ceremonies. Our awareness of God's Love is uplifted - as our isolation and connection come together. The more our consciousness rises amongst Bhakti Marga devotees and Guruji's love is shared with other people, the greater the benefit for the world.

Guruji's daily prayer for Mother Earth is our daily inspiration and is spreading God's Love worldwide.'

sarvasya cāhaṁ ḥṛdi sanniviṣṭo

'I am located in the hearts of all.'

Bhagavad Gita, Chapter 15, verse 15

(SV KarunaanandaMa)

1. Thank You

Many of you had appreciated paying your FoBM contribution in SPN in cash. Since this is no longer possible for the time being, we sent you a letter at the end of April with the request to use the other payment options: <https://www.bhaktimarga.org/donate/fobm/payments>

We received many positive reactions to our letter and thank you for your understanding! Your financial support is urgently needed. It helps to make Shree Peetha Nilaya a welcoming spiritual place for people of all nations.

SPN is the residence of our Satguru Paramahansa Vishwananda and the main international Bhakti Marga Centre. People from all over the world deepen their connection to the Divine and their path of devotion, love and service here. Strengthened in faith and trust, they return to their countries and carry Guruji's mission further. In this way, Guruji's message of love is carried all over the world and can move many people to change their lives and be grateful to Mother Earth.

On behalf of Bhakti Marga, we thank you for your regular financial contributions that make Shree Peetha Nilaya and its surroundings a hospitable place of spirituality that feels like 'home'.

2. Maha Lakshmi Yajna daily during the morning prayers in SPN

Since the inauguration of the Bhutabhrteshwarnath Temple, a yajna for Sri Maha Lakshmi is celebrated daily in the yajna Shala in front of the large temple room. It takes place during the morning prayers.

This fire ceremony is very powerful and purifying. This also applies to people who are not physically present but are mentioned by name and included in the yajna ceremony through certain prayers. For those who become new FOBM members during these days of travel restrictions, we will perform a yajna as a special benefit.

3. Preview July - October 2020

We are sorry that due to legal regulations it is not possible for us at the moment to give exact information about upcoming events with Guruji. Please inquire and keep in touch via the website www.bhaktimarga.org

Please note:

All physical Country Weeks and Darshans in SPN until the middle of September are cancelled. Through our website, Telegram groups and social media channels we will inform you regularly about new online offers.

The following dates for actual physical events are planned so far:

Krishna Janmashtami:	12 - 13 August 2020
Just Love Festival:	4 - 6 September 2020
Gayatri Yajna:	Cancelled

4. A Review of Events from February to July 2020

Inauguration of Sita Ram and Sarasvati Devi:	20 February
Hanuman Jayanti:	8 April
Narasimha Chaturdashi:	6 May
Maha Lakshmi Yajna:	16-17 May
Paramahansa Vishwananda Jayanti:	13-14 June
Gurupurnima:	5 July

RAM DARBAR AND SARASWATI ARRIVED!

Ram Darbar and Saraswati-Devi Arrived at The Ashram
Shree Peetha Nilaya, 20 February 2020

On 20 February 2020, the Bhutabhrteshwarnath Mandir was the site of a day-long ceremony to install the newest additions to the deities of the main temple: Sri Kripnidhe Ramachandra Bhagavan, Sita-devi, Lakshman, and Hanumanji (known collectively as Ram Darbar) and Saraswati-devi!

Introducing the Deities

Paramahansa Vishwananda gave this loving description of the deities:

Jai Gurudev! Here you have Kripnidhe Sri Ramchandra Bhagavan, the Lord of mercy.



He is holding in His hand the bow and the right hand is giving the blessing. He is dark in colour because He is everything. His eyes are very merciful.

Next to Him is His wife, Sita-devi, and to His right is Lakshman. Below is Hanumanji, and Hanumanji is so beautiful, looking at his beloved Lord. Then you have Ram Darbar as a Shaligram, which comes from Nepal.

In this Shaligram, you have Rama and Sita sitting on the throne. At His feet is Hanuman, Narada, Narad Rishi, Brahma, Ganeshji, Shankar Bhagavan. You have the two brothers, Bharat and Shatrughna and Lakshmana. And Valmiki is there also. In front is the padam of Sri Rama and in front of Sita is the padam of Sita.



This relationship between the Lord and His devotee is amazing. Very often, you see people fighting each other, but to comprehend that relationship, you will see that Lord Shiva called Sriman Narayana "Prabhu", and vice versa; Sriman Narayana called Lord Shiva "Prabhu" and both bow down to each other. This relationship they hold has no separation in it. You can see that when Bhagavan incarnated in the form of Lord Krishna. Lord Shankar could not just sit in Kailash; he could not say, 'Okay, I will just sit there and wait.' No, he said, 'For the Supreme

Lord to incarnate on Earth is very rare. I must go and have His darshan.'
With Ram Avatar, Lord Shiva came in the form of Hanuman to always be at the side of Rama so He took that aspect to be there."

