



# Sai Anantam

Newsletter of The Vedantic Center's *Sai Anantam Asbram*

SPECIAL EDITION 2008



## Celebrating A Life Divine

*Swamini Turiyasangitanandaji • August 27, 1937 – January 12, 2007*

The following is an excerpt from the book, 'Endless Wisdom Volume I.' Swamini received these divine revelations during meditation. They shed light on a variety of important subjects. In the final verses of the book, the Supreme Lord speaks specifically about Swamini.

The Supreme Lord spoke thus to Turiya...saying:

**M**y supreme Eye is ever upon you. My supreme Light is ever with you. I verily watch the breath that you take. I verily know every step that you take. And, never was there a time when My Eye was turned away from your seeing, and never shall there be a time when My Ear shall be turned away from your hearing. For in My Sight, you are a shining lamp of My Wisdom, and a vessel of divine Radiance.

For as much as you may dwell upon the earth, I am forevermore with you. Albeit, after your ordination day, when your human life shall be no more, I shall summon you forth unto My Ultimate, majestic Realm of Absolute Power, Might, Splendor, Perfection, and Infinite Bliss, whereunto We shall engage in Our transcendental, Infinite Life, and We shall speak to one Another in the Supreme Light of Holiness, Sacredness, and Blessedness that is verily Our Life that was then in ages past, is now, and henceforth forevermore shall BE.

– Endless Wisdom, Chapter 5, Verses 22 and 23





“ ‘The Lord says, ‘I want you to know your place with Me and what it is all about. You are really not separate from Me. You consider yourself to be, yet you are not.’ You are a part of the Lord. You are a part of this great immortality, this great eternalness that has been here and has existed on and on and will continue on. ’ ’ ”

**Special Edition • Feb 2008**

## **Sai Anantam**

*Sai Anantam is a newsletter of The Vedantic Center's Sai Anantam Ashram in Chumash Pradesh*

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# A New Years Eve Discourse

*The following discourse was given on Dec. 31, 2006. Twelve days later, Swamini Turiysangitanandaji would ascend to a higher life. May you be blessed by the divine message that came through her.*

Today we are looking at the ending of this year, leading to the 2007 year in the history of the world. We have so much to be thankful. Over the many lifetimes, we have made our appearance on earth, because what God has decided for the people is that they cannot, in one lifetime, learn, experience and receive “What I have to give.” Therefore, the purpose of reincarnation serves “to bring people back again and again to the world so that they will learn to move in the spirit, grow in spirit, that they will know about Me and My purpose for them and what My idea is for humanity.”

It is so beautiful for us to know that God’s plan is about us. Really, it is not so much about God. It is very interesting because the people make their appearance on earth, and it is like everything is centered around me” and what I want, my concerns, my expectations, and my desires. Then we see a God who has brought forth all this creation, and it has to do, practically everything, with us somewhere in the equation. We fit into it. We are a part of it. All of this great glory, preponderance, genius, power, and magnificence, that is God. You would wonder why the Lord would even concern Himself with us. Yet, it is His prerogative, isn’t it? To do as He wishes to do, as He deems to do. It is a great thing to see that He has included us in the creation in a principal way.

The Lord says, “I want you to know your place with Me and what it is all about. You are really not separate from Me. You consider yourself to be, yet you are not.” You are a part of the Lord. You are a part of this great immortality, this great eternalness that has been here and has existed on and on and will continue on. This is why God still is a mystery to people. It seems like the more you think you know, the less that you know about God. It is almost so much to know that it is too much. If the Lord shows you some greatness or something of His wondrousness, then there are so many other things that we have not experienced, that we did not see. This is truly, truly wonderful. It is truly magnificent, that the Lord is so endowed, so replete with all His power, and it is in the lives of everything.

We think about ourselves; what about an ant? What about ant construction and ant life? They do everything. They make their own apartments. They nurture. They bring their food; they stow it. And man does not go down in the earth to teach these creatures anything. They have their own system of life. It is so vast. God has the whole system of various kingdoms of life all attended to. Their survival does not depend on us; in fact what mankind does is interrupt their system and way of life. The technology and advancements in science, as they increase, become harmful to the natural environment; harmful to the nature, and harmful to the creatures in the sea. This is why a number of them are ill. Those huge whales bank themselves every year because the seas are so diseased with those industrial waste products. This is very sad. However, God is still in charge. The best part is that God will bring it back when He is ready.

