
Jai Kailasa Parampara Jai Nandinatha Sampradaya

THE GURUS LOTUS FEET

**A gift for Beloved Satguru Bodhinatha Veylanswami
with Deep Love from all the Saiva devotees**

Om Namasivaya





Amvummata Madirehshum

Rehshum

**He is the sun in my life
Holding me in his light
His steady love comes my way
And takes my angst away
Quietly he does his work
Not a whisper, not a word
Deep in Siva he resides
Caring and leading his Saiva tribe
He is Siva that I know
Do I really need to look any more....**

**We Saiva devotees are deeply grateful for the blessing of being
a part of the mystical Natha Lineage, for your ever present
silent love, protection and guidance.**



When devotees visit Paramaguru Sage Yogaswami he knows who they are, just when they are at the gate, even before they come near the room. He always knew when my father was coming. He will instruct someone "Sanmugasundaran is coming all the way from Colombo in that train. Get him some tea and breakfast right away." Then as he nears the room he will shout "Come in, come in Sanmugasundaran why are you standing outside?" Of course no one dares just walk into the room without his permission so whoever comes waits outside till he is given permission. One such day, my father was sitting in the room listening to Swami when suddenly he told everyone "Here comes Mr.X . He thinks he is so special. Let's invite him and have some fun." So Mr X was ushered in. He sat in front of Swami and started lamenting about his work. Suddenly Swami shouted at him and said "Get up right now and go to the corner of the room" which Mr X did. Swami said "No, don't look at me, turn around and face the wall" which he also did. By now he was embarrassed and humiliated but he had no choice but to either walk out or obey him. While he was standing facing the wall Swami continued chatting with others like nothing had happened. Time to time he would look at Mr X, at the assembled people and chuckle. This went on for more than an hour. Then swami asked Mr. X to come back and sit down. Mr X fell at his feet, cried his eyes out, apologized and said "I will do better in future Swami." Swami lovingly gave him some fruits and he took his leave. After he left, Swami said that Mr X is a school teacher and when a student did something wrong he would have them stand in the corner of the class room facing the wall. The other students would laugh, humiliate the student and Mr X would allow that too. So Swami gave him a taste of his own deeds and it was later known that Mr X never punished in that manner, used better methods to handle disciplining a student in a more private and compassionate way.

Sundari Katir, USA



One of the most memorable times of my life was traveling through Europe in a VW van with Gurudeva and The Actinics. He taught us so much, along the way. Sacred is secret, and secret is sacred. In Venice, he led us through the streets by memory from a previous life. He found the old opera house. It was all boarded up and in dis-use and dis-repair but we were able to peer through the dusty plank-covered windows and see the stage. He related that he had performed there as an opera singer. One night as he left the performance, standing on possibly the same bridge above the canal that you see in the picture below (full sized attached), he said he was struck from behind. He had his pay, a bag of gold coins, attached to his waist. The next thing he remembered was floating above the canal and seeing his body floating down the canal. He had been murdered and robbed. He told us, he surmised that is why he could dance in this life, but not sing. Indeed, to see him dance would bring tears to your eyes he was so inspiring, like the Lord of Dance Himself, but to hear him sing, well, not quite as great. Oh Gurudeva, we loved your dancing and your (very rare) singing too! Ha ha!

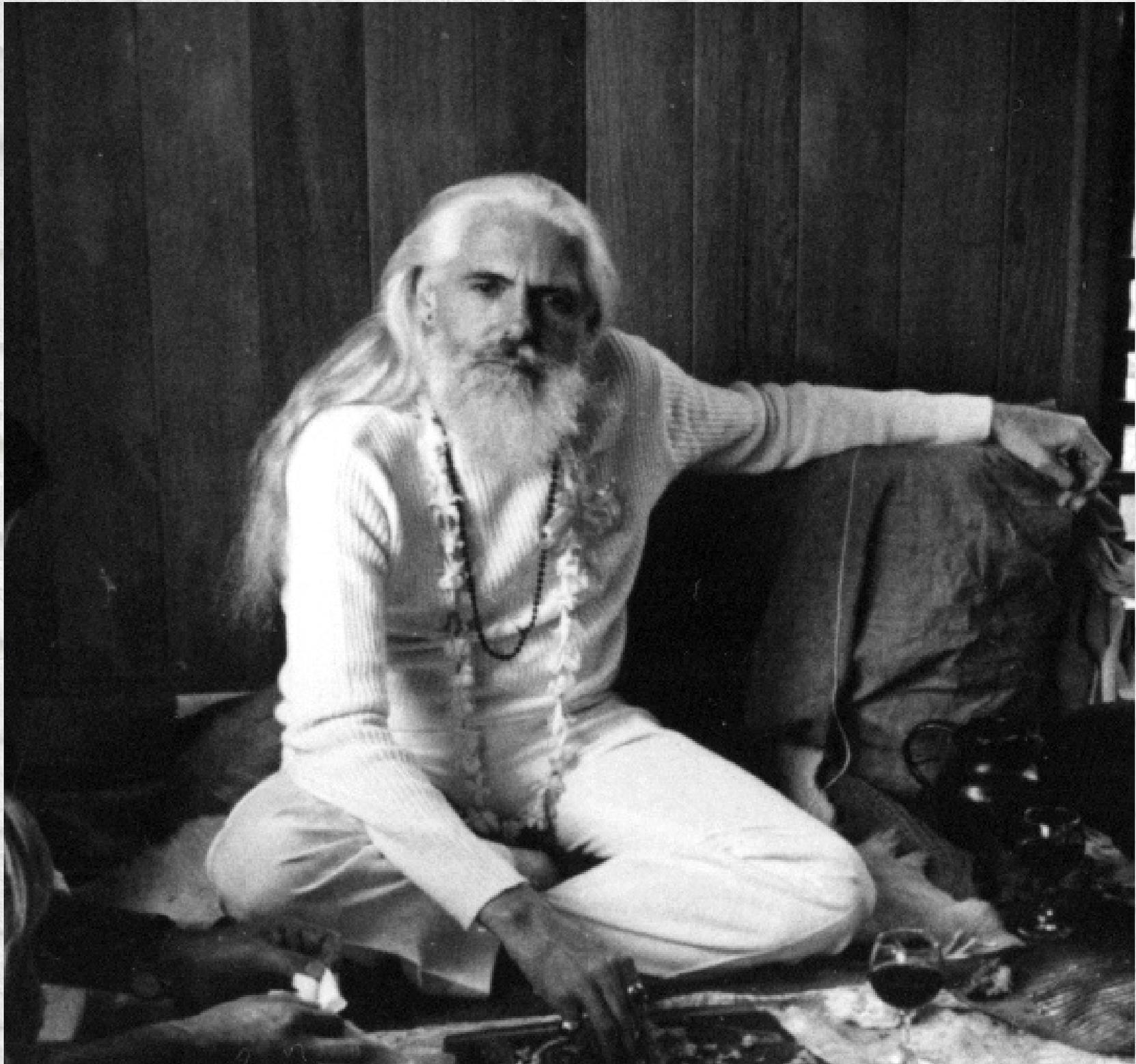
Sadhunathan, USA

Gurudeva... My Majestic Guru... The Love of My Life

I was seven when my father loudly announced that he had found his guru and we will be his disciples. Well at seven, I absolutely knew nothing about what he was talking about, but “HE must be someone God like himself,” I thought. I feared to look up at Gurudeva, shying away from his majestic appearances. I vividly remember performing “Kummi Adi” for Gurudeva and his majestic overwhelming smile seeing us perform. I was so proud of that moment... We (myself and my sister) felt so honored whenever we were chosen to be the flower girls to welcome Gurudeva.... At 14, when teenage life was taking a toll on our personality, figuring out “Who am I?”, every meetup with Gurudeva would set my heart to a tremble.... especially when he shoots his sparking glances towards me, penetrating right into the soul... I would often wonder if he knew what I was up to at that age... and I think HE KNEW! I was a real rebel inwardly, juggling to cope with the challenges that life and spiritual expectations that had imposed upon us. Growing up in a strict Hindu household, even emailing Gurudeva needed my father’s permission... It was 1996 and I decided to rebel once again. I secretly emailed Gurudeva. I clearly remember writing to him, “Gurudeva, please don’t tell my father that I email you, he would kill me”... Gurudeva replied the very next day, “No parents can question the relationship of a Guru and Shishya”... I was awestruck!!! and there it had all started... I would email Gurudeva all the time, seeking his assistance in every aspect of my life.

There were times I would simply rebel and question Gurudeva even on his writings and Gurudeva had never failed to return my emails with simple yet consoling explanations. He became my dearest confidant and most lovable father and friend.. When I came to know that Gurudeva is nearing Samadhi....I cried as if my heart had shattered into pieces. It persisted until and even after his Samadhi. I was ultimately still in depression....There was one time I closed my eyes and cried for hours, "You said you would never leave me Gurudeva..!" That night, I had a vision... HE appeared in a Shiva temple that I would regularly visit, and behind him stood all of his devotees...HE stood like a lion with the tandam (trident) in his hand looking at Lord Shiva and then at me...and said, "I am right here with you and I will always be". There was once after many years, I saw Gurudeva dancing through the pillars of Chidambaram.....I was admiring his dance, when he walked up to me. He held my hands and said "Remember that no matter what happens...I will be right there with you"... He is right...He is still here very much alive with me... even after all these years of my life and what's more, he has gifted precious Satguru to walk us through the journey of life and spirituality...Who could ask for more? Trust me, our gurus are with us through every part of our lives....through your happy moments and through the worst moments of your life.....Hold his hands and never let it go. Reach out for him with love and he will reach out to you...for he is even more alive now to guide and protect every one of us...And Gurudeva...the love of my life...I always say....till death do us apart....but even after death I shall not apart from thee!

Mohana Vilashiny Murugesu, Malaysia



Gurudeva was like Mount Wai'ale'ale - He was never exactly the same as the day before. He was always fresh, always new - If I had to make an analogy it would be similar to when you look at in the face of a newborn baby each day. You know - most of us revolve closely around our subconscious mind and personality - look and talk the same each day - we are not very mysterious.

Gurudeva was never the same, never predictable, never not new, unfathomable. Being around Gurudeva was being in another world every time, every single time. A personal glance from Gurudeva - and magic happened - something transcendental. Knowing and feeling that you were sitting with a Being who was radiating from the core of Being is not something you ever got use to - or took for granted for one second.

Deva Seyon, USA

One Sun One Homa about 25 years ago during a time when Kauai was suffering from Winter droughts (I know it is hard to believe) - but for a couple years in a row we had months in the Winter of no rain. I remember one time we had two "forest fires" in the Homesteads in one day at the same time! Our small fire department was overwhelmed. Anyway as I remember the background of the story all the farmers, who the monks know well, (they are all part of an agricultuaral co-op) kept asking the monks to please "talk to God and ask for rain" Well that must have been a little tough for the monks to respond to as we of course don't ask for things like that but they took the petition of the farmers to Gurudeva - so that is the background. As I walked into the Homa, (inside Kadavul Temple) Gurudeva was sitting where He always sat next to the Homa but Paramacharya Sivanathaswami was sitting next to Him and was holding an umbrella over His head. Now we are talking inside the temple and I thought this was very strange.

As I am sure you are aware the Homa is always dedicated to something and the homa in Kadavul never wavered - always to the building and completion of Iraivan Temple (Lord Hanumban would be next to the Kumba) but this morning it was different. After the Homa I approached Paramacharya Sivanathaswami and asked him what was that! He then related the repeated requests of the farmers and Gurudeva's compassion for them. As I left the temple the Sun was coming up to the ever familiar cloudless skies of that Winter. That night we all went out to the Nandi Mandapam at the end of San Marge (that is no longer in existence) where we would have another Homa for special occasions and during Full Moon. As I sat there I started to see clouds coming in, but no rain. As we left the Homa and walked down the San Marga path back to the parking lot it started to sprinkle. By the time I was in my bed it was pouring. For 2 and 1/2 months it rained either during the day or evening! So there is the power of our Gurudeva and our Kadavul Deity!

Deva Seyon, USA



I came to know of Gurudeva early 1987. I was impressed with his teachings as they answered all my questions about Hinduism. I was very eager to become his Sishya. I was a vegetarian able to complete all the tests and other requirements except tithing 10% of ones income. As a widow with three daughters to go to high school and university money was a great constraint and to make both ends meet I held private tuition for children in the neighborhood as that was what I could do as a school teacher. The urge to become a Sishya was very intense and often kept pondering over it. I prayed very hard and took the tithing vow and sent to Gurudeva. That night I dreamt of Gurudeva and he said " You will not regret it". Soon I sent in tithe for the particular month and what a blessing parents from other housing areas called up to give tuition for their children and they paid me well. All my five days were taken up for tuition, weekends for children, home chores and church activities. Life was very busy , got my girls through university level and are professionals today. I have taught about tithing to my immediate family members and they do so to institutions of their preference. I'm grateful to Gurudeva and the word "Thank You" is not enough so, I held Sunday Hinduism classes in temples to convey our religion to young children. Sincere advice to youngsters start tithing from your very first salary.

Mrs Selvanayagi Thuraisingam Malaysia

When Gurudeva announced his Prayopavesha, I immediately dropped everything in California and flew to Kauai and stayed there for the month until his MahaSamadhi. After Gurudeva attained Mahasamadhi, each devotee had to search within him/her self to decide how deep was our commitment: were we committed to putting his teaching into practice or were we just attracted to and leaning on his dynamic personality. During that month each morning the devotees met in the Guru Peetham to hear news from Paramacharya Sadasivanathaswami of Gurudeva, who was only seeing monastics during this time. The day after his Mahasamadhi, Bodhintha came in and talked with us. Everyone was feeling very sad. Bodhinatha, who we knew by then was the successor Satguru, said “Don’t feel sorry for Gurudeva. He is fine. Feel sorry for me!” We all reflected on the huge responsibility of the duties of the Satguru.

Easan Katir, USA

A few months ago after the monthly chitra puja to Gurudeva's Tiruvadi in our shrine room, I was looking at the Tiruvadi and mentally asking Gurudeva if He had come to bless us for I so hoped he had. About five feet from our shrine room window there's a bird feeder, and the finches feed there often during our pujas. On that morning, right after I asked Gurudeva, I heard a little sound at the window and looked slightly to my left to see one of the finches on the edge of the top window pane looking through the sheer curtain right at the Tiruvadi. After a minute or so he flew back to the feeder but then came right back to the same spot and sat motionlessly looking at the Tiruvadi. In the fourteen years we've had the bird feeder I've never seen a bird do that. I looked at the Tiruvadi and thanked Gurudeva for answering my question and for coming to bless us...

Bhavani Param, USA



JAI GURUDEVA !