Here is Srimati Saraswati-devi



She is so merciful. You can see Her purity. She is holding a veena in Her hand. In one arm She is holding the scriptures, the other one is holding the mala. She is sitting on a lotus and Her vahana is a swan. The swan symbolises the purity of the mind which is devoid of ignorance. So, through Her blessing, She is holding knowledge in Her hand, and through knowledge your ignorance is removed.

The sound is a cosmic sound which elevates you. When you go in spirituality, you hear the cosmic sound of **OM** where everything becomes one, everything; like Krishna said in the Gita, 'The yogi perceives Me only.' So, it's only through the sound of **OM** that one can rise and perceive the Lord everywhere. And how you will do that is only through japam, by chanting of His Divine Name.

The mind gets cleared when the Name of the Lord takes its place there. Otherwise, one is always a slave to the mind and one is never free.

So, we ask Ma Saraswati-devi to clear the mind. Ask Saraswati-devi to grant you knowledge to understand things properly; because you like to read so many things, you like to listen to many things, but yet, understanding doesn't happen. So, ask Her. She is the one who grants that.

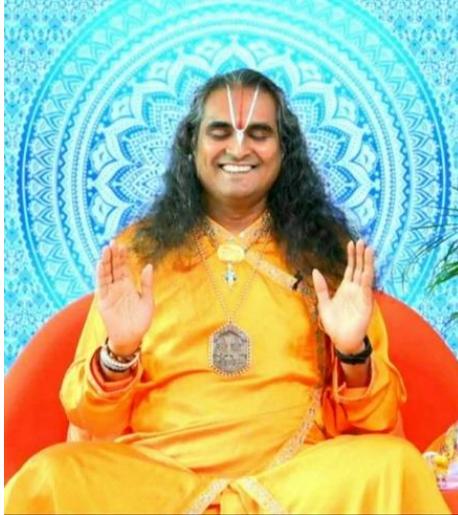
Silent Japam and Satsang Live broadcast from Vrindavan March to early April 2020



It didn't take very long before we were allowed to practice the daily chanting of the Divine Name together in the great Bhakti Marga community. Every day, Paramahansa Vishwananda held a live japam session in silence which was transmitted from Vrindavan to all Bhakti Marga screens. It helped us to redesign the daily routine that seemed so routine, to keep new rules of distance, to be more conscious of our movements, more aware of the time we spend with God.

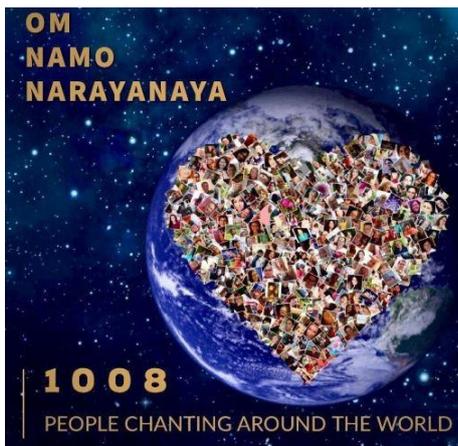
'Call him. Let Om Namō Narayanaya vibrate through every cell of your body, for He is the only reality.'

Live Japa and Satsang, spiritual questions and answers:
tuesdays and thursdays, 17:00 CEST.



Earth Meditation - here is a picture of Gurudev leading the meditation - we send our love to Mother Earth as described above.

We have learned to adapt our daily routine to the new situation, but the time without the prayers was not easy for many of us, so the live broadcasts from Vrindavan and then from SPN were a great encouragement during this time. We perceived how we are all connected with each other, no matter what the distance between us. When we heard the news in early April that Guruji was coming back to Germany, we could feel the emotions of tears of joy. Even on the day of His return, there was still a *satsang* from Him, which was then broadcast live from The Ashram SPN. [His Facebook page](#)



Through the daily live *japa* rounds and the live *satsang* with Gurudev, we could also experience how fulfilling giving can be. Especially touching were the meditations for Mother Earth with the sacrifice of our *japa* rounds. We gave them to nature, places, our families, the people who do extraordinary things in this time in service for others, even those who do not appreciate us. It was very fulfilling.

In His great love, Guruji invites us to connect with Him often online: <https://paramahamsavishwananda.com/>

Hanuman Jayanti, 8 April 2020 in SILENCE



On 8 April, 2020, at 5:00 am, the Abishekam ritual for Hanumanji was performed by two pujaries in Shree Peetha Nilaya. The 11 Hanuman Chalisas were played from a recording. It was a strange atmosphere in the morning, as we were so used to getting up early in the morning and taking part in the ceremony outside in a sari. Paramahansa Vishwananda also followed the rule of self-imposed quarantine after His return from India. We were then allowed to go individually to the *darshan* at Hanuman from 7:00 am on. During *satsang*, Guruji then mentioned again the story of Hanumanji and how he appeared to Him when He was in India for the first time.

It was a journey to Mysore with some devotees in a van, when suddenly out of nowhere a huge white monkey (HanumanJi) appeared out of nowhere and stood in the middle of the completely dark road. The driver drove around the big figure and stopped at the side of the road, but by then he had already disappeared. Some of the passengers were sleeping and had woken up from this, and Hanuman came only in this moment.

