

## Swami Atmapriyananda

Swami Atmapriyananda is the Vice Chancellor (Executive Head) of Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University, a multi-campus University with 'off-campus' Centres spread all over India, with main campus at Belur Math, where the Headquarters of Ramakrishna Mission is also located. This fledgling University is trying to actualize Swami Vivekananda's educational vision and devoted to teaching and research in a variety of unique Faculties on certain 'thrust areas' which are also 'gap areas' in that these areas are scarcely addressed by other conventional Universities, through the following Schools: (i) School of Indian Heritage, (ii) School of Mathematical Sciences, (iii) School of Agriculture and Rural Development and (iv) School of Rehabilitation Sciences and Physical Education. On account of its unique features, particularly its emphasis on social relevant 'gap areas', this new University has been awarded full membership of 'Global University Network for Innovation' (GUNI), a Europe-based global organization networking Universities with social commitment.

Swami Atmapriyananda received his Ph.D. from the University of Madras, India, in Theoretical Physics for his work in elementary particle theory and has a number of research publications in reputed international journals. Inspired by Ramakrishna-Vivekananda ideology, he joined the Ramakrishna Order of monks in 1978 and was posted at Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira, a premier college of Ramakrishna Mission at Belur Math, where he taught Physics for nearly 25 years besides serving as Vice-Principal and Principal for 19 years before taking charge as Vice Chancellor of Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University in July 2005.

As a monk and an educationist, his present interests are: (i) Swami Vivekananda's educational vision education for character building in the youth (ii) Yoga-Vedanta vis-à-vis modern science, (iii) Ramakrishna-Vivekananda thought in the context of present day challenges, (iv) Consciousness Studies as taught in the Upanishads, (v) Synthesis of the four yogas as taught by Swami Vivekananda and Bhagavad-Gita, and (vi) Harmony of religions as lived and taught by Sri Ramakrishna. He has a good number of publications on the above subjects in the journals of Ramakrishna Order and of various organizations.

Swami Atmapriyananda participates on invitation in various religious and educational seminars, symposia, colloquia, workshops and conferences in India and abroad organized by Universities, research institutes and religious organizations on the subjects of his interest as mentioned above. He toured Europe twice during 2008-2009 on invitation to act as a Resource Person at international and national yoga conferences in Italy organized respectively by *Sarvayoga International* and *Italian Yoga Federation*. He is a member of the Elijah Board of World Religious Leaders, an arm of Elijah Interfaith Institute, a global organization working for interreligious understanding and peace. He was an invited speaker at the Parliament of World Religions organized in Melbourne, Australia, in December 2009, on *The Training of Religious Leadership in a Multi-religious World*. He attended on invitation a meeting of religious leaders of various world religions at the 'Guerrand

Hermes Forum for the Interreligious Study of Mysticism and Spirituality', a project of the Elijah Interfaith Academy and Elijah Board of World Religious Leaders, held at Marakesh, Morocco, during 22-26 February 2011. On his way back, he had lively talks and interactions with groups of interested spiritual seekers at Dubai and Abu Dhabi. He has also been nominated as a member of the Executive Council of *World Day of Prayer and Action for Children*, an organization under Arigatou International, a faith-based NGO with Secretariat in New York, working for children's welfare all over the world and attended a meeting of their Executive Council in New York during July 2011, on which occasion he also toured Vedanta Centres at Chicago, San Francisco, Hollywood and other places in USA giving lectures and interacting with groups of interested seekers. He has been invited again to Marrakesh, Morocco, for a second meeting of 'Guerrand Hermes Forum for the Interreligious Study of Mystical and Spiritual Life' followed by a meeting the Elijah Board of World Religious Leaders in Oxford, UK, in March 2012. He has also attended a second meeting of the Executive Council of Arigatou International in Brazil in March 2012, followed by an international yoga conference mainly for European yoga seekers held in Assisi, Italy, during March 2012 where he spoke on the theme: 'Meditation according to ancient and modern traditions, with reference to the Ramakrishna tradition'.

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