TO BE THE WITNESS OF HOLY MEN LIVING IN TOTAL ONENESS WITH THEIR GURUDEVA, IS THE STORY OF THIS PICTURE WE HUMBLY OFFER TO SATGURU BODHINATHA VEYLANSWAMI FOR SATGURU PURNIMA.

THE PICTURE WAS SHOT IN THE SPRING 2001 AT THE ENTRANCE OF GURUDEVA'S BUILDING OFFICE. WE HAD HIS PERMISSION TO ROAM AROUND WITH A CAMERA. IT IS OUR MOST PRECIOUS PICTURE. GURUDEVA HUMBLE SANDALS ARE THERE SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE ONES OF SATGURU BODHINATHA AND THE MONKS.

Everyday we look at it and we tune into the world and life of the Aadheenaam Gurudeva created, a place of devotion, peace, harmony, sadhana, high activity at the service of the Sanatana Dharma, filled with sacrifice, contentment and joy and highest spiritual achievement... being 'transparent' as Gurudeva told us He was expecting of each one of His mathavasi.

We look at Gurudeva's sandals and the ones of His Swamis and monks.

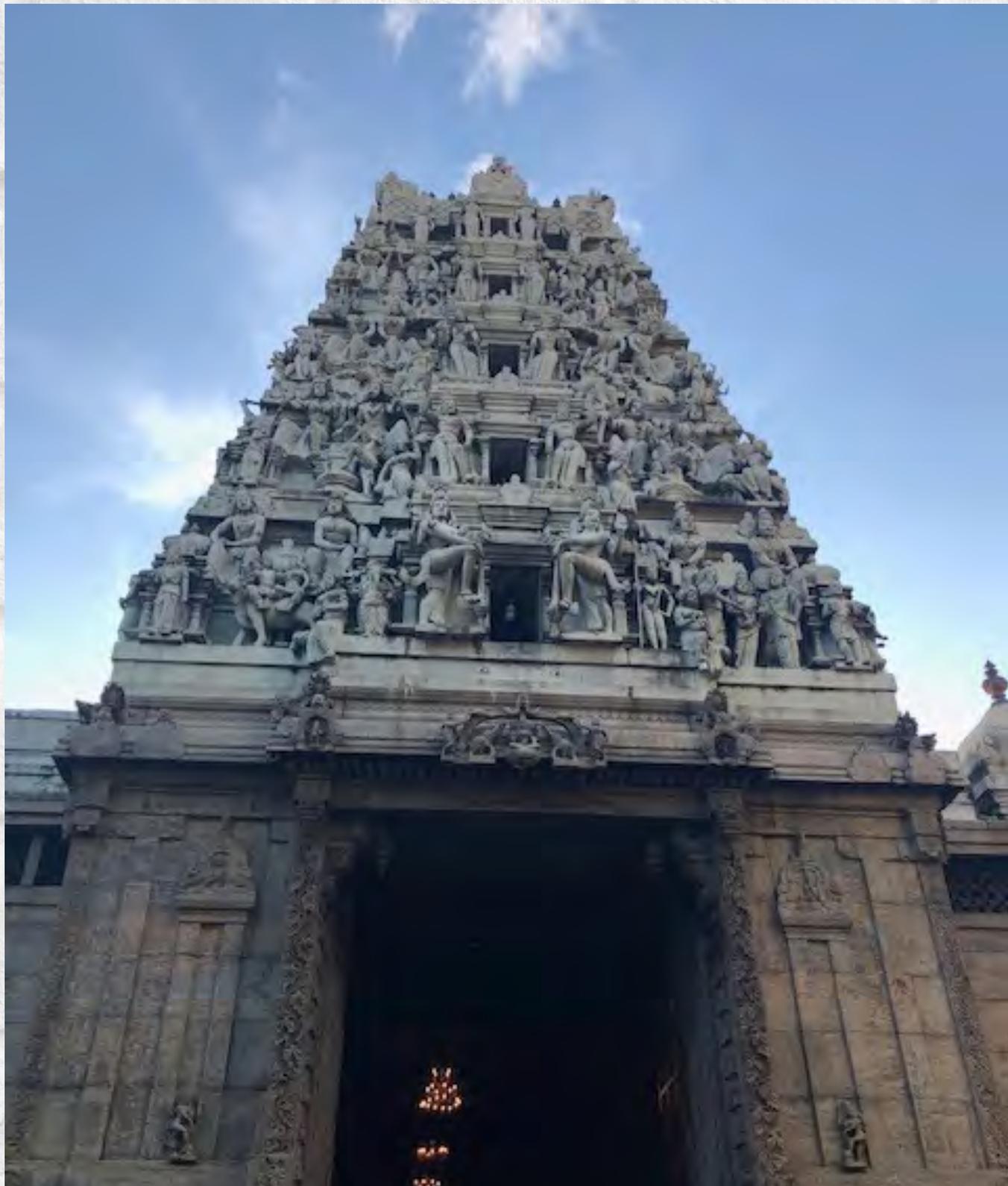
We are ever reminded of the humility, modesty of everyone of Them and how They achieved and achieve in oneness, one mind and in the love of their Satguru this renaissance of Hinduism around the world they were initiators and catalysts through the Web World.

"In our heart we carry Gurudeva's alive memory, in our heart we thank Him for bringing us in this life to the path of Dharma."

Thank You Gurudeva.

In complete surrender, we humbly bow down to our beloved Satguru Bodhinatha Veylanswami's sacred Lotus Feet and the Kailasa Parampara and beseech His Blessings.

Rajeshwari Parasivam, Réunion



This story involves my father, myself and Easan. My father was affectionately known to Gurudeva and the monks as Dr. Shan. He was a very staunch devotee of Yogarswami . We lived in Colombo and my father would travel by train or car every weekend to visit swami in Jaffna. It was a ritual for my father to tell yogarswami stories almost every day while we were growing up.

I was studying in London when my father got to know Gurudeva. Soon after I returned my father was invited by Gurudeva to visit the Aadheenam and some parts of the USA. My father was so overwhelmed by the love and compassion Gurudeva showed him. Gurudeva asked the monks to show all the necessary tourist areas in California where he went after Hawaii. He would write to us everyday pages after pages of his adventure and how the monks took him on a great sightseeing tour. While he was there he happened to mention me to Gurudeva and how he was looking for a match. Gurudeva kindly told him he will also look since he knows some members who are thinking of marrying someone from Sri Lanka or India.

Long story short He talked to Easan about me and Easan and started writing to each other like pen friends. Then we will talk on the phone. Bodhinatha and Sadhasivanatha swami came once during one of their visits to Sri Lanka and sat down and talked with me for a long time. About my beliefs, culture and how I would feel living in the US without any of my relatives around and many more questions. They must have been satisfied because soon after Easan flew over, got engaged and we were married less than a month after he arrived. I still am in awe to think that Gurudeva arranged our marriage. So lucky!

Sundari Katir, USA

I hadn't seen Gurudeva for about three years and didn't know where he was. I decided to pilgrimage from California to the New York Ganesha Temple. I attended the Siva Lingam puja and sat quietly afterwards meditating. In meditation I saw a vision of Gurudeva in orange robes and he put his hand on my head. I thought "that's a nice vision." A few minutes later I felt a hand on my head. I opened my eyes and looked up, and there was Gurudeva in orange robes with his hand on my head. He said, "because you have come to this temple, your entire life will change." Soon after, he suggested a marriage and after all the usual family conferences, checking, double-checking, and decision making by all parties concerned, we were engaged, then married. My entire life changed.

By the way, I learned later that Gurudeva had sent two senior monks, Bodhinatha and Sadasivanathaswami, to Colombo to interview the proposed bride and her family. Sundari also vividly recalls the day when someone in the household shouted "there are two swamis outside!" My wife recalls the swamis asking Dr. Shan to meet his youngest daughter right away, and interviewing her about her life, beliefs, habits. After the suggestion of a possible match. I composed a letter to her and mailed it. Later she told me she had been singing the special Tiruvembhavai Devaram for the prescribed ten days, asking Siva for a good husband.

Anyway, on the tenth and final day the family woke her up at 3 am to go to the famous Shivakamasundhari Ponnambaleshvarar Temple to sing for a final time. The well-known oduvar, Manikavasagar, led the congregation. They returned home, and later, at 10 o'clock that morning, the postman brought a letter addressed to her. As was their custom to protect her, her parents read the letter first, then gave it to her. Her first thought was "what a crock, so formal!", but as a well-bred Hindu girl, he didn't say that out loud. She was stunned at the coincidental timing though. We exchanged letters, a phone call, and then I flew to Colombo. Dr. Shan checked me out first. Then I met Ranjan. Then Gowri Akka. I guess I passed the initial screening, as I then met my future wife and got to know her for a few weeks in carefully chaperoned meetings. During that time, they also hired a detective to spy on me, so careful were they. We sat on the front porch talking. Her grandmother "Aarchi" kept peeking out the window and grumbled that we were spending too much time together. We went for a walk chaperoned by her two nieces, Ramya and Shivani. After a month the civil ceremony occurred, overseen by Senator Nadesan, Dr. Shan's elder brother. We were married at a grand ceremony in Kathiresan Hall in Bambalapitiya. A few of her family boycotted her wedding to a 'foreigner', but many many more showered their blessings. After tearful goodbyes we departed Colombo and settled in America. My whole life changed.

Easan Katir, USA




Palaniswami
explained that
the water is
from the Ganges
and in pouring
the water over
us, it symbolises
the washing
away of our
previous life &
the starting
of our new
life.



In 2004 my husband and I went on our first Innersearch. It was the Indian Odyssey 2004. We knew a few people and knew nothing about an Innersearch. But as the days went by I learnt a lot about my religion from Satguru Bodhinatha and the swami's. I also was happy that a void in my life was answered.

On 28th January 2004 we went to Madurai Meenakshi Amman Temple for prayers and when we returned to the hotel, we had a surprise. It was my husband's 60th birthday and Satguru and the swamis did the 60th wedding ceremony for us. I was so touched that I cried during the ceremony.

We were blessed to be bathed by Satguru with a pot of water denoting water from the Ganges. We were also gifted new clothes and our garlands were the garlands from the deities of Madurai Meenakshi Amman Temple. We were so grateful. What a blessing.

Thank you Satguru Bodhinatha.

Suselah Periasamy, Singapore



Satguru Bodhinatha was coming to Chicago and we were getting ready to leave for the airport to receive Him. That morning we were rushing a bit, trying to finish chores before we left for the airport, and with everything going on that was making us late, we noticed that flight was landing early as well. Now there was no time to stop at the grocery store to pick some fresh flowers for Satguru, so we just plucked some from our front yard to give to Satguru when we see Him at the Airport.

Seeing Satguru walking out of the gate at the airport is always such a nice and happy feeling ☐. We prostrated and gave those flowers to Satguru. He smiled and said, "Good to see you!" As He received the flowers, He added, "Hope your neighbors don't mind". We told him, "No, no Satguru ji these flowers are from our yard".

After coming back home, we kept thinking what made Satguru think and say that our neighbors may not like us picking flowers from our own yard. Satguru is always right so He must have a reason to point that out. We kept thinking and then it suddenly clicked - oh yes, these flowers were from our yard but not from our own pots, which we had planted and can freely pluck. These flowers were from the area (of our yard), which the association takes care of to beautify the community and keep the outlook of houses the same, hence we are not supposed to pluck flowers or cut any of these plants.

Satguru's intuition worked and He was spot on! Next day when we saw Satguru again, we explained to Him and apologized for our mistake.

Ripla and Gaurav Malhotra, USA



We are thankful to Satguru Bodhinatha for His yearly visits to Chicago. We feel extremely blessed and fortunate to be able to spend so much time with Him when He is visiting and be able to drive Him to his various appointments here in Chicago. We so very much look forward to these drives. In fact, the more the traffic, the better for us as we get more personal time with Him in the car - this may sound odd that we look forward to getting stuck in traffic ☐, but it just is a perfect situation, so blissful and peaceful... everything feels perfect sitting next to Satguru. It absolutely feels like one is sitting in Kadavul temple. It is like a Temple walking with you, live everywhere you go for those 5-6 days when Satguru is here in Chicago.

I get motion sickness easily, so whenever we go for a long drive as a family, I usually prefer to drive to overcome nausea. When Satguru is visiting my husband drives the car with Satguru sitting on the front passenger's seat. Kids and I usually sit in the second row with Swami or sometimes I am in the third row of car... but I have no problem at all being in the second or third row, no giddiness, no nausea or vomiting, rather I so very much enjoy sitting behind Satguru. Everything is just perfect and we experience so much love and happiness. For us, these drives have actually become the highlight of His trip.

And when Satguru leaves and we are at the airport to see Him off, we stand there extra 10 minutes to catch the last glimpse of Him, our heart sinks and it feels as if we are getting separated from our family - this all is His love and blessings.

Ripla and Gaurav Malhotra, USA

I was totally ignorant about our Hindu religion even until and after my marriage at the age of 26. When my first child was about 7 years old, there were some youngsters coming house to house encouraging children to be sent to Hindu religious classes. Since the place was quite near to my home and being a Sunday I decided to send my daughter for this class. After a few weeks of classes my daughter picked a devaram. One day it was about 3 pm, I was resting in a chair and suddenly she came to me and said Appa, I want to sing a song that I learned in the Sunday classes. I said ok please sing. With so much of passion and melodious voice she sang "Aynthoo Karathanai". The first time I heard it, it caught my attention and I liked it very much. I asked her to repeat it a few times until she got tired and ran away. In my lifetime this was the first time I ever heard a Thevaram. The following Sunday I went to pick her up and usually I would sit in the car. But that Sunday I decided to go into the building (center) where the classes are being conducted. I met a youngster who took me around the small hall to show me some photos and pamphlets about Hinduism. That's the time he said they are associated with Kauai Adheenam, Hawaii and Satguru Sivayasubramuniya Swami was the head. He showed the Swami Sangam photos etc. That's the first time I have ever seen a Swami's photo. He said they are all white Americans associated with Sri Lanka and their teachings are all in English and classes are in English too.

Since my Tamil reading ability was not good, I was very happy to hear this and decided to join the classes. That's where it all began, I started to know and learn about Hinduism. All these happened in the month of November and in December I was told that they will be celebrating Pancha Ganapati and there will be a homa fire on the final day. I was told about the burning of prayers in the homa and guidelines on writing the message was also told to me. This fascinated me and I decided to write all my problems and shortcomings. I did burn my messages and went home very peacefully as if I had unloaded a big weight from my shoulders. It was between 28th Dec to Dec 31, 1986 I had a very powerful dream early in the morning. Suddenly I saw a small homa fire and opposite the fire I saw a kind of rostrum where I had men in white beard sitting and enjoying the homa. I got excited when I saw them. I wanted to prostrate to their feet so I fell flat on the ground and moved on my chest to touch their feet and my head was splitting. As I was about to touch their feet, something told me that I am still not worthy of that action. I woke up and from that day onwards everything changed and became kind of crazy to learn more about Hinduism. That is how it all started to go into Gurudeva's teachings etc. Most surprising was becoming a vegetarian overnight without any issue.

