SWAMI KRISHNANANDA

The glory of the SELF
"Seeing God everywhere and as everything" has been declared the ultimate goal of human life. Our Beloved and Worshipful Sri Swami Krishnanandaji Maharaj epitomises his entire philosophy and his glorious experience in one of his significant utterance, echoing the words of Srimad Bhagavata thus – “The Absolute is the only Reality. Everything is everywhere at every time.”

The company of such an enlightened Master is said to be most precious for a spiritual seeker as every moment opens up many doors of the mind to step out from its captivity, to spread the wings and take off to the land of no return. Param Pujya Sri Swami Krishnanandaji Maharaj is such a gigantic lighthouse on the shore of ocean of worldly life, flashing the life-saving beacon light to the aimlessly floating ones on the surface of unsure waters. Many having got the message have anchored their ships of life at the feet of this benefactor of mankind and are sailing smoothly on their course.

With grateful and joyous hearts, we are bringing out this pictorial 'SWAMI KRISHNANANDA – THE GLORY OF THE SELF' as our loving tribute towards Pujya Swamiji Maharaj on the sacred occasion of his Birth Centenary.
PREFACE

When we look at photographs of great ones, beloved ones, again and again, a mystical experience takes place. The person steps out of the picture and enters into our hearts, bestowing the greatest joy experienced beyond words and evoking some cherished memories as well. Such moments, all of us come across in our lives and because of the very reason of its uniqueness, the result remains unexpressed and untold. But the essence of it is always there within, like a seed waiting to sprout.

We all know that Worshipful Sri Swami Krishnanandaji Maharaj was averse to being photographed individually but there was no escape from group photo shooting. Earlier pictures of Swamiji Maharaj therefore, are either as the shadow of Gurudev or in the company of Gurubhais. In later years, Swamiji could not escape from the loving requests of dear devotees and thus we have few photographs to relate to. Each photograph of Swamiji Maharaj, when devoutly looked at, becomes lively and eloquent, making the onlooker feel Swamiji's immediate presence and conveying some deep philosophical truth as well.

The pictorial 'SWAMI KRISHNANANDA – THE GLORY OF THE SELF' beautifully presents Swamiji Maharaj's such lively photographs interspersed with his soul-stirring messages, thus gladdening the hearts and illuminating the minds simultaneously.

We do hope that this unique pictorial will prove an invaluable treasure for all the devotees of our scholarly saint 'Param Pujya Sri Swami Krishnanandaji Maharaj'.

The Divine Life Society
In the gracious presence of Worshipful Gurudev Sri Swami Sivanandandaji Maharaj
When the heart reveals the gracious presence of Satguru and radiates through every thought, word and deed, one becomes worshipful like Swami Krishnanandaji Maharaj.

In the words of Swami Krishnanandaji Maharaj....

The grace of the guru is essential. The knowledge cannot be obtained through mere study for oneself, by private enterprise, merely. It requires the grace of a master. Knowledge acquired through a Guru is a living knowledge. It has vitality about it, whereas the knowledge that you acquire merely by study of books is inert knowledge.
What a great blessed moment it would have been in the annals of mankind, the grace and glory of which is being showered upon the seekers world over and is ever pouring.

At the holy Feet of Worshipful Gurudev Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj, when the young Subbaraya sought refuge with burning aspiration and an earnest heart, no doubt, Gurudev must have uttered the prophetic words of Adi Sankaracharya to the new seeker.

धन्योदिशिकृतकृत्योदिशि पावितं ते कुलं त्वया।
रदविद्याबन्धमुक्त्या ब्रह्मिभवितुमिच्छिसि ॥

Blessed are you! You have touched the acme of your life and sanctified your family by aspiring to attain Brahman, freeing from the bondage of ignorance.

(Vivekachudamani)
At the holy feet of Gurudev Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj are seated disciples Swami Venkatesananda, Swami Krishnananda, Swami Chidananda and Swami Shashwatananda.

