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THE REAL ESSENCE OF BLACK...



In Indian mythological context I know many people who see a lot of controversies and one of the major controversies is about why lord Krishna is called Black or Kala. Normally a person in India has a perception that black means bad and God only knows when this all started. In fact many try to do anything and everything that is possible to make their skin color fair (means white). The brands which promise to transform one's color from dark to fair have enormous business opportunities which they have been very successfully exploiting for many decades now. Fortunately the government has taken a serious view of such advertisements which play on such sensitivities and are planning a ban on such products and promises.

Coming back to Lord Krishna, if the general perception about the black being bad why was Krishna called with all those names which are very close to blackness? I think one has to go deeper and understand the essence of all these words.



The real essence of Black...

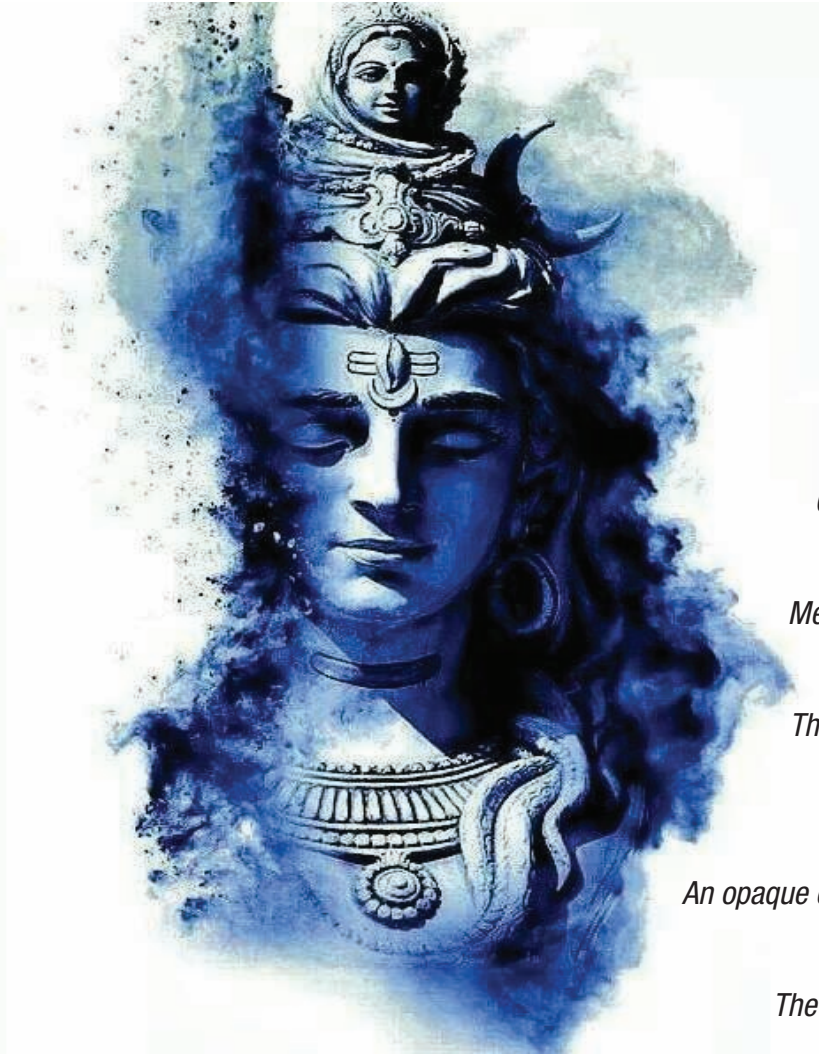
The word Krishna though generally indicates black is a Sanskrit word and means the one who/ which attracts. It is something about attracting everything towards it. How true it is! Black is not an absence of color as it is made out to be but it is a complete presence of all colors. When all colors are merged, what remains is a black. Black is a complete color. In fact it attracts everything and leaves nothing behind. That is what gives an impression that black is nothing. In fact it is everything. White on the other hand is incomplete as it does not absorb colors. It gives out everything, rejects everything. Krishna was like this black, absorbing everything and everyone within him. No wonder he tells King Arjun in Geeta that everything ultimately merges into him and nothing remains. That is a Pralaya with respect to the universe that we hear about. nothingness.