Guhan Sivalingam, Malaysia



In early 1988, there was news that Gurudeva would be coming to Malaysia in March and there would be a Satsang in Klang, the town in which I was staying. The members were looking for a suitable house to host the Satsang. One or two weeks before his arrival I had a dream. Suddenly I saw Gurudeva appearing at the entrance of my house with a member and then went around the house with me and the member. My house is a double story terrace type. It was one complete walk around my home. After that Gurudeva told us this house looks good and he disappeared. I told the dream to the members and they decided to have the Satsang in my home. It happened in the month of March 1988. I knew zero protocols about receiving a Satguru to my home but still managed to host him. About 60 people turned up and Bodhinatha did the Pada puja. It was truly a blessing for me and my family.

Guhan Sivalingam, Malaysia



Satguru Sivaya Subramuniaswami's Darshan: A Story

Subramuniaswami and I were standing in the parking lot of Cost Plus near the waterfront – it was cool and cloudy as it often was in San Francisco. It was 1972, and I had been a monastic for about two years and was serving a purchasing agent for the San Francisco Monastery. One moment Subramuniaswami walked in the door of the monastery and what seemed like the next moment we were in the Cost Plus parking lot to look for beautiful bargains (such as brass Temple bells) from newly-arrived shipments from India. I had met Subramuniaswami early in 1967 out of an intense desire to learn how to maintain deep experiences brought on with psychedelics without them. After three Innersearches and sadhanas one-after-another each one uprooting me from patterns I did not know I had and pulling me into new ones. Like many, I came in with ideas of “let’s get started! – and was taught to clean up after myself (this took a while); sent home to reconcile with my parents; and finish the University. Somehow, I managed to complete each sadhana and through some miracle to become a monastic. I had learned a little about Lord Ganesha; and seen Hindu Temples that shook my soul – Palani, Nallur, Tiruvannamalai and learned a little about the religion – but for all that I had no concept of what Hinduism was. Instead of walking into the store, Subramuniaswami remained in the parking lot seemingly enjoying the sea breeze and beautiful day. Suddenly, he turned to me with his deepest gaze and said, “The Sanatana Dharma is what you know as you unfold.” At that moment, my past experiences with religion all aligned and fell into place – and I began to understand Hinduism – little by little as a part of me.

Anonymous



Jai Ganesha! Prostrations To Beloved Satgurunathan!

In early July 2018 my voice stopped working, it just went away. Tried to speak, nothing came out. My wife Kamala and I went to the first available doctor who suggested simple lozenges and mentioned we may need to see a specialist. Then we went to my regular doctor who had us try antibiotics, still no improvement. Here in northern California it was difficult to get scheduled with an ENT (ear, nose, throat doctor), but by August finally received an appointment for early September. The visit involved inserting a camera down the throat, where the doctor saw a growth on my vocal chords that he diagnosed as a 'granuloma', not unusual for singers and others who use their voices a lot. It also can be caused by acid reflux, so the doctor prescribed strong antacids and said he could surgically remove the growth the following month, when his schedule allowed. He said they would do a biopsy then, but there was little chance of cancer and not to worry. By now it was hurting quite a bit to swallow, and at night it would wake me up in pain. We started doing research online and found that surgery is the last option to use after other methods are tried, being delicate and potentially dangerous to one's voice. The next day the doctor's office called and said due to a cancellation they would be able to operate the following week. At that moment I was online at the Saiva Siddhanta Church website, and looking over saw Satguru Bodhinatha was online also at that moment, a rare and blessed occurrence to my mind, and a striking import of the timing. I chose to not take the offered immediate surgery, and began the more conservative treatment of medication, diet modification, sleeping on incline, etc. There was no positive response and the pain began to be overwhelming at night, I would wake up crying out to God to help me. Consuming numerous Ibuprofen helped little, along with sore throat medications. As there was no improvement, we called the doctor back and had to wait another month to see him in November. It was such a long wait, calling out to God in agony every night. Finally we saw the doctor and he said "I'm not changing my diagnosis, and can operate on you in January" which was two months away.

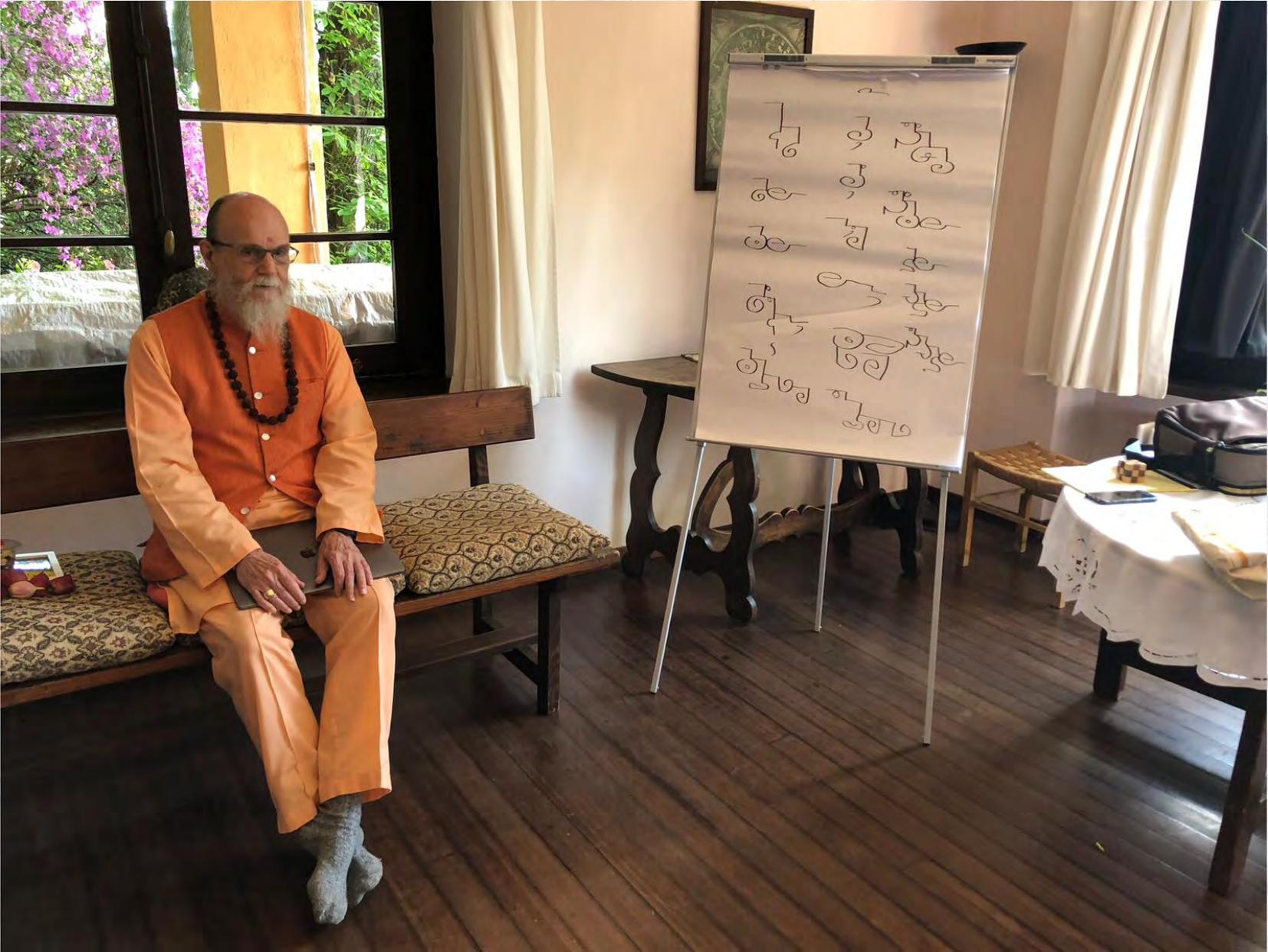
By now I had lost a lot of weight from being unable to eat without pain, and from trying to limit meal amounts for reflux control. The discomfort was becoming unbearable, it was time to 'break the emergency glass' in the fire alarm of life.

During all this time I was unable to speak beyond a bare whisper croak and not even that most of the time. I began writing to communicate everything, even using whistles and tongue clucks to get the messages across. This was extreme isolation, unable to verbally share my thoughts and feelings with others, for months. Talk about mauna! The terms we so readily hear: be the voice of, raise your voice, to speak out, to have a voice in an issue, etc. It was a learning experience of compassion for those who cannot talk. We take for granted so many of the basics in life. Doing silent pujas took on a whole new meaning, having regularly treasured the physical vibrations of the names of the deities being chanted aloud. Fortunately the experience of seeing priests do silent puja in Kadavul Temple allowed an easier acceptance of these limitations.

So the break glass emergency response was to contact my successful sister and ask for help. She had recently moved to the San Francisco Bay area, and through great and tireless efforts was able to get us to an excellent doctor right away in early December, who immediately called for a biopsy. This was done mid-December and showed I had stage 3 laryngeal throat cancer, with grim options. It was to remove the vocal box surgically and insert a mechanical device, becoming a 'neck-breather' for life, or go through extensive chemotherapy and radiation, hoping that would be successful. After various tests and numerous doctors, the UCSF cancer board decided I qualified for attempting the less invasive option, and so it was to begin right away in January. Before that it was necessary to have a feeding tube surgically implanted in my abdomen, to be able to get nourishment, anticipating being unable to swallow as treatments progressed, and this was performed in early January.

All this upended regular life, of course. We moved into my sister and her husband's home in the Lafayette hills and were seeing doctors primarily in the Concord and Walnut Creek area. That's right, somehow all this was to occur within miles of the Concord temple, and in areas we had previously made pilgrimages for darshan with Satguru Bodhinatha. We were sending prayers to the devas as all this was occurring, so we were able to keep a positive attitude and overview, somehow just watching it all unfold. As all this started to become a bit overwhelming and my fears grew, I started writing Satguru directly, also sending copies of the prayers; He responded, which gave me the strength to carry on. There were greatly appreciated messages and prayers of support from Swamis, family and friends around the globe. As Kamala gratefully observed "there was so much help, overwhelming help, everywhere help". Then the treatments began in mid-January.

The plan was three courses of the very strong chemotherapy drug cisplatin to 'kill' the cancer cells, while simultaneously undergoing thirty-five laser radiation procedures, five days a week for seven weeks, to burn out the tumor. The chemo drugs basically destroy much of the body organs, almost killing it, then there is partial recovery over a few weeks and they do it again. Takes one's body to the edge of mortality, then back again, so frequent extensive vomiting is normal as the body tries to eliminate these toxins. This gave me lots of opportunity to ponder my missteps in life, a fine time for purging one's subconscious and resolving to do better. Gurudeva's description of tapas as a "landslide of mud, the accumulated dross of a lifetime" was helpful in pondering my predicament, and how to survive the experience. For the simultaneous external radiation treatments to be administered, an upper body template was cast while laying back on the radiation table. This was primarily a facial mask of netting laid over the head and shoulders, then hardened with epoxy.



This could then be used to securely clamp one down on the table, with the head firmly held stationary as numerous large rotating green laser beams circled the focal point on the throat. Talk about *summa iru!* Being bolted down to a table and everyone leaving the room, closing a giant vault door behind them, was a challenge in claustrophobic confinement. They could hear/speak over microphones, but it was necessary for me to remain silent and motionless for about ten minutes. This is where our years of pranayama really helped. Being able to freely move the abdomen with rhythmic breathing has always been a relief during long pujas in the temple, and so it was a welcome comfort while physically restrained. They had a beautiful back-lit scene of trees and sky overhead for patients to look at, which gave a pleasant focus of nature appreciation and inspiration for greater adventures if I ever got out of there. It was absolutely necessary to have determined resoluteness through all this... mentally, emotionally and spiritually. It was the willpower developed through the life-style of sadhana, given to us by Gurudeva, that gave enough strength and positive uplifting attitude to carry on.

During this time the mind struggles with all these occurrences, so various anti-anxiety medications are prescribed, as well as opiates for pain. The pain medications increased over time, including liquid morphine, fentanyl patches, etc. It was the psychological medications that were unpredictable; they can be helpful or awful, and are frequently both. The long nights were the worst part. My dear wife was becoming so drained by these months of challenge, she too was losing weight and I worried about her. Staying in a nearby room allowed her to get some partial sleep while I vomited through the nights. Anguished, I also experienced internal realms of great mental and emotional discomfort.

By now I also couldn't swallow at all, not even fluids, and had to pour liquid nutrients into the abdominal feeding tube every few hours, as frequent as a new-born. This was getting more desperate, and my mind found its only relief by inwardly turning to Satguru at Kauai Aadheenam. This was a familiar visualization, inwardly traveling to Kadavul Temple, feeling the radiance of the Spatika Sivalingam as a beacon.

My sister's home where we stayed looked out over rolling hills and ridges towards the west, and I knew the ocean was just beyond that, and following the ocean over the curve of the earth, our beloved Satguru was just beyond that. This became my strength, to be with our Sivaguru, mingbasida, the life force within our spines and His spine, One and the same. Seriously, I was lost and dying, it was time to go home. I desperately did not want to leave my beloved wife alone to grieve, and this motivated me, but I did not have the strength to go on. I leaned on our beloved Satguru like it was the end of the world, which for me it was becoming. I inwardly took awareness there to Kauai Aadheenam to be with Satguru, in absolute survival mode. I visualized our Guru's recently remodeled upper rooms, the rarely glimpsed sunroom, the simple accommodations of the holiest of monks. Not wanting to intrude, but desperate beyond life, I sought to release my existence into the sacred flow of mingbasida by being in His physical presence astrally. And then one night it happened, all this heart-melting bhakti of complete surrender led to the experience of becoming one of the gold-capped beads on Satguru's mala. It just happened. My identity was that, not this. It was enough. Forever grateful, completed and satisfied, content and whole, this was the blessing beyond blessings, to be such a sacred part of Satguru's life. We are taught to see our Sivaness as the cord running through the mala of our successive lives, but just to have been one of Satguru's mala beads, for that moment in time, was and is eternally fulfilling. That knowing of oneness is what carried me through the whole experience. It got bad after that, much worse. The second chemo treatment was so debilitating we went to the ER and required four days in the hospital. Returning from that experience, the family dynamics had become challenging. My dear sister had transported us so many dozens of times to doctors, treatments, pharmacies, etc and finally the imposition was too much, so we relocated to a simple residential hotel in the area and learned to use Uber.