This surely takes you back to that period when the great Master Adi Sankaracharya wandered sanctifying the land of Bharatavarsha together with disciples, removing ignorance from the hearts of people blinded by many cults, practices and faith, like the sun travelling from east to west dispelling darkness. The picture of Sankaracharya seated on a raised tiger-skin seat teaching to four disciples, attentively listening to the words of the Master, is everyday remembered by the traditional seekers who study scriptures from their teachers to feel blessed and be successful in their pursuit by reciting:
The great Guru Sri Sankaracharyya and disciples Padmapada, Hastamalaka, Totakacharya and Vartikakara (Sureshwaracharya) and apart from those, my Guru – I offer my salutations to all.

The picture glorifies the lineage of Gurus and disciples that originated from the Lord of the Universe itself, emphasizing that nothing have changed even today!

*Adhyatma-Vidya is the science of the innermost essence of the universe, and it does not come under the intellectual categories of objective discernment. It would be perhaps very true to say that all worldly knowledge which is intellectual, mental and sensory is form of ignorance.*

Slowly and steadily, the outer colour penetrates deep down into one's own being in the presence of the living Master in the making of a perfect monk.

*It is not enough if the devotee wants God; the highest devotion is where God loves the devotee and behaves as if He is a very servant of the one who loves Him.*
When the seeds sprout within the warmth of soil and try to break out of the earth, can one imagine what kind of struggle every sprout might have undergone? Here, under the protecting care of a unique master Swami Sivananda, fortunate were those seekers ever cared for, loved, groomed to expand beyond and breaking all the barriers of bondages to spread their wings of freedom.

The essence of renunciation or Sannyasa, monkhood or nunhood, is not a renunciation of objects, but the renunciation of the object-ness or the externality of the objects.
Disciples live with the Master like planets around the sun, in a compact galaxy. That is the beneficial period in the life of a disciple who has heard the inner cry of the soul to redeem oneself. Swami Sivanandaji took care of disciples more than hundreds of parents put together. Hence in utmost gratitude, they ever remember their excellent Guru:

त्वमेव माता च पिता त्वमेव त्वमेव बन्धुश्रव सर्व त्वमेव |
त्वमेव विद्या द्रविणं त्वमेव त्वमेव सर्व मम देवदेव ||

Thou art Mother, Thou art Father, Relative art Thou, Friend art Thou, Thou art Knowledge, Thou art wealth and Thou alone art everything of mine, O the Lord of the Lords!

Swami Sivananda's dream was the integration of the human personality for the purpose of social integration, and finally, what we may regard as cosmic integration – which is virtually the realization of God Almighty.
An ardent student of yoga who is sincerely attempting to achieve perfection will be guarded by the rulers of the cosmos.

“God-realisation first, everything else afterwards”

this was, is and will be the teaching of Gurudev Swami Sivananda forever. Everything else follows automatically from this great surging longing of the heart.
As the rivers offer themselves to the ocean to become one with it, the seekers from all over came and offered their individual existence at the feet of the Holy Master, to be one with the Universal Non-dual Consciousness.

You are alone with your God, and there is no one around you. This is the truth. Rest your mind on this, and attain peace.
Swamiji stands upon a wall. Wall has this side and that side. But the one who has dissolved himself unto the fire of Satguru has neither this side nor that side. He exists like the space equally filling this and that.

As the path of the birds in the sky or of fish in water is not easily traceable, the way of the sage of wisdom is unintelligible to the human intellect.
Compassionately looking at those who are caught up in the lanes and bye lanes of philosophy while seeking the royal path!

The Bhakti-Shastras state that the love of God for the devotee is more than man's love for God.

Fountain of joy is within.

Enjoy by renunciation, not by possession. The enjoyment that comes by renunciation is more intense than the enjoyment that comes by possession of the things of the world.
When kindness blossoms in the heart, the fragrance spreads out on the face.