Black is a mother of white. Darkness is a mother of light. No wonder Lord Jesus had to say “And the light happens” Light is a happening. Darkness, the blackness is permanent. Unfortunately we as humans consider black as bad. That is because black is beyond the mind. Black is beyond space and time. That is why in absolute darkness we lose the sense of time and space which again are the creations and perceptions of mind. The biggest contradiction on the spiritual path is that while we adore and respect and vie for light, for the real enlightenment one has to sit in a dark cave, rejecting the light to activate brahmagufa – the cave in the brain, to reach the state of enlightenment. That seems to be an irony- searching of light by denying the darkness when the light can not exist without a darkness as its base. Light shows something and we are comfortable as for us seeing is experiencing life. We forget that what our senses experience is a maya, an illusion. In darkness there is no illusion because there is no duality. Duality exists only in the sensual experiences. When the senses do not operate we do not see illusions. We look to truth staring in its face. That is uncomfortable. Then we deny darkness, we deny blackness. We run away from reality.

Ajit Sir

March 24th, 2017

When the eyes are closed...



*A filled world within spills out,
With a thousand buzzing questions posed;
Nothing in particular to resolve about,
Just seeking peace; when the eyes are closed*

*Noises come from the left and right,
It's the minds hallucinations dosed;
The senses grow sharper and bright,
Or they get confused, when the eyes are closed.*

*Memories of childhood and the days of adolescence,
The good and the bad juxtaposed;
The smile and the pain, the smell and the fragrance;
It all happens now, when the eyes are closed.*

*An opaque ever-obstructing sound is heard; stop right here or you will,
Lose the ground of the mind disclosed;
The intellect reasons endlessly to push forward and till,
The battle goes on, when the eyes are closed.*

*Layer by layer the stratum comes down,
Allowing the heart, the intellect and a mind decomposed;
Chains of attachment or any allurements of a crown,
They all appear to be small; when the eyes are closed.*

*The secret of the world unveiled,
The doors of logic and reasoning disposed;
All the knowledge to the silent seeker mailed,
Somewhere up in the sky the mailer holds, when the eyes are closed.*

*The flying universe spins and moves on,
The nature calls you to get still, calm and composed;
Persistently realizing the unfolding truth to call upon,
Remain one within and without, when the eyes are closed.*

A message from Dan Creele, an elder (Siddha) from USA On 17th anniversary of our ashram on 15th March 2017

Sir,

This IS a WONDERFUL, WONDERFUL occasion. Your efforts serve as a benchmark to the rest of us when things are done for the right reason what can be accomplished.

As you reflect back on the thousands and thousands of people and souls that have been impacted by your efforts it is a RIPPLE EFFECT that has touched the world and beyond.

It has been an honor to watch you, stand in the circle with you, and be in ceremony along side you. We are in a time when these circles of peaceful influence are more important than ever.

I look forward to our time together on April 22, 2017, Earth Day, together in ceremony, at the 150 year old camp in Des Plaines, Illinois.

Blessings and Balance,

Dan

Meaning: An ant finds a rice grain and she becomes very happy. She admires god and takes it towards her home. Suddenly she finds another dal grain and she becomes extremely excited but unfortunately she could not lift both together and

gets depressed because she wanted both. Saint Kabir says... mind is like this when we get something unexpectedly we become happy and praise god for his design and the moment we find an option we lose the earlier happiness and become greedy, we forget god's design and expect to get all and become sad

*Chiti Chawal le chali
Bich me mili dal
Kahe Kabir do na mile
Eak le dal...*

when we don't get. Saint Kabir says... to achieve something one has to give up something. We need to decide once what we want and then everything is easy...

