

To serve God's manifestations and to abide in God's spirit is the real essence of life.

In this entire universe there is no closer relationship than the one between you and God!

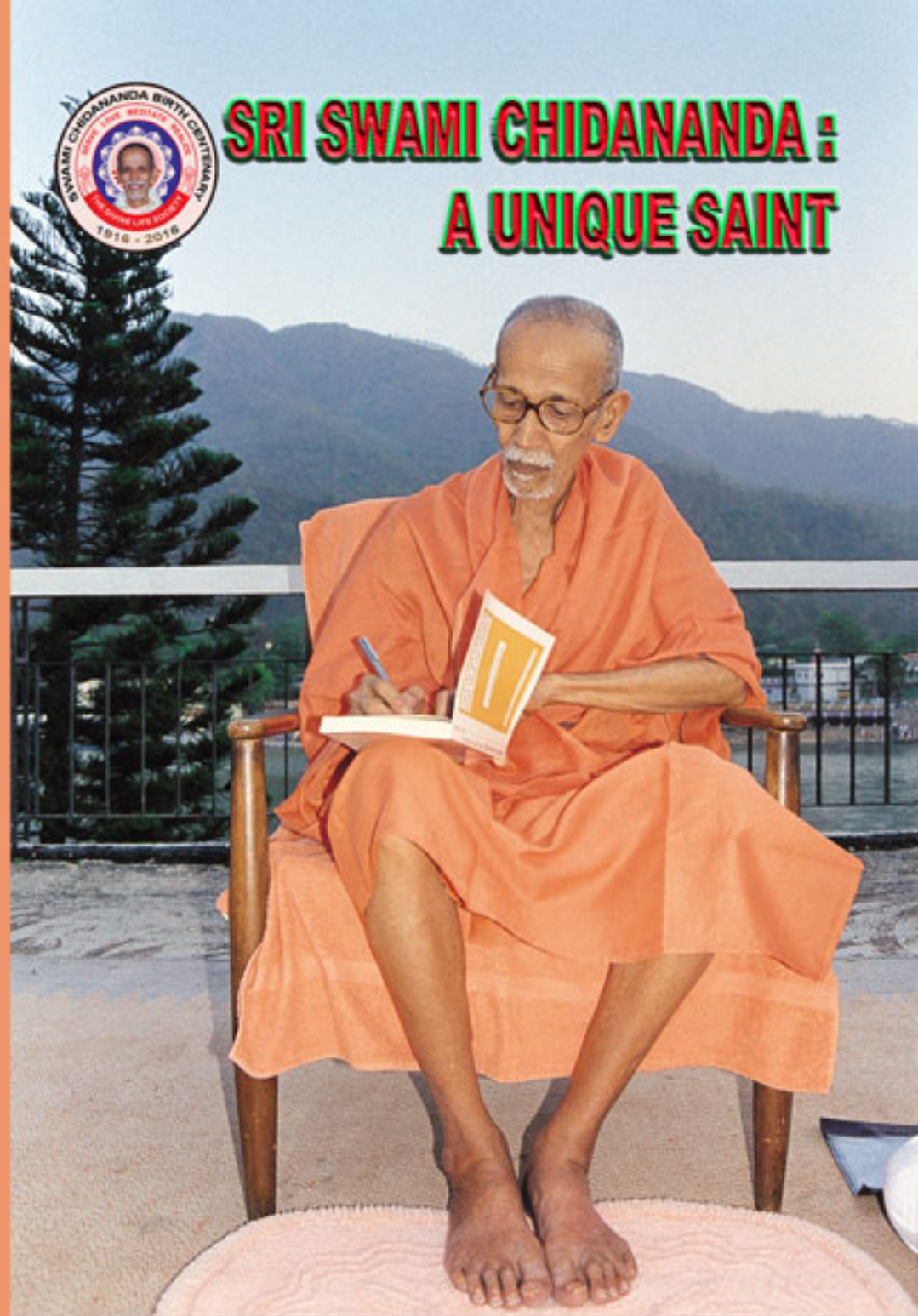
*Swami Chidananda*  
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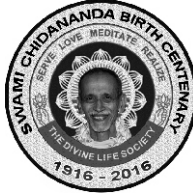
# SRI SWAMI CHIDANANDA : A UNIQUE SAINT



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## **PUBLISHERS' NOTE**

24th September 2016 marks the auspicious occasion of Birth Centenary of Worshipful Sri Swami Chidanandaji Maharaj. To commemorate this sacred occasion, the Headquarters Ashram has decided to bring out one hundred booklets by and on Worshipful Sri Swami Chidanandaji Maharaj for free distribution.

We are immensely happy to bring out our new publication 'Swami Chidananda-A Unique Saint' which is an English translation of a Hindi book 'Sa Mahatma Sudurlabhah' already published by us. In Sadgurudev Sri Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj's words, "God reveals Himself in a saint in His full glory, infinite power, wisdom, love, compassion and bliss. Saints are the living symbols of religion and the true benefactors of humanity." Worshipful Sri Swami Chidanandaji Maharaj, bearing full testimony to Sadgurudev's words, indeed has been such a unique saint. This book presents some sublime and elevating anecdotes from the saintly life of Pujya Sri Swamiji Maharaj.

We express our heartfelt gratitude towards Ms. Medha Sachdev for her loving service of rendering English translation of the Hindi book. We do hope that 'Swami Chidananda-A Unique

Saint' will prove an inspiring reading for one and all and will surely be welcomed by the English knowing devotees of Worshipful Sri Swami Chidanandaji Maharaj.

May the abundant blessings of the Almighty Lord, Sadgurudev Sri Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj and Worshipful Sri Swami Chidanandaji Maharaj be upon all.

—The Divine Life Society

## **SRI SWAMI CHIDANANDA : A UNIQUE SAINT**

This booklet is an offering at the holy feet of Divinity Incarnate Sadgurudev Sri Swami Chidananda Saraswatiji Maharaj on the auspicious occasion of his birth centenary with immense love and regard.

In the words of Sadgurudev Sri Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj, saints and sages are devoid of 'mine-ness' and 'I-ness'. They are free from lust, anger and greed. They love all beings as their own Self and are full of dispassion and mercy. They always speak what is true, sweet and beneficial for all. Without getting involved in others' complaints or criticism, they regard all impartially. Ever peaceful, serene, joyful, fearless and generous, they never ask for anything but always believe in giving. Compassion, love, charity and kindness become their nature and they always return good for evil. In the entire world, such a genuine sage and his company are very rare.

Just as the spring season delights and fascinates the world by its fragrant, gentle breeze and newly born twigs and blossoms, so also, the great saints who have crossed the ocean of this Samsara, bestow happiness, peace and Ananda on mankind by making them cross this formidable ocean.



Once Gurudev Sri Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj told Swami Yajnavalkyanandaji, “You do not know him (Swami Chidananda) truly; rarely does one get to know him. He is beyond anybody’s imagination. Your intellect will fail to comprehend him; he is such a great soul. I have come here to prove his greatness.”

On seeing a supra-human being who is endowed with extraordinary purity, righteousness, generosity, nobility, goodness, philanthropy, lofty character and knowledge, we say that if such a supra-human being exists in the universe, how can we deny the existence of God Almighty? Otherwise, where would one find such rare traits? When we see such qualities, we have the feeling that we may not have seen God but we have surely seen godliness.

To truly understand a saint like Sri Swami Chidanandaji Maharaj, one should himself be a saint like Sri Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj or Sri Swami Chidanandaji Maharaj. It is simply impossible for this Sevak (servant) to pen down anything regarding Guru Maharaj, nevertheless, whatever I have beheld, while I was in his service, is being presented here so that we all may learn something from his holiness’ life. We all believe that the life of Swamiji Maharaj is a living example of the Vedanta philosophy. Swamiji Maharaj has not only delivered discourses on scriptures like

the Gita and the Upanishads, but has practically lived that in his life. We all are indeed blessed that we have gained the opportunity to be in his presence.

(‘Guru Maharaj’, ‘Swamiji Maharaj’ and ‘Swamiji’ should be understood for Sri Swami Chidanandaji Maharaj.)

### OM

It must be around 8.30 P.M. in December, 1994. The car of Guru Maharaj stopped at Sivananda Centenary Boys’ High School Guru Kutir at Khandgiri in Bhubaneswar. It must have been 6-7 metres distance between the gate and the Guru Kutir with a width of 3-4 meters. Marigold plants were glorifying the path on either side. The plants of Dahlia, roses etc. could also be seen. There was a little light in the veranda of Guru Kutir that was dimly illumining the path. Guru Maharaj got down from the car and the Sevak present there bowed before him. But Guru Maharaj, saying Om Namo Narayanaya to all, sat down on the path-way then and there only; as if he were engrossed somewhere else. In the beginning, no one understood what the matter was. Guru Maharaj constantly stared at one of the plants of marigold. Suddenly, everyone realised that a small twig of the plant had somehow snapped off with its head hanging on one side.

Torch and gas-light were brought. After inspecting thoroughly in the light, Guru Maharaj said, "Bring a card-board and thread." The Sevaks said, "Swamiji, we shall bandage the twig carefully. Please come inside and take a little rest." The reason was Guru Maharaj had travelled a long distance of 120 kilometres by car. But Guru Maharaj did not reply. Sevak brought thread and cardboard. Guru Maharaj very cautiously bandaged the twig with the help of cardboard just as a person's fractured limb is plastered. Swamiji asked Sevak to hold the cardboard and tied the thread with his own hands. Only after having assured himself did he take rest. It took Guru Maharaj nearly 20-25 minutes to accomplish the task. Indeed, this incident cannot be described, nor can it be penned down because the intense feeling, devotion, dedication and concentration with which Guru Maharaj did this, cannot be truly related in words. What a non-dual vision Guru Maharaj has! As if he himself undergoes the agony felt by the plants and trees and understands their language! In the words of Narsi Mehta:

*Vaishnava jana to tene kahiye,  
Je peer paraai jaane re.*

Know them to be true Vaishnavites i.e. devotees of the Lord, who feel the suffering of the others.