To worship God is to worship the whole world and to serve God is to serve humanity, and vice versa.
Just Like the Master.

If your search is for freedom, knowledge is regarded as an endeavour towards the achievement of this freedom.

Oh, Gurudev is coming out for a walk!

The glorification of God and the control of the senses mean one and the same thing. Because, it is only in God-consciousness that all senses can be controlled.
Swamiji's Sacred Presence Pervades the Ashram

The body of a saint when consigned to Ganga, disappears into the sacredness of its cool waters or is consumed by the flames of fire upon a funeral pyre. Generally, people think the saint is no more, has slipped down to the pages of memory. We also make the same mistake when we bring out a pictorial in the loving memory of the revered saint, conforming to the prevailing concept by reproducing the available pictures as a ritual event on the occasion; we all collectively come together and remember the great one for a day or two, or a whole year of centenary, in the case of our worshipful Swami Krishnanandaji Maharaj.

When a mortal becomes immortal, he is present, one with the eternal presence of Satguru. Individual existence is erased once for all like the bursting of a bubble on the surface of ocean to exist as the water itself. Though the whole visible world is the body of such an immortal being, we like to remember our worshipful Swami Krishnanandaji Maharaj, whom we looked at, loved, received blessings from, with guidance and strength to be on the path of no return. For us, his sacred presence pervades the entire Ashram. When we walk around the Ashram, many spots are such, suddenly we come face to face with Swamiji, as if he is turning the corner, giving a soul-stirring discourse in Samadhi shrine, chanting 'Om Namo Narayanaya' in Vishwanath Mandir, worshipping Lord Kartikeya in Bhajan Hall, offering milk to Ganga at Vishwanath Ghat, walking with a group of devotees towards Govardhan Hill, lecturing in Academy or at many more such occasions and locations. Especially those dear devotees of Swamiji who were fortunate to move around with Swamiji in the Ashram, will not miss their master. They will surely come across Swami Krishnanandaji at some blessed spot in the Ashram, in their heart!
Main Entrance to the Ashram

Every step has a story to tell. It is the main entrance to the Ashram. Flight of steps blessed by the dust of holy men's feet, remain day and night as if revelling in those glorious moments of the past. If you have time, sit on the side seat and try to listen with your heart what those blessed steps have to share with you. It may take you to those days of aspiring young Sivanandas, and give a glimpse of their astounding life around Swami Sivanandaji, lacking though they were in basic comforts of life.

Life is a process of entering into God. This is achieved by seeing God in the objects as well as the actions of the world, which is not the seeing of particulars but of the universal in them.
“You are happy because you do not hate anyone. That is why seeing you, I am also happy.”

In fact, all human striving, knowingly or unknowingly, is directed only towards the state of perpetual and unending bliss.

“Yes, you put that question very well. It shows that you know the answer also very well. Yet, as you have asked I have to say something.”

Yoga is an attitude that we establish with reference to all things, everywhere. Then all things become friendly.
It is a kind of balancing act. You are neither affected by that, nor unaffected. Look at this dilemma. How these two aspects operate in you and when you know it fully well, then the balancing act is very easy, otherwise not.

To be able to realise God, you have first to want God. It is almost a question of supply and demand.
Those who know the truth of Krishna, for them, whatsoever in this world, mobile and immobile, including all the gods, is Krishna alone, not even an iota apart.

(Srimad Bhagavata Mahapurana 10-14-56)

We are great, not because we are something to the world but because we are something in ourselves, even if the whole world is not to exist at all.
It is easy to understand the nature of the whole world, but difficult to understand oneself!

The highest meditation consists in the recognition of the Self in all things so that there is no object before the Self to think or deal with.

It is alright.
Everything in the heart and the heart is everywhere.