Subhash Chuttar

By Telangan

My Brother was heading R&D team for an auto components manufacturing company. Once he showed me a person. He said this is Subhash Chuttar. He owns two large factories manufacturing auto parts. He does few thousand Crore business and the best part is he has 25% mentally challenged employees. I was shocked. How could one manufacture quality component from mentally challenged employees?

I learnt more about Subhash Chuttar and every moment was more admiration. He was a school drop out. He started working as a lower labor in garage then Bajaj Auto and then started his own small-scale unit with a lathe machine but from there he didn't stop. Unfortunately his son was born with Down syndrome. He could see no future for him. Life was very depressing. Business was doing excellent. After eighth class his son stopped schooling and joined father. While teaching him Subhash Chuttar understood few good points and encouraged to appoint more special workers in his factory. He says, "they are required to be taught five hundred times in the beginning but once they understood then they are the most disciplined, committed and hard working people. They are not interested in any other things than their work. They do not want to even rest on the holidays. They do not require any supervising. There are no accidents because the focus is 100% in own work. In fact, they are more honest and devoted in their work. None of them have any addiction or bad habits.

His clients like Force, Bosch were reluctant in giving business at the beginning but when they realized that the percentage of 'Rejection' is zero. 'Zero PPM'. And they were amazed when they visited the factory. They were surprised by the neatness and clean environment. They are inspired to hire such work force even in their factories now.

The research says today around 21 million people in India are suffering from one or the other kind of disability. If they get employment with respect then it is not going to be a favor to them but in return they could give zero rejection rate to their employer. It is rightly said that

*"Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day;
teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."*

achievement



by Telangan

*I was born as a dark child but
My mother had a smile...*

*I was weak and frail but
My heart was warm and kind...*

*I could never win but
My learning was endless...*

*I was never rich but
My hands remain full...*

*I was never first but
My teacher did not leave...*

*I was not rich but
My heart was gold...*

*I owned very small but
My happiness remained large...*

*I never met you god but
You send me my master...*

*Today, I realized I have everything
To take on the journey ahead...*

Ashram Events

DEVUKH ARTS CREATIVE COMMUNITY

March 2017 has been pretty hectic for Devrukh Arts Creative Community (DACC) having 2 art exhibitions, 2 Swara Chitra fusion events (all at Nashik), besides Portrait exposition by artist Vikram Paranjape in Devrukh ashram.

Devrukh Arts Creative Community had conducted an Art Exhibition from 4th March to 10th March, 2017 at Sadhana Kaladalan in Nashik. On 10th evening there was a unique program called "Shreerangotsav" wherein there was a fusion of live music with Painting. Mrs. Manisha Gore - an eminent singer (and our sadhak) and Mr. Mandar Puranik - a famous Tabla Player (and our sadhak) performed and Mr. Avdhut Potphode - very well-known Artist - painted on the tunes of Music. Audience was spell bound by the energy created with this program. Everyone felt the presence of Shri Krishna and Guruji explained a new meaning of Krishna which enlightened everyone with this new knowledge.

On 11th and 12th March, 2017 there was another Art Exhibition at Kusumagraj Art Gallery. A very renowned gallery in Nashik. On the eve of 11th March, there was a program called "Moods of the Moon" in which the abovementioned Artists performed all the filmy songs on Raag Yaman and depicted various moods of the moon. The entire audience enjoyed the program thoroughly. The event was big success. DACC is planning to conduct more such events in the cities like Nashik, Pune, Baroda, Ahmedabad, etc. Such program was conducted earlier in Devrukh in the month of November.

DACC also organized a camp or exposition of Portrait drawings by Devrukh artist Mr Vikram Paranjape on 15th March on the occasion of Ashram's 17th anniversary for the sewekari sadhaks. It was a great success. DACC also organized a camp for training the local Devrukh ladies to create quilts on 16th and 17th March 2017. This program was also organized by Vikram Paranjape for DACC.