This was as the intensity of treatments was becoming absurdly debilitating, my poor body weight was down to 102 pounds. Uncomfortable daily intravenous hydration was necessary. The radiation results were like the worst sunburn of all time, increasing in severity after treatments were completed, requiring frequent wound care. This was the "being scorched, burned to a crisp" part of tapas. The time came during the third chemotherapy when the realization was clear, I was near the option point of checking out of this life, and certainly didn't want to die in this hotel. My beloved dear wife had carried, nurtured, comforted, accompanied and sustained me with her love throughout all this; and the absolute conviction that our Satguru is caring for us through all our suffering and trials kept me going. As a devotee said at a recent satsang: "God really takes care of you if you are desperate", and I was desperate.

The final radiation treatment was March 4th, then several days later two of our children came to rescue us home. It had been three months of immersion in the medical system, with overwhelming gratitude for the health care providers. Many seemed to be devas returned to help us, so many good people. There were lots of doctor visits yet to be completed, but I was done with the big city and dearly wanted to be home, having survived the worst. Being back home was a continuation of being very ill and recovering slowly, but so healing to be back. There were problems with trying to eat food too soon, aspirating and needing swallowing studies, a speech therapist, various tests and techniques. Even more recently when Bodhinatha was guiding us to be 'mindful' as a current sadhana, the aspirating problem is being helped by a note that reminds "mindful swallowing"; the Guru is ever present in our lives. Meanwhile back at the end of June the feeding tube was removed, what a relief after six months of hosting a valve in my tummy. The good part is there is a "second belly button" on the abdomen, which is always funny when saying Ganesha's name "Aum Dvijapriyaya Namah - Adoration to Him who loves the twice born".



Afterwards there have been ongoing procedures and tests, but mostly life is a wonderful continuation of blessings, even better with so much gratitude, this is all bonus time. That summer we went on many 'bucket-list' trips up into the high mountains. Enjoying lakes, hiking waterfalls, the dawns filled with wonder, so much of Lord Siva's beauteous creation, being able to do puja aloud!, loving family gatherings, playing music with dear wife, a granddaughter's graduation on-line, all these many joys are boon gifts from God. We were able to travel twice for satsang with Satguru, the most recent at Rishipata's home right in the midst of the area where my doctors performed their wonders. Now we have been having weekly satsangs with Satguru and devotees, so many blessings. Gurudeva's description of tapas seems appropriate: "A landslide of mud, the accumulated dross of a lifetime" "burnt to a crisp, crawling out the other side, unburnt, without scars, without pain" "he awakens from this hideous dream resting on a mat in a garden hut, smelling sweet jasmine, seeing pictures of God and devas, hearing flute". Actually, many recent days have been found outside in the starlit pre-dawns gathering the fragrant blooming jasmine for puja, then coming in to see the holy Murtis and Satguru's picture, and then hearing beloved wife playing the flute; all this is a blessed manifestation of Gurudeva's vision. Perhaps it is similar to the Nayanars, whose love of God ultimately transformed them. While having mentally pondered this testimony for quite some time, the MWS Lesson 61 regarding tapas was for the day the above was finally written, and then found out about it afterwards!

There is one thing only that carried me through then and carries me now, the everpresent Satguru's grace. Gurudeva wrote "Guru bhakti is the only force that can cool the fires of tapas". My heart melted in tears the first time Gurudeva entered the room decades ago. It melts now just to share this. It melts everyday at the thought of our loving, beloved Satguru Bodhinatha. We are grateful beyond these few words to be so blessed by Satguru's love. I always thought guru bhakti referred to our devotion for the Guru, but realize now it too speaks of His Great Love. This is why our hearts melt, we feel the Guru's love. Guru Bhakti is the Greatest Blessing,

Anbe Sivamayam Satyame Parasivam.

Toshadeva Guhan, USA



Once upon a time in Colombo, Gurudeva, Paramacharya Sadasivanathaswami and I went to visit one of Gurudeva's early catalysts, Noyil Peris, known as Dayananda. We found him in an old folks home sitting on a metal cot with no family around, basically waiting to die. Gurudeva told him to pack his suitcase, that he was leaving with us. He did. We walked out the front door, amidst the protestations of the staff. We took a taxi to his son's home. Gurudeva told the son and his wife it was their duty to take care of him. Gurudeva asked me to buy a color television for him to watch, a luxury back then, which I did.

Gurudeva spoke to the ages. We arranged a talk for him in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Very few people showed up to hear him, but Gurudeva gave an amazing inspired talk anyway, which I transcribed and sent to the Aadheenam. They titled the talk Hinduism, the Greatest Religion in the World, and it became a pamphlet, HT article, booklet, and eventually found a place in the Master Course.

Easan Katir, USA

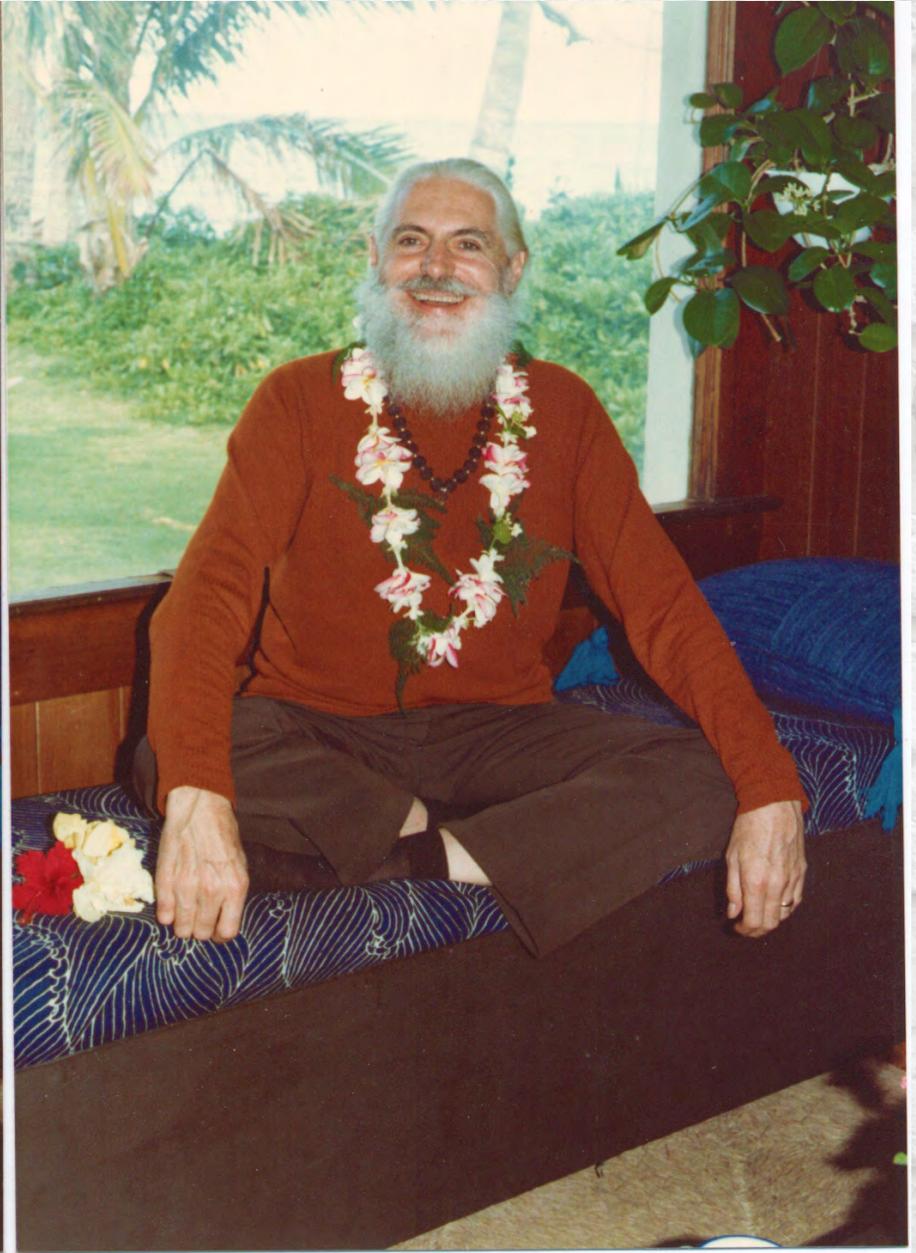
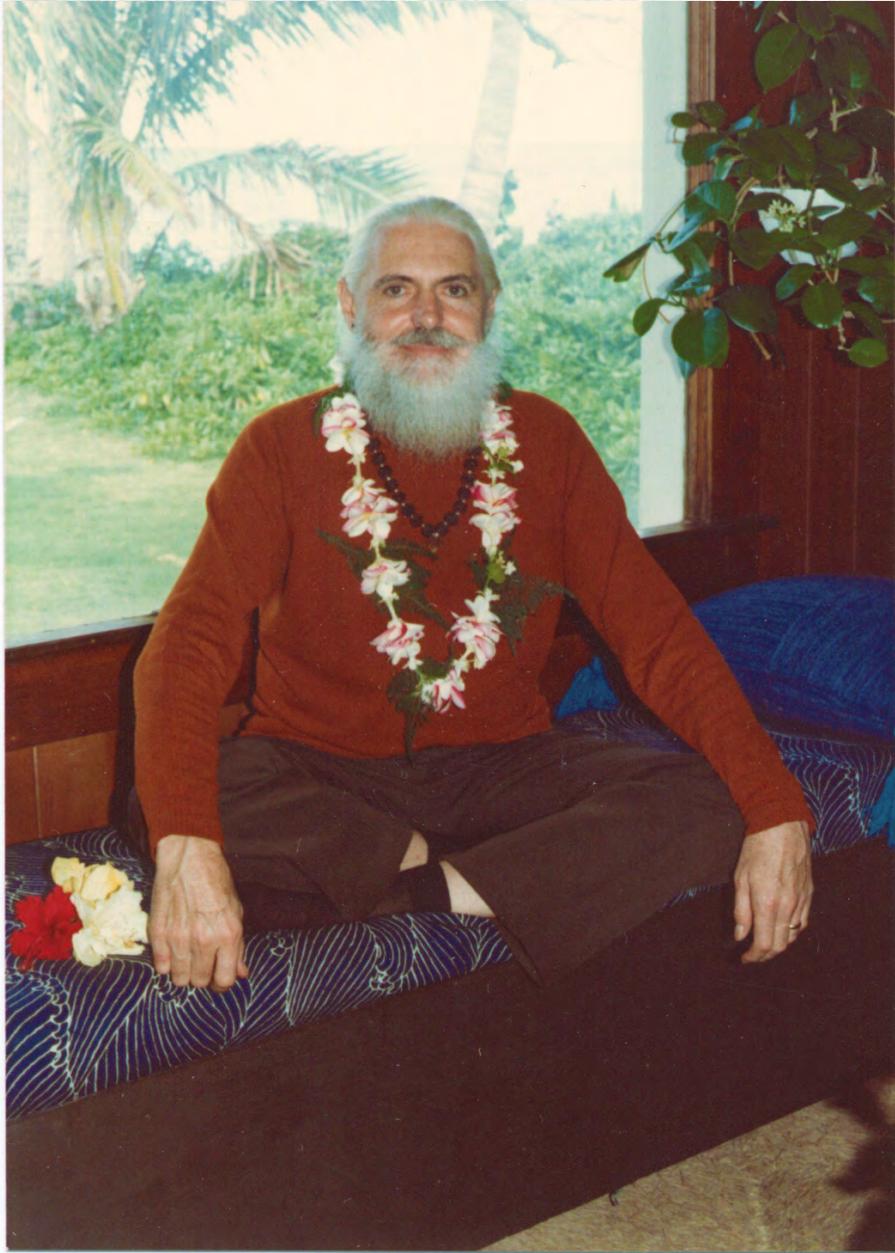
Sharing SatGuru's Most Practical Teachings

During my last visit to Kauai, I reflected on peak work experiences where I had participated in cross-organizational high-performance teams. The teams proved to have high value to the organization in resolving problems that in some cases could not be resolved by experts from one or a few of the hierarchies involved. However, what really struck me was the stunning experience we all had when solutions became clear – when we knew we could trust each other. The obvious occurred to me – that trust was a critical element in the success of these teams and to the satisfaction members get from working on them. But what jumped out at me was that behind trust is the first two Yamas, Ahimsa and Satya – a team member who is inconsiderate and dishonest cannot gain much trust. Both the Hindu Religion teacher and I had been teaching the Yamas and Niyamas during our Sunday classes- how practicing makes it easier to concentrate, to meditate, to become strong. When I returned from the Pilgrimage, I shared the insight that when you avoid hurtfulness and kindly speak the truth and do what you know you should do, people begin to trust you and feel safe around you. When I asked one of the parents whether this made sense, he said that he managed large groups of people stressed how critical trust was – he gave the example of when a new person is hired, how it is a priority to gain his or her trust. Moreover, when I asked some older students whether it resonated, they got it! They both spoke of the passion and energy they felt in problem solving teams when trust existed and how cool the feeling of creativity and working together was. That a teaching from their heritage and their religion could be so critical – this was the first time I connected as deeply with my class as I did on that day. Gurudeva and Satguru Bodhinatha Veylanswami have both stressed how the Yamas and Niyamas lay the groundwork for going within as does working selflessly and creatively in the world. This is an example of each of us in the class bringing this lesson to life for each other.

Vayudeva Varadan, USA

As far as I can recall, I remember my soul searching. This is challenging when you are born in a home where religion's hardly practiced. As a teen, I would attend weekly satsangas at the nearby SaiBaba center on my own and as a young girl, absolutely any religious class I would come across. Name the organisation, I've probably been there! Yet, somehow, something was always amiss. At the age of 22, I casually walked in to a large Hindu dinner gathering, invited by a Kulapati friend of ours. And there he was; Gurudeva would stand out in any crowd, even without his traditional garb. Dutifully, I touch his feet and as I look up to stand, I meet his kind yet piercing eyes staring down at me, leaving me mesmerised. At the risk of sounding cliché, time froze. But then, even those words don't do justice to that magical moment. He smiles at me and my now-husband, and asks the person standing next to him, in his deep charismatic voice, "Who is this beautiful couple?". I hardly remember the rest of the evening but I know, deep inside my inner self, that my life has been altered. He beautifully explained the moment himself in LWS, L45: "The outer descent of grace is the appearance of a satguru. There is no question as to who he is, for he sheds the same clear, spiritual vibration as that unknown something the soul feels emanating from his deepest self."Fast forward another twenty two years and all his teachings still answer all my existential questions. This may sound strange, but I do not question or doubt even one of his words. There is unmatched wisdom in all those lines, they are never outdated. Pure inspirational nectar and eternal truths. I continue to make spiritual progress under his successor, our beloved Satguru Bodhinatha Veylanswami, and remain staunch and faithful to the Guru parampara, and have never walked in to another lineage's class since that fateful day.