To put it in the words of the Srimad Bhagavadgita:

*Yo Mam Pashyati Sarvatra  
Sarvam cha mayi pashyati  
Tasyaham na pranashyami  
Sa cha me na pranashyati. (Gita: 6.30)*

He who sees me everywhere, and sees everything in Me, he never becomes separated from Me, nor do I become separated from him.

## OM

In October 2004, Swamiji Maharaj was taking a stroll in Shanti Niwas, Dehradun, from the gate up to the lawn. It must be around 5 P.M. Two Sevak swamijis were walking on either side of Swamiji Maharaj while the others were following him. Two Sevaks were flying off flies and mosquitoes from around Swamiji Maharaj with help of a folded dhoti. At this moment, one mosquito was seen hovering around the feet of Swamiji Maharaj. Efforts were made to ward it off but it would not budge, as if it was intent on following Swamiji Maharaj. All eyes were on that mosquito; Swamiji Maharaj walking to and fro from the gate up to the lawn, the mosquito regularly following him. When Swamiji Maharaj was made aware of this fact, he said, "This mortal coil (indicating his body) must, in some way, be indebted to it, that is why it is following me. When

the debt will be clear, it will fly away.” While Swamiji Maharaj was saying so, the mosquito came and touched (or bit), Swamiji Maharaj and flew away. Swamiji Maharaj resumed his walk. Now, the mosquito was not there. Perhaps, the secret behind the words of Guru Maharaj is: If a mosquito can be free after following Guru Maharaj, then we are sure to attain emancipation if we follow the path shown by Gurudev Sri Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj and Guru Maharaj.

## OM

One day, in 1995, during the stay of Guru Maharaj in the Guru Kutir of Sivananda Centenary Boys’ High School, Guru Maharaj was about to have filter coffee (Madras coffee). He had not yet started having it, when a dog was heard coughing. The coughing was extraordinarily long as if the dog was crying. Guru Maharaj uttered ‘Om, Om’ to call Prashant Mishraji from his room. As the latter came, Swamiji said, “A dog is coughing behind the Kutir. Take along 4-5 pieces of bread and give him one by one to eat.” Mishraji and Sevak took bread behind the Kutir but did not find any dog there. We searched around the Kutir, hostel and the school also, but failed to locate it. By the time we returned, Guru Maharaj had already finished the coffee. We informed his good

self that the dog was nowhere to be seen in the entire campus.

After a little while, Guru Maharaj came out to go on the terrace for a little walk. As he was about to ascend the step, the dog was heard howling again. It was a little dark by now. There was no boundary wall around Guru Kutir as it is there now. Bamboo sticks alone were erected to serve the purpose. Guru Maharaj went towards the rear side of the Kutir and started searching for it with the help of torch and gas-light. Bread was also brought for the dog. Suddenly, the dog appeared just where Guru Maharaj was standing holding the bamboo-stick. It appeared as if the dog was familiar with Guru Maharaj and wanted to accept the 'Prasad' from his holy hands only. Hence, when Guru Maharaj did not come out, it did not come into view and now approached on seeing Guru Maharaj. Guru Maharaj sat down and fed it with his own hands, gently moving his hand over its forehead. The dog was very sick and had lost much hair over its body and was too ugly to look at! We would, perhaps, have felt reluctant to touch it even. The same night, someone had an appointment with Guru Maharaj, but he seemed to be in no hurry. After a little while, Guru Maharaj got up and went up the terrace. The dog also went away. The incident reveals the indescribable yearning of the dog and the

compassion and pity shown by Swamiji Maharaj. The dog was fortunate enough indeed! After that, it was never seen again.

*Shuni chaiva shwapaake cha Panditah  
samadarshinah*

Sages look with an equal eye a Brahmana, a dog and an outcaste. They see in all of them One Immortal Self.

## OM

Normally, a person is known by his behaviour. Everyone exhibits his love and pays regard to someone who is more important, more respectable and senior to him. Rarely does one show love and respect towards one who is somehow low in cadre as compared to them. Gurudev Sri Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj has said in the Universal Prayer—

*Let us behold Thee in all these names  
and forms.*

*Let us serve Thee in all these names  
and forms.*

Whatever Swamiji Maharaj taught others, he followed it in his own life.

At Shanti Niwas, in Dehradun, a barber named Qayyum, used to come for Swamiji's Mundan (shaving of the head). Those who have been to Shanti Niwas, must have seen that

Swamiji used to have Mundan where his wheel chair is kept. That place is narrow in width but it has more depth. The paraphernalia for Mundan was kept ready in time. During winters, the place was kept warm through a room-heater. After having his breakfast, Qayyum used to wait for Swamiji. As Swamiji Maharaj came out of his room, he used to say, “Allah-hu-Akbar-Bismilla-hir-Rehmaanir Rahim Alahamdu Lillahi Rabbil Aalmin!”

By that time, Guru Maharaj used to reach the place. Then he used to bow low and greet Qayyum with folded hands, saying, “Assalaam Alekum!” Qayyum also reciprocated Swamiji by saying, “Walekum Assalaam!”

Getting seated, Guru Maharaj used to call Qayyum and place his head on his feet. He would ask Qayyum to lift one of his feet taking support of the wall. As he lifted his foot, Guru Maharaj would apply the dust of his foot over his head and eyes. Then Qayyum was asked to lift the other foot. The same was repeated with the other foot. Two envelopes and two packets of Prasad were kept ready beforehand to be given to him. One of the envelopes bore the honorarium with his name ‘Qayyumji’ written over it, while the other one bore the Bakhshish with ‘Qayyumji’ written over it. Guru Maharaj himself used to write it in Hindi.



Both the envelopes were prepared on different occasions bearing the amount accordingly. On festivals like Holi, Eid, Diwali, Muharram, Ramzan, the amount was comparatively larger. One of the packets of the Prasad was for Qayyum's children containing a variety of chocolates and biscuits. The other packet was the usual one containing Soan-Papri, two packets of namkeen and two packets of biscuits. This being done, Swamiji Maharaj used to sit straight closing his eyes as if he were meditating. A cloth was put around him before Mundan and then the ceremony started. Qayyum was too loving and careful while doing Swamiji's Mundan. After the Mundan, the Sevaks around Swamiji Maharaj used to examine if it was done properly or not. Then Swamiji Maharaj used to bow before him in the same manner as he did in the beginning and never forgot to pay thanks to him. He used to tell him, "You make all look handsome; it appears as if the age gets reduced by some years." Sometimes he used to ask, "You read Namaz daily? On Fridays, go to the mosque and read Namaz. If you are unable to go, read it wherever you are at the moment." Once, at the time of Namaz, an Asana and cap were purchased and gifted to him. Conveying thanks, Swamiji Maharaj used to go into his room. This is the external vision through which we beheld all this.

But Swamiji's gestures are simply inexplicable. *Amaninaa manadena*—to be devoid of egoism and pay regard to others can be learnt only from Swamiji Maharaj.

*Trinadapi suneechena tarorapi sahisnuna  
Amaninaa manadena keertaneeyah sada  
Harih*

One who is humbler than blade of grass, more tolerant than a tree, who does not seek honour for himself but gives respect to all is worthy to sing the name of Lord.

## OM

The chief priest of Badrinath is known as Rawalji. Once, the Rawalji, having sought permission, came with some of his assistants to have Darshan of Swamiji Maharaj. Swamiji Maharaj had already instructed the Sevaks regarding the seats on which Rawalji and his assistants would be seated. A white cloth was to be spread over the chair on which Rawalji was to sit. After everyone's getting seated, Filter coffee was to be served. Swamiji had also instructed that the Prasad should comprise of a variety of dry fruits, a basket of fruits for Rawalji, garlands etc. The seat reserved for Rawalji was to be placed on the right side of Swamiji's seat. Rawalji reached Shanti Niwas along with his assistants in right time. They were, perhaps, seventeen in all. Sevak

started preparing Madras coffee and packets of Prasad for everyone. Before the coffee and the Prasad packets were ready, Guru Maharaj came out of his room into the hall, saying, “Jai Badri Vishal!”

As Guru Maharaj entered the hall, he took off his shawl and cap and prostrated before Rawalji thrice, saying, “Jai Badri Vishal!” Rawalji also prostrated before Swamiji. Swamiji Maharaj garlanded Rawalji with a huge rose garland, presented him the shawl and gave the Pranami-envelope. When Swamiji was seated, Rawalji presented Swamiji the Prasadi Uttareeya of Bhagawan Badrinath along with sandalwood, Tulsi-Prasad etc. Swamiji reverentially accepted the Prasad and kept it in a plate. He asked all of us to offer the Pranami-envelope to Rawalji. Envelopes bearing money were already handed over to us beforehand. Everyone including Brigadier Sabbarwalji prostrated before Rawalji one by one and offered the envelope. In the end, this Sevak prostrated before Rawalji. As Sevak was about to offer the envelope, another Sevak called this self by name and said, “The entire coffee has spilled out over the gas-burner. Although this self had slowed down the gas, still it got spilled out. These words distracted the attention of Sevak. Actually, at that moment, Sevak was holding the envelope in his right hand,

the other hand was away and, instead of looking at Rawalji, Sevak was looking towards the kitchen. Sevak was at a distance of about a foot from Swamiji. Swamiji Maharaj was observing this behaviour of Sevak. Suddenly Swamiji Maharaj roared, "What is this?" Such a thundering voice diverted the attention of Sevak and the envelope fell down from the hand. Quickly it was lifted from the ground. Swamiji said, "What's this? Is this the manner of presenting something to a reverend person? As if a postman is handing over the letter! You yourself are not aware as to whom you are offering something. Even the person, to whom you are to offer, has not seen you. You did not even give it in his hands. It should be held with both the hands and offered with great reverence. Then you should prostrate before him. Why are you behaving mechanically?"