ASHRAM ANNIVERSARY ON 15TH MARCH 2017

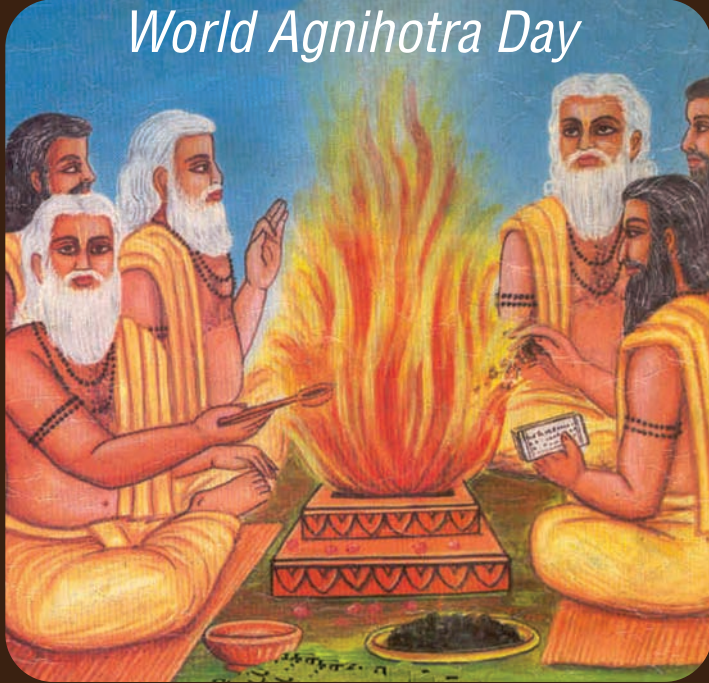


Devrukh ashram celebrated its 17th anniversary on 15th March 2017 with Udak Shanti rituals conducted by a team of local priests. The presentation on The Power of Intention by Guruji was a major attraction this year. DACC's program for portrait drawings also provided a unique way to celebrate the event.

HELP LIBRARY LECTURE ON 9TH MARCH 2017

Guruji was invited by Help Library (Health Education Library for People) to deliver a talk on Reiki for Health, Happiness and Harmony on 9th March 2017 at 3.30 pm. The lecture delivered by Guruji has been posted on You Tube by Help Library to create awareness about Reiki Healing and can be accessed using link





Schools in India Celebrates 75th World Agnihotra Day

by Kalpita

Morning Agnihotra on 12th March at Shri Matruchhaya higher secondary school", Ahmedabad

It was gratifying moment to see hundreds of students & teachers flocking in their school premises on a holiday (Yes it was a HOLI day, an eagerly awaited and widely celebrated festival across the whole of India) at early morning around 5:45 am to perform morning Agnihotra on 12th March'17, which is celebrated as "World Agnihotra day worldwide.



Mr. Rakesh Pandya the owner of "Shri Matruchhaya higher secondary school", Ahmedabad organized this event to create awareness among their students & teachers about the benefits of Agnihotra. Students performed morning Agnihotra in groups followed by a lecture explaining the science behind Agnihotra. The focus of the lecture was to make the students & teacher's understand the process of learning which is an internal phenomenon associated with mind, intellect & emotions (which we collectively term as Chitta). They were convinced about the fact that Agnihotra works on a subtle body (Chitta) and purifies it thus indirectly enabling a better concentration, understanding & retention capability.



Mr Rakesh Pandya (Mr. Rakesh Pandya on left) distributed Agnihotra pyramids to all the students & teacher's within an intention to bring health, harmony & happiness in every home by means of Agnihotra

Evening agnihotra at Addy' international school, Ahmedabad

The positivity & the wave of awareness created by the morning Agnihotra scaled up the evening agnihotra by 10 times.