Lord Siva said that it is God who is controlling the universe according to His timing, according to His rhythm, according to His beat, according to His movements. He is guiding the creation. He is guiding the evolution of all of the people and of all of the creatures. I think it is a wonderful, wonderful thing. Because people are going around talking about a happy new year. You do not really have any happiness. Your happiness is going to be based on your life in God, not this world.

Look how many people live with a fantasy, with false hope and with defeated expectations of being happy on earth with somebody. Do you hear the word

“body?” Somebody. Lust and sense gratification does nothing for anybody, at all. You are going to find happiness in God. God is with all beings 24 hours. God is the watch; God is the hearing; God is the consciousness of life; God is the breathing. At night, you do not know what happens with your breathing. How many times does the Lord have to bring you back from death because you stop breathing and you do not even know it? Strive toward that, endeavor toward knowing the truth that is God. It is so great and glorious. It is so wonderful.

This year is going to be a year of test and trial. However, think what good can come of it if you can transform the reactions that are not wholesome, nor sacred, reactions that provoke some retaliation. Convert those into kindness, patience, compassion, understanding. Your life will be transformed, I am telling you. Yes, sometimes it is hard not to identify with sufferings. The suffering of others, you feel their pain. You know that it is very sad. Yet, when you are the one who is feeling the pain, when you are the one who is being falsely accused; when you are the one being betrayed and deceived, do not think the servitors miss out on that. The great beings, the rishis, the holy men, they go through that.

Who could have been more “deceived” than Jesus Christ? His disciples sat at the table with Him. How do you sit at the table with someone and say “This is my leader; this is my teacher, mi Rabbi, the One, the Christed One” and then put your hand in His plate and take the food and then turn your face, turn on Him, turn against him? Well, you will experience this. And God wants humanity to go through this experience because He does not want you to grow spiritually yet grow in naiveté. He wants you to be intelligent and aware. He wants you to be strong, not foolish, so that when we encounter that challenge—when we encounter that opposition, or that test, or that trial on us, and we say, “How could the world be so cruel?” How could this family be so harsh? How could those so called friends be so hateful?”—we can just convert it. This way it is going to be different. Instead of my outburst, instead of my idea of vengeance, all I need to do is just show compassion and feel sorry for them. When the great leaders and teachers pray, they pray for ones who do not know they are making mistakes in the creation. If one prays, “God forgive them.” You will not have the pain. Your pain will go away. Your suffering will go away. And, if your prayers are true, those who inflicted their harm, are going to be helped and uplifted as well.

I do not know of any spiritual path that tells you to hate your enemies. Baba said “My enemies like Me more than My devotees. Because they are thinking about Me, not some of the time, rather all of the time.” He said, “My own devotees, they are not thinking about Me all of the time.”

However, the Lord is telling us and showing us the way to self-realization and God Realization. That is the purpose of our coming to a place called earth. It is a temporary dwelling land. Yes, take it seriously. Try to do your best. Try to make a wonderful offering as you live and as you continue. Let it be of your selflessness, your helpfulness, your kindness. That is going to make the new year manifest as something great and something happy, so it is not just formality when we say, “Happy New Year” and this kind of thing. It will be real; that we will experience a happiness only that God can give to us. And we will be blessed in that way. So, Happy New Year To Everybody!

I pray that everyone here will seek the truth that is God. . . go all the way to the highest attainment in life, which is Realization in God.

Aum shanti, shanti, shanti.

# Expand Your Vision

## You Are Not This Body, You are Atma

*The following excerpts are from the book "Sai Baba Gita," originally compiled and edited by Al Drucker.*

**K**rishna said, "Arjuna, obey my commands. Give up body-consciousness. Give it up completely. Stop identifying yourself with your body. . . . You are not this body; it is only temporary and transient. You are the witness, the in-dweller, the atma inside this body. This six-foot frame is not you. You are the cosmic personality; you are boundless. This body is subject to birth and death. You, however, are the atma, which is birth-less and deathless. You are not a limited individual, subject to the passage of time. You are that most effulgent form which has conquered and mastered time itself. Discriminate between the permanent and the impermanent! Inquire into wisdom and ignorance, distinguish between truth and untruth!"

