



December 2022

Hari Om!

In the study of Advaita Vedanta, our scriptures repeatedly provide clarification to us on the difference between karma and karma yoga.

Shri Krishna beautifully states in Shrimad Bhagavad Gita that what differentiates the two is the intention behind the action.

While this teaching sounds simple and largely attainable, we continue to find ourselves plagued by expectations and the insistence of particular outcomes.

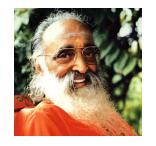
By remembering the lessons in the following framework, we may better be able to deepen our understanding of action and appreciation of intention:

- When we work hard and smart and receive the outcome we wanted, we are being taught to be grateful.
- When we work hard and smart and receive a different outcome than we wanted, we are being taught to be faithful.
- When we work hard and smart and do not receive an outcome, we are being taught to be peaceful.

As we reflect on where we are coming from in 2022 and where we are going in 2023, let us work to apply this framework to our lived experiences.

Joyous New YOU to All!

-Shri Vivekji



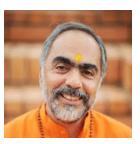
Upcoming Events:

Silence January 13 - 15, 2023 Shri Vivekji

Pujya Gurudev, Swami Chinmayanandaji



Pujya Guruji, Swami Tejomayanandaji



Mukhya Swamiji, Swami Swaroopanandaji



Swami Sarveshanandaji CHYK West National Director

Virtual

https://lu.ma/silence

Meaningful Mornings

Daily Shri Vivekji Virtual

www.chinmayaniagara.com/communities/mornings

Youth Culture

Wednesdays 9-10 pm Shri Shankarji Virtual

https://lu.ma/youthculture

Seeking Culture

Mondays 9-10 pm Shri Shankarji and Shri Vivekji Virtual

https://lu.ma/seekingculture