More than 1000 people participated in the group Agnihotra organized by the owner of Addy's international school Mrs Rita Pandya. Students, teachers & parents all participated whole heartedly in the event. 121 Agnihotras were performed at the sunset time followed by Vahruti mantra & Trambakam homa. Slides were presented explaining how Agnihotra play a positive role in moulding the minds of Students not only participated in performing Agnihotra but few who were already practicing it, shared

with their colleagues their experiences with Agnihotra. Some made poster's emphasizing on the principle of agnihotra & some attempted to demonstrate the science behind agnihotra through simple experiments. It was a moment of fulfillment to see young minds talking / designing experiments revolving around principles of Agnihotra. A real demonstration of growth in the level of understanding and perception



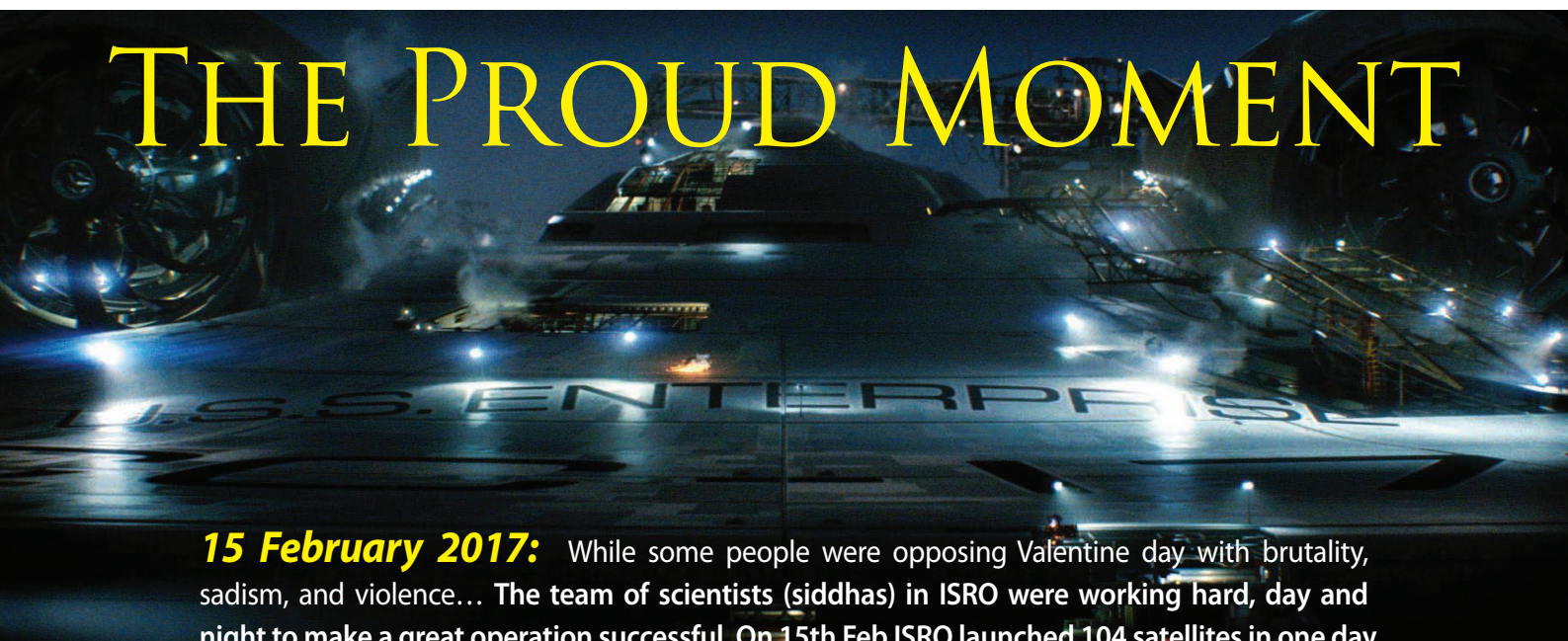
Regular practitioner of Agnihotra (student of Addy international school) shares his understanding of Agnihotra with this colleagues.



(Projects made by students of Addy's international school)

With an intention to keep the families united with love and create a better world through these young students by mean of Agnihotra, Mrs. Rita Pandya distributed Agnihotra pyramids to all the participants of the programme.