Krishna continued, "Arjuna, recognize your real nature! Censure and praise are associated with the body; they are not permanent. Profit and loss are also associated with the body. They are a result of activity, of karma, but they are not characteristics of your essence, the atma. Be indifferent to all these polarities. Treat joy and sorrow equally. Only when you develop this kind of equal-mindedness, will you be able to realize true fulfillment and become a truly wise being." In this way, Krishna taught Arjuna the highest wisdom. . . .

God is everywhere. He is all-knowing, he is all-pervasive, he is all-powerful. He is not limited to the body. His power is not limited to the karma performed through bodies. The divinity is not just a particular body called Rama, born in a particular age, or another body called Krishna, born in another age. Those incarnations served as exemplary models for mankind to follow. But, the principle of divinity is not limited to any given body. The divinity is omnipresent and omniscient. . . .

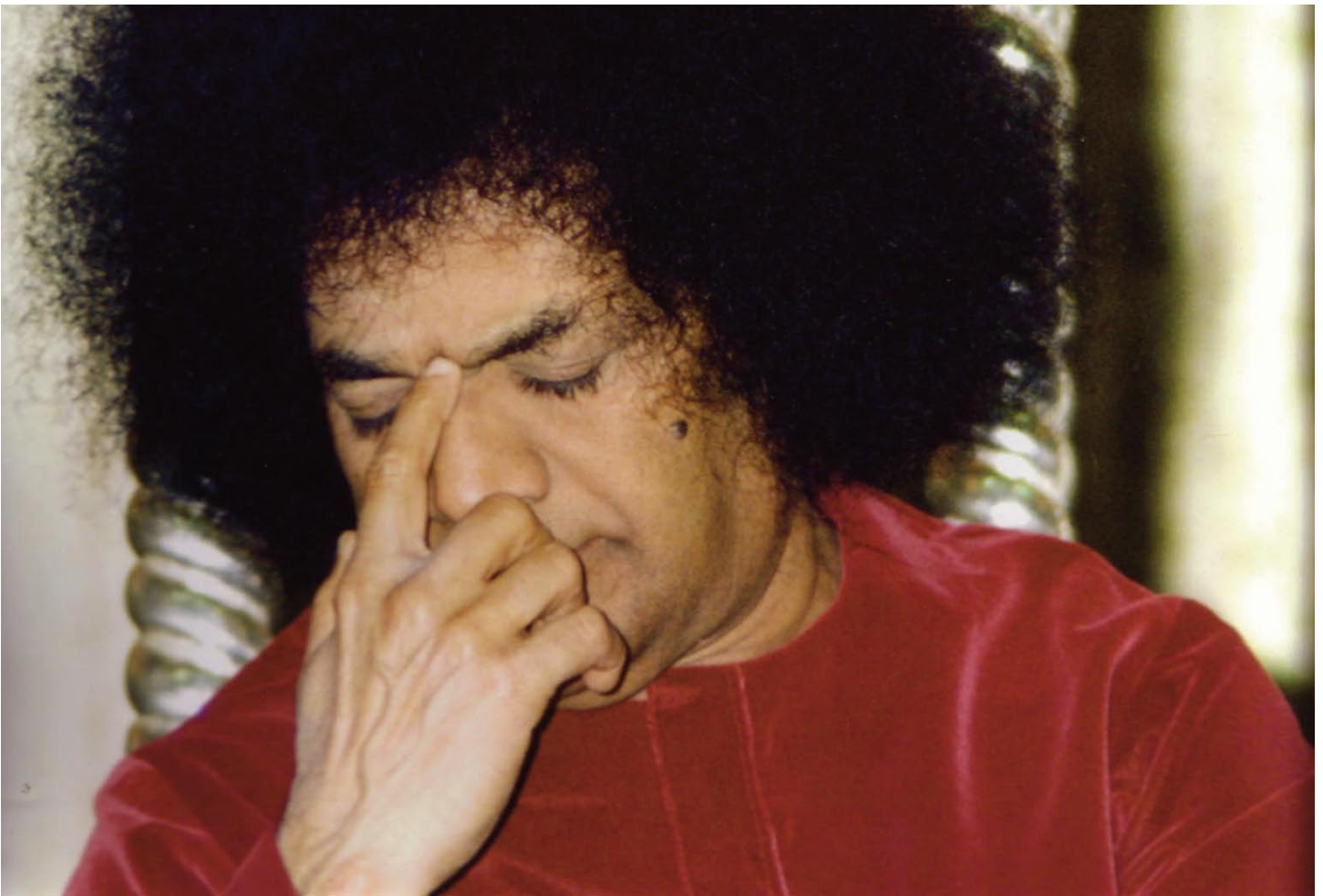
All people will not be able to understand the omniscience of God. Even spiritually-minded people will base their view only on the visible outward actions of the Lord, thinking of him as an individual entity associated with a given form. Since they identify themselves with their own bodies, so they also identify the Lord with a particular body.