Yoga is that which relieves the individual of all his misery, for all time. Yoga is that which separates man from pain and installs him in his own Infinitude.
Where does Swami Krishnanandaji sit? If anyone asks you this question, you may guide him to his office or residence. It is perfectly alright. But it is not true. He sits in himself. Do not get baffled. That is the truth.

भिदते हृदयान्तिक्षिप्तवन्य सत्तासंभारः।
क्षीरन्ते वास्त्रा कर्मणि तस्मिन्द्रेष्टे परावरे॥

The knot of the heart is cut asunder, all doubts are solved and all his Karmas perish, when He who is both high and low is beheld.

(Mundaka Upanishad 2-2-8)

What is not finite is infinite, which is exactly the description of God.
Do you think sitting is not an activity? Do not get deluded by the motionless body. Even in your sleep while dreaming, you are active. It is the mind that makes you active or inactive. But the Self-realised one is inactive even when the body and mind are active.

Personality is least connected with the Reality, being isolated and externalised.
Happiness of a Sannyasi is contagious. It is the purest of joy that fountains up and showers drenching everyone nearby.

When one is pure in mind, pure in speech and pure in body, there is contentment arising from oneself. There is Santosha. It is very essential that one should be happy under any circumstance.
Bhajan Hall

When the whole Ashram is asleep in the dead of night, Bhajan Hall is awake. It never sleeps. It has not slept for the last seventy eight years. Lord Vishwanath decided to descend in Sri Vishwanath Mandir in 1943. At the same time Gurudev invoked Nama Bhagavan,

'Hare Rama Hare Rama, Rama Rama Hare Hare,
Hare Krishna Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna Hare Hare'
also known as Maha Mantra to dwell in the adjacent Bhajan Hall as Akhanda Maha Mantra Kirtan Yajna. Since then, it goes on day and night, non-stop, dedicated to the peace and welfare of the whole world.

Devotees and visitors make it a point to spend as much time as they can in the vibrant hall to participate in the ongoing chanting. The hall is sanctified by the divine presence of Goddess Saraswati, Lord Shanmukha, Goddess Durga, Gurudev in His invisible presence upon an easy chair where the visible presence graced in those days the sanctum of Maha Mantra, besides the presence of many great saints and sages in pictures on the four walls around.

Another spot outside the Bhajan Hall is, Sivananda Pillar. In those days, young Swamis seated at the base of Pillar and discussing spiritual matters was a heartening scene. Yes, you may look for young Swami Krishnanandaji among them.

Collective prayer is very effective. If a hundred persons join together and pray, it will have a greater effect than one person praying.
Brotherhood, appreciation, encouragement, feeling for others' pain and sorrow, consolation and such noble traits are naturally found in the blessed ones.

It is only the citizen of Bharatavarsha that can confidently and scientifically prove to the mankind of this world that mankind is one.
They may look far, very near, nowhere or everywhere. Who knows what they see!

Things are not what they seem to be, and nothing is what it appears to be.
All around is darkness. Swamiji is busy working, deeply engrossed in the work in hand. One may be reminded of Lord Krishna's statement about the awakened one, though the import of it is much deeper.

या निशा सर्वभूतानं तस्यं जागरि संयमी।
यस्यं जागरि भूतानि सा निशा पश्यतो मुने: ॥

That which is night to all beings, in that the self-controlled man is awake; when all beings are awake, that is night for the Muni (sage) who sees.

(Srimad Bhagavad Gita 2-69)

The radiance of God is impossible of avoiding, in our day-to-day life. It is a perpetual presence, like the energy of the sun that vitalises the whole earth, whether the sun shines in the sky or has set.
Swami Sivananda's Samadhi Mandir

This is the place where you cannot miss Swami Krishnanandaji. Sit in a corner, close your eyes and concentrate on the talks you have listened to, during those days. Feel it filling in, a flow soothing and elevating, like the Ganges carrying you along with!

You can also recall Maha Mrityunjaya Mantra Japa session wherein Swami Krishnanandaji used to lead the group chanting in the afternoon hours in those days dedicated to the welfare of all beings.