Guruji then remembered a dream He had as a child. He was walking on a street full of light and at the side of the street were hands of demons that wanted to grab him. Hanuman was right behind him. He fought the demons off and said to Him: "YOU go on and on..."

Guruji also mentioned that some had chanted 108 Hanuman Chalisas that day. The forty verses of the Hanuman Chalisa testify to the humility and glory of Hanuman, his power, strength and devotion. He is always ready to help those who come to him, to inspire them and to stand by their side, especially in difficult times.

As a monkey, Hanuman stands for the fact that anyone can come to God. As Son of the Wind, he is the patron of pranayama. Hanuman also symbolizes the human spirit, which can be led to higher levels of consciousness through deep devotion (bhakti). A Bhakta (worshipper of God), can be very humble. But he is also willing to take responsibility. In service to God, he grows beyond himself. (source: Internet)

Narasimha Chaturdashi 6 May 2020 Paramahansa Vishwananda: 'This is our first event after the lockdown!'

We had 50 places available for guests to be part of the live audience for this livestream event that was broadcast from Shree Peetha Nilaya.

Merciful Protector



Narasimha Chaturdashi is the Appearance Day of Lord Nrsingadev who is the most merciful protector of His devotees. Although He appears ferocious in His ugra form, He is actually the sweetest of all to those who are surrendered to Him. Nrsingadev restores balance, eliminates all darkness and cleanses and purifies the mind of negativity. The world needs His energy, His grace and His power.

The Lord shows His more powerful form and this Ugra (ferocious) form to kill the anger, pride, egoism inside of us, showing that He is above all this.' Paramahansa Sri Swami Vishwananda

'If Lord Narasimhadev could come out of the pillar, your heart is softer than that stone, He can easily come out of your heart also'.

Guruji (speech after Narasimha Chaturdasi)

Maha Lakshmi Yajna 16 and 17 May 2020



On this occasion in Shree Peetha Nilaya, we were pleased to welcome guests for overnight stays for the first time after the center was closed for more than two months.

The guests joined us for this auspicious yajna, the holy fire ceremony, to venerate the Divine Mother and express gratitude for all She does. The Maha-Lakshmi Yajna is an act of worship and love, celebrating Her greatness and service to humanity.



A yajna is an ancient Vedic fire ceremony of placing offerings into a holy fire which has been practised for millennia. The fire ceremony purifies emotions, burns up the unresolved conflicts and worries and makes us feel lighter, freer and more open inside. When we focus on letting go, the fire releases our tensions.

Maha-Lakshmi is the Divine Mother and the eternal consort of Lord Narayana. She provides everything for Her children. Out of Her mercy, She protects them and bestows the boons of spiritual and material wealth to all those who sincerely pray to Her.

'Maha-Lakshmi creates balance by uniting your body, mind and spirit, so that you can advance on your spiritual path.'

Paramahansa Sri Swami
Vishwananda

We are grateful to Maha-Lakshmi (Divine Mother) for all that She has given us and for all that we are being allowed to let go of

Current status May 2020:**Paramahansa Vishwananda Jayanti 2020 - Saturday, 13 June, 7am**

Once again, our beloved Gurudev will be celebrating His Appearance Day with the Bhakti Marga family in His home at Shree Peetha Nilaya.

Did you know?

Paramahansa Vishwananda was born God-realised on 13 June 1978, on the beautiful island of Mauritius, off the coast of Africa. Almost immediately, people could see He was someone special. Even while very young, He enjoyed singing the Divine Names and inspiring all those around Him to love God. In truth, He has always been a living example of Bhakti Marga, the path of devotion.

Gurupurnima - Sunday, 5 July, 7am to 11pm**Gratitude for the Guru**

Gurupurnima is the day we venerate our beloved Satguru, Paramahansa Sri Swami Vishwananda.

'The aim of the bhakta is to attain the grace of the Guru, Guru Kripa. With Guru Kripa one is elevated, and obtains all gifts, all accomplishments, all wealth, even liberation.'

Paramahansa Sri Swami Vishwananda

Did you know?

Gurupurnima was originally celebrated in memory of the great sage Veda Vyasa. He was a Divine Incarnation of the Lord who compiled the four Vedas, wrote the 18 major *Puranas*, the *Mahabharata* and the *Shrimad Bhagavatam*. It was established as a day to venerate the Guru who masterfully guides His devotees to the Lotus Feet of the Lord.

Dear Friends of Bhakti Marga Family

Our hearts are connected with Guruji. It is the wish of all of us to serve Him. To serve God is to serve one's fellow man. Through your support, the Bhakti Marga Centre Shree Peetha Nilaya has become a lively and welcoming place for people from all over the world. A spiritual place for young and old, where everyone can deepen their personal relationship with God.

We thank you for your continued financial support of Bhakti Marga!

We hope to see you all at the Just Love Festival in early September!

<https://www.justlofefestival.org/>

Much Love

Anjushri and Urmilaavati

friends@bhaktimarga.org

<https://www.bhaktimarga.org/donate/fobm/overview>