Vandana Sandya Nathoo, Mauritius



Once upon a time a group of Hindus invited Gurudeva to visit their town and speak.

One of the groups owned a collector luxury car. He was so proud of this car. A mechanic came to his house each month to tune it up. He planned to drive Gurudeva in this car. So, Gurudeva and I were waiting in the hotel lobby, and he drove his car up and parked in front of the hotel. He came in and invited Gurudeva and I to the car. Gurudeva went out and when he sat down in the passenger seat, the entire car slumped down, as if ten thousand pounds were weighing it down. Gurudeva was in a certain inner state, and just turned to us and smiled. The devotee and I looked at each other in amazement. He got in the driver's seat and put his foot on the gas. There was a screeching sound of rubber on metal, as the tires were scraping the wheel wells. The car wouldn't move. The devotee was embarrassed now. The car just wouldn't move.

Not knowing what else to do, he went into the lobby and asked if there was a car he could rent. They said they only had one, a rusty Chevy station wagon. He took it, and

Gurudeva and I got into that car. He was even more embarrassed.

He drove out of the hotel parking lot past three ladies standing on the street corner. He was so flummoxed, he took the wrong turn and had to go around the block, passing these same three ladies again, who now waved and smiled. The devotee was totally embarrassed now, and we rode to the town meeting without further incident. That fellow became an ardent devotee and financially supported Himalayan Academy's publications for many years afterward.

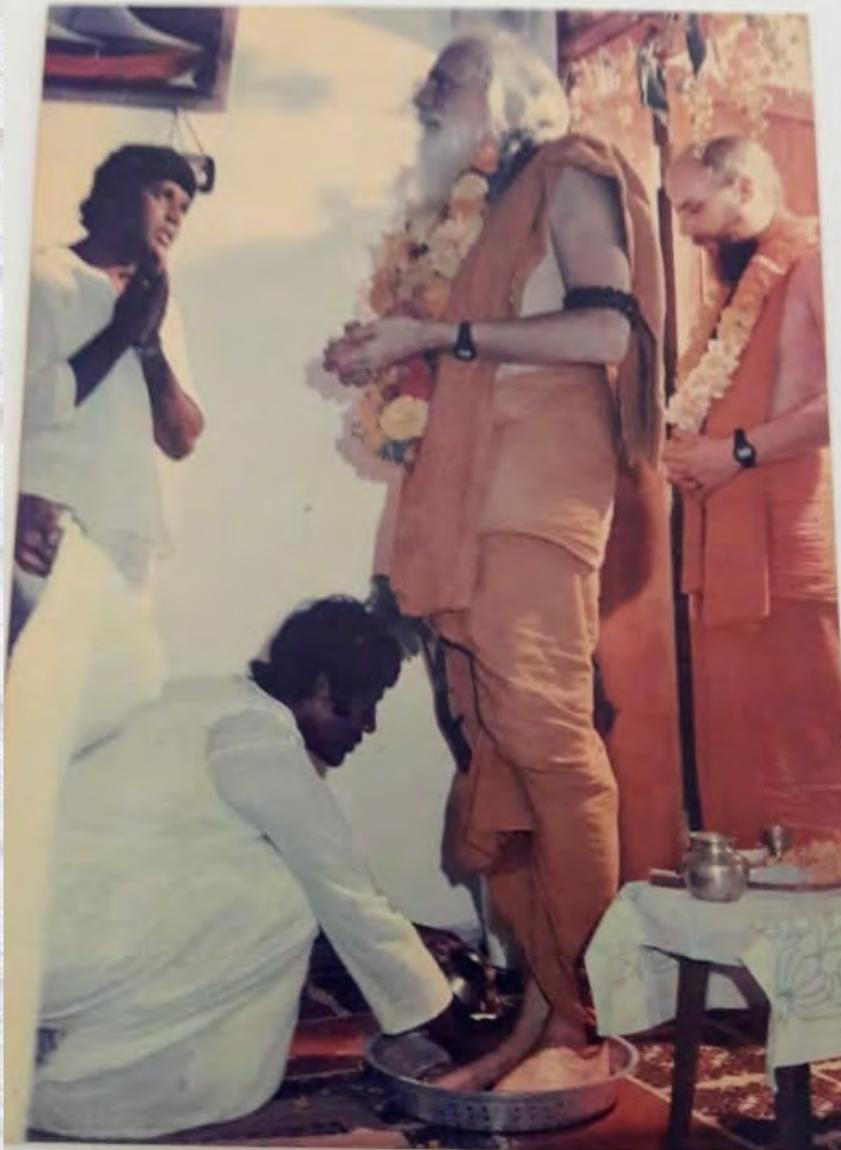
Anonymous



Guru as a True Friend

After my allowed three years of service in the monastery, Sivaya Subramuniaswami and several monastics drove me to the Reno airport. On the way down the mountain from the Virginia City Ashram, he asked me where I wanted to go. I said "India" though I had no idea where I would go or what I would do when I got there. When we got to the airport, Gurudeva said, "go back to your family." Because I did not have my parents' permission to join the monastery, we could only serve three years, then live in the world a year – then and only then apply to rejoin the monastery. He gave me several hundred dollars for the plane fare and saw me off. While in the monastery, I had watched a fellow monastic struggle with his attraction to women – at the time I had said with no shortage of spiritual pride, "not me, that would never happen to me." I know you know what I am going to say. It didn't take long before my desires got the best of me. I was so embarrassed – the last thing I wanted to do was to tell my Guru I had failed – when I finally found myself totally stuck and called, he advised me to get married. Over the twenty-some years after that day, I saw my inflated ideas of my spiritual abilities crushed one after another – each time I ended up failing to live up to how I knew I should live and as a very last resort calling my Guru. And each time, he was always there when I had nowhere else to turn with the next challenge. I ended up spending way too much time at work and way too little time with my family. Finally, my marriage failed and I withdrew even more into work and thought of ways to go far away, support my kids but to start over in a very distant place. It was then I got an invitation to visit the Guru at the Concord Temple. We sat together for only a few minutes, but his guidance made me whole. He asked me to do everything I could to save our marriage and connect with my children. I followed his advice – after a year of striving to save our marriage, of hearing my wife's concerns and angers and quietly taking them, my wife thanked me but asked me to stop. But I was able to be the dad I had always wanted to be to my children. Since then, my children and eventually their children have filled my life with the greatest of gifts. Of all the teachings about the Dharma my Guru shared, and there have been many, I know from the top of my head to the tip of my toes this was the greatest.

Anonymous



It all began in early 1980 when we were introduced to Gurudeva's teachings of Saivism. Kaivalyanathaswami [then a Sadhaka] was deployed to Mauritius to teach Saivism in French and held weekly classes. At the outset, we were very inquisitive, posed endless questions to which we were given all the answers straightaway. Nalini and I were encouraged to study the mastercourse [then called book 1-3] and would provide feedback to our Q&As and testimonies. The mastercourse deepened our belief in Saivism.

It was during one of Gurudeva's purposeful visits of setting up a Saivite mission in Mauritius in 1984 when we first met Gurudeva. Gurudeva also arranged for one of the close devotees of Sivayogaswami, Dr Shanmugasundaren [affectionately called Appa Shan], to travel to Mauritius in 1985 to teach us and other members natchintanai songs. Appa Shan was a highly evolved soul and shared his wisdom during one of his visits. We hosted Appa Shan and Amma in our home where he performed a homa and chanted a few natchintanai songs devotionally.

In those early days, members took turns to host Gurudeva for a night. We welcomed Gurudeva and Ceyonswami into our home in 1985. We were all mesmerised by the divine and enlightened Being. Gurudeva performed a homa and gave an upadesha, followed by meditation session and darshan. We later received our samaya diksha from Gurudeva.



One of the major changes Gurudeva brought into our lives was the responsibility for managing a family temple next to our home. We were practically smartas, worshipping Siva Shakti in various forms and used to attend an Ammen temple on Fridays in the village until, through some misunderstanding with local devotees, we were no longer welcome there. During Gurudeva's stay in our home, we expressed our profound sadness of not being able to attend a temple weekly and sought His advice, particularly given that we had no access to a temple in the locality. After a few pensive moments, Gurudeva looked around our garden [to the left of our home]. Gurudeva then pointed to a huge mango tree which was planted by our mother/grandmother and advised that a family temple could be erected there.

Gurudeva asked us to ponder over it and notify Him our decision in the morning.

After breakfast the following morning, Gurudeva was expecting our response and we readily confirmed that we will build a family temple after all. Gurudeva performed the ground breaking ceremony, took out a handful of his hair, along with a few precious stones and delicately placed in the ground and gave Blessings for the construction to commence in January 1985.

Later on, Gurudeva advised on the layout of the temple, colour of tiles, murthis and named the temple Sadasivalingeshwara temple. Gurudeva gifted us a Ganesha and advised that Sivalingum and Muruga will follow thereafter. Gurudeva returned in 1986 with Ceyonswami and Bodhinatha and Ceyonswami performed a puja. My brother was appointed the acharya and performed abhishegam daily until his passing 3 years ago.

Since then and with blessings from Satguru Bodhinatha, I have been maintaining the temple, perform daily puja, weekly abishegham, chant natchintanai, thevaram and mantras daily and observe monthly Sivaratri and all major festivals throughout the year. Through Gurudeva's grace, we consistently perform our daily sadhana at dawn religiously 7 days a week, are able to perform seva at the temple daily and are indeed blessed.

We are eternally grateful to Gurudeva, Bodhinatha and the Kailasa Parampara for Their Blessings and Darshan. Jai Gurudeva! Jai Bodhinatha! Jai Kailasa Parampara!

Jegadis and Nalini Chenganna, Mauritius



My upbringing in an orthodox Saivite family has grounded me to become a strong, god-loving, religious, disciplined, emphatic woman. Since we met Gurudeva, our lives were transformed for all the good reasons and we had a purpose in life. There was always an event to attend, like-minded people to meet, festivals to celebrate and of course, family home evenings, which seemed daunting at times particularly when my brother and I misbehaved or disobeyed instructions to join in daily atmartha puja at 5am. At other times, we were praised for our efforts and enjoyed listening to parents' experience. Gurudeva taught us to celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi with great pomp at the Spiritual Park. I vividly remember the first time when all members converged at the Spiritual Park in the 1980s with generous offerings and clay Ganesha; we enjoyed a cultural show and I performed a Bharatnatyam dance with fellow students and later on we joined a procession to immerse clay Ganeshas in the river whilst intoning mantras and chants on Lord Ganesha. During my teenage life, I often struggled to "fit in" with peers as we had nothing in common and rather enjoyed my own company, without being influenced by peers. In 1995, Gurudeva organised the first International Youth retreat where I met like-minded friends and took my Brahmacharini vrata. I participated in subsequent youth retreats and the experiences gained along with parental guidance deepened my faith in the Gods and helped me to lead a disciplined life. In hindsight, Gurudeva's teachings and blessings have enabled me to forge ahead, through thick and thin and evolve spiritually. As I reflect in the past, I realise that I had a very privileged and enriched childhood and teenage life. Over the years, I have witnessed my parents perform their dharma and sadhana consistently and religiously, to the best of their ability and these are the values that they have inculcated in us. I am equally very grateful to Satguru Bodhinatha for simplifying the trilogy, using practical and meaningful terms and empowering us with useful tools, thus enabling me to implement the lessons as I continue my journey onwards.

Thank you Gurudeva! Thank you Bodhinatha! Jai Gurudeva! Jai Bodhinatha! Jai Kailasa
Parampara!

Vani Chenganna, United Kingdom



“ I had been coming to the Ganesha Homa and heard through an announcement made that a Satguru would be coming to the Adheenam and that he is someone special as he has already seen God. When I heard that he had already seen God, the God to whom I have been seeking and praying to day and night, I was intrigued and inspired and I said that I must come and see him.

He came for the Ganesha Chaturthi day at the RDR Adheenam. I bought two photographs of Gurudeva from the Mini Mela and like everyone else, I went in the long queue to get them dedicated. On meeting Satguru, I touched his feet and he dedicated the photographs. I went back home to my way of life. And things happened in between. One year later, around the same month, I got my worksheets by post from Kauai to enroll for the master course. This is how my journey began.”

“The Natha Sampradaya, the Saiva Siddhanta School of learning and the San Marga leads one to the highway which has been polished by many blessed souls thousand of years ago.

Sometimes, out of immaturity or ignorance, one cannot see; one cannot discriminate; or worse, one thinks that one knows or knows better and in that process does not or cannot see the highway and takes a rougher path, thinking that one is on a right and better track.

Until one day, one is blessed enough by a high soul to see and discriminate, to become aware that one knows not and is here to learn and that only the Satguru knows.

A Satguru is the gold that glitters and which is hidden, you have to search for it with patience and faith. The search may have started many lives back, who knows? Only the Satguru knows, until he just appears in one's life quietly and without notice.

Satguru Bodhinatha is a blessing and ray of light in my life. His compassion is boundless and modesty incomparable. Aum Aum.