Sevak begged forgiveness from Swamiji with folded hands, "Sorry, Swamiji, it was my fault." Swamiji Maharaj kept quiet at that moment. Obeying him, the envelope was offered to Rawalji with both the hands and later Sevak prostrated before him. He felt dejected as his behaviour was not up to the mark that day and consequently Guru Maharaj was displeased with him. But at the same time, he felt happy also because Guru Maharaj had corrected the mistake on the part of

Sevak. This instruction will ever remain unforgettable in Sevak's life.

Sevak resumed the work and prepared filter coffee for everyone. Coffee was to be brought for everyone in the hall, and that too, in front of Swamiji Maharaj. Lurking fear was there in the mind lest there should be some mistake again. Remembering Gurudev, Sevak, along with a Swamiji, brought coffee in the hall. First of all, it was served to Rawalji and later on, to others. Filter coffee has an excellent aroma. Swamiji Maharaj said, "Prepare coffee for me too." Normally, coffee, milk, sugar etc. are served separately. Swamiji Maharaj usually prepares it himself. Swamiji Maharaj was served coffee in his cup. Everyone had coffee. Numerous discussions were held on this occasion—the penance of Nara-Narayana, Lord Krishna's sending away Uddhavaji to Badri Vishal for penance, installation of Badrinathji's idol by Adi Sankaracharya etc. Sevak had, by that time, prepared packets of Prasad for everyone. Swamiji Maharaj presented the basket of fruits to Rawalji and gave Prasad to others too.

As Rawalji got up to go back, Swamiji Maharaj rose from his seat and prostrated before him. Some rose petals were scattered around Rawalji. When Swamiji stood up, he collected those petals and said, "Oji, place these Prasadi

flowers in a small plate and keep it at the Puja-Sthal. The flower petals were duly kept at the place of worship. Such a wonderful thought, such a lofty state, deep feeling and sublime vision is worth pondering over! Swamiji Maharaj came out to see off Rawalji. This Sevak got the rare opportunity to help Swamiji Maharaj wear his sandals. At that moment, Swamiji Maharaj gently moved his hand over the head of Sevak. Sevak looked up at Swamiji Maharaj and Swamiji also looked down at Sevak. That look had an affection of worth crores of mothers which is simply indescribable.

### OM

There is a temple of Jagannathji in the Madhuvan Ashram near Kailash Ashram in Rishikesh. Each year Ratha-Yatra is organised there. Sri Swami Bhaktiyogaji Maharaj of Madhuvan Ashram had come to Shanti Niwas , Dehradun in 2005 to have Darshan of Swamiji Maharaj. As Guru Maharaj entered the hall, he lay prostrate before Swami Bhaktiyogaji, saying, “Jai Jagannath! Jai Balabhadra! Jai Subhadra Mata!” Sri Swami Bhaktiyogaji also prostrated before Swamiji Maharaj. Later on, Swami Bhaktiyogaji said, “Swamiji, you are akin to our Guru, quite senior to us. It does not look nice that you should bow before this servant.”

Guru Maharaj said, “You are the servant of Bhagavan Jagannath Mahaprabhu. That is why I bow before you. The right way to have the vision of the Lord is through inner eyes. Mortal eyes only reveal God’s Maya and His Power. To behold God in whatever we perceive is the right way of perception. God seated within you dwells inside each and everyone. This thought should ever be kept in mind.”

More such discussions were held. Later on, Guru Maharaj gifted him ‘Vairagya Mala’ by Gurudrv Sri Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj along with a fruit-basket.

## OM

Those who have been to Puri for Darshan of Jagannath Maha Prabhu must have noticed the finger-prints of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu on the wall behind the Garuda Stambha inside the temple. These had got imprinted while Chaitanya Mahaprabhu was overwhelmed having Darshan of Lord Sri Jagannath. It looks that the pillar was not made of stone, but of mud or butter as if! Sevak wondered during childhood whether this could happen at all!

Swamiji Maharaj used to come out of his room for a walk every day. First, he used to do Pranam before Gurudev’s chair kept at Puja-Sthal in the hall. The bungalow – Shanti Niwas initially

belonged to Sri B.N.Kaul. He donated it to the ashram. It was Sarakeshwari Mataji's intense desire that Gurudev Sri Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj should sanctify their house by visiting it. Once, when Kaul Sahab and Mataji were away, Sadguru Sri Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj came to Shanti Niwas with some of his disciples. He sat on the sofa kept in the hall and did a little Kirtan. He had Madras coffee too. When Kaul Sahab and Mataji came to know that Gurudev had come to their house, did Kirtan and had coffee, their joy knew no bounds. A picture of Gurudev was placed on the sofa where Gurudev had sat, so that no one else should sit there. Later on, it was replaced by Gurudev's Paduka. Since then, Swamiji Maharaj used to place his head on Gurudev's Paduka and offer Pranam. This took Swamiji around 20 minutes to do so. When Swamiji Maharaj was not keeping good health, then also he used to come on wheel-chair and offer Pranam to Gurudev while sitting on it. It took the same duration of about 20-25 minutes. After offering prayers in the hall, Swamiji used to bow before Tulsi-chaura outside the veranda. Swamiji had got Tulsi-chaura built at this spot. He used to say that Tulsi is no plant, but 'Bhagavati-incarnate'.



*Vrindavrindaavani vishwapoojitaa*  
*vishwapavani*  
*Pushpasaaraa nandini cha Tulsi*  
*krishnajeevani*  
  
*Mahaprasaadajanani sarvasaubhagya*  
*vardhini*  
*Aadhivyadhi hara nityam Tulsi twaam*  
*namostute*  
  
*Vrindayai tulasidevyai priyayai keshavasya*  
*cha*  
*Vishnubhaktiprade devi satyavatyai namo*  
*namah*

On the Chaura, Swamiji Maharaj first planted the Tulsi plant and then offered Arghya, Gandha (incense), Kumkum, Pushpa (flowers), Dhoop-deep and then did Arati. Then Swamiji Maharaj used to circumambulate around Tulsi three times. It was at that time that Swamiji had given instructions for the prayers to be offered there twice a day – morning and evening which is being followed till date.

Every day, it took nearly thirty minutes for Swamiji Maharaj to offer prayers and do circumambulation of Tulsi three times. Since the time he started using wheel chair, he could not do its Parikrama but even then it took thirty minutes for him to offer prayers. During this, Swamiji

Maharaj used to chant some Stotras as if he were conversing with Tulsi Mataji. He used to pray for the welfare of the world; that everyone should be rid of pains and sorrows – all this was done very slowly and with deep Bhava. Various Mudras and gestures of Swamiji's hands expressed a lot. But it was beyond our understanding. After this, he used to have a little walk—sometimes on the ground-floor and sometimes on the terrace. After the walk, Swamiji Maharaj again used to chant some Stotras and Mantras before the Puja-Sthala and repeat the prayers. His wheel-chair used to face the place of worship and, folding his hands, he offered prayers with great love and devotion.

*Tvam hi Vishnurviramchistvam tvam cha devo  
maheshwarah*

*Tvameva shaktirooposi nirgunastvam  
sanatanah*

*Yasya deve parabhaktiryatha deve tatha  
gurau*

*Tasyaite kathitaa hyarthah prakashante  
mahatmanah.*

*Yachchakinchijagatsarvam drishyate  
shrooyate'pi vaa  
Antarbahishcha tatsarvam vyapya naranah  
sthitah*



offering Pranams, Swamiji used to go back into his room.

One day, while offering Pranams, Swamiji Maharaj had said, “Oji, in the morning and evening, whenever you do Arati, offer Pranams to Gurudev; offer it on behalf of Sarakeshwari Kaul Mataji too.”

## OM

Each day, Swamiji Maharaj used to offer Pranams at Tulsi-chaura before going for his walk. Whenever it rained, Swamiji Maharaj used to offer Pranams to Tulsiji from the veranda itself in Shanti Niwas. It is a challenging task to protect the Tulsi from extreme cold during December and January. Sometimes, it used to be covered during night, sometimes it was placed in a mud-pot (Gamla) and sometimes, it was kept under the sun during the day to keep it healthy, even then it was difficult to be preserved. In the first week of April, 2008, a small Tulsi plant was planted over the Chaura. In the evening, when Swamiji Maharaj came for worship, he said, “I am unable to have Darshan of Mataji. Make her visible by placing some mud.” Then and there, some more mud was put in order to raise the level of Tulsiji so that Swamiji Maharaj could have her Darshan. Then Swamiji Maharaj bowed before her. Tulsi grew leaps and bounds. Till July-August, it was full

grown. On 28th August, at 7 P.M., Sevak offered prayers before Tulsi like every day. The same night, at 8:11, Swamiji Maharaj entered Mahasamadhi. The next day, after the Jal-Samadhi of Swamiji Maharaj, we reached Shanti Niwas at 10:00 A.M. Before going inside, as Sevak went to bow before the Tulsi, the spectacle was simply unbelievable; it appeared as if mother Tulsi had dried many days ago. The plant was fully green a day earlier in the evening. Surprising! There is no reason for a plant or tree to get dried during the rainy season. One of the Swamijis said that along with Swamiji Maharaj, Tulsi Mataji had also left. Let Tulsi Mataji be kept in Swamiji's room. Today also, the same Tulsi plant is kept at the place where Swamiji Maharaj used to offer worship.