The incarnations of God are supposed to come with a power of divinity, whereas the sages and saints are supposed to go with the power of divinity.
Those who know, they are already on the other shore. The ocean rests at their feet.

This world is nothing but a spatio-temporal complex of subjects and objects. And, our endeavour is to overcome this limitation.
Take A Dip Between Two Waves.

The essential power of the mind manifests itself only when it is centered in infinity as its object.

'Welcome, seeing you after a long time. How can you be away from Gurudev's abode?'

The love of life is cooperation and not competition and exploitation.
Behind is mountain, in front is mountain, between is the river Ganga. Yes, Swamiji is a sitting mountain, unshakeable in the knowledge of Self. Totally devoted to Gurudev and Gurudev's mission for the life, disseminating the wisdom and knowledge to the seekers from all over the world, same time administering the Divine Life Society from the headquarters till last breath was Swami Krishnanandaji and certainly many more things to add..............!

The more you are inwardly conscious, the nearer is the world to you. And when you reach the divine principle within you, the world does not merely remain as a friend but becomes an inseparable experience of your own.
How can the issue be settled?

Do you talk of conquering the family to which you belong? Never, is the answer. Then why do you talk of conquering Nature? Poor Nature, it is your own, why do you want to conquer it? You are a part of it. Know this and act accordingly.

Always be aware, where you keep your next step.

The more you believe in the reality of objects, the farther you are from Truth or Reality.
Do not get deluded by the outer appearance and fall into the trap. It is God Himself in disguise to check how you are progressing in your practice!

Recognition of the total helplessness of the human individual is a sign of wisdom.
Lord Siva as Vishwanath, being the Lord of the universe is surrounded by Sri Ganesh, Divine Mother, Sri Krishna, Sri Ram, Mother Sita, Sri Hanuman and Sri Lakshman, with Sri Nandi adjacent to Siva Linga. Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj had installed Vishwanath Bhagawan with his own hands in 1943. On special occasions like Maha Sivaratri, Janmashtami, Navaratri, Ram Navami etc., special worships with ongoing Bhajan and Kirtan lift up the whole atmosphere and the hearts of devotees with joy and devotion.
Bhagavan Adi Sankaracharya is seated here disseminating spiritual knowledge to the world through Gurudev Swami Sivanandaji, Swami Krishnanandaji and Swami Chidanandaji.

When man's meditation on God ends, and God begins meditation on all creation, the consummation is reached. It is here that all questions are answered and all problems solved.
Om Namo Narayanaya!
Om Namo Narayanaya!
Om Namo Narayanaya!
Let there be peace, happiness and harmony in the world, O Lord!

We cannot be really happy if we cannot enjoy a flower without plucking it from the plant.
Yes, I know you are all busy people and you complain you do not have time for anything else. But it is not true. You have ample time to attend to useless things, to satisfy the ego of oneself and others, considering them as priorities of a happy life. Do not ignore yourself, give some time and listen to what your inner self is demanding. God bless you.

The distance between you and God is the same as the extent of your desire for the world.
How will you justify that?
The logic does not support it.

Nothing more, and nothing less is given to us in this world.
He who performs his bounden duties without desiring the results of his actions is a real Sannyasi and a real Yogi, not he who has merely renounced the daily rituals like Agnihotra or has abandoned activities.

(Srimad Bhagavad Gita 6-1)

When you are in a hurry, you cannot think anything except that God alone is everywhere.
Seems to be lost in oneself!

The secret of meditation is this: The mind and the intellect should shine, but not shine upon things other than the shining awareness. This is the realisation of God within.
'See but look not, hear but listen not, taste but relish not!' Yes, it is a great lesson for all. One may think it is all contradictions. No contradictions at all, so are the teachings!

Evil sets in the moment, we forget the Presence of God everywhere.
Enquire 'who am I?' Know thyself and be free!