Veena Kunniah, Mauritius



The Responsive Satguru

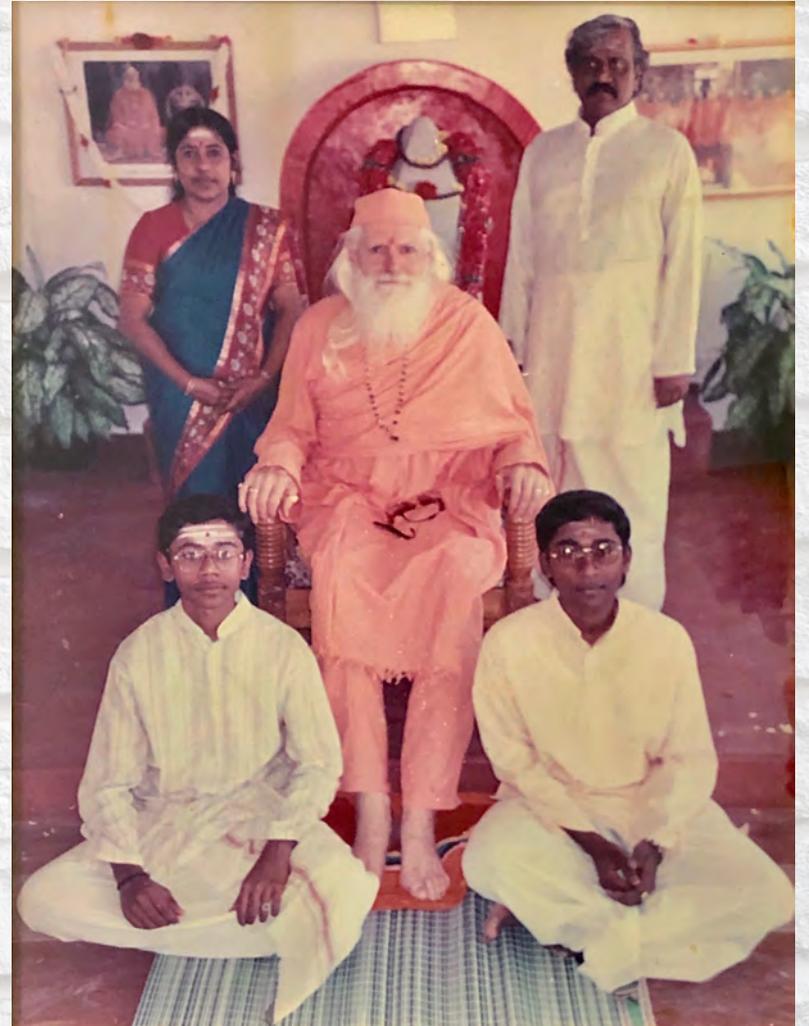
Alaska was blessed to receive Satguru Sivaya Subramuniya as the final destination of the 1999 Innersearch. As part of an extended stay, we were at the beautiful Denali Park area. There were to be classes and outings. However, Gurudeva and his accompanying monastics were taken ill from the cruise ship. They were unable to hold any classes and had to remain in their cabin. Many of our local Hindu devotees stayed on in hopes of meeting with Gurudeva. Two days later Gurudeva did visit one of the cabins for an informal satsang with all of us. The joy from His Presence was very apparent. Later, I expressed my concern for his health. He said that he could feel the strong draw from the devotees and could not refuse to see them. As the years passed I saw this responsiveness several more times. A Satguru is truly a Mother and Father as well.

Peshanidevi and Shyamadeva, USA



I was a member in the Saiva Siddhanta Mandram , in 1980 , an organisation of Gurudeva in Malaysia. We were conducting Hinduism classes and other activities. A few of the members were preparing to receive their initiation in the upcoming week during Gurudeva's 1983 Innersearch. We arranged for the event at Sri Rajarajeswari Temple in Ulu Klang. Kuala Lumpur. Generally the Hindus in Malaysia and in India feel they know Hinduism very well (90 % hardly know anything) and they need not listen to an American Swamiji's talks. However, I am a born Hindu but I learned about Hinduism through Gurudeva's teachings.

The chief priest and his assistant at Sri Rajarajeswari Temple. also had similar feelings for Gurudeva. We arranged the initiation on 3 -1-1983 at 8 am. Homa with Sri Rudram chanting , initiation followed by abhishekam to Rajarajeswari and then the Puja. We arrived at the temple at about 7 am to ensure that all arrangements were made as per our request. The chief priest was waiting for our arrival, very eager and very excited. He rushed to us and asked us if there was any special function for Gurudeva in the near future. We informed the chief priest that 5 th January is his Jayanthi. This is normally celebrated In Chidambaram in India. Then the chief priest informed us that Sri Rajarajeswari had appeared in his dream and ordered him (priest) to honour Satguru today at Her temple. The Homa started and the swamis were chanting the Sri Rudram. On two occasions the chief priest fumbled but our swamis were going on with the chanting .



After the Homa, the 22 members were initiated. A few of them were shishyas who followed Gurudeva in Innersearch .After the initiation, Gurudeva presented the Book 2 - Sadhana to 3 members who had completed Book one. I was one of them. Gurudeva presented Book 2 to me and personally wrote a blessed message for me.

In the book.The last paragraph reads as follows:

“ We expect much from you, Raja in the future years. You will be bringing thousands to the feet of Siva.”

Once the initiation was over the priest was to do an abhishekam to the temple deity.

The chief priest told us that he is going to honour Gurudeva by performing an abhishekam to Gurudeva .We made Gurudeva sit on a chair at the back of the temple. Each of the swamis brought the Kumbha water and poured it over Gurudeva. A rare ceremony that was witnessed by a few. After the abhishekam Gurudeva changed his robes and attended the puja.

How Gurudeva’s message manifested in my life, years later.

TEN YEARS LATER

One early morning of November 1993, I received a call from Paramacharya Sivanathaswami (then called Ceyonswami).

Swami informed me that Gurudeva wants our family to move to Bangalore to take charge of the Iraivan Temple Project immediately .

I informed swami that I need to discuss with my wife, Kanmani.An hour later, I called up Gurudeva and said that I was prepared to go and take charge of the Iraivan project.



It was not an easy decision to take on the spot because my sons just completed their 9th and 11th standard. I was managing a religious book store, and was a banker by profession. Gurudeva's request to take charge of the Temple construction where I had no knowledge or experience at all.

Temple building was confined to a selected community in India who passed on their skills and knowledge, generation after generation.

I totally surrendered at the feet of the Guru and agreed to move to India. Gurudeva told me that the project will last only for 5 years and then I can return back to Malaysia.

On 14-1- 1994 (10 years later), our family moved to Bangalore to take charge of the Iraivan Temple project. It was not easy to manage a 20 million dollar project with 60 stone cravers. It took me several years to understand and execute the project. Gurudeva's gentle guidance with love was the key factor for my success. However, the project took 25 years (5 times more) to complete and ship the stones to Kauai. Our family worked happily because my boss (employer) was Gurudeva. Gurudeva cared and nurtured our family very well. He is and will be the BEST employer one can have!!!

We have now settled down in Bangalore. My sons have joined me and we are now building many temples in India, bringing more to the holy feet of Siva.

Mika Nandri.

Jiva Rajasankara, India



ணம் சிவவே...வாமிகளி...
மகாவாக்...கள்
கு பொல்லை...லை
ப்பவோ மு...ரியம்
நாம் அ...
முழுவதும்...ம்
நீ... மனமன்று, ... ரித்தமன்று.
... ஆத்மா... சிவாது.
... அன்கூடைய... தீதார்தம்
... தகும நெறிய...
... மிகுதும் பெரும... ன்னிவை
என்று... அனரம் கடவுள்... மும்பும் உள்வள்

About a year or so ago, I took my granddaughter to the Nilayam. While I was doing some work, she just sat in front of the statue and closed her eyes. After a while she opened her eyes, and came over to me, and told me “I was talking to Appu Swami.”

Appu Swami is a term all adults use to kids when they are talking about Gods, for example “we are going to the temple to pray to Appu Swami” or “Please go to the shrine room to pray to Appu Swami.” A way to refer to God as a father figure.

So, she came over and told me “Appu Swami spoke to me and told me that many people think he is just a statue but he is actually here. He can see and hear them. He is not going anywhere in a hurry but is happy to stay here with devotees. Sometimes he gets hungry and has to go out for food.”

I was so happy to get confirmation that Paramguru Yogarswami is still here. I have always felt his presence, this incident was proof for me. I now take cooked food to serve Swami every morning now and leave fruits in front of him so he does not have to go hungry.

Sri Ranjan, Sri Lanka



'Power of Visualization' (A Tool Given by Gurudeva)

Holy Prostration To Lord Ganesha and To Our Beloved Gurudeva and Satguru Bodhinatha.

Pilgrimage is one desire that I was craving for, ever since I missed the golden opportunity to be with our beloved Gurudeva (Gurudeva's last Alaska Innersearch). I was so devastated. A great surge of sadness went through my heart when the whole universe witnessed the transition of beloved Gurudeva. Since then, I have never forgiven myself for the 'biggest' mistake I have made. For 'giving up' my 'dream' to immerse myself with Gurudeva on Europe Innersearch, not knowing that will be His last Innersearch with His devotees. My finances were the one and only obstacle (Dollar currency was four times higher compared to our country's currency). I had just started work and saved up almost 30,000-40,000 our currency, however I had not been able to save up enough when the date arrived and I gave up!

After the passing of our beloved Gurudeva, only then I realized that I had taken the 'time' for granted. 'Some other day/some other time there will be another chance to be with Gurudeva on other Innersearch', is what I used to say to console myself whenever I was not able to fulfill my 'spiritual desire'. Procrastination! And there you go, I have learned enough lessons on keeping 'plans' on hold

I learned that if I had not given up and had pulled all my strength, will power and lived as though no more 'tomorrow', I would have been with my Gurudeva in His last days. I also learned not to take anything for granted. Whatever we need to do, do it now or else you might not get the chance at all. So, the factor was my attitude, not only the 'finance' challenges. That's it! From that day onwards, I told myself I'm not going to repeat the same mistakes with Bodhinatha once He becomes Satguru. I am going to join Satguru Bodhinatha's first Inner Search! I don't want to entertain what my mind says, 'Satguru Bodhinatha just became a Guru, and surely there will be more other Innersearch lined up for Him. If not this, why not join other Innersearch of His'. I ignored this mind chatter and went on with my decision to live as though life ends today. I don't know, 'what will happen tomorrow'. 'Be in the Now' consumed me!

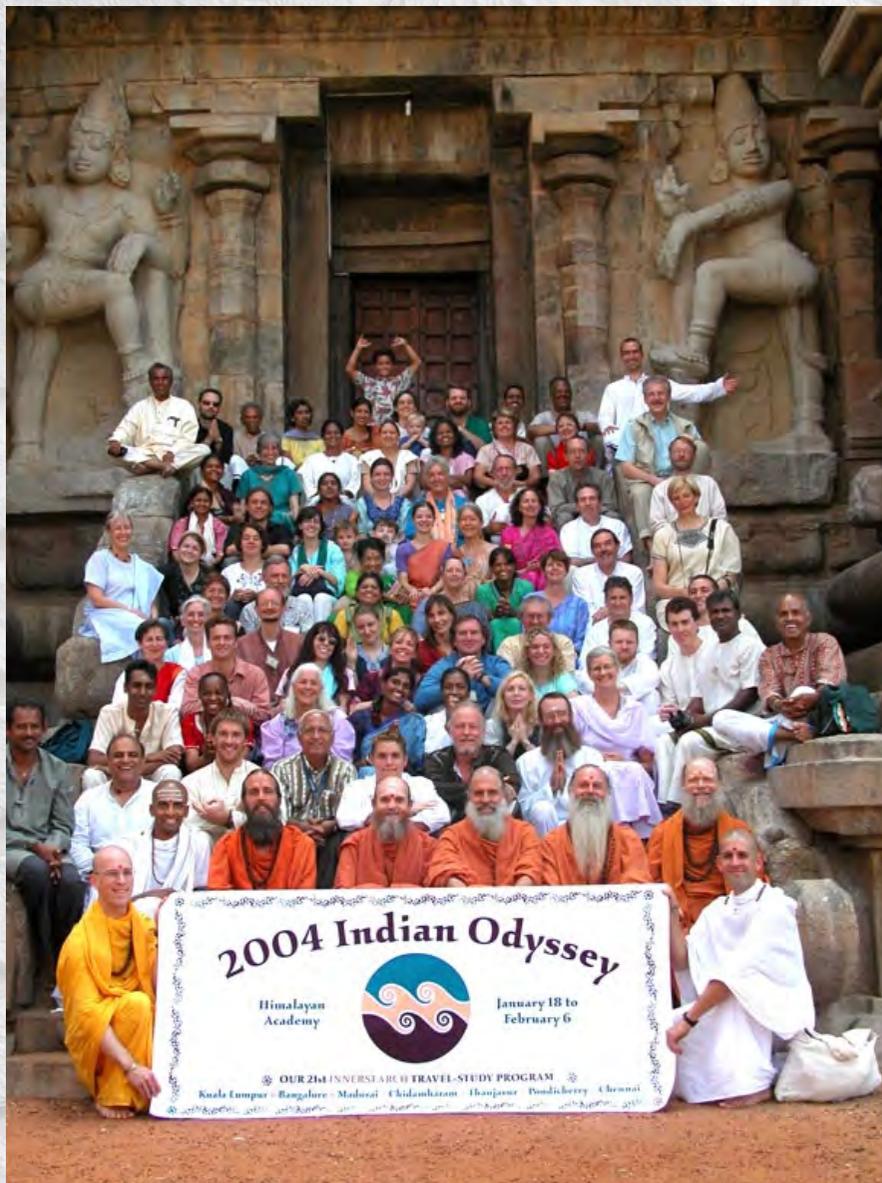
I started to live as what Gurudeva used to say, 'Life is a pilgrimage', and pilgrimage begins at home, by fasting, praying and preparing oneself and I was just flowing with the 'river of life'. At the end of 2002, my heart was enthralled, when my eyes captured the announcement on TAKA. Invitation to join the 'Indian Odyssey 2004'. That was Satguru Bodhinatha's first Innersearch as a Satguru!!

Oh God! I felt the 'doors are opening', as though God and Gurudeva gave the 'divine' opportunity to this little soul. The word, 'INDIA', my second spiritual destination after Kauai Adheenam is what my heart was longing for too as I had never been to our Great Sacred Land, Bharat! And what more? Innersearch with Satguru Bodhinatha!

From my younger days, ever since I became Gurudeva's student (I was about 14 years old) I always told myself that first I should go to Kauai Adheenam and only then to India. But if Ganesha didn't permit my visa to Kauai, I will go to India first and it must be with my Satguru! I missed it with Gurudeva but not with Bodhinatha this time! No matter what happens I must be there! My first step on Motherland should be only with Satguru Bodhinatha!

That very first day of my decision, I gathered all my willpower, faith and confidence. No more procrastinations! No matter what happens, I'm going, even though I did not know how. Many obstacles blocked my path, mainly money and leave approval. Practised to my level best the teachings of Gurudeva and Bodhinatha in handling obstacles and challenges. I sought help from God, Gods, Guru and Devas. Letters to devas to smooth out certain obstacles were so helpful. In fact, I was ready to face any obstacles. Even if there was a need to resign from my job, to that extent I was willing to do so! (if I was not able to get leave from work). I did part time jobs to earn extra money and saved money by not spending unnecessarily. As dollar currency was higher than our currency, I had to work extra day and night. It was really tough, but if there is 'No pain, there is No Gain'!

Affirmations and Visualization were the main 'tools'! The Power of Visualization taught by Gurudeva, is simply beyond words! From the very first day of the decision to go for it, daily, I started to visualise that, 'i'm walking to airport with Satguru Bodhinatha, He is right next me (even now when I'm typing this it's very clear in my mind), and we both stepping our feet together on the airplane.' And I was really really feeling it!!!



Himalayan Academy Travel Study Programs

2004 Indian Odyssey

JANUARY 19, 2004 – FEBRUARY 5, 2004

Bangalore, Madurai, Thanjavur, Chennai and
Nearby Temples: Palani Hills, Pillaiyarpatti, Chidambaram,
Swamimalai, Kanchi and others

Never a day I missed it! I was like a crazy person wanting it to happen so badly no matter how. I just surrendered everything to the Universe to take care of it! And I kept doing my part. I was so confident it would Manifest! On Jan, 19 2004, the vision of the visualization came to reality! When I reached the airport and walked to the airport door, Satguru just arrived and was just walking heading to the same door! We walked together! What more?