They speculate on the future of this particular divine incarnation and fail to recognize the omnipresence and omniscience of the divinity. But this is not right. Krishna commanded Arjuna, "Develop a broad mind and expand your vision. You can start with the concept of the individual personality; but do not get stuck there. Do not waste your entire life thinking only of individuals.

"From the individual, you must move on to the concept of the society, which transcends the individual. Individuality and personality are associated with a limited name and form, but let your mind soar beyond name and form. Reach and experience that divine principle which is your very essence. You are still viewing everything in the framework of duality, and so your life is manifesting only duality. You are caught up in name and form, in subject and object. Make the effort to travel from duality and illusion to complete oneness with the divinity, constantly keeping this highest wisdom of pure non-duality as your goal. Make an effort to see the same divine principle everywhere and in everything, until you realize the ultimate truth that only the atma, which is your very self, is real and that it alone exists."

Buddha taught the same great truth, although he may not have made reference to the Vedas or used Vedantic terms. Nevertheless, he experienced and demonstrated the essential spirit of the Vedas. First he said buddham sharanam gacchami, meaning, 'I take refuge in the buddhi, my power of discrimination.' This deals with the individual; it speaks of the limited personality. Gradually, he added sangham sharnam gacchami, meaning, 'I take refuge in the extended family of spiritually-minded beings.' He recognized that feelings associated with individual and personal considerations are selfish and narrow, and cannot take you very far.

You should not consider this individual self as everything; it is only a drop in the ocean. Along these lines, Krishna also directed, "Arjuna, expand your heart and become broad-minded. Include the entire



human society within your scope.” Society does not have any particular form; it is made up of individuals. When a large number of individuals join together, they become a society. Baba often says, “Expansion is my life.” When you expand individual life to infinity it becomes divinity; that is to say, let yourself as an individual multiply and broaden to see the divinity in all, and you will reach divinity. Therefore, Krishna told Arjuna, “Live in society, serve the society, and develop broad-mindedness. Recognize the divinity to be present everywhere, in everyone.”

The expansion from the individual to the society does not mean merely shifting your loyalties to a particular group, kinfolk, region, community or country. This is the first step, but you must go beyond that. These will still limit you and not take you all the way to the divinity that is your own truth. Therefore, Buddha added one more step, dharmam sharnam gacchami, meaning, ‘I take refuge in dharma, I take shelter in truth and righteousness.’

Dharma, as used here, has a very broad connotation; it refers to the one who supports the entire world. When you investigate the

general meaning of the word dharma, you find that it relates to the basic nature of a thing, its essential truth. It refers to the immortal atma, the indwelling divinity. Therefore, the deeper meaning of dharma is found in the true nature of everything, which is divinity. To take refuge in dharma is to become one with all the attributes of divinity. It has been said that maya or illusion is the body of God, but it is more correct to say that dharma is the body of God. It is his very form. That is why Krishna announced, “For establishing dharma I have come again and again.” Dharma reveals the broad nature of the divinity in all its glorious aspects.

Krishna directed Arjuna, “Move beyond this shortsighted feeling of individuality. Do not keep this body as the entire basis of your life. It is only a covering, an instrument. It is what you see through your mortal eyes. Broaden your vision. Develop your insight; acquire God-vision. When your vision is filled with God, then the entire creation becomes God for you. Make dharma your vision and your vision will become God-vision; then you will see the entire creation as God.



# Journey to Sai,

## The World Youth Conference In Puttaparthi, India

Our Journey as Sai Young Adults from Sai Anantam Ashram began in October of 2006 with guidance from our beloved Swamini Turiyasangitananda instructing us to, "Get ready, and go." During the preparation for India many of the youth here would also reflect strongly on the ascension of Swamini in January. For me, this preparation time would provide the spiritual grounding to bear with the day to day uncertainties that occur when one's teacher makes their spiritual transition. I found a source of strength from the well spring of latent memories, stories, dreams, bhajans and daily signs revealing the presence of Swamini and Sai Baba. Their living examples would inspire within each of us the strength to continue on our spiritual journey, thus making attending the conference a major priority.