Parenting Culture

Mondays 9-10 pm Shri Vivekji Virtual

https://lu.ma/parentingculture



Brahmacharini Akalkaji CHYK West Deputy Director

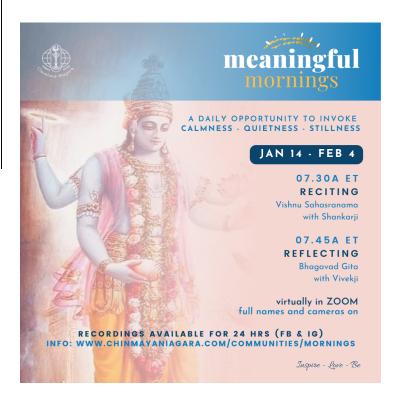


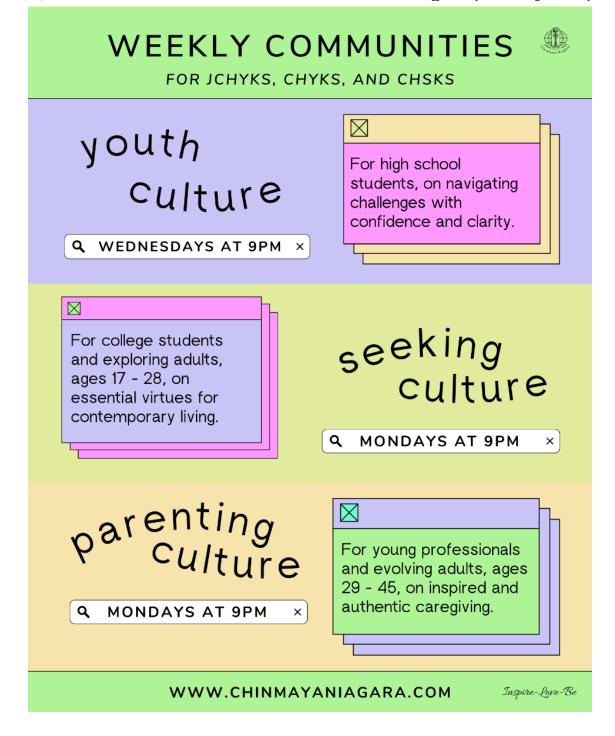
Vivekji CHYK West Deputy Director



Dhirenji CHYK West Deputy Director



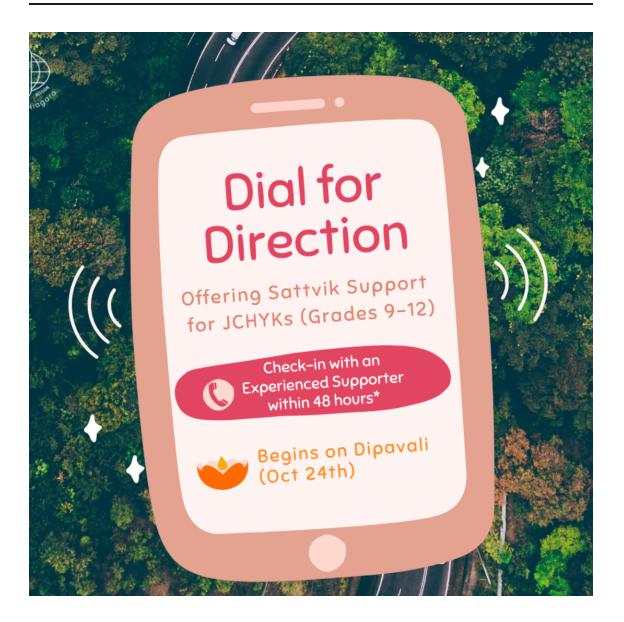




Ask an Acharya

Pondering over a thought or need some advice? Click the button below to submit your question, and an Acharya will give a response in the CHYK West Newsletter!

Ask an Acharya



Learn more about Dial for Direction!



In the Bhagavad Gita, it is specifically described as "acharya upasana," or literally, "to sit near one who leads themselves." In a secular sense, you could think of it as mentorship.

"To sit near" means to be dedicated. After all, a person who leads themselves is careful with their actions, and they care fully. Such people can be our examples.

UPASANA

dedication

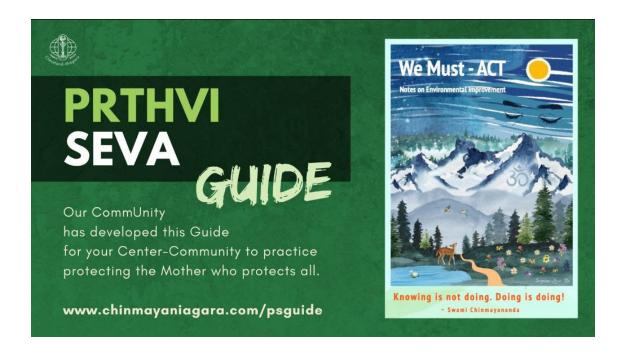
THREE WAYS TO NURTURE RESILIENCE







Ask yourself: What am I dedicated to right now?





Accept the past

For any event that happened, there is an infinite chain of events that led to it. There is no singular source that caused the event that upset you.



Depersonalize

You are receiving the result of your own karma and the person that gave you that sorrow to you is just the instrument through which karma was delivered.

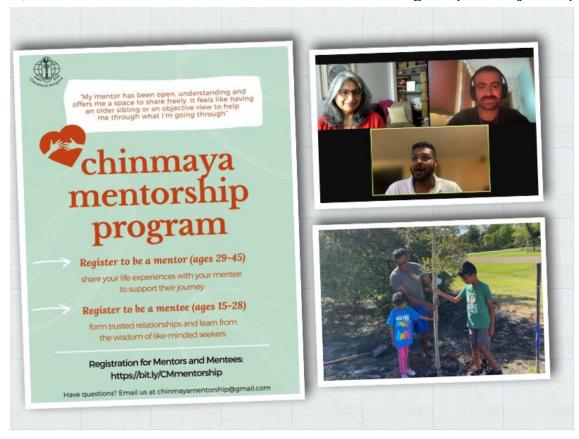


See through another perspective

While your position might be valid, it is not necessarily the only valid one. Often we get angry at others for small things, only to realize that we ourselves have done the same mistake they have and others chose to forgive us.