Jaya Jaya Maa Tulsi  
Jaya Maa Vrindavati.

### OM

In the year 1997, there was a student in VII class in Sivananda Centenary Boys' High School who was very dull in studies but was highly mischievous and was involved in evil deeds like telling a lie, theft etc. Every day, there were complaints against him. Many a time did Sevak try to reform him, but no use! One day, Sevak caught him red-handed, but the boy would not

confess his fault. He was punished. Sevak did not feel comfortable after that; the mind was too disturbed; after all, he is a child; he should have been given a little more guidance. Sevak went to his room and put the cassette player on. Sevak had already listened to half the talk by Guru Maharaj—*Laukik Jivan Me Alaukik Sadhana*. As the player was on, the first sentence was – “Do not raise hands on anyone.” But Sevak has just now returned having done the same. And Guru Maharaj is saying, “Do not raise hands on anyone.” Sevak felt very bad; put the cassette player off and pondered over thoughts like – a teacher should guide the student, he should be properly made to understand the difference between right and wrong, and tell him, why one should not get involved in evil deeds and also tell the consequences of doing so etc. The thought came in the mind that next time when Guru Maharaj will come to the school, guidance will be sought whether students should be punished in order to be reformed, if such a situation arises. But the thought lay hidden in the mind itself and was not mentioned to anyone.

Some months later, Guru Maharaj visited the school for 4-5 days. The thought was there in the mind to get the query satisfied during Swamiji’s leisure, but the day he arrived in the school, the same evening, after the prayer, he came in the

prayer-hall to meet the inmates and asked Sevak, “Boil a little cumin in water, strain it and bring it in the prayer-hall. A little while later, Sevak brought cumin-water in a thermo-flask along with a glass and bowl and sat down in the Pandal after keeping it beside Guru Maharaj. At that moment, Guru Maharaj was explaining the Universal Prayer written by Gurudev Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj:

“Let us behold Thee in all these names and  
forms,  
Let us serve Thee in all these names and  
forms.

God dwells in your mother, father, uncle, aunt, teacher, your fellow students and siblings. Hence, one should pay respect and bow before them. Do not have a feeling of disrespect for anyone. Always keep God’s name in mind. The image of God that you cherish in the mind should always be worshipped. Remember God whenever you get leisure during your studies. Right action should be performed at the right time. One who wastes the present moment, wastes his future. Hence, do not indulge in useless work or talk. All of you have come here to gain knowledge, therefore, utilise time properly.” In the end, Guru Maharaj asked if anyone who wasted one’s own as well as others’ time by not studying or by indulging in mischief, should be punished or not?

Some students collectively replied, “Yes, they should.”

Guru Maharaj said, “Be it your parents or teacher, all wish for your welfare. You should obey them and be good. One who confesses one’s fault cuts short his bad habits, ultimately becoming a good person, whereas one, who hides one’s faults, grows in bad habits and becomes a bad person. Parents or teacher can punish you under certain specific conditions only to rectify your faults and bring you on the right path, not because of anger or frustration. Just as a potter supports the pot from below with one hand and strikes it with a stick lovingly in order to bring it into the right shape, so also the teachers punish you for your good. You all are good students; you should not be mischievous, I suppose!” In the end, Guru Maharaj distributed Balushahi among all that he had brought along with him.

Sevak had got the answers to all his queries without even asking. Perhaps, this was the reason why Guru Maharaj had asked for cumin water, otherwise, Sevak would have remained in the Guru Kutir. Om Sri Antaryamine Namah!

## OM

One day, in Shanti Niwas, Swamiji Maharaj had asked for beans and bottle gourd (Lauki) to be cooked for dinner. It used to be a simple



preparation boiled in salt and turmeric. The beans brought from the market were over-ripe and infected with worms. Bottle-gourd was fresh. Some beans were collected from Shanti Niwas vegetable-garden but these were infected too. It was difficult to decide what to do. Sevak had not paid heed earlier. Swamiji had given instructions at 11:00 A.M. and Sevak started cutting vegetables at 6:00 P.M. Swamiji Maharaj will be having dinner around 7:30 P.M. There was not enough time to bring vegetables from the market even. Reflecting over this, Sevak started cutting bottle gourd. Looking at a small photograph of Gurudev kept in the kitchen, Sevak prayed for guidance. Just then, a Sevak came and said, Guru Maharaj has asked to check the beans before cutting; if they are not infected with worms, only then it should be cooked. ”

Sevak was rid of his dilemma and followed the instruction carefully. The vegetable was finally cooked. Swamiji Maharaj had dinner at the scheduled hour. It is worth pondering that Swamiji had asked about the vegetables to be cooked for dinner; Sevak started the preparation by evening. Many a time earlier, beans were prepared, but Swamiji Maharaj had never said anything. Sevak did not express his thoughts but the Antaryamin understood and solved the problem.

## OM

Once, a Mahamandaleshwar of a very renowned Ashram came to Shanti Niwas with two disciples. Many years back, the same Swamiji used to live in Swarga Ashram while Gurudev was alive in his physical frame. Sometimes, he used to visit the Sivananda Ashram Library; at times, he used to attend Gurudev Sri Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj's Satsang and sometimes, he used to come to collect medicines from the dispensary of the hospital. Since then, he is known to Swamiji Maharaj. When the Mahamandaleshwar title was conferred upon him, Swamiji Maharaj was also there. As they were discussing bygone times, Mahamandaleshwar Swamiji said to Guru Maharaj, "Swamiji, I have a doubt in mind. None other than you can clear it. It will be beneficial, not only for me, but for everyone present here. I humbly put that doubt before you for everyone's benefit."

Mahamandaleshwarji said, "One feels glad to meet someone who is on a higher post or someone who is reputed around or is spiritually enlightened, and we pay regard to him too. But sometimes, the feeling of jealousy towards them crops up in the mind. What should be done so that we are rid of that feeling of jealousy? We have studied Veda-Vedanta, Upanishads etc., became

Mahamandaleshwar, became the head of the monastery, had innumerable disciples, but the purpose for which we had embraced Sannyasa is not fulfilled. I cannot put it before anyone else; hence I have kept it before you. Kindly guide me.”

Swamiji Maharaj kept silent for a while and said, “The solution is very simple and easy. God dwells in everyone, always have this feeling. This should be practised off and on to be brought into habit. If you behold God in everyone, how can you be jealous of anyone? Otherwise, prostrate before one for whom you have developed jealousy and ask forgiveness by folding your hands. Tell him that you are jealous of him and that he should forgive you. Like this, the feeling of jealousy will disappear quickly. If you are unable to do this, bow before him mentally, ask forgiveness and, at the same time, pray to God intently. Keep on practising it. The feeling with which you have told me this, have you ever prayed before God with the same Bhava?”

“You should shut yourself in your room in seclusion and pray to God or Ishta-dev like a child. You have innumerable responsibilities in your Ashram and have many disciples too. You may not find seclusion there. If you are unable to find such a place in the Ashram, then you should go away to some uninhabited place and try it. You should bend your knees and pray to Him with a

heart full of devotion and shed tears out of intense devotion.

O Lord! Your grace made me study all this but I could not overcome the feeling of jealousy. All the studies and reflecting-over was done for the sake of self-knowledge but in vain. You are all-capable. What is all this for you? Have mercy on me, my lord!

Your prayer should not be like the acting of an actor but it should come from the core of the heart, crying with profound longing. Deeper the longing, speedier the success will be. But egoism is the greatest obstacle. At the same time, whatever you have studied and gained in life should be followed in practical life. Your life should be like that. It will lead to speedy success.”

Other such discussions were also held.

## OM

Swami Shanmukhanandaji of Sivananda Ashram was a great devotee of Shirdi Sai Baba. He was also the Guru-Bhai of Swamiji Maharaj. Swami Shanmukhanandaji used to visit the Sai temple at Sheesham Jhaari in Rishikesh. Daily, he used to distribute some Prasad there. On the request of Swami Shanmukhanandaji, Swamiji Maharaj had gone there.

Swamiji Maharaj had taken along with him Samosa, Gulabjamun, Kaju-Barfi, Chocolates etc. from Dehradun. In the temple, Swamiji Maharaj bowed before Sai Baba, garlanded him, offered incense and Naivedya and did Arati. The arrangement of Prasad was done there too. That Prasad and the one brought by Swamiji was served to all the children. Swamiji Maharaj distributed some coins among the children also. All the children relished the Prasad immensely.

There is a Sai temple situated at Rajpur Road, Dehradun. Swamiji Maharaj had invited Swami Shanmukhanandaji on 1st January 2004 to go to Sai temple. He arrived at Shanti Niwas in time along with another Swamiji. At 11:00 A.M., Swamiji Maharaj, along with Swami Shanmukhanandaji, Brigadier Sabbarwalji, Mahesh Babbarji and the Sevaks, headed for Sai temple. But as we arrived there, we saw a big rush of devotees in the temple. It would have been difficult for Swamiji to have Darshan of Sai Baba. It being the New Year, there was a long queue and moreover, it was Thursday. Swamiji Maharaj said that he would come the next day on 2nd January and we came back. On Friday, around 11:00 A.M., we reached the temple. As per Swamiji's instructions, we had taken along a shawl, a huge garland and a basket of fruits for Sai Babaji. Though it was too cold, yet Swamiji Maharaj took

off his socks before entering the temple. He prostrated before Sai Baba. We also did the same. There were very few people in the temple that day. Swamiji Maharaj was leading us followed by Swami Shanmukhanandaji, and we were following them. Swamiji Maharaj bowed at the feet of Sai Baba. A donation box was kept nearby. Swamiji dropped some money into it and said, "You all should donate something." The basket of fruits, garland and the shawl were placed on the Vedi. Two priests were there. Both of them were familiar with Swamiji Maharaj. One of the priests engarlanded Swamiji Maharaj with the garland that was brought for Sai Baba. One of the Swamijis remarked, "Swamiji had brought this garland for Sai Baba. You offered that to Swamiji?" The priest instantly took it out and engarlanded Sai Baba. Swamiji again said, "How did you garland Sai Baba with the same garland that you offered to Swamiji?" The priest appeared to be a little nervous. Suddenly, he took out the garland that was offered to Sai Baba and garlanded Swamiji Maharaj.