Whether man is different from God, a part of God, or one with God can be known from the relation of the dreaming individual to the waking individual. The relation is similar.
When a child is in mother's lap both are inseparable. Same is the case with Mother Ganga and Swamiji.

The Ganges destroys sins; the moon destroys heat; the Kalpavriksha destroys poverty. But the company of the wise ones destroys sin, heat and poverty all at once.
Annapurna Annakshetra

Divine Mother Annapurna so gracious and loving, is never tired of feeding Her children.

अन्नपूर्णसदापूर्णे शंकरप्राणवल्हुभे ||
ज्ञानवैराग्यसिद्ध्यर्थ भिक्षां देहि च पार्वति ||

O Mother, beloved consort of Lord, Thou art ever full in both material and divine wealth. O Mother, be gracious and grant a handful, so as discrimination and dispassion well up in us.
'Oh, wonderful.... How could you manage it? Sure, Gurudev's grace is with you.'

Every atom in the universe is a necessary thing for the development of the whole universe. And so, we have to pass through all the stages.

They are discussing in mid-air. May be something unearthly?

The only standard of reference for us in all matters of life's value is the existence of God.
Swamiji with Swami Hridayananda Mataji and Swami Chinmayanandaji, may be lost in Gurudev

When man plumbs into the depths of his own being, he spontaneously comes in contact with the roots of all things.
Being worshipped by devotees

Earlier Swamiji never encouraged people to offer worship by being at the receiving end, instead advised them to offer their worship to the holy Padukas of Gurudev at Samadhi Mandir. But Swamiji could not hold on to it for a long time against the loving prayers of devotees.

How far the sun could hide behind the clouds!

Spirituality is not one kind of life that you lead. It is the inner meaning of all kinds of life in the world.
A rarest of rare occasion for a Sannyasi Mahatma to take and give blessings!

Swami Chidanandaji once was instrumental in taking Sri Swami Krishnanandaji (Poorvashram Son) to the blessed mother.

It seems mother's holy feet were worshipped with loving offerings and Swamiji in turn gained the grace of mother!

What merit and happiness mother might have received, are beyond words!

Dharma is a flexible law, adjustable according to changing circumstances, though it is eternal in the sense that its main aim never changes.
The rivers do not flow for their own benefits; trees
do not eat their own fruits; cows part with their
milk for others' good; the life of a saint is not for
himself alone.
Many non-traditional spiritual seekers spend years in Sadhana and self-study of scriptures in their own way and gain good grasp of subject. They can even deliver lectures, write books and teach Scriptures. Such knowledge lacking a strong foundation and guidance by Guru, may not stand to deliver one's own emancipation, the reason being, the real knowledge has to dawn by the grace of Guru.

Here in the Academy, the course is designed to help the seeker to create a strong foundation upon which, with conscience ever illumined by the grace of his Guru, can erect his tower of liberation.

Swami Krishnanandaji is the pioneer of the present shape of Academy. Many genuine ex-students have since taken up their spiritual pursuits seriously.

The system of the universe is so automatic and spontaneous that it does not require an operator independent of it.
Swamiji in a jovial mood with Swami Premanandaji

“Did not I tell you that the earth is round, so whatever you give will have to come back to you?”

All sorrows will pass away one day — therefore don't worry.
It is very rare to behold a shining star caught between the Sun and the Moon.

Sri Veeraraghavalu ji was such a saintly personage, humble and simple, down-to-earth, very senior and dedicated in Seva till the end at Yoga Vedanta Academy Press that was very dear to Gurudev. Everyone loved this revered saint in white.

Unselfish service is regarded as the essential prerequisite in the purificatory processes necessary for the final practice of Yoga.
Swamiji together with Swami Vimalanandaji and Sri Narasimhuluji seems to be in deep prayers. People look at Sadhus as ambassadors of the Lord or intermediaries between the Lord and themselves. So they request them for prayers on their behalf. If they really come to know that the Lord is ever present in the heart of everyone and witnesses thoughts and deeds and everything, will they pray for anything else other than Him?