**From left to right: Sanat Kumar, Vikram, Bharat, Shivani, Gopika and Prema at Sri Sathya Sai Baba's Ashram in India.**

The July 2007 Conference would be the third world youth conference in the Sai Organization; the previous conference took place in 1999. E-mails among Sai centers and Sai young adults from around the world began the task of organizing what would be a memorable and blessed conference. From Sai Anantam Ashram in California, ten young adults (age 16-35 years old) would attend, and return renewed, to share the lessons learned, discourses, and blessings of Bhagwan with both our young adults and elders. The Conference would eventually be titled "Ideal Sai Youth---Messengers of Sai Love." Leading up to the conference, youth around the world would begin a Sadhana Program highlighting 9 Spiritual Disciplines taken from Swami Sathya Sai Baba's discourses to the youth in preparation for the conference. This Sadhana Program was proposed by the World Youth Planning Committee on Maha Sivaratri Day, February 2007. The nine spiritual disciplines would include 1) Practice Namasmaraana-chanting the Lord's Name, 2) Read Swami's Discourses-weekly study circles, 3) Engage in Selfless Service Activities as a group, 4) Practice of Dietary Discipline, 5) Learn to speak softly and speak less, 6) Take active part in Sai Centers, 7) Improve communication and interact respectfully with parents, 8) Practice ceiling on desires by not wasting food, money, energy, time, 9) Practice daily meditation and prayer. For Young Adults at Sai Anantam Ashram each would make their own commitment to self and God focusing on one or more of the spiritual disciplines above.

This trip to India began for me when the female young adults left on July 21st. Padma, Shivani, Kavitha, and myself all met at the Los Angeles airport at the exact same moment. This was the first of many examples of God's perfect timing. The most profound experience that I often reflected upon during this trip is how much love Baba has for us, for all of mankind. Every moment of our time in India was experiencing this LOVE! It manifested in spiritual and material ways. For example for three days Baba gave saris, choosing sari's for us to wear each day. He made sure all of us had one (over 6,000 delegates were present.) He fed us, taking every detail to heart, even down to how many

sweets we should have for our evening meal. Baba also provided accommodation space on the ashram for all of the delegates, and he gave each of us a book bag with materials to use during our workshops, and discourses given by Swami Himself. Swami's unconditional giving reminded me that He is my complete provider and teacher. He expressed His love openly by teaching us what Prema (Divine Love) is through discourses and His living example. Swami gave a whole discourse on how He loves us, and how He feels our love too. By the third day one could perceive overwhelming changes in each person at the conference; Swami's Love permeated our very core essence. During the three day conference and even days following, Baba said and did several things that were out of

the ordinary: He materialized a lingam from His hand. He passed out over 2,000 ochre robes that He himself had worn. He shared with the young adults that it wasn't necessary to spend long hours in meditation, but 11 seconds of deep meditation upon Him was enough. He also extended special seating for delegates who stayed after the conference all the way until August 12th (that was over two weeks). There are many other experiences that I am thankful to be able to reflect upon. Humbly, I thank the Lord for His blessing allowing us the opportunity to grow spiritually in the presence of His Divine Love!

- Gopika Womack

*India for me was a chance to get away from the constant pressures of the outside world and immerse myself into the teachings of the Lord. Taking in all of the speakers at the Youth Conference and seeing Baba up close better prepared me to go away to college and live on my own. Sai Ram.*

- Bharat

*Going to India in 2007 was a special journey. It was so wonderful and special for Baba to share with the young adults his beautiful orange robes that he wore. When we received these, it felt like the Lord's bliss had been placed directly in our hands, and that Baba choose us as another vehicle to spread his unconditional love and word to others.*

- Shivani

*It's hard to put into words but my trip to India was the greatest experience that I have ever had. Just being in the presence of our beloved God-Satya Sai Baba was awesome. Regarding Swamini, she loved and cherished us all as if we were her own children. I will always love her for that.*

- Sanatkumar

*I know that we are now the torch bearers of that life information that will help the younger youth as they approach their next transitions as well... The conference was amazing, and it was joyous to see so many more youth so completely involved and committed to SAI.*

- Kavi Ladnier

*How lucky we are to know God this lifetime and have a divine example of human perfection in our Guru, Swamini Turiyasangitananda.*

- Vikram

# A Life Celebrated

The passing of John Coltrane in 1967 brought about a major shift in the household. It was a change from the family times that they had all known and loved. Alice along with her four children faced a major adjustment. The children could not understand the reason for their father's absence. All was quiet and still; their lives were irrevocably changed. Her strong faith in God was ever a source of her spiritual strength.

