



Outreach



VOLUME 7 | EDITION 1
Special Edition (AYM Part 1)

AYM - The Sunrise of the 21st Century

Every so often, there comes a moment in history that will be forever remembered. These moments transform society, uplift mankind, and redefine our future. One such timeless moment was the Atmiya Yuva Mahotsav (AYM), which was held during the first week of January 2015.

AYM, inspired and organized by Guruhari Hariprasad Swamiji, was the culmination of Swamiji's efforts to spiritually motivate and uplift youths over the past 55 years. Swamiji has personally uplifted and transformed thousands of youths to live pious and morally-pure lives. These youths and devotees from around the globe and across India gathered at the Haridham temple to attend this once-in-a-lifetime celebration.



On the evening of December 31st, AYM began with a spiritually-infused opening ceremony and cultural program. The theme of the three-hour cultural program was 'Constructing a Living Temple.' It highlighted five essential qualities required to build a temple within our hearts. At the end of the program, as Swamiji sat in the central shrine of the temple on the stage, each youth felt as if Swamiji had taken a seat within the temple of their hearts!

The following morning on January 1st, 2015, the first of five sessions began with great enthusiasm. A New Year is the perfect time for a new beginning, and there was no better way to commence the New Year than to be sitting on the AYM ground in the presence of Swamiji! In the very first session, the discipline of the one hundred thousand youths and devotees in attendance



was witnessed by all as they sat in perfectly organized lines that extended from the stage all the way to the back gate!

Each session was filled with inspirational messages, cultural dances, and the

opportunity to have *darshan* and blessings of Swamiji and the five prominent saints from across India. The five saints included Shree Jinchandra Vijayji Maharaj, Shree Morari Bapu, Shree Swami Satyamitranand Giriji, Shree Rameshbhai Oza, and Shree Chidanand Saraswati Muniji. Because these five saints are of different spiritual backgrounds, the youths in attendance were extremely fortunate to learn unique moral lessons and get a glimpse of spirituality across India.

Because AYM was a celebration primarily for youths, many youths gave inspirational speeches and shared personal experiences of transformation. The profile of the youth speakers ranged from 8-year-old youngsters to working professionals. They shared experiences of how Swamiji helped them overcome anger, live with *Atmiyata* at home, remain humble and focused during studies, transform their lifestyle, and even avert death through divine blessings!

One of the biggest highlights was the *darshan* and blessings of Swamiji. Sitting in the center of the stage on a finely decorated *aasan*, Swamiji's presence was radiating with divinity and inspiring the soul of each youth sitting in the audience. Swamiji spoke about keeping our senses positive, living harmonious lives within families, the importance of having a saint in our lives, and keeping firm faith in God. Swamiji's *darshan*, blessings, and discourses provided youths with immense strength to live a positive and pious life.

Even before AYM began, Swamiji described its true glory by saying, "Something that billions of rupees can never buy will be attained at the Atmiya Yuva Mahotsav." Indeed, that is exactly what people experienced. A new direction in life, true wisdom, spiritual enlightenment, pious thoughts, fearlessness, a positive attitude, and inner happiness are just some of the gifts that everyone received by attending AYM.

At the end of AYM, it felt as if 75,000 temples were constructed in the 500,000 sq. feet! Undoubtedly, AYM will be etched in history as the true 'Sunrise of the 21st Century.' Even though AYM concluded on January 3rd, 2015, it was not an end, but a new beginning. For each person who attended, it was the dawn of a new life – a life filled with ever-lasting joy, bliss, and happiness.



Inspiration from Five Spiritual Leaders



Shree Jinchandra Vijayji Maharaj

Swamiji is someone who does not believe in making temples out of stone. He is someone who transforms this human body into a walking, breathing temple.

The biggest spiritual struggle is to eradicate ego. The primary factor that causes disruption of harmony in our family is ego. If this ego can be eradicated, then there will only be *Atmiyata* and harmony amongst us.

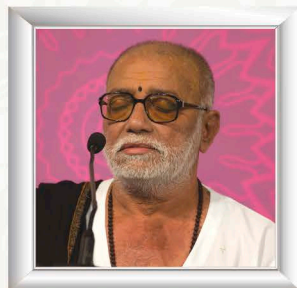
Saints are like “fire extinguishers.” They extinguish all kinds of internal and external fires in our lives. These fires are in the form of animosity between two people or a struggle to calm the mind and generate only positive thoughts. A saint is needed because it is impossible to extinguish these fires by one’s own strength.

Shree Morari Bapu

In this day and age, where addiction and vices have become a commonplace, Swamiji has taken the noble initiative of spreading love and happiness amongst today’s youths. As a result, an army of thousands of youths and devotees have gathered here today.