Our relationship to the universe is eternal and it cannot die.
Swamiji is speaking to someone missed by camera, but Swami Venkatesanandaji is capturing it in full.

Unity in the world necessitates a heart-to-heart feeling of oneness among its inhabitants.

Swamiji, Swami Sahajanandaji, Swami Premanandaji, Dr. Devaki Kutty Mataji and the group of devotees worshipping Gurudev's sacred Padukas

Different forms serve different purposes, but their essential being is one.
Every occasion, whether a Birthday or Samadhi day, is an auspicious occasion to worship the sacred Padukas of Gurudev and to have Satsang.

Guru is Brahma, Guru is Vishnu, Guru is Maheswara and Guru is Absolute Supreme Brahman, to That Guru my salutations.

It is said that the divine help comes even when it is not summoned, for, naturally, the eternal law shall operate whether one is conscious of it or not.
Dharma is the law that maintains the balance of forces in the Universe and dispenses the retributive justice to the individuals in such a manner as the equilibrium of creation is never disturbed.
We did exist centuries and aeons before, and we will continue to exist aeons hence also. We are eternal units of this large structure called the universe.
Discussion between the President Swami Chidanandaji and General Secretary Swami Krishnanandaji!

One may wonder! What on earth they may be discussing?

They had an Ashram to manage where many spiritual seekers from all over India and other nations lived together and practised Swami Sivananda’s teachings. Material comforts, at least minimum, had to be provided to everyone. Funds? Yes, that could be one point in their agenda. But no fears! They had seen those days, in kitchen water boiling on the oven having nothing to put in. Suddenly someone turned up and gave some cash offering. Bought potatoes from the shop with that and they all rejoiced in sharing the special Prasadam, boiled potatoes, sent by the Lord!

Oh, they might have been talking about Gurudev, His institution, His dear spiritual children and their welfare. What else was there for them to dwell upon?

There is no need for asking something. It is automatically there, provided you do not make the mistake of asking. If you ask, it will not be there because you have treated it as an object and it runs away.
A Prabhat Pheri in progress outside the Ashram premises.

If you want anything, you have only to cry before the Absolute. Things shall be provided to you exactly as you want them, at the proper time.
Swamiji is with other senior Swamijis in the consecration ceremony of Swami Sivananda Centenary Charitable Hospital during Gurudev's Centenary Celebrations.

Service is the outcome of our feeling that the great aspiration that is throbbing in our heart is also present in other hearts.
VIEW OF ASHRAM FROM OTHER SIDE OF GANGA

Beauty of Ganga is captivating. Keep looking at it, mind slowly assumes such serenity as of flawless waters, reflecting the inner radiance of the peace absorbing you into an effortless meditation!

The upper part of Ashram hides behind thick green foliage not to distract your attention!

People think that in the religions of India there are many gods — this is a wrong idea.
THE ASHRAM TRINITY BLESSING EACH OTHER!

Gurudev's Centenary Celebration was the time of bagging blessings from all sources. Anyone could have felt being blessed by himself, by participating even a day in the celebration.

There is only one God and this superintending Principle is the Adhi Devata, the very very essential Reality without which no experience can be accounted for.
The greatest pleasure is when the object is nearest to you, when you have the sense of its possession, nay, when its being is merged in your being in a self-identical experience.
Glimpses of Swamiji's Diamond Jubilee Birthday Celebrations in 1982

Spiritual Sadhana is ultimately an effort to cease from all effort. This is the highest effort, because no one normally can be without exerting oneself in some direction.
Swamiji in Delhi at Swami Sivananda Cultural Association, celebrating its Silver Jubilee in the august presence of the President of India, Sri Giani Zail Singh, Swami Chidanandaji and others.