Alice continued the spiritual practice of meditation that she and John had shared together. Then one day the Lord spoke to her in meditation and asked her a significant question. She was asked if she wanted the Lord. Her immediate answer was an emphatic "Yes!"

During the next six months the Lord guided Swami through a period of deep austerities. Her responses were tested on the physical, mental and spiritual planes. There were weeks of sleepless nights spent in prayer, fasts, and isolation from others. The Lord's divine plan thoroughly prepared her for the ministry that she would eventually engage in. Once this period called tapas (suffering austerity) was completed, she moved to another dimension of life.

Alice was anointed by the Lord, and she was directed to go and serve His people. She became known as Swamini, spiritual teacher, and she received the divine name Turiyasangitananda, the Lord's highest song of bliss.

Swami's thirty-one-year ministry for God ended January 12, 2007 when her spirit transitioned from earth life onto the spirit side of life. The physical cause cited was respiratory failure. Yet as she had always explained, "No one leaves before their time." She has stated, " 'Death is time' meaning one's time to depart. Just as at birth it is one's time to arrive on earth."

Her gracious service to God through service to His people, humanity, has consisted of teaching about the purpose of life on earth: cultivation of devotion to God. Swami's joyful holiness, compassionate responses to the sufferings of others, and her way of telling truth with a dash of humor endeared her to everyone fortunate enough to meet her.

*the lives she touched so profoundly; the babies she held, blessed and comforted; the children she guided; the young adults that she empowered; the talented youth and college students that she mentored or sponsored; the couples who received counseled; the parents she listened to and encouraged; the illness that she dissipated and healed; the elders cheered by her knowing smile and quick humor; and the countless souls throughout humanity blessed by her prayers, devotional music and silent sacrifices on their behalf.*

- Shankari



Swami's establishment of a spiritual community or ashram is noteworthy. Spiritual disciplines of selfless service, charitable giving, prayer and meditation are practiced in the Sai Anantam ashram/The Vedantic Center. The Ashram/Center serves as a spiritual vortex. The spiritual atmosphere created through chanting the Lord's many Names purifies the mind and cleanses the air.

Although she completed the embodied stage of her spiritual work and stepped out of her human form, the inspiration given by Swamini's devoted life continues. It lives in the sacred texts she transcribed and in the divine music created from the depths of her pure heart. Swamini's physical form has disappeared, yet she lives on. For, like all ascended masters, she is ever-present in the hearts, minds, and spirits of all.

We offer eternal thanks to You, O Lord for the priceless Darshan you have given through the life of your most holy and humble servitor, Swamini Turiyasangitanandaji. JAI GURU DEVI!!!!!!

# For Alice with Love

On Thursday August 9, 2007, 6:30 pm, The Ashram Community Choir was present to sing bhajans for a special tribute to Swamini A.C. Turiyasangitananda called “For Alice with Love”: Celebrating the music of Alice Coltrane held at the Japanese American Museum in downtown Los Angeles. Performers also included, The Universal Consciousness Orchestra under the direction of Miguel Atwood-Ferguson, vocalist Dwight Tribble, and Swamini’s talented nephew, Flying Lotus, Raja Ram. Guest curator for the evening was Carlos Nino of KPFK radio station.

The night was transcendental. The music played was uplifting to the heart and to the soul. The musicians made their highest offerings of appreciation to the greatness and genius and spiritual legacy of our beloved Swamini. The communion was high, truly representing “A Love Supreme.” The spirit of our divine teacher was soaring that night as all received blessings from her beautiful picture as it sat on stage surveying and glowing with radiant light.

What struck me most about the evening was from the beginning preparations to the final clean up and departure from the event, I never felt as though Swamini herself was not present giving instruction of how to serve. The difference was that the instructions were from the inner plane.

I felt deep inner peace and a real appreciation to have been privileged to be her student and to have had close association with this great

and glorious soul we called Swamini A.C. Turiyasangitananda.

One young man came up to me on his skateboard having just gotten off the Metro. He said, “I am so lucky to be here. I was led here, I did not even know of this event. I live by the music of John and Alice Coltrane daily. I was listening to a selection of John’s music

on my iPod and found myself here,” he stated incredulously. I assured him that indeed I understood; for all of us that were touched by her life also received this magic, this divine love we came to understand as Prema. It was through hearing the conviction in this young man’s voice that I knew for certain that the legacy, the ministry of Swamini was vast and far reaching, and that I too was blessed and in awe of this experience.

The highlight and close of the evening was when Steve Raja Ram “Flying Lotus” played the rhythmic

beats combined with Swamini’s satsang. Through the genius of his work, the beats were woven like a mandala of sound around Swamini’s sacred words of wisdom. I saw the youth present that evening fully embrace this experience.

The legacy lives on. It will never die, and we will always remember our Beloved A. C. Turiyasangitananda. She lives on in the hearts of all those she touched. She certainly lives in my heart, and she guides me each and every day. Jai Sai Ram! — *Jaya Lakshmi*



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## Last Conversation

My last conversation with Swamini: December, 31, 2006. My heart was singing with anticipated joy to behold the Divine Mother draped in orange. Krishna, Krishna, Krishna reverberated within my soul and vibrations of Love were permeating the ashram land. We were awaiting Swamini’s arrival for Sunday services, unbeknownst to us that this would be the last time..

As we waited, a message came on the walkie-talkie, “Swamini is on the land.” My heart danced with Joy. As the car door was opened, I said “Om Sai Ram, Swamini” and offered my hands

to help her out of the car. She held my hands and said “Om Shanti. Thank You.”

Bowing down, in gratitude, I offered obeisances at her divine lotus feet. Upon rising, the gentle touch of her hand was felt on the head. Thank you, Lord, for your Divine Instrument, Swamini Turiyasangitananda. As she walked softly greeting and blessing all present, joy filled the air. Her shoes gently slid off of her feet and were placed in the alcove on a rug of beautiful offerings of

(Continued on next page)

## **Last Conversation** (Continued from page 10)

fragrant rose petals. As she sat down in her chair, I folded her orange wrap and placed it on the wing of her chair behind her. Inwardly, my thought was “Behold the bare lotus feet, slightly extended, of the Divine Mother.’ As my forehead, touched her feet, I offered thanks. The left foot was more swollen around the ankle than the right. “Oh, Divine Mother, what karmas have you silently taken from us and transmuted on our behalf? Thank You, Lord, for your Divine Instrument,” I silently prayed. I placed her socks on her feet, trying to get it just right around each toe and over the heels. Swamini patiently waited. “Swamini, is that good and comfortable?” I asked. She said “Yes, perfect.”

One of the most important things she spoke on that blessed day was Peace. Particularly, putting our efforts forth in ending the war in Iraq. Her compassion for humanity was overflowing. She said, “Promote peace, be pro-active for peace. We should not sit idle and do nothing

about it- too many young people are dying, and for what?” As a child of God, as a mother of young adults, as a citizen, these words reached my heart like never before. Let us all do our part to promote peace. I was sharing with Swamini about an interesting statement I read. Mother Teresa was once asked if she would be a part of an anti-war rally. Her response was. “No, I will not join an anti-war rally. However, ask me to attend a Pro-Peace rally, and I will be there.” Swamini’s reply was “Yes , this is very important.”

Also, we briefly spoke about my mother’s move to Houston. I said, “Swamini, it is so far away, I hope she will be alright.” Swamini took her right hand, made a fist and touched her heart three times and said very lovingly yet adamantly, “She is not that far away, she is right here. She is and always will be with us, in our hearts.” Reflecting back, I now know she was teaching, preparing and comforting me for her own sacred ascension and beyond.

