

Upadesa Sahasri camp at AVP, Rishikesh

As a continuity to the camp in 2023, Sw. Sakshatkritananda ji held the Upadesa Sahasri Camp this year from 11th to 18th September, 2024, in Rishikesh Ashram. Nearly 200 students attended the camp. Everyday there were 2 classes on Upadesa Sahasri, one class by Arsha vidya teachers on topics of their choice, meditation and satsang.

Swamiji was conducting classes on chapter 18 Tatvamasi Prakaranam, and last year had concluded upto verse no. 59. Before continuing, Swamiji gave a summary of last year's classes. This year Swamiji took up from verse 60 to 118.

In this part of the text there is a discussion about who is the shrotru/knower of the mahavakya upadesa 'Tat Tvam Asi'. While the poorva pakshi contended that it cannot be either buddhi or Atma, Sankaracharya, after elaborate discussions and explanations establishes with an example of face, mirror and reflected face (reflection) that Sakshi Caitanyam reflected in the Buddhi and known as Cid Abhasa the reflected consciousness is the knower as buddhi is jadam and Sakshi is akarta. It is in the presence of Sakshi caitanyam the buddhi is illumined and becomes sentient and is known Cid Abhasa and does the act of listening mahavakya and knower of Brahman. Once the knowledge is gained the ignorance goes.

Thus, the concept and importance of 'Cit Abhasa' was highlighted in this part and Swamiji very lucidly in simple terms explained this and also how Sankaracharya dismisses all objections raised by other systems. Om Tat Sat.



More photos in cover page #2