Though the striking of the match is quickly done, the making of the match takes a long time.
With new initiates in Gurudev's Kutir, Swamiji and Swami Chidanandaji blessing them with Upadesha, instructions and advice in the making of Sivanandas!

One is born alone, and one dies alone. Hence one should live also alone. This art of living alone is yoga. Life is the process of the flight of the 'alone' to the 'Alone'.
On the occasion of Sri Dattatreya Jayanti, the then trinity of the Ashram – Swami Chidananda, Swami Krishnananda and Swami Madhavananda in Dattatreya Mandir at Govardhan hill of the Ashram to worship the trinity Dattatreya Bhagawan.

God first; the world next; yourself last: follow this sequence in the development of the thought-process so that God's Power and existence may be affirmed in everything.
It seems Swamiji is to attend the worship of Lord Kartikeya during Skanda Shashti at Bhajan Hall, but Swamiji is not present there. Appears to be got transported to Mount Kailas to celebrate together with Maheswara, mother Parvati, Ganesha and Kartikeya, in its entirety.

That which has gone deep into the heart becomes a part of our life. The rest is only a wind that blows over the surface of our mind.
On the Govardhan Hill at the Vana Durga temple, Divine Mother is surrounded by Her dear children trying to please Her to shower Her blessings upon all beings upon earth. The special occasion is Navaratri Durga Puja, observed all over India for nine days and concluded on the tenth day with a celebration of victory ‘Vijayadasami’, by the Divine Mother over the demons who wreck the lives of pious and genuine spiritual aspirants.

The being of man extends from the earth right up to the Absolute. Thus, man touches all levels of manifestation in the Universe.
Swami Sivananda Auditorium

A unique place to conduct big functions in the Ashram. Ground floor is a huge Auditorium without any pillar in front of you. Top two floors are residential for guests and visitors. At times, the Auditorium hall turns to a hospital ward during annual Eye Camps.
Waving the dancing lights in worship of Lord, Swamiji is in a meditative mood.

All the names and forms are ever like these dancing flames.
By every act, they are responding and glorifying you, O Lord!
Thou art the only reality behind all these passing shows,
The ONE non-dual, changeless and eternal entity!

One should adore the Self alone as dear. He who adores the Self alone as dear does not lose what he holds as dear. The Self is Imperishable.
Pavamana Homa in progress on Swamiji's Birthday Celebration

Chanting of the Name of God, known as Japa, is often considered as one of the best forms of divine worship.

The masters descend the steps as if gods coming down from heaven to make everyone happy.

Be in a prayerful mood of humble submission to Almighty every moment — then God does Sadhana for you.
Om Namah Sivanandaya.
Om Namah Sivaya.
Abhisheka at Gurudev's Samadhi shrine for the welfare of all beings

A prayer for the welfare of all beings from the bottom of one's heart is also a great service. This is one of the greatest forms of service that one can do.

To please Mother Ganga, Swamiji is lovingly offering the Sweet Boondi which in turn, She may feed Her children, the entire living beings upon earth, with Tushti and Pushti.

The various things thought in various incarnations create a network of experiences which is called Samsara.
OFFERING MILK TO MOTHER GANGA

Ganga here stands for pure knowledge that liberates mankind, available to us by the grace of Lord Siva. When our mind attains purity, symbolised by pure white milk, it merges as one with the Absolute.

Never for a moment, you think, 'what does God think about me?'
Let this be your contemplation.
Even the sages who delight in the Self alone and knot of whose ignorance has been cut asunder, do have unconditional devotion to Sri Hari. Such are His glorious Lilas.

(Srimad Bhagavata Mahapurana 1.7.10)
Elaborate traditional Vedic Yajna by specialised priests is in progress at Sri Vishwanath Mandir.

There is a subterranean relationship between our inner contents and the whole cosmos outside. The moment we begin to enter the realm of the yoga practice, we also start operