



ARTHA FORUM SILICON VALLEY 14th June, 2014

Artha Forum is an online community dedicated to connecting spirited entrepreneurs, professionals and family offices and bringing to them the relevance of ancient wisdom literature in contemporary business

Artha Forum is an independent not-for-profit initiative supported by Basil Growth Corporation.



Saratoga, CA

Ancient Wisdom Modern Business

There was excitement in the air!

A large group of distinguished guests gathered in the pleasant summer evening at the home of Silicon Valley Entrepreneur: Sushant and Namrata Patnaik. His Holiness Radhanath Swami was visiting and addressing them exactly after a year since the last program in the same place.

Guests had come eagerly and bringing along their friends to meet Swamiji and hear from him.

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H.H. Radhanath Swami's Address was titled:

"The Magic Within"



H.H. Radhanath Swami was accompanied by **H.G. Vaisesika Prabhu**, President, ISKCON San Jose and **H.G. Shyama Sundara Prabhu**. Some of the guests included **Mr Nitin Mehta**, Promoter & SVP Operations, Royal Viking Line, **Mr K.B. Chandrashekar**, former Exodus CEO, **Mr Damodar Reddy**, CEO, SutiSoft, **Mr Venk Shukla**, President, TIE Global, **Mr Ron Pitamber**, CEO, Heritage Hotels Group and **Mr Rushab Kamdar**, President, Rushab Lines, to name a few.

Radhanath Swami spoke on a wide range of topics mainly centered on The Magic Within.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY H.H. RADHANATH SWAMI

“Time is very precious. Time is very magical. You cannot see it, touch it, taste it, smell it or feel it with your skin. It is very powerful. By its influence all the planets will dissolve, the stars and sun will burn out, the ocean will dry up. In the mean time, our little bodies before we grow old will be diseased and die.”

He recounted an incident from the book *The Journey Home* and shared how he had visited the catacombs of dead monks in Rome. There were piles of skeletons and bones everywhere. A signboard with the words ‘What you are now, we used to be. What we are now, you will be.’ Had really made an impact on him. He said that

“It really does not matter whether we are Hindus or Muslims or Jains or Sikhs or agnostics or atheists or Christians or whatever; whether we are black or white or red or yellow; whether we are male or female; we are rich or poor; death is the common equalizer. At the bathing ghat when your body becomes ashes in the ground, it does not really matter what roles you played in this earth.”



Audience sitting in rapt attention for the talk



HH Radhanath Swami interacting with the guests

He said that, “Everywhere we can see miracles. The massive banyan tree that was beside me, how Krishna or God, I did not know His name at that time; put an entire banyan tree in this seed. I looked up at the sun; I was

thinking what magic that it is. It keeps burning; if you want to keep something burning you need fuel for that. All the energy in the world all the electricity, fire and everything is ultimately the energy of the sun being transformed in various ways. But the sun itself; there is no pipeline, putting gas to keep it burning. It has been burning for millions and millions and millions of years. It does not appear to be getting any smaller. Incredible! “

He shared, “One time a journalist asked Prabhupada – Swami, can you show me magic. Because swamis would sometime like to show magic. Prabhupada said – My magic is that I have made hippies into happies.”

He said “Everyone has infinite relevance. But one may forget that love. When we forget God’s love for us, we forget our love for God. And that “Ananda-mayo 'bhyasat”, the pleasure that comes from that love, when it’s forgotten, we look forward for so many other things of this world. And birth after birth after birth we’re distracted. But the sadhus, and the avatars, and the shastras; they are there to remind us who we really are and what our potential is. The infinite love is to be that instrument of love whatever we do.”

He shared many stories anecdotes and examples and concluded by saying:

“If we connect with the grace of God and if we live in the spirit of seva, in the spirit of service rather than the spirit of selfishness then even in this world we will transcend all the temporary happiness and distress. We will experience something so much deeper and higher – the ananda the nature of our soul. Nothing can take that away not even time, not even death. It is what we are all looking for. “anandambudhi-varadhanam prati-padam purnamritasvadanam” . If we can give these values to our children, to our grandchildren, to the society around we have given the greatest expression of love. This world does not lack anything but values. Bhakti or Sanatan Dharma is to give foundation to build this value. A foundation that no storms of temptations fear or anything else can shake. It is in that integrity we can truly be instruments of compassion and find real happiness and give the world this happiness and power to find this happiness. That is the magic that is within us.”

This eye opening session was followed by a round of question and answers and a sumptuous dinner for all.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to express our gratitude to Sushant and Namrata Patnaik for hosting the event and the team of dedicated contributors for the overall management of the event. Artha Forum sincerely appreciates the help received from all the volunteers.

For more information on Artha Forum past and forthcoming events, please contact: Ms Ruchi A., Executive Director on M: +91-98333-54036 or write to ruchi@arthaforum.com

Please log on to www.arthaforum.com

Link to photos of the event: <http://arthaforum.com/artha-silicon-valley-2014/>

Link to audio of the event: <http://goo.gl/TxAYSA>

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Artha Forum also supports **Serve Cows** (www.servecows.org) an initiative aimed at looking after the welfare of cows.