THE PROUD MOMENT



15 February 2017: While some people were opposing Valentine day with brutality, sadism, and violence... The team of scientists (siddhas) in ISRO were working hard, day and night to make a great operation successful. On 15th Feb ISRO launched 104 satellites in one day.

Three of them belong to India and rest to USA (88), Germany, Netherland, Switzerland, Israel, and UAE like other countries. Russia had a world record till date and that was 37 satellites launched in a day of 2014. The best part is ISRO is been paid for this activity well before by other countries. This was going to be a most difficult task because the satellites must safely travel around without crashing on each other. Scientists had created a code, which was going to direct all of them and that was not a simple mission. The success of this mission involves million other reasons but the challenge accepted by ISRO was amazing and making every Indian proud.



Holi Poornima – a festival of colors...

Indian culture is full of festivals. Festivals are the manifestation of cultures. India is best known for its closeness to nature. Culture which is based on the platform of nature can never create a stress. Most of the festivals in India have a strong logical base. No wonder they are all moments of celebrations. If Diwali is festival of light, Holi is a festival of colors. But Holi does not mean only colors. Colors are only celebrating a life. But to celebrate something, there has to be an event. What is an event for colorful celebrations? The burning of dried branches of the tree and all those worn out clothes, wooden things which have become a liability at home, is what the Holi fire is all about. We light Holi on the full moon night and offer everything that is unwanted, something that you want to get rid of. Once you are free from all

that unwanted, accumulated stuff of life, you are free to celebrate. The real freedom from everything that was blocking the flow of energy! It is the cleansing of high nature. Then come the colors, Though it is a fire the holi fire is not Yagna. It is exactly a reverse process. In Yagna fire we offer everything that is worth. Everything that is valuable. It is the symbol of dispassion. Two different fires, two different methods but the objective is the same. They are complimentary to each other though their directions are different, That is the real nature of Indian culture. Unity in diversity!

Program Schedule for April 2017

Dates	Reiki Teacher	Centre	Degree
8th & 9th April	Vishal	Airoli	1st
8th & 9th April	Rakesh	Baroda	1st
8th & 9th April	Solanki	Bengaluru	1st
15th & 16th April	Vishal	Goa	1st
22nd & 23rd April	Kalpita	Devrukh	1st
29th & 30th April	Kalpita	Nashik	1st
29th & 30th April	Vishal	Mumbai	1st

Other Programs

Dates	Topic	Venue	Coordinator
27th April 2017	Holistic Parenting	Help Library	Manisha Gore
1st to 10th May 2017	Children's Retreat	Devrukh Ashram	Jairam Athalekar
13th to 17th May 2017	Youth Empowerment	Devrukh Ashram	Krupa Choksi
21st to 24th May 2017	School for Parents	Devrukh Ashram	Krupa Choksi
27th & 28th May 2017	Premarital Training	Devrukh Ashram	Krupa Choksi

2017 USA Visit Program

March 23rd, Thursday, Guruji, Krupa & Ashwini
are Arriving in Chicago at 3.30 pm

1st Week : Mumbai / Chicago

March 24(F) 6.30-9.30pm	Guruji's Lecture in Shreeji Dwar Haveli at 440 W. Fullerton, Addison, IL 60101. RSVP - Mrs. Heena Pandya (224) 730-9601. Food 5.30 pm-6.30pm	
March 25-26 (Sat – Sun) 8.30 am to 5.30 pm	Varsha Delwadia, 135 Pipers Dr. Bartlett IL 60103	Reiki Seminar (Hindi)- 1st Level - Krupa, Ajit sir Contact: Mrs. Kalpana Patel - (224) 766-9714 Reiki Seminar (Hindi) - 2nd Level - Ajit sir, Krupa Contact: Mr. Nilesh Patel - (312) 354-0889
March 28 (Tu) 6.30 to 9.30 pm	Datta Kutir, 771 Cordial Drive, Des Plaines, IL 60018	Three is a Company Contact – Mrs. Heena Pandya (224) 730-9601
March 29 (W) 6.30 to 9.30 pm	Datta Kutir, 771 Cordial Drive, Des Plaines, IL 60018	Emotional Freedom Technique Contact – Mrs. Heena Pandya (224) 730-9601
March 30 (Th.) 6.30 to 9.30 pm	Datta Kutir, 771 Cordial Drive, Des Plaines, IL 60018	New Generation Challenges Contact – Mrs. Heena Pandya (224) 730-9601

2nd Week: New Jersey

31st March	Fly to Newark – New Jersey	
April 1st & 2nd (Sat – Sun) 8.30 am to 5.30 Both Days	Radus Tek Services, 100, Franklin Square Dr, No 300, Somerset, NJ 08873	Reiki Seminar – 1st Level – Krupa, Ajit sir Contact – Mrs. Seema Walavalkar - 732.310.5721 Reiki Seminar – 2nd Level – Ajit sir, Krupa Contact – Mrs. Seema Walavalkar - 732.310.5721
April 3(M) 6.00 to 9.00 pm	3, Value Add Drive, Somerset NJ 08873	New Generation challenges Contact – Mrs. Seema Walavalkar - 732.310.5721
April 4(Tu) 6.00 to 9.00 pm	4, Malibu Drive, Edison NJ	Three is a Company Contact – Mrs. Seema Walavalkar - 732.310.5721
April 5(W) 6.00 to 9.00 pm	184, Sunshine Drive Piscataway NJ 08854	Emotional Freedom Technique Contact – Mrs. Seema Walavalkar - 732.310.5721
April 6(Th.) 6.00 to 9.00 pm	184, Sunshine Drive, Piscataway NJ 08854	Yoga Nidra Contact – Mrs. Seema Walavalkar - 732.310.5721

2017 USA Visit Program

3rd Week: Dallas

April 7 (F)	Leaving for Dallas	
April 8th & 9th (Sat – Sun) 8.30 am to 5.30 Both Days	Venue to be decided	Reiki Seminar – Level 1 Contact – Mr. Nick Shroff - 972-378-1916
April 10 (M) 6.00 to 9.00 pm	Venue to be decided	Three is a Company Contact – Mr. Nick Shroff - 972-378-1916
April 11(Tu) 6.00 to 9.00 pm	Venue to be decided	Yoga Nidra Contact – Mr. Nick Shroff - 972-378-1916
April 12	Leaving for Chicago	

4th Week: Chicago / Michigan Retreat

April 12 6.00 to 9.00 pm	Datta Kutir, 771 Cordial Drive, Des Plaines, IL 60018	Yoga Nidra
April 13 6.00 to 9.00 pm	Datta Kutir, 771 Cordial Drive, Des Plaines, IL 60018	Meeting with Old Sadhaks
April 14,15,16 Fri-Sat-Sun. Retreat (2 nights; 3 days)	Ganges Vivekananda Ashram 6723, 122nd Avenue, Fennville, Michigan 49408	Spiritual Retreat at Vivekananda Ashram Retreat Starts 9.00 am Fri.- Concludes Sunday after lunch Contact - Kalpana Patel Cell (224) 766-9714 Arvind Modi Cell (847) 909-9054
April 18 (Tu.)	Datta Kutir, 771 Cordial Drive, Des Plaines, IL 60018	Program on Meditation Contact – Mrs. Heena Pandya (224) 730-9601
April 19 & 20 (W & Th.)	Visit to Fort Wayne	
April 21 (F) 6.00 to 9.00 pm	Quad Cities Hindu Temple, 9801, 14th St., W Rock Island, IL 61201	Lecture on Household Harmony Contact – Mr. Ilesh Kurani - 563-650-1738
April 22nd -23rd 8.30 to 5.30 pm (Sat. Sun)	Quad Cities Hindu Temple, 9801, 14th St., W Rock Island, IL 61201	Reiki Seminar in English – 1st Level Contact – Mr. Ilesh Kurani - 563-650-1738
April 24	Departure from USA	4.00 pm by Delta Airlines