I am frozen, and don't know what to say. It really happened! The Visualization really manifested!!! Oh my, ...Gurudeva!...I really can't thank you enough! We finally walked up to the same plane and there it goes.... we were sitting with our Satguru Bodhinatha.... A

Gift from Gurudeva...to all of us. I know very well, that I didn't make my dream come true, but the God, Gods, Guru and Devas. I'm so thankful to all of THEM. They ease my karmas. I don't know how I will pay them back for all this divine help. I honestly will agree that the 'Yamas and Niyamas' are not mere theories but when put into practice it certainly will help to manifest whatever spiritual unfoldment we pray for. 'They' must be lived! All I wished for before and during the Innersearch manifested beautifully with the blessings from the inner world. 'Yamas and Niyamas', as taught by Gurudeva and Bodhinatha, is a magical life ingredient that made my dream to join the Odyssey possible.

"Watch out what you think when you are India, it might manifest", was one of mystical powers of India shared by Satguru Bodhinatha with us, and it was very true in few of our cases! Even I can't believe that it happened to a very ordinary soul like me! The moment I stepped on the sacred land of Bharat, 'I'm home', whispered my heart and slowly I touched the holy land with my hands and put it to my eyes. Tears flew....Finally, 'I'm here with my Guru'... Aum Namsivaya

Barathy Sockanathan, Malaysia



Gurudeva is in my mind & heart. I was so blessed to have met up with Gurudeva when I was a teenager. The day I met Gurudeva was magical and the changes in my life was also magical. Gurudeva through His teaching introduced me to Hinduism.

I used to listen to Gurudeva's upadeshas recorded on 'cassettes' those days and sometimes it was just to hear Gurudeva's voice. I remember the day, many years ago, when I was feeling miserable about something, I had Gurudeva in my mind and had 'San Marga- Saiva Dharma: A Catechism for Saivite Hinduism' book in my hand. I opened the book and it was the page on communicating with Lord Ganesha. Gurudeva taught me how to communicate with Lord Ganesha. Guru's Darshan works in remarkable ways, although the Guru and shishyas/devotees are thousands of miles apart.

*Happy Guru Purnima Satguru! Jai Satguru Bodhinatha Jai Gurudeva
Jai Kailasa Parampara.*

Parimala Selvaraj, Malaysia



Your Dreams and Your Thoughts Are Not Secret to Gurudeva

In the early 1990's, Gurudeva took 35 members on an Innersearch pilgrimage from USA through Malaysia, India and Sri Lanka

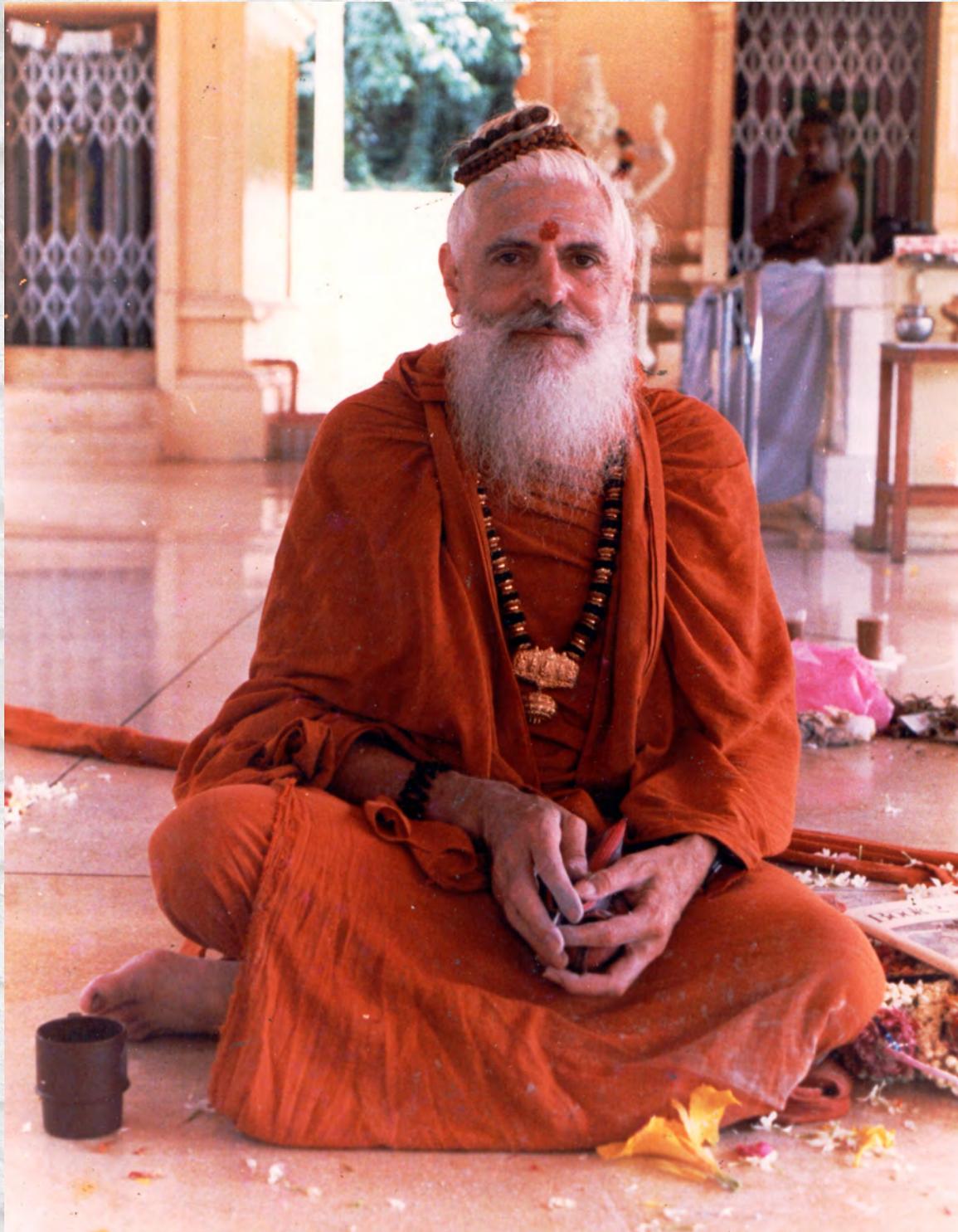
At Chidambaram Temple, Gurudeva conducted special homas, pujas and initiations as part of his Jayanthi celebration.. Many had their initiations and a few took their Brahmacharya vrata. This vrata helps an individual to remain chaste until marriage- A string is tied around their waists as a reminder. The morning event was over and at about 6.30 pm in the evening a special traditional dance programme was arranged at the temple premise. Gurudeva sat on the stage and all the members sat on the floor. The stage was lit and several Bharatanatyam dances were performed by the artists. One of the members, Kumar who took the Brahmacharya vrata was admiring a girl who was dancing.

Suddenly, he realised that he had taken the vow in the morning and should not divert his thoughts to lower instincts. However, he thought to himself that Gurudeva was on the stage and he would not be aware of his thoughts.

The performance was over and we all were walking out in the dark towards the main entrance. Kumar was walking next to Gurudeva. All of a sudden a hand touched his Brahmacharya string and shook it. He turned back and there Gurudeva was holding his string.

Gurudeva whispered, "it is a good thing that I tied the Brahmacharya string for you this morning."

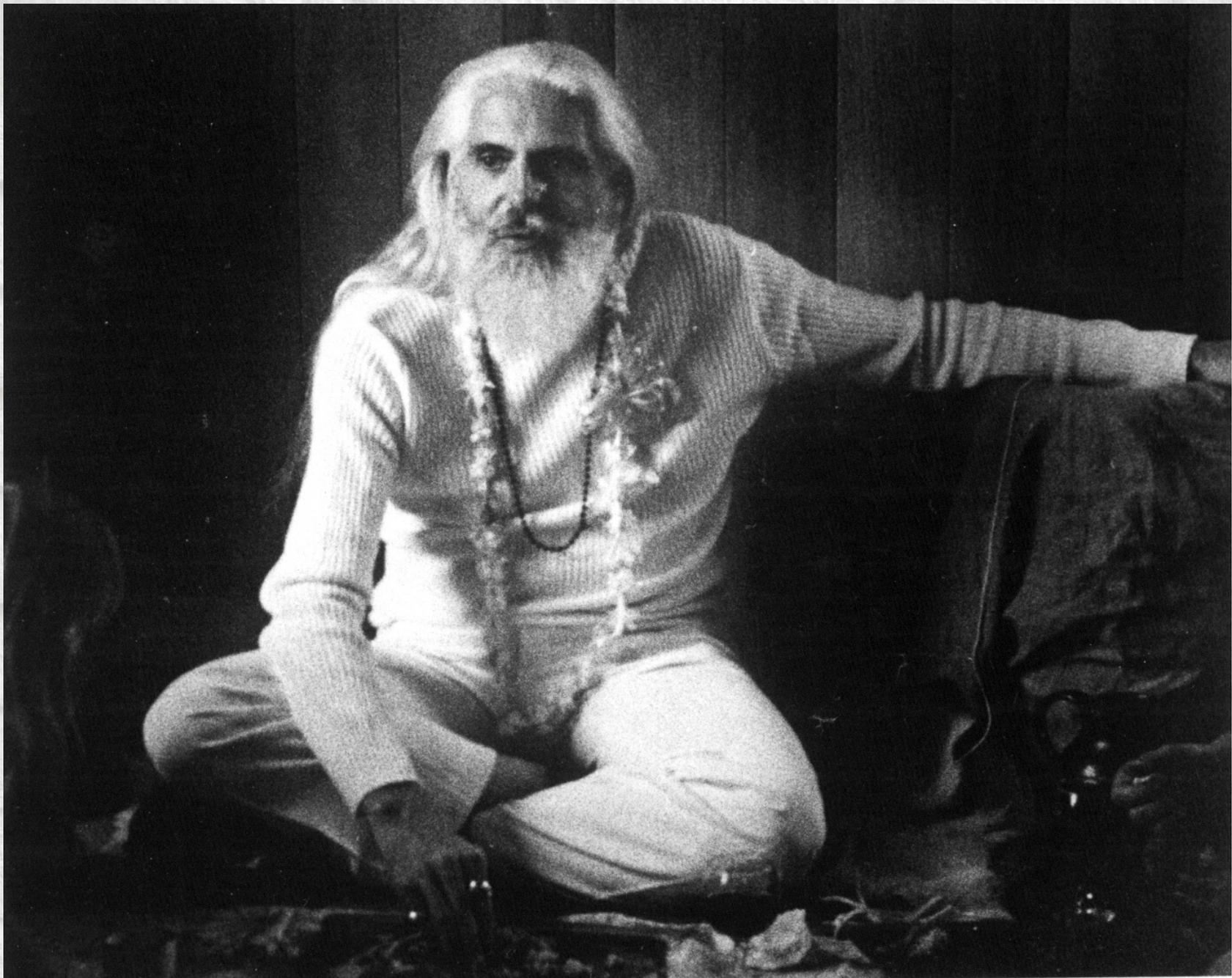
Kumar was shocked and realised that no one can hide any secrets from Gurudeva . He knows all our mental fantasies and even what we dream. That is the greatness and spiritual power of our Satguru.



We were married in 1990. We live up north in Malaysia. By 2011 ...we had given up hope on trying to have children. We were enjoying life traveling, TV and pilgrimaging. On one pilgrimage to India with my elder brother, throughout the girivalam my brother was complaining that we had given up and were not doing anything to have children. We kept quiet as we did not want to offend him.

Then on another pilgrimage July 2011, Guru Purnima at Chidambaram organised by Kulapati Jiva, my wife was asked to do Panchamirtha for pada abhishegam. As the abishegam was being done, She prayed asking Satguru to bless us with a child and that this will be our last shot. Upon returning to Malaysia, two days later, Gurudeva appeared in my wife's dream. She saw Gurudeva coming out of a beautiful temple sanctum looking very happy. Gurudeva walked up to my wife and asked "Can you carry? It's going to be veryyyy heavy!" He laughed continuously!

My wife wasn't sure what Gurudeva meant but she nodded her head and said "Yes." Gurudeva laughed again... And walked into the temple sanctum. He came back with two yellow cloth bags (normally carried by people in Tamilnadu).



Gurudeva asked again jokingly, "Sure you can carry?? It's going to be very very heavy." And again without understanding what Gurudeva meant, my wife answered, " Yes, Gurudeva."

"Then, here you go" said Gurudeva as he handed the two yellow bags to my wife. But the minute the bags left Gurudeva's hand, It became very heavy for my wife. She wondered what could be inside the bag.. She opened both bags and saw an elliptical shaped Sivalinga in both bags. She heard Gurudeva laughing and walking back to the temple sanctum. She woke up. A month later.. My wife was confirmed pregnant. After two weeks, we were told she was carrying twins. After 21 years of marriage we were blessed with two boys on May 15, 2012.

We owe everything to our loving Gurudeva and Bodhinatha.

Thanabalan Ganesan and Ahila Devi Ganesan, Malaysia



The Precise Plan

October 2001, I was very busy as a Directing Staff with my Military Exercise, when Vanita called me to update that Gurudeva made his decision to be on prayopavesa fast. Although I knew what it was, I only understood that Gurudeva was going to fast till his samadhi. I was confused, speechless and cried not knowing what's going on. My

Commander and comrades consoled me and I continued my training.

While driving back home, a message flashed across my mind and I verbalised it, "You will know Gurudeva's passing in a flash of light". Sudha who was with me queried and I repeated the message to her. That message keeps flashing in my mind and I did not utter anything until I alighted her at her place and drove home wondering what the message meant.

Once home, I told Vanita what came across my mind, while checking TAKA for any updates. Since that day it became a ritual for me to check TAKA as early as 5am and several times throughout the day. There were updates about pilgrims from all over the world going to Kauai and I felt I must go but unable to due to my training. Early November, I got the message that the Guru Parampara puja was performed and Gurudeva had mentioned that Yogaswami is coming to fetch him. Such news made me very anxious and I very much desired to go to Kauai, though I knew that Gurudeva will not be seeing any of his devotees while he is alive.

Towards the end of my training, Sivakumar was discussing going to Kauai for about a week. I immediately applied for my leave and due to the 9/11 incident, the ticket price was extremely affordable and soon there were nine of us all set to go to Kauai. After checking back with aadheenam, we were requested to bring some camphor, vibhuti and other stuff.



