

Retreat Guidelines

SRF/YSS Monastic-Led Retreat



“*Silence and seclusion are the secrets of success. In this modern life of activity there is only one way to separate yourself from its ceaseless demands: get away from it once in a while.*”

- Paramahansa Yogananda



We are very happy that you have taken the opportunity to join us for this special one-day monastic-led online retreat.

The Self-Realization Fellowship retreatant's pocket companion sums up the best attitude to take while on retreat:

“During retreat your part is to relax and become receptive to the omnipresent blessings of the Lord. Let go of your outer activities; become receptive to God and let Him be the supreme thought in your mind and the burning desire of your heart.”

On the following page are some additional suggestions to help you make the most of your retreat.

PREPARATION

- If appropriate, share with those in your home that you will keep silence for the duration of the retreat.
- You may wish to select a room for your retreat ahead of time that will be conducive to retreat; fresh air is helpful to remain alert.
- It can be beneficial to choose which electronic device you will use to join the retreat beforehand, so that, if possible, you can turn off notifications, calls and messages on that device to avoid unnecessary distractions.
- Remember to charge the device you will be using the night before.
- If you will be using a mobile device to join the retreat, try to connect your device to a wi-fi network, if one is available, or you may wish to consider purchasing additional data. (Using Zoom on a mobile device for 8 hours can use up to 3GB of data.)
- Getting a good night's rest before the retreat will make it easier to concentrate and go deep in meditation.

DURING THE RETREAT

- Strive to maintain silence throughout the retreat.
- If possible, keep your device plugged into a power outlet to keep it charged during the retreat.
- To help you remain interiorized and to keep your thoughts one-pointedly on God, we encourage you to put aside all other activities during the retreat and participate fully in the retreat schedule, as your circumstances allow.
- Continue in the spirit of the retreat during break times. A few suggested activities include: practicing deep breathing while going for a walk, practicing the SRF/ YSS Energization Exercises, or reading a selection from Paramahansa Yogananda's writings or the SRF/ YSS Lessons.

We realize everyone's home circumstances are different, and simply encourage you to apply the spirit of the suggestions given above if it is not possible to follow any of these suggestions literally.



May the blessings of God and the Gurus be upon you as you offer this time for God alone.