



CHINMAYA MISSION
WASHINGTON REGIONAL CENTER
(A non-profit religious organization registered in Maryland)
Kailas Niwas, 46 Norwood Road, Silver Spring, MD 20905



Presents a

JNANA YAJNA FREE Evening Discourses

7:00 – 8:30 P.M.

June 23-26, 2009

on

MUKUNDA MALA

By

SWAMI ISHWARANANDA

Acharya, Chinmaya Mission, Southern California

at

CHINMAYAM, 46 Norwood Road, Silver Spring, MD 20905

'Mukunda Mala' is a beautiful composition expressing the purest devotion to the Lord. Literally, it means a *Garland for Mukunda* (Lord Krishna), the one who gives liberation. The composer Raja Kulasekhara Alvar, was the king of Travancore (Kerala), a scholar in Sanskrit and Tamil, and an ardent devotee of the Lord. In this text, we see the expression of para bhakthi where the devotee seeks nothing but devotion itself. Love for love's own sake is the purest form of love. This desireless devotion (nishkaama bhakthi) is no different from the egoless state of the Jnaani. A man of realization seeing the absurdity of personal desire, sheds it all and experiences supreme bliss. A devotee in total identification with the Lord also forgets all personal desires and feels ecstatic joy. Then it is only a matter of abiding in this state.

In 45 stanzas, the poet pours out his feelings for the Lord of his heart. We learn a number of valuable pointers by studying this text

- Those spiritual practices that lead us to union with the Lord
- Better understanding of the pain of worldly life and how to live with it
- Appreciate the ease of the path of bhakthi in purifying ourselves
- Conviction that there is no room for fear and insecurity when our heart is kindled with divine love

King or beggar, learned or illiterate, we can approach the Lord and make our life divine. This is the message of Mukunda Mala.



Swami Ishwarananda started his association with Chinmaya Mission, Bangalore where he served in various capacities. Under the guidance of Swami Brahmananda and inspirations from Param Pujya Swami Chinmayananda, he left the Software profession to join the Brahmachari Course in Sandeepany Sadhanalaya, Mumbai in 1991. Since then, he has served various Chinmaya Mission Centers. He was the resident Acharya of Chinmaya Mission, LA till 2001 when he became the Acharya of Sandeepany Sadhanalaya, Mumbai to oversee and teach Brahmachari course during 2002 - 2004. He returned to US as the Acharya of Chinmaya Mission centers at Tustin and Bakersfield, Southern California. Swamiji is a dynamic speaker and gives talks on Vedanta, stress management, management techniques and other such related fields. He presents complex subjects on Vedanta philosophy with ease accompanied by humor and wit. He has authored two highly acclaimed books: 'Conscious Living' and 'Silent Search'. Swamiji's free webcasts on www.chinmayachannel.com are well known across the world.

Driving Directions: I-495 to exit 28 North for New Hampshire Avenue (towards White Oak), drive approximately 6 miles and make a left on Norwood Road. CHINMAYAM is the 4th building on the left.

For details, send email to yajna2009@chinmayadulles.org or contact

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If you would like to host Bhiksha for Swamiji, please contact Devyani Kavathekar, devayu@yahoo.com