kshanti | forgiveness



Chinmaya Mission Niagara's Contentment Challenge









From Rāma Jayanti (April 9^{th}) to Vijaya Dashami (October 5^{th} , 2022), 206 seekers of all ages, across the world, engaged in Chinmaya Mission Niagara's Contentment Challenge – a

commitment to engage in contemplation (dhyāna), conversation (japa/dama - meaningful repetition), concentration (unitasking/dharma), and generosity (dana) daily. Why? Shrimad Bhagavatam has shown that Bhagavan Krishna lives His daily life with the same structure, and after all, all want to be like Him, the embodiment of Contentment! This Challenge was Vivekji's vision and was implemented by his trusty team, which now had new additions - "Rāma Dūtas". Seekers were divided into 9 teams, and each team was guided by one Rāma Dūta. The teams were a source of inspiration for many seekers, who encouraged each other to endure through the challenge of trying to orient their entire lifestyle towards self-development. In their WhatsApp team groups, seekers shared photos of their contemplation altars and their japa (photos attached), to remind each other that they were in this together. As the Challenge progressed, Vivekji guided the seekers to engage in japa by chanting out loud, later by writing, and finally by mentally chanting. The purpose of this progression was to encourage seekers to incorporate japa into all aspects of their lives. Many seekers reported that this constant remembrance of Bhagavan, helped them navigate the challenges of daily life with a smile. By Vijaya Dashami, the Contentment Challenge community had offered 5,128,801 repetitions of Om Rāmāya Namah, and \$77,296 to environmental charities including the Ocean Conservancy, the World Wildlife Fund's project protecting tigers and elephants in India, and the Clean Air Task Force.

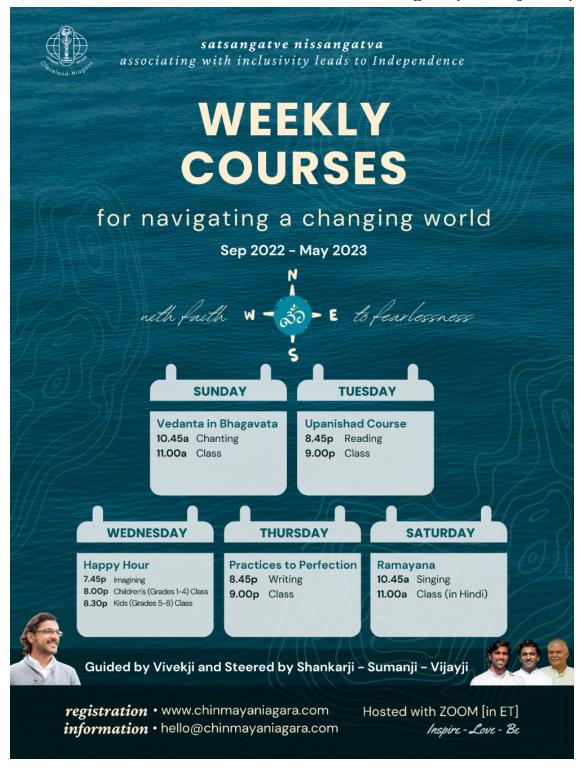
-Vignesh Sadras

Key Takeaway from Meaningful Mornings:

Shri Krishna speaks to us, as He responds to Prince Arjuna's reflections. He will teach us, who are sincerely seeking Him, who are full-time seekers, who are seeking Him alone. We must let go of our deeply ingrained belief that seeing is believing and that Reality can only be perceived by our senses. Our senses are finite and cannot perceive the Infinite. We cannot see God, but we can feel God in the depths of our being. Look within - deeper than the doer!

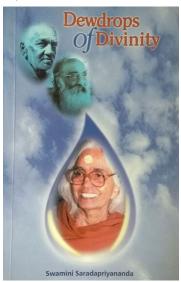
Chapter 10, Verse 19 **Srimad Bhagavad Gita**





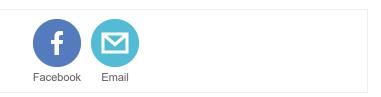
Book of the Month Dewdrops of Divinity

By Swamini Saradapriyananda



This book is a compendium of the articles written by Swamini Saradapriyananda. Couched in simple, yet gentle and loving words, Amma provides insights and wisdom that add joy and color to the life of the reader.

If you would like to purchase a copy of Dewdrops of Divinity, please visit the <u>Chinmaya Publications</u> website or visit a Chinmaya Mission bookstore near you.



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