Swamini Turiyasangitananda’s every word spoken. . .with divine purpose  
Her silence. . .a Teaching, every glance. . . Divine  
Her Devotion and obedience to God. . . Unwavering,  
The touch of her lotus feet. . .Transforming. Her Love. . .Unconditional  
In Gratitude, Om Shanti, Shanti, Shanti

– Devaki

## CALENDAR

WED	Feb 6	<b>Ash Wednesday; Lent begins</b>
THU	March 20	<b>Spring Equinox</b>
SUN	March 23	<b>Easter Sunday</b>
SUN	April 13	<b>Ramnavami</b>

EKADASI is on the 14th and 28th of each month.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Avatar Book Institute:** Books & pictures of *Bhagawan Sri Satya Sai Baba*, and books, pamphlets, audio tapes & CDs of Swamini Turiyasangitananda are available.

To order: by phone, please call (818) 865-0409; by fax (818) 865-1644; or by mail:

The Vedantic Center, P.O. Box 1503, Agoura Hills, CA 91376-1503

For more Ashram information, please call:  
(818) 865-0409 or visit [www.saiquest.com](http://www.saiquest.com)

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

### MONDAY THRU SUNDAY

Ashram open to visitors from: 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### MONDAY THRU FRIDAY

Bhajans: 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Prayer offerings for World Peace and community needs  
following morning bhajans

### SATURDAYS

Bhajans: 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Karma Yoga (*Selfless Service*): 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

### SUNDAYS

Bal Vikas Sunday School: (Ages 3 - 13) 10 - 11 a.m.

Satsang\*: 1:00 - 1:30 p.m. • Bhajans: 1:00 - 2:45 p.m.

(\*Recorded discourses of Swamini Turiyasangitananda on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month, and, on the other Sundays, 15-minute readings from Swamini’s books followed by 15-minute meditation before chanting starts)

# Does the Guru Ever Die?

The Guru never dies because she lives in the disciple. That she may so live, she spends her life entering into the disciple in the form of her idealism, her ideas, her vision, her attitudes, her sense of values. Her aim and objective for living is to ceaselessly and continuously strive and work so that she may live forever in and through each and every one of her disciples. The bright light of a candle never ceases to shine once another candle has been lit by its flame. It itself may be snuffed out, but it is already burning brightly upon another candle through another wick in the selfsame light.

Ponder this well! You are the being through whom the Guru lives. This is an honor. This is a privilege. This is a great good fortune. It is also a responsibility; it is a duty; it is a truth to be known and kept in mind always: "I must be what the Guru has taught me to be. I must be what the Guru was."

You must make the vibrant spirituality of the Guru live within you, the sublime idealism of the Guru live within you, the spiritual teachings of the Guru live within you. Her loftiness of character and conduct should live within you. Her divine nature and the divine way she lived her life should be relived in you. Looking at you, the world should understand the divinity of your Guru.

"Obedience is better than reverence." (Swami Sivananda) Thus if the disciples know the difference between imitation and emulation and follow her through emulation and obedience, the Guru never dies. Gurudevi Swamini Turiyasangitanandaji will never die as long as there are sincere striving aspirants like all of you trying to walk the path of divine life, ever striving to fulfill in your thoughts, words and deeds the essence of her teachings.

Who then can say that Swamini Turiyasangitananda was and not is. She is and she shall ever continue to be. Why? Because each one of you represents a radiant facet, a shining aspect of her noble, divinely lived life. Therefore, in and through her disciples she lives and continues to inspire hundreds and thousands.

This is a great privilege. This is a great Guru seva. May you be engaged in doing it, and may you discriminate at every step so that you keep on emulating her and not go off at a tangent merely imitating her.

In the spiritual world, the Guru never dies. The disciples ensure that the



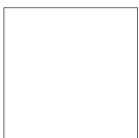
light of the Guru, the inspiration of the Guru, the wisdom teachings of the Guru will be perpetually present in human society in and through each one of themselves.

The Guru lives, and she shines through each one of her disciples. Each one of you, therefore, are living lights of the Turiyasangitananda ideal of divine life. May God and Swamini's grace and blessings enable you to do this most effectively, most fully and most successfully for the benefit of all humanity.

(Revised and adapted from "Does the Guru Ever Die" 1999  
by Sri Swami. Chidananda)

## THE VEDANTIC CENTER

*One day, while in a spiritual form, I stood with Swami Sivananda outside his ashram in Rishikesh. I then heard the Lord say to me: "Some day, you shall have a Vedanta School." Today, that "school" is a reality. The Lord laid the foundation stone for it several years ago. It is now called The Vedantic Center. - Swamini Turiyasangitananda*



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