I had a little concern over the vibhuti because that was the period anthrax unfolded in the US. Towards our departure date, I learned that many pilgrims were leaving Kauai after about a couple of weeks in Kauai and we would be the next batch. While packing our luggage I told Vanita “It looks like we will be there to witness Gurudeva’s mahasamadhi” and continued packing.

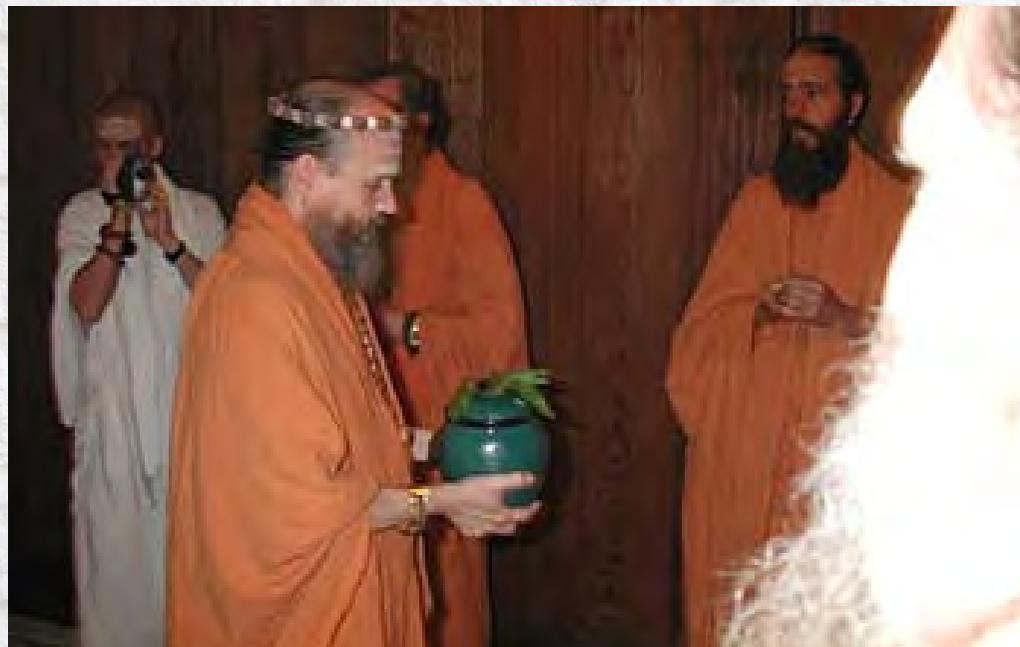
10/11/2001- all of us board the Northwest Airlines bound to Narita and then to Honolulu. Though there was so much pain in each of us, we spoke and shared a lot about our experience with Gurudeva, his teachings and the aadheenam. During the trip, I was very concerned about the vibhuti that was packed separately in a small luggage bag. Worries overpowered my thoughts, such as “Will I be faced with any issues when clearing the customs due to the powder form?” Upon arrival, our luggage was cleared smoothly with no problem. We checked into Kauai Sands and booked a minivan for our travel between the hotel and aadheenam.

11/11/2001-Arriving at the Aadheenam in the morning, Rishi Thondunatha, greeted us and said, “Here come the nine planets” We greeted him and I handed over a beautiful silk orange shawl to place on Gurudeva on his Mahasamadhi, the vibhuti and other stuff. He gave us a brief insight about Gurudeva’s condition. We shared our thoughts about Gurudeva, the difficulties we had in getting our leave approved and the anthrax issue that was going on. We strolled around the aadheenam and Iraivan Temple building site and saw the need for weeding and cleaning up. We approached Sadasivanathaswami, and asked if we could do some karma yoga, like weeding, cleaning and sweeping. He was very pleased and told us to see him the following day. We spent the rest of the day chatting with pilgrims before heading back to Kauai Sands for dinner.



12/11/2001-After our prayers at Kadavul temple, we went to collect the tools and gloves for weeding. Seven of us did the weeding while two of them volunteered in the garland making. We enjoyed our task of clearing up the place and left the aadheenam in the evening after disposing of the weeds and washing the tools. After our dinner, all of us gathered in Umamaheswaran's room to chat and while sharing our thoughts there was a blackout that lasted for a few seconds. Soon after the electricity was restored, all of us went back to our rooms. While walking down to our room, Vanita, Sudha and I looked at each other in silence as I recollected the message that crossed my mind.

13/11/2001-About 5.30am all the three of us woke up when the phone rang and Vanita answered the call. A few seconds later she said, "Om Siva" and after hanging up she updated that Rishi Thondunatha called to inform that Gurudeva attained Mahasamadhi slightly before midnight and the cremation will be held at 5pm. The message made sense, "You will know Gurudeva's passing in a flash of light"- the blackout incident. We went to the aadheenam and were led by Rishi Thondunatha into Gurudeva's room to spend some time with Gurudeva and to have one last final touch of his feet. Rishi Thondunatha handed back the shawl to me and asked me to place it on Gurudeva's feet. Tears rolled down my cheeks as I placed the shawl on Gurudeva's feet. I held on to his feet for the last time and bowed my head. Gurudeva was radiating light and the room was filled with his energy, fragrances. I graciously thanked Rishi Thondunatha for his kind gesture and sat quietly to spend some time in the Gurudeva's presence, crying and thanking for all his guidance and blessing he had generously showered upon me. While waiting at the courtyard, Kumaranathaswami called me and asked me to get the Singapore mission to decorate the casket and immediately laid our hands to work. It was an extremely solemn occasion but there was great joy within each of us.



Rishi Thondunatha asked us to place some camphor and light up along the path where a palanquin bearing Gurudeva was carried from aadheenam to the van waiting to head for the crematorium in Koloa (Borthwick Kauai Mortuary). During the informal memorial at the crematorium, reality set in, my mind reflecting the moments Gurudeva guided me during the challenging moments of my life in person and in dreams. As Gurudeva was carried away for cremation by the swamis, the drum beats and the mantras got louder and louder my heart got heavier and heavier. I thanked Gurudeva for allowing us to witness his great union with Lord Shiva and I cried uncontrollably. Soon everyone started to leave and we went to bed with a heavy heart and extremely tired. I thanked Gurudeva for all the blessings and guidance.

14/11/2001 In the morning we were at Kadavul temple for the puja, where we learned that Rishi Thondunatha had arrived with Gurudeva's ashes. We held our palms in a vanakkam gesture and witnessed him carrying the blue urn with Gurudeva's ash walking towards the Guru Peedam gesture. Later we offered to wash the trays, kuthuvilaku, kudams and other items that were used for the puja and dry clean them for Ekadasa Kumbha puja the following morning. We returned to the hotel after washing the floor and disposing of all the trash.

15/11/2001-We attended the Ekadasa Kumbha puja that lasted for about 5 hours. The energy was extremely vibrant and intense with the continuous chanting Sri Rudram. Janahan was very energetic and tirelessly performed the puja. We could feel the powerful presence of Gurudeva and it was such a bliss to attend the puja. After the puja, Bodhinatha took the urn and the swamis followed him to a special meditation cave. We bid farewell to Rishi Thondunatha and those around, as we were leaving for Singapore the next day.

16/11/2001-We left Kauai Sands and headed to the airport for Singapore. Throughout our duration of the flight, we shared countless experiences with Gurudeva and thanked him for making this trip a memorable one for all of us.

Timeline of the trip-

10/11/2001 - left Singapore and arrived Kauai (save a day due to time difference)

11/11/2001 - visited aadheenam

*12/11/2001 - karma yoga - weeding, cleaning the pathway and tying of garlands,
Gurudeva Mahasamadhi*

13/11/2001 - Gurudeva's final journey

14/11/2001 - ash collection

15/11/2001 - Ekadasa Kumbha puja

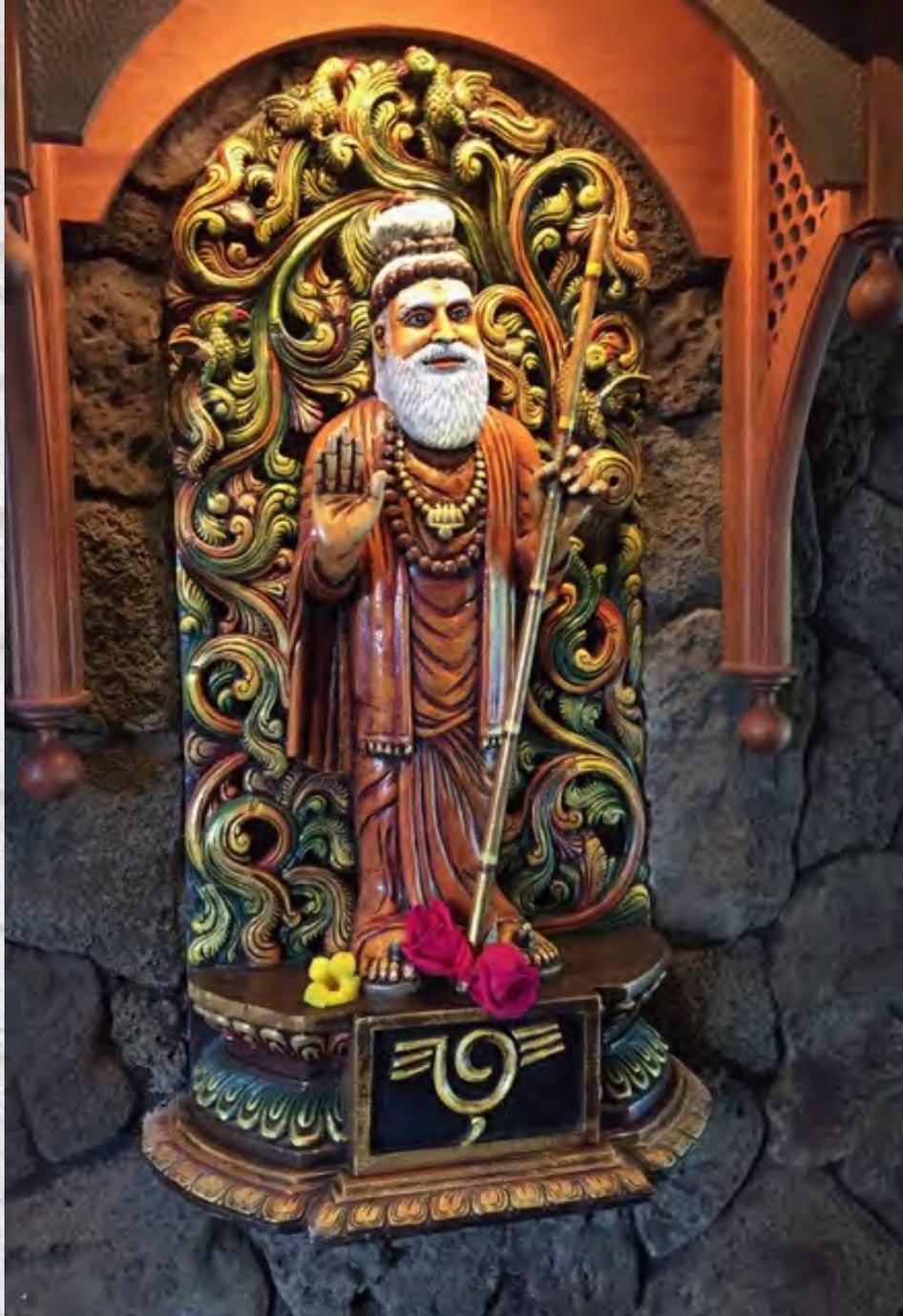
16/11/2001 - left Kauai for Singapore

17/11/2001 - arrived Singapore (lose a day due to time difference)

I thank Gurudeva with all my heart for guiding and blessing us throughout our trip. The precise trip is planned by Gurudeva for us.

Other members who travelled along with me are Vanita, Umamaheswaran, Thanaletchmi, Sivakumar, Lavanya, Shanta Devi, Sivakumaran and Sudha.

Thamilmani Visakan, Singapore/Australia



AT GURUDEVA'S PADA PUJA
HIS EYES BECKONED TO ME
THE LIGHT SHINING THRU
WAS MESMERIZING
HE DIRECTED MY GAZE TO
THE BEAUTIFUL SIVA LING
A SWEET FRAGRANCE
FOR THE FIRST TIME
I COULD FEEL
CONTENTMENT ENVELOPED MY
BEING

THE NEXT DAWN ARRIVED
WAVES CRASHED NOISILY
TO "TUNE IN" WITH THE DIVINE
MY EYES CLOSED GENTLY
"SIVA LINGA" APPEARED
INSTANTLY
GLOWING GOLDEN RADIANTLY
IN THE LOTUS OF THE HEART
IT CHOSE TO BE
I BASKED IN ITS BEAUTIFUL
INTENSITY
IT'S BEAUTIFUL MARKINGS I
HAD SEEN PREVIOUSLY
GURUDEVA HAD SENT A GIFT-
HOW THANKFUL I WAS TO
THEE!



May 2020- Just as the “Stay at Home Order” was given. I made my second trip to Florida to move my elderly sister to an independent/assisted living facility. I wrote to Satguru Bodhinatha to explain the purpose of my trip and ask for blessings. With Satguru’s blessings the trip went smoothly from start to finish with on time arrivals, limo pickup to my sister’s home. My sister and I visited three facilities in the area close to her son’s home. Atria Living was the obvious choice and they had an apartment available. During my 9 days in Florida we met remarkable, extraordinary people, the waitress where we ate lunch shared her uplifting inspiring philosophy of life. The Sale representative at another facility sat with us for almost 2 hours helping us to think through this important transition in my sister’s life. I am grateful for her generous kind spirit. To top it off I connected with a Real Estate agent, a first world deva from Devaloka. Nina immediately understood the importance of getting my sister resettled in her new home before putting the house on the market. Nina arranged the movers, expertly staged the house and the new apartment, cleaning, and on and on. The house sold the second day on the market. Now my sister loves her new home, despite the fact that in Florida all senior living facilities continue to follow the “stay in your room” policy which will probably continue. She receives 3 meals a day in her room, PT, OT as well as regular visits from the Activities Director and nursing staff. I flew home on nearly empty air planes and airports. As you see, I was inwardly guided, always choosing the path of Dharma for the Highest Good of my sister with Satguru’s blessings. I continue to be in awe.

With gratitude and appreciation,

Savitri Palani, USA

The Gurus Feet

The Gurus feet I see
Full of love and radiant energy
It nurtures and cares for me
Ensuring I grow a little each day
Even when I am not aware

The Gurus feet watch over me
“You are fine” they reassure me
Its only paper dragons of the mind
Not as fierce as they appear to be
Once the lesson has been learnt
They melt away never to return again

The Gurus feet call out to me
For long I await to see thee
I am you and you are me
That is how it has always been
Come now and merge in me...