If you want to be youthful, then live with self-discipline; self-discipline should be inspired from within, but not from any pressure. If you are in a company of a saint, you will naturally learn how to stay in discipline, how to speak and see positively, and how to behave morally.

A youth should be living an ideal life, should be virtuous, courageous, and most importantly should be living with God’s grace and strength.



Shree Rameshbhai Oza

There are three things which are very difficult to attain: 1) a human body, 2) the understanding to walk on the path of spirituality and salvation, and 3) the association of a God-realized saint like Swamiji. We are extremely fortunate because we have attained all three!





Shree Chidanand Saraswati Muniji

✦ Instead of making yourself bigger, strive to make yourself better.

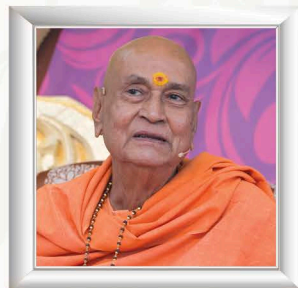
✦ Our thinking changes when we associate ourselves with the great. Once our thinking changes, our vision changes, and when our vision changes the world changes.

✦ What good would it do to go fast but lack direction? It is only through saints and celebrations like AYM wherein we can get speed in a true direction for experiencing transformation.

✦ This is the music we need today – the music of love, the music of harmony, the music of goodness, the music of non-violence and the music of compassion. We can listen to that music only with an open heart. We can learn the art of listening to such music through saints who will teach us the true meaning of surrendering ourselves.

Shree Swami Satyamitranand Giriji

✦ When I think of Swamiji's name (**Hari**prasad), I think to myself, the word "**Hari**" means someone God-like who redeems each soul from his sins and purifies him, and then offers that soul "**Prasad**" as blessings. Hence, I have not come here to give my blessings, but I am here to receive the divine's "**Prasad**". I know that if I get His **Prasad**, I will also receive His everlasting happiness.



✦ Whenever you do something for Swamiji, whenever you are performing seva to please Him, never be negligent and lazy. If you become lazy, then nothing will be accomplished. If you show enthusiasm to please Swamiji, then just as a flower radiates a nice fragrance in the atmosphere, you will also radiate the pure fragrance of spirituality and inspire others.

✦ Never let failure bring you down. Whenever you are faced with adverse situations, I urge you to have utmost faith in Swamiji and chant His name. I assure you that He will come to your rescue because your faith in Him will bring Him to you.



Enlightening Gems of Wisdom

Swamiji showered immense blessings upon the youths by delivering thought-provoking discourses throughout AYM. Each word spoken by Swamiji seemed to pierce straight into the soul of every youth and inspire them to live a more pious and positive life. By grasping onto even a single slogan or quote from Swamiji's divine discourse, we can gain new wisdom and transform our lives! Here is a glimpse of Swamiji's discourses:

- “ Practicing *satsang* is more important and valuable than earning billions of rupees every day.
- “ The bigger the building that you wish to make, the stronger the foundation needs to be. Similarly, *Pratham-16* (positive and proper thinking) and *Pratham-18* (keeping the senses positive) are the stepping stones and foundation to progress in *satsang*.
- “ The five *Vachanamruts* (*Gadhada Pratham-27, 37, 62 and Jetalpur-4, 5*) describe the attributes of one who has *nistha* (firm faith). Every day and every moment, keep thinking of the term *karta-harta* (which is one part of *nistha* and means that *Bhagwan* is the all-doer). Within one year, we must solidify our *nistha*.
- “ If our speaking tone changes in response to someone's behavior or in any situation, it means we still need to strive to strengthen our *nistha*.
- “ We have no right to judge anyone. 'Why did he do this?,' 'He should have done this instead,' and 'Why did he say this to me?' – we have to make a firm commitment starting today to never allow these three phases from entering our minds for even a fraction of a second in any situation.
- “ We all have to make one firm resolution today – never call your parents, friends, or fellow devotees by *tu*. Always call them by *tamme*.
- “ When you go home, everyone should be able to notice a positive difference in your life – they should be able to realize that you attended AYM.



- Total Size of AYM Campus = **18.7 million sq. feet (430 Acres)**
- Area of Main Sabha Tent = **500,000 sq. feet**
- Seating Capacity in Main Sabha Tent = **125,000 people**
- Size of Stage = **13,500 sq. feet**
- On-Site Lodging Accommodations = **90,000 people**
- Area of On-Site Lodging Accommodation = **2 million sq. feet**
- Dedicated Full-time Volunteers (swayam-sevako) = **12,000 sevako**
- Total Parking Capacity = **4,100 cars; 2,500 buses; 6,500 motorcycles**
- Total Meals Served in Four Days = **1.8 million**
- Kitchen Staff = **300 chefs; 5,000 servers; 1,000 dishwashers**

Cool Facts