Swamiji became sombre and serious, and indicating his own self, said lovingly, "There is no difference between me and Sai Baba". After remaining silent for a few seconds, he said, "The same God dwells in Sai Baba, in me and all of

you.” Then he partook of the Charanamrit kept there and gave it to all.

Till then it was time for Sai Baba’s Madhyanha Bhog. The priest offered incense, light (Deep) and Naivedya and the fly-whisk (Chaamar) service was given over to Swamiji. Swamiji Maharaj gave all of us the chance to do Chaamar-Seva. Arati was performed. Swamiji Maharaj took the Arati and bowed. We also did the same. The priest gave us the Prasad of Chana-Batasha. Swami prostrated before the Akhanda Dhooni in the outer premises of the temple. The Dhooni had nearly extinguished. Swamiji pushed the wood log inside and blew it afire. Swamiji besmeared his forehead with the Vibhuti and asked us to do the same. We obeyed and came out after doing circumambulation.

There was Bhandara in the temple that day. Prasad was being distributed near the gate. The Prasad consisted of Puri, Halwa and vegetable of potato, pumpkin and gram-pulse (Chane ki dal). One of the Sevaks had brought Prasad in a leaf-plate. After reaching Shanti Niwas, Swamiji Maharaj took a little stroll under the sun. Then he sat in the veranda and asked for the Prasad. He called Brigadier Sabbarwalji, Mahesh Babbarji near him. He asked Sabbarwalji to stand on his knees and look up. He fed him a little Halwa with a spoon. The same he did with Babbarji. Both of

them felt blessed. Swamiji gave away a little Prasad for their family members too. Keeping a little Prasad for himself, he asked the rest to be distributed among all.

## OM

In 2008, after taking a stroll in the veranda in the evening in Shanti Niwas, Swamiji Maharaj was chanting some Stotras before the altar in the hall.

*Namo'stvanantaaya...sahasrakotiyugadhaar  
ne namah.*

He kept repeating it. A swamiji said, "The way Swamiji is chanting, it appears as if Swamiji himself is Sahasramurti, Sahasrapada and Ananta."

Guru Maharaj heard this and immediately remarked, "Yes!"

Putting his hand over his chest, he said, "The same God dwells here and everywhere, who is Ananta, Omnipresent, Sahasramurti! Prostrations unto Him again and again!" Then Guru Maharaj chanted some Stotras and went into his room.

## OM

Swami Bhaskaranandaji Maharaj of Maa Anandamayee Ashram had come to Shanti Niwas



in April 2004 to have Darshan of Guru Maharaj. Swamiji Maharaj bowed before Swami Bhaskarananda, saying, “Jaya Maa!” and Swami Bhaskaranandaji also bowed before Guru Maharaj. Guru Maharaj was having Darshan of Ma Anandamayee in Swami Bhaskaranandaji as if! They discussed many incidents of the past.

Guru Maharaj related an incident of the past while he was on his return journey to the Ashram. When he got down from the train at Haridwar, he came to know that Maa Anandamayee was there in her Ashram at Kankhal. Guru Maharaj sent the luggage to the Ashram through one of his Sevaks and proceeded to Kankhal for Maa’s Darshan. It was too cold early in the morning. Guru Maharaj directly went near Maa’s room. One of the Sevikas of Maa informed Maa that Baba had arrived from Sivananda Ashram. Everyone used to address her as Maa. Guru Maharaj also called her Maa. Maa Anandamayee addressed Guru Maharaj as Baba. Maa instantly came out of her room. Guru Maharaj prostrated before Maa. Maa said, “Baba, whom do you bow before? Here, neither you, nor I, nor anyone else is! Why this Pranam, then? Here, everything is transient and ephemeral. Only He exists everywhere. Where, then, is the need of such formality?”

Guru Maharaj kept silent with his head bowed down. Maa called Guru Maharaj inside and

made him seated. Innumerable discussions were held. Guru Maharaj was offered milk. While taking leave, Guru Maharaj begged forgiveness from Maa with hands folded and said, "Maa, I had not thought of coming here. I was going to Rishikesh, came to know about your stay here, and hence came straight over to have your Darshan. I could not bring anything to offer you at such an early morning hour, hence came empty-handed. Maa, please forgive me."

Maa said, "Baba, you call me Maa, and speak like this? For Maa, meeting Baba is the greatest gift. Where, then, is the need for any inanimate thing?"

Having taken leave of Maa, Guru Maharaj came to Guru Niwas. A few months later, it was time for Samyam Saptah (Sadhana Saptah). On the request of Maa, Guru Maharaj used to go to Kankhal for Samyam Saptah. Guru Maharaj kept a sack filled with Batasha and took it along with him when he went there. First of all, he went near Maa's room . Maa's Sevika went inside and informed Maa, "Baba from Sivananda Ashram has brought something in a huge sack. Maa said to her, "Surely, he must have brought Batasha." Go quickly and ask Poorna (a Sevak of Maa) not to bring Batasha from the market. I have just now asked him to bring it. Hurry! Otherwise he will be gone."

Maa came out of her room. Guru Maharaj fell prostrate before her. Maa welcomed Guru Maharaj to come inside. The Sevika came with the information that Poorna had already left for the market. A little while later, Poorna came back and said, “The shop is closed today; couldn’t get Batasha.”

Maa said, “Baba has brought Batasha along with him. Where is the need then?”

After the conclusion of the Samyam Saptah, Maa used to distribute a handkerchief and Batasha to all the devotees. As the discussions were going on, a foreigner who had arrived with Swami Bhaskaranandaji, asked Guru Maharaj, “I meditate like this. But according to you, how should I meditate?” Guru Maharaj told her, “There is no spiritual treasure like meditation. Before entering into it, its ground-work is necessary. First of all, Yama, Niyama, Asana, Pranayama etc. should be practised; especially Yama and Niyama. There are five Yamas—Truthfulness (Satya), Non-violence (Ahimsa), Celibacy (Brahmacharya), non-covetousness of wealth (Aparigraha), non-stealing (Asteya). There are five Niyamas – Purity (Shauch), Contentment (Santosh), Austerity (Tapa), Study of the Holy Scriptures (Swadhyaya), Surrender to God (Ishwar Pranidhana).

These should be practically followed in life. One should practise sitting in one posture for a long period. Pranayama should be practised. It is easy to control vital breath with the help of Pranayama. Vital breath helps in controlling the mind. Only then, meditation is successful and one rises in it. You continue meditating the way you are doing, but along with that, practise it too. You are a little weak in Sadhana. Moreover, having arrived on a Tapobhoomi like Haridwar, Rishikesh, you should avail the opportunity. Do two hundred malas of Japa. Recite some verses of the Gita along with their meanings. Read Maharshi Patanjali's 'Raja Yoga', 'Bhakti Yoga' and 'Dhyana Yoga'. Be constant in your Sadhana." Later on, Guru Maharaj distributed Prasad to all.

## OM

After his arrival in the Ashram, Guru Maharaj had not gone to Badrinath for many years. When Gurudev Swami Sivanandaji came to know this, he said, "Each year you send a number of devotees to Badrinath, give them detailed guidance for journey, but you have not gone there yourself. Go for Badrinathji's Darshan first." Guru Maharaj said, "Some work of the ashram is pending. After its completion, I will go." But Gurudev said, "Work will continue. First, go and have Darshan of

Badrinathji.” Swamiji Maharaj had to obey Gurudev.

Gurudev sent a hill-boy with Swamiji Maharaj to help him with the luggage. At that time, the journey used to be on feet. Along with some money, Gurudev gave tea-leaves, sugar and match-sticks. Gurudev asked the boy to look after Swamiji Maharaj. Swamiji Maharaj handed over the work to Swami Krishnanandaji Maharaj and Swami Venkatesanandaji Maharaj, and having taken blessings of Gurudev, left for Badrinath. At that time, Swamiji Maharaj had only one pair of socks. On feeling cold, he used to cover his feet and the same pair of socks served to cover the hands when the hands suffered cold. After some days, he had Darshan of Sri Badri Vishal in Badrinath. One or two Sadhus were sick in Badrinath at that time. Swamiji Maharaj started serving those Sadhus. Some medicines were required. Like today, there was no market or medical stores at that time. Swamiji Maharaj sent Shambhu Prasad to the ashram to bring some medicines and arranged for their victuals too. After some days, Shambhu Prasad came back with the medicines. The Sadhus also regained health. Swamiji Maharaj returned to the ashram after some days. Since then, Shambhu Prasad used to visit Swamiji Maharaj off and on. But, the busy schedule and foreign tours of Swamiji

Maharaj created a long gap. This was told by Swamiji Maharaj during some reference.

Swamiji Maharaj remembered Shambhu Prasad after many years. Shambhu Prasad must also have remembered Swamiji Maharaj during his phase of financial problems. Swamiji Maharaj was also not keeping good health. One day, a relative of Shambhu Prasad came to Shanti Niwas and informed about his illness. He also said that Shambhu Prasad was longing to have Darshan of Swamiji Maharaj. But it was not feasible because of Swamiji Maharaj's illness. Later on, when Swamiji Maharaj was informed about his eagerness to meet Swamiji, Swamiji said, "I was remembering him for the last many days. But I did not have any contact number. How to locate him? Those who were familiar with Shambhu Prasad in the ashram were enquired, but in vain! Some months later, Shambhu Prasad came to know that Swamiji Maharaj wanted to meet him.

One day, Shambhu Prasad reached Shanti Niwas before evening. Swamiji Maharaj was informed about the same. Instantly Swamiji Maharaj called him. Swamiji Maharaj and Shambhu Prasad's meeting each other was like the 'mother and son meet' who were away from each other for years together. Shambhu Prasad was too overwhelmed with tears flowing from his eyes. He used to live in Raipur, Dehradun with his

wife. His son had got married and was working elsewhere. Having asked his welfare, Swamiji Maharaj saw him off with some financial aid. He asked Shambhu Prasad to come over some time with his family.

A few months later, Shambhu Prasad fell ill. As soon as Guru Maharaj came to know this, he immediately called Dr. Gilhotraji and asked him to get Shambhu Prasad hospitalized and treat him. Dr. Gilhotraji took good care of him. Shambhu Prasad had the habit of having tea and smoking a number of times a day which was fatal for him. He used to lose temper over the hospital staff also but Dr. Gilhotraji used to pacify him and give him food and medicines lovingly. Finally, he came home after getting well.

Once, Swamiji Maharaj expressed his desire to go to the house of Shambhu Prasad. One of the Swamijis was sent to locate his house. The next day, Swamiji Maharaj visited Shambhu Prasad's house. Shambhu Prasad was astonished to see Swamiji Maharaj. Swamiji Maharaj kept his hand on Shambhu Prasad's shoulder and sat beside him. Like a parent, Swamiji guided him thoroughly regarding the latter's health. Swamiji advised him to repeat the Lord's name at all times. While returning, Swamiji Maharaj said, "The unhygienic cot that he is lying upon can make anyone sick." The next day, a mattress, pillow,

blanket, quilt etc. were purchased and sent over to him. Whenever he fell ill, Swamiji Maharaj arranged for his proper treatment. In the last days of his life, when Shambhu Prasad fell ill, Swamiji Maharaj asked for the worship and Havan to be performed in the Vishwanath Mandir. Shambhu Prasad passed away after that. At that moment also, Swamiji prayed for his Atma Shanti and Atma Kalyan.

*Yogakshemem Vahamyaham. (Gita: 9.22)*

## OM

During his spiritual tours, Guru Maharaj had gone to Chennai many a time. One has to reach Pattamadai via Chennai. Some people used to come to receive Guru Maharaj and see him off. One person had the habit of saying, “Sashtang Pranam” on seeing Guru Maharaj, although he kept standing and never prostrated actually. Once, Guru Maharaj came from Pattamadai to Chennai by train. The train stopped at Chennai, Egmore station. It was raining. The platform was all wet. As Guru Maharaj got down from the train, that person, folding his hands, said, “Sashtang Pranam, Swamiji!” Instantly, Guru Maharaj lay prostrate before that person on that muddy platform. Everyone was stunned. Guru Maharaj stood up. All his clothes were soiled. Having gone a few steps ahead, Swamiji Maharaj said to that



man, “This is called Sashtang Pranam. While prostrating, eight limbs of your body should touch the ground. That is said to be Sashtang Pranam.” Then he proceeded towards his destination. Since then, that person never uttered those words. Whenever he saw Guru Maharaj, he used to fall prostrate before him.

## OM

Some construction work was under progress in Shanti Niwas. The mason and labourers had come from Sivananda Ashram, Rishikesh. One more hand was required. Hence, a labourer Named Raksha Ram was hired from Dehradun. But he was too young for such work. He belonged to a place near Faizabad and had appeared for ninth class examination. His family members had refused to get his studies continued. But Raksha Ram was keen to pursue his studies further. As a labourer does not get adequate wages in a village, he came to Dehradun to his brother-in-law so that he could earn some money during summer vacation and save as well.

As Guru Maharaj came to know this, he called Raksha Ram in his room and enquired. Raksha Ram told Swamiji that he needed around seven thousand rupees to complete the High school studies. Guru Maharaj asked, “What do you intend to do after High school?” Rakhsa Ram

said, "I shall go for I.S.C. and B.Sc." Swamiji Maharaj asked, "Is there any college in your village? If not, which is the nearest one?" Raksha Ram said, "There is no college in our village but there is one in Faizabad near our village. It must be around thirty kilometres from the village. Swamiji Maharaj said, "We shall give you seven thousand rupees for High school studies. But just now, you go to your village and ask some teacher of your school about the expenditure that will be incurred on the five year course of I.S.C. and B.Sc. Get an idea about the tentative amount including college fee, dress, hostel fee, computer fee, tuition-fee, coming and going; note it down and bring it to me." Raksha Ram was given the fare for going back and having food on the way.

Raksha Ram was informed that Guru Maharaj wanted to provide him the expenditure for five-year studies. He was asked to get his single or joint (in case of minority) bank account opened with a deposit of Rs.7000/-. Raksha Ram went to the village and came back a few days later with the details of the joint account. He also brought a rough estimate of the expenditure worth Rs.75, 000/- for two-year Intermediate course. The Sevak Swamijis in Shanti Niwas discussed the matter among themselves and consulting a Professor, prepared a rough draft of the expenses (much more than actually required)

to be incurred. The details were handed over to Guru Maharaj. Guru Maharaj got a bank draft of the same amount prepared and wrote a letter to the bank manager of the bank on his letter-head so that Raksha Ram may not have any problem in future.

Instead of showing reluctance to give so much money to a small boy, Guru Maharaj gave full financial support to Raksha Ram. Raksha Ram also went happily hereafter and studied further.

*“The clouds shower rains unasked; likewise, saints also are always engrossed in others’ welfare unasked.”*  
*Bhartrihari, Niti-shatakam*

## OM

Guru Maharaj had gone to Maa Anandamayee Ashram, Vindhyachal to attend a programme. Vindhyachal Ashram is located in a mountain region. Guru Maharaj was staying near the Ashram. Behind the room, a distant track led up to a village. It was a meandering and steep way. One day, as Guru Maharaj was washing his hands after lunch, he happened to see through the window that an old man and a small boy were pulling a cart full of grams. The boy must be around ten years old and the old man must be above sixty. The old man was pushing the cart up and the boy was pulling it up. It was an arduous

task on such a winding path in such scorching heat. The godly heart melted to witness the scene. Immediately, one of the swamijis was asked to bring some fruits, biscuits, a water-bottle and some money. Having said so, Guru Maharaj rushed towards the spot. Swamiji, having kept those things in a small bag, followed Guru Maharaj. A raised mound of five feet stood like a wall between Guru Maharaj and the old man. Howsoever, Guru Maharaj, on the insistence of Swamiji, ascended the latter's back and managed to climb up. The Swamiji also managed to do so, somehow. Having reached them, Guru Maharaj started pushing the cart up with the old man and Swamiji helped the boy in pulling it up. There was a tree at some distance by the side of the track. When they reached that spot, Guru Maharaj asked them to rest for a little while. Having set the cart properly, all sat down under the shade of the tree.

Guru Maharaj very informally and lovingly offered them fruits and biscuits to eat. The old man was overwhelmed with love and regard for Guru Maharaj. They quenched their thirst by water brought by Guru Maharaj. Both, the old man and the boy were satisfied after having the Prasad. There was enough money in the bag. Guru Maharaj rolled the currency notes and stuck them up around the waist in the fold of dhoti of

the old man. Guru Maharaj said, "Please accept a small offering on behalf of Gurudev Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj. We are his Sevaks. His Ashram is situated at Muni ki Reti near the banks of Mother Ganga. We live there only."

After taking rest, Guru Maharaj and the old man again pushed the cart up with the boy and Swamiji pulling it up. They finally succeeded in crossing the steep heights. They were near their village and felt no problem in reaching their home from there. Having assured himself that they will face no further difficulty, Guru Maharaj told the old man, "Continue with your daily routine and constantly take the name of the Lord. Work in hand and Lord's name on the lips!" Guru Maharaj blessed them and they went away happily.

*Para upakaara vachana mana kayaa  
Santa sahaja subhaaoo khagarayaa*

It is the spontaneous nature of the saints to be constantly engaged in the welfare of others through thoughts, words and deeds.

—*Ramacharitamanas*

## OM

There is Swami Sivananda Centenary Charitable Hospital in Pattamadai, the birth-place of Swami Sivanandaji, since the time of his birth centenary. Each year, Swamiji Maharaj spends

some time there. During his stay, Swamiji Maharaj attends the assembly prayers in the morning and evening.

The assembly prayers are held before the Pratima of Sadgurudev Swami Sivanandaji in the O.P.D. hall. There is a small discourse by Swamiji Maharaj after the prayers. Afterwards, everyone gets Prasad from Swamiji Maharaj.

On the last day, during Swamiji's stay, when the Morning Prayer was over, Swamiji Maharaj gave the discourse and distributed Prasad. After everyone got Prasad, Swamiji Maharaj continued to sit holding Prasad in his hands. He looked around as if he was searching for someone.

A devotee asked others, "Has everyone got the Prasad? Or is there anyone left?" Swamiji Maharaj said, "Every day a girl used to come to take Prasad. She has not come today. She used to wear white clothes with red border. She used to wear a nose-pin and used to sit in the row behind you. Has anyone seen her?"

Swami Saranabhavanandaji and the other Sevaks of Swamiji refused to have seen her that day. Everyone present there asked one other, searched inside and outside, but no one had seen her.

Then Swamiji Maharaj said, "She was Mata Kanyakumari, surely! This being the birth-place

of Gurudev, is divine indeed; it is the more blessed by the blessings and the dust of the holy feet of Mother Kanyakumari. This land is blessed by the blessings of Mataji!”

Everyone was astonished. The thought worth pondering over is the Mother’s adopting a human form and her willingness to accept Prasad from the hands of Swamiji Maharaj.

### OM

While Swamiji Maharaj was staying in Pattamadai, a family from district Ganjam—mother, father and son, came to have Swamiji’s blessings. Their son was suffering from blood cancer. He was undergoing treatment but the recovery was minimal. In such distress, Guru Maharaj was the only solace and support. They were trying to find some way to communicate their grief to Guru Maharaj but were unable to find such an opportunity. One day, they got the news that Guru Maharaj was in Pattamadai, hence they came there with their son.

Guru Maharaj was informed about their anguish. The day next, Guru Maharaj walked up to the gate of the Hospital. The Swamijis serving in the hospital, volunteers, Swamiji’s Sevaks and other devotees were there with Guru Maharaj. Behind everyone, were standing the parents and their son. Guru Maharaj turned behind and called

the boy. Keeping both his hands upon the boy's head, Guru Maharaj chanted some Mantras for a few minutes. He was praying like the compassionate Lord Buddha! In the end, he said, "May Sadgurudev Swami Sivanandaji bless you! May he grant you long life!" Then he talked to the father of that boy. Tears rolled down the cheeks of the parents out of love and regard and they felt blessed. Next day, the family left Pattamadai for their home. Some years later, the news reached that the boy was completely cured and was leading a normal life.

## OM

Whenever Swamiji Maharaj was in the Ashram, he used to attend the Satsang in the Samadhi Mandir during morning and evening. After the night Satsang, Swamiji Maharaj used to bless the guests, visitors and devotees by conversing with them. Many years back, Swamiji Maharaj was seated on his Asana and was blessing the devotees and the residents sitting around him. The devotees, who were in the front, were sitting while those at the back were standing. Swamiji Maharaj was talking to them one by one. Suddenly, Swamiji Maharaj called a Mataji. That Mataji was standing behind all. The Mataji standing in front of her thought that Swamiji Maharaj was calling her. She started coming



towards Swamiji, but Swamiji said, “No, no, the Mataji who is standing behind you!”

That Mataji was elated and called her son (perhaps) near her. She seemed to belong to some village but was Bhaktimati. She bowed before Swamiji reverentially in the limited space available. Swamiji Maharaj talked to that Mataji for a long time and asked about everyone’s welfare in Jhumritalaiya, taking their names. In the end, Swamiji Maharaj gave her some Prasad also. Mataji suddenly recalled having brought something for Swamiji Maharaj and started searching around. Somebody asked, pointing towards a glass-jar, “Is this the one?” Mataji said, “Yes, that’s the one.” As Swamiji Maharaj had called her, she felt so happy that she forgot to bring that jar to be offered to Swamiji. The jar contained Gulab-jamuns which she had prepared with her own hands. Offering the jar to Swamiji Maharaj, she said, “I have brought it for you, Swamiji!”

Swamiji Maharaj held the jar in his hands, gestured towards the devotees who were standing or sitting near the Samadhi, to stand aside. Then, opening the lid of the jar, he lifted it with both the hands and offered the Bhog to Gurudev.

He asked for a spoon to be brought and ate two Gulab-jamuns one after the other. Swamiji Maharaj never used to have anything at an

unusual hour except for his medicines. Whatever was to be had, he had it with his meals. Perhaps, such transgression is witnessed where true devotion exists. Seeing this, Mataji was overwhelmed and tears of regard flowed down her eyes.

Having had two Gulab-jamuns, Swamiji Maharaj said, "Distribute it among all." A Swamiji started distributing the Prasad to everyone one by one. Sevak thought that perhaps the Prasad may be insufficient as the number of devotees was large and the sweets were limited, so this rare Prasad should be had beforehand. Sevak went forward and took the Prasad. All eyes were on Swamiji Maharaj but Sevak had his eyes on the Prasad. Though everyone had got the Prasad, yet four Gulab-jamuns were left in the jar. It was kept before Swamiji Maharaj. Seeing the jar, Swamiji Maharaj said, "Take it to Guru Niwas." Having blessed the other devotees, Swamiji Maharaj went to Guru Niwas.

Many years ago, Swamiji Maharaj had gone to Kainchi, near Nainital with some devotees to have Darshan of Baba Neem Karoli. He took along some oranges with him in a small basket. Baba was sitting in his room with some devotees when Swamiji reached there. Swamiji Maharaj bowed before Baba and kept the basket beside him. Baba gave an orange as Prasad to each and everyone

present there. The number of devotees was double the number of oranges in the basket. Still some oranges were left in the basket. The same incident was repeated today. Swamiji used to relate this incident to others but never revealed himself.

### OM

Once, two disciples of Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj had a dispute over some matter and exchanged hot words with each other. When Gurudev Sivanandaji Maharaj came to know this, he remained Nirahara without telling anyone and asked forgiveness from God for them and prayed for their Sad-buddhi. Guru Maharaj also did the same in such circumstances and prayed to God for the Sanmati of his disciples. At the same time, he used to sing the song: 'Immanence of Ram' composed by Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj and asked them to repeat it after him:

Om Sri Ram, Jaya Ram, Jaya Jaya Ram  
 Sri Ram, Jaya Ram, Jaya Jaya Ram.  
 In earth, water, fire, air and ether is Ram,  
 In the heart, mind, Prana and senses is Ram,  
 In the breath, blood, nerves and brain is Ram,  
 In sentiment, thought, word and action is  
 Ram,  
 Within is Ram, without is Ram, in front is  
 Ram,

Above is Ram, below is Ram, behind is Ram,  
To the right is Ram, to the left is Ram,  
everywhere is Ram,

Vyapak is Ram, Vibhu is Ram, Poornam  
is Ram.

(Sri Ram Jaya Ram...)

Sat is Ram, Chit is Ram, Anand is Ram,  
Santi is Ram, Sakti is Ram, Jyoti is Ram,  
Prem is Ram, mercy is Ram, beauty is Ram,  
Bliss is Ram, joy is Ram, purity is Ram,  
Refuge, solace, path, Lord, witness is Ram,  
Father, mother, friend, relative, Guru is Ram,  
Support, source, centre, ideal, goal is Ram,  
Creator, preserver, destroyer, redeemer  
is Ram.

(Sri Ram Jaya Ram...)

The goal ultimate of one and all is Ram,  
Attainable through Sraddha, Prem, worship  
is Ram,

Accessible to devotion and surrender is Ram,  
Approachable by prayer, Japa and Kirtan  
is Ram,

Hosanna to Ram, glory to Ram, victory to  
Ram,

Adorations to Ram, salutations to Ram,  
prostrations to Ram.

(Sri Ram Jaya Ram...)

## OM

Perhaps it connotes—When animate and inanimate, visible or invisible—everything is Ram, then who should we be in enmity with? Whom should we get angry over? To show enmity or anger over someone is to bear enmity with God Himself! One should love all.

Once, Swamiji Maharaj was going around Shanti Niwas on wheel chair. We, Sevaks and Brigadier Sabbarwalji were following him. Some discussion was going on Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Brigadier Sabbarwalji asked Swamiji Maharaj—“Swamiji, when Chaitanya Mahaprabhu was in Jagannath Puri, he had never been to Vrindavan. First of all, he sent his disciples to revivify those spots where Lord Krishna had carried out his respective exploits. How did he know as to where had Lord Krishna performed which one of his exploits?”

Swamiji Maharaj said, “Look... Realized souls can know anything that they want to know, be it of the past; just as one watches television or the way I am seeing you and conversing with you. Immediately Sabbarwalji asked, “Swamiji can also envision like this?”

Swamiji Maharaj did not utter a word. The remaining time he was with us, he kept perfectly

quiet. The reason is Swamiji Maharaj never reveals himself.

### OM

One day, Swamiji Maharaj was sitting on the terrace and telling about Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa. Ramakrishna Paramahansa was the only saint who realized God by following different paths through his Sadhana. Whichever path he followed, he was fully engrossed in that.

A Swamiji asked, “Ramakrishna Paramahansa is not alive in body. He was Brahmaleen many years ago. Can a realized soul willingly witness those moments of the past?”

Swamiji Maharaj said, “Yes...Yes...Surely he can.” Instantly Swamiji switched over to some other topic.

### OM

In December 2007, some students of the River Dale School, Dehradun, came to Shanti Niwas for Darshan of Swamiji Maharaj along with their Principal Surjeet Ahluwalia Mataji. Mataji was regular in coming with some students for Swamiji’s Darshan every year in December. This time, the students sang carols. Swamiji also accompanied them. The children sang Nirvanashatakam by Sri Sankaracharya, recited the fifteenth chapter of the Bhagavadgita and

sang 'He Prabhu Anandadata'. Swamiji Maharaj was very happy. He told them, "Respect your parents and teachers. Obey them. God resides in all. Parents and teachers are God in manifest form. Have the feeling of mercy and friendliness towards everyone. You should not hate anyone, nor show anger towards anyone. Anger is one's own enemy. One who loses one's temper harms himself and others too. God dwells in all. If you get angry over someone or cultivate hatred, it is akin to getting angry over God. You should never tell a lie. It is sinful. Time is most precious; hence, never waste your time. You should utilise your time. Whatever you do at a time, should be done with full devotion. Only then you will succeed in life. May you all speak truth! May you all be righteous! Read the biographies of great personalities. Mind is fickle. Always keep it busy in good actions."

Two students among them were Muslims. Swamiji Maharaj enquired them if they went to the mosque every Friday to read Namaz.

Both of them answered, "Yes, we do." Swamiji Maharaj said, "You should read Namaz daily, especially on Fridays." Later on, Swamiji Maharaj did Kirtan and Shanti Path and gave Prasad to all.

## OM

Once, during winter, Swamiji Maharaj was going to Guru Niwas after the night Satsang in Samadhi Mandir. There are some shops in front of Guru Niwas. A man wrapped in a blanket was asleep in the veranda of one of the shops. As the car reached Guru Niwas, Swamiji Maharaj happened to see him. He said, "One blanket is not sufficient in such a wintry night. Go and put one more blanket over him. But, be careful, lest you should awake him. Do it very gently." Swamiji gave a heavy blanket to the Sevak. Sevak went and quietly put the blanket over him without disturbing him. Perhaps, Guru Maharaj meant to teach us that service should be done with full concentration and total dedication, without disturbing the other. The one whom you are serving should remain unaware as to who has helped him.

## OM

Swamiji's diet has always been very meagre. Gradually it got even more reduced. Since 2006, Swamiji's diet comprised of half the glass butter-milk during the day and Horlicks in the same quantity of milk at night. At times, he did not even have that completely. This was his only diet during twenty four hours. The body had



grown too weak. Sometimes, he fell ill also. At that time, if someone had an appointment with Swamiji, Swamiji never postponed it. While blessing the devotees by conversing with them, Swamiji Maharaj was totally unaware of his body and time. He used to feel tired after that; so tired that he did not even want to have that half glass butter-milk or the cup of Horlicks that he used to have. This made him even weaker than earlier. At such a moment, he wanted to take complete rest. Sometimes, Swamiji Maharaj used to set the time-duration for seeing a devotee and asked us to make him aware when the scheduled time was over. But sometimes, Swamiji himself prolonged the hour. The devotees used to think that Swamiji's voice was good; he was perfectly well. But the reality lay on the other side.

## OM

In 2005, Chandan Singhji of Ludhiana came to Shanti Niwas to have Darshan of Guru Maharaj. Chandan Singhji had been able to pursue his studies in his youth owing to the financial aid extended by Swamiji Maharaj. Later on, he got training in tailoring in Rishikesh. He did his business in Ludhiana. After getting his son married, he had now come to Guru Maharaj for his blessings.

Guru Maharaj asked for their welfare. Swamiji told him to respect those elder to him and love the younger ones. Swamiji asked him to feed the hungry, the poor, birds, old people and sick ones according to his capacity before having his meals. He further said, “Never insult food and never waste it. Anna is Brahma. As much as possible, do Paropakara. Do good to others. You should serve others with the feeling of *Paropakaraaya idam shareerem*—This body is for others’ welfare. Service should be selfless. This will purify you. You will reap what you have sown. Always remember God. Chant the name of the Lord during your daily routine whenever you have time. God has given us the tongue to speak sweetly and chant His glories. One should not criticise anyone, nor should one hurt anyone by his speech or action. Whatever you see, hear or taste, feel the presence of God in it. See God in all. Practise it again and again.” Swamiji, then, did Kirtan and distributed Prasad.

## OM

Brigadier Mehtaji often used to come to Shanti Niwas for Swamiji’s health check-up. Once he asked Swamiji, “Any instruction for me, Swamiji?” Swamiji Maharaj said, “To serve the sick is serving God Himself.” God dwells in all. Whenever you serve the sick, always have the

feeling that you are worshipping God in him. Selfless service is the actual worship of God. Never shirk from the duty allotted to you. A doctor's words should be such that the patient may feel half-cured. Just as our body needs to be fed daily, likewise good health is required for the soul. Read Holy Scriptures daily. Study a few verses of the Bhagavadgita along with their meanings and ponder over them. It should become a part of your daily Sadhana.

## OM

On 18th November, 2004, when Swamiji Maharaj was taking a stroll in the afternoon, Dharma Singhji from Sivananda Satsang Bhavan, Delhi, brought some goods for Swamiji. While conversing with him, Swamiji Maharaj said, "Oji, remember God at all times. Chant His name during all hours. Sadgurudev Swami Sivanandaji has said in the Universal Prayer:

"Let us behold Thee in all these names  
and forms.

Let us serve Thee in all these names and  
forms.

Let us ever sing Thy glories.

Let Thy name be ever on our lips.

Let us abide in Thee forever and ever."

"Feel the presence of God in plants, trees, from ant to man. See God in everyone and bow

before them. Serve all creatures. God is not somewhere far away; He is ever present with everyone. He is inside and outside us. He is everywhere. Feel Him at all times. Practise it time and again. Do your duty as the service and worship of God. In this Kali Yuga, great glory is in God's name. Hence, His name should be repeated at all times. Always remember God before you start the work, in the midst of the work and after completing it. The more the remembrance of God will be there, the purer you will become. Continue the work and keep on taking His name." Other instructions were also given to them by Swamiji Maharaj.

## OM

In 2005, two young brothers, Siddhartha Kaul and Sagar Kaul came to Shanti Niwas for Swamiji's Darshan. They were basically the devotees of Anandashram, Kanhangad (Kerala). They had certain doubts in their minds. In 1991, both of them had got initiation from Papa Ramdas through audio cassette in Anandashram. Some years later, a saint of Anandashram told them that Papa Ramdas was not their guru, but Swami Rama was. (Swami Rama is a saint of Maharashtra). Swami Rama often used to visit

their house. Hence, they were doubtful about their real guru.

Swamiji Maharaj said, “Each family has its own Kula-Guru. Without the Kula-Guru, none of the sixteen Samskaras is possible. Right from the Garbha-samskara up to the Agnidaah-samskara, Kula-Guru is a must. But Sadguru is different from them. Sadguru is one from whom a person takes initiation and heads towards the noble path of liberation and attains self-realization. You can keep the photographs of both of them at your place of worship, but your Sadguru is Papa Ramdas only.”

They asked, “Lord Krishna was the Ishta Dev of Papa Ramdas. Who is our Ishta dev?”

Swamiji Maharaj said, “Yes, Papa Ramdas used to meditate over Lord Sri Krishna. Lord Krishna gave him Darshan while dancing and playing flute. But Papa Ramdasji prayed to Him humbly, “O Prarabrahma! I want to have your Darshan, not only in this form but the omnipresent form. Sarvam Brahmamayam.”

One of the brothers said, “I saw a dream in which you chanted the Ishta Mantra ‘Sri Ram Jaya Ram Jaya Jaya Ram’ thrice in my ear. I said, “I want to become a Jivanmukta like you. Shall I

be able to become so or not?” You replied in the dream, “The stream I am floating in, you shall also float in that.” Then he asked Swamiji, “Will you give us initiation?”

Swamiji Maharaj said, “No, no! You are already initiated. Chant that same Mantra. I can only guide you into spirituality. You should have faith and dedication towards your Guru and chant your Ishta Mantra with the same Bhava.

They asked, “Swamiji, both of us are studying in the college. Be it the atmosphere in the college or the world outside, it is too polluted now-a-days. How can we save ourselves in such an atmosphere? How can we attain God? Kindly guide us into this.”

Swamiji Maharaj said, “Remember God at all times. Don’t waste time. Let all your actions be transformed into His worship. Surrender all your actions and their fruits unto Him. Keep a small picture of your Ishta and Gurudev in your pocket. At every half an hour or whenever you have time, take it out and see it. This will help in the remembrance of God. Always have the Goal in your mind. Do Japa or Likhit-japa in the leisure between two periods. Always keep a diary with you for Likhit-japa, so that whenever you have time,

you may write the Mantra. But you should have your mind in studies while you are studying and at other times, full concentration should be there on God. Mind only is the cause of bondage and liberation. Having concentrated the mind, it should be completely focussed on God. Do not indulge in idle gossip. Behold God in everyone. Then you will not commit any mistake and all will be well with you.”

They said, “Swamiji, please bless us. Bestow benedictions on us.”

Swamiji Maharaj said, “May Lord Almighty, Papa Ramdasji, Mata Krishnabaiji, Swami Ram Tirthaji, Ramana Maharshiji, Sri Sri Anandamayeeji, Gurudev Swami Sivanandaji and all the great saints and sages of Bharatavarsha shower their benedictions on both of you!”

They said, “The way Papa Ramdasji blessed you keeping both his hands upon your head, kindly bless us in the same manner.” Swamiji Maharaj blessed them like that. They said, “Bless us so that we may realize God in this very birth.” They repeated it a number of times. Swamiji Maharaj said, “Yes, you will attain God-realization in this very birth.”

What a longing in such a tender age! Blessed are their parents! Blessed are both the brothers!

Swamiji Maharaj, while talking to them, said, “I had attained God-realization in the previous birth; but I had to come again, as some Karmas were remaining.”

Despite having attained the sublime state of a Jivanmukta in the previous birth itself, Swamiji Maharaj has kept his body facing so many problems in such an old age only for our welfare. ‘*Paropakaaraaya idam sareeram*’.

Once, Swamiji Maharaj had told Doctor Mohanji during some reference that the work to be carried out with the body had been accomplished. Now, there was no purpose of keeping it.

*Bahoonam janmanaamante Jnanavaanmam  
prapadyate  
Vasudevah sarvamiti sa mahatma  
sudurlabhah (Gita: 7-19)*

At the end of many births the wise man comes to Me, realising that all this is Vasudeva (the innermost Self); such a great soul (Mahatma) is very hard to find.

Innumerable discussions were held during the course of various occasions, but all are



difficult to be remembered for Sevak. Whatever was in memory has been related. The limited vision and understanding that Sevak has, has been put down in such a form. Hope, saints, sages, learned men and the virtuous readers will overlook the faults herein and forgive Sevak.

Hari Om Tatsat! Sadgurudevaarapanamastu!

