*The glories of the four Vaisnava Paramparas and their branches*

Course Overview

This course is an undertaking in glorifying the 4 vaisnava paramparas and their various branches with regards to their glorious history and meticulous philosophy, with special emphasis paid to varnasrama dharma and their relevance to our sampradaya.

This course is split into 4 modules with 2 sub-modules each sub-module has a duration of 90 minutes

Module 1

Sri-Sampradya

Sub-module 1 (90 mins): Brief overview and pastimes

1. Introduction to the tenets of Sri Vaishnavism and the chronology of the sampradaya with brief information on the most prominent acharyas in the sampradaya and their unique contribution to it
2. Brief understanding of the Azhwars, their divya prabhandam and their basic philosophy
3. Overview of the life of Sripad Ramanujacharya (as in the Ramanuja nootrandadi and yathiraja vaibhavam ), brief introduction to his extensive literature and commentaries
4. Narration of some of the intimate pastimes in connection to Sripad Ramanujacharya, his disciples and the 12 azhwars.
5. Brief overview of the 108 Divyadesam temples in connection with them

Sub-module 2(90 mins): The philosophy of Vishistadvaitam

1. Understanding the basic concepts of Vishistadvaitam, in terms the threefold differences, definition of god and living entities, the philosophy presented as a counter argument to mayawadi viewpoints
2. Excerpts from the Gita bhasya and the Sribhasyam of Sripad Ramanujacharya to better understand these concepts.
3. The various logical staments (vada) and conclusions used by the Acharya in a nutshell made simpler.

Module 2

Madhwa Sampradaya

Sub Module 1(duration 90 mins): Brief overview and pastimes

1. Introduction to the tenets of Madhwa parampara and the chronology of the sampradaya with brief information on the most prominent acharyas in the sampradaya and their unique contribution to it
2. Overview of the life of Sripad Madhwacharya(as in the Sumadhwa vijaya) brief introduction to his extensive literature and commentaries
3. Brief understanding of the Muni trayam ( Madhwa muni, Tikakritpadaru Jayatirta swami, Vyasatirtha Gurusarvabhouma) and their extensive commentaries and tikas.
4. The unique contribution of Raghavendra swami towards preaching the Vaishnava philosphy
5. Narration of some of the intimate pastimes in connection to Sripad Madhwacharya, Vadiraja Gurusarvabhouma, Vyasatirtha Gurusarvabhouma.
6. Narration of pastimes and the prominence of the haridasa koota with the likes of Purandara dasa, Kanakadasa etc and their leadership in spreading the kirtan movement across south India.
7. Brief Overview of the temples in Udupi and south India in connection with them.

Sub-module 2(90 mins): The philosophy of Dvaitam

1. Understanding the basic concepts of Dvaitam, in terms the fivefold differences, definition of God and living entities, the philosophy presented as a counter argument to mayawadi viewpoints (according to Mayawada khanadana tika).
2. Excerpts from the Sarvamoola grantha (Gita bhasya, bhasya, Anubhasya, Anu vyakhyana, Nyaya vivarana) of Sripad Madhwacharya to better understand these concepts.
3. References from Sriman Nyayasudha of Jayatirtha swami to better understand the excerpts.
4. The various logical staments (vada) and conclusions used by SrimadAcharya in a nutshell made simpler ( according to nava prameya)

Module 3

Pushti Marg of Vallabhacharya

Sub Module 1(duration 90 mins): Brief overview and pastimes.

1. Introduction to the tenets of Pushti Marg and the chronology of the sampradaya with brief information on the most prominent acharyas in the sampradaya and their unique contribution to it
2. The importance and integral part Vishnusawmi play within the Parampara.
3. Overview of the life of Sripad Vallabhacharya, brief introduction to his extensive literature and commentaries
4. Brief understanding of the Ashtachhap, their contribution to the kirtan movement.
5. Narration of some of the intimate pastimes in connection to Sripad Vallabhacharya, Vitthalnath Gusainji and the ashtachhap.
6. Brief Overview of the Chaurasi bhaitak and Nath Dwara.

Sub-module 2(90 mins): The philosophy of Shuddhadavitam

1. Understanding the basic concepts of Shuddhadvaitam, in terms of definition of god and living entities, the philosophy presented as a counter argument to mayawadi viewpoints (according Anubhasya).
2. Excerpts from the Tattvarth Dip Nibandh and subodhini of Sripad Vallabhacharya to better understand these concepts.
3. Brief introduction on the Sodash Granth and their importance in the parampara
4. The various logical staments (vada) and conclusions used by SrimadAcharya in a nutshell made simpler.
5. Brief introduction to the various practices of the Pushti Marg and their philosophical significance.

Module 4

Nimbarka sampradaya

Sub Module 1(duration 90 mins): Brief overview and pastimes.

1. Introduction to the tenets of Kumara sampradaya and the chronology of the sampradaya with brief information on the most prominent acharyas in the sampradaya and their unique contribution to it
2. Overview of the life of Sripad Nimbarkacharya (as per the oral tradition) and brief introduction to his extensive literature and commentaries
3. Narration of some of the intimate pastimes in connection to Sri Bhatta, Svabhurama Devacharya swami, Srinivas acharya and Kathiababa Acharyas.
4. Brief overview of the Nimbarka baitaks and the Sriji temple, Vrindavan.

Sub-module 2(90 mins): The philosophy of Dvaitadvaitam

1. Understanding the basic concepts of Dvaitadvaitam, in terms of definition of isvara,cit and acit. The implication of Para tantra satta bhava and Swatantra satta bhava
2. Excerpts from the Dasa shloki and Vedanta parijata saurabha to better understand these concepts.
3. Brief introduction on the Sodash Granth and their importance in the Parampara
4. The importance of the pancha sadhanas for growth in spiritual life
5. The various logical staments (vada) and conclusions used by Nimbarkacharya in a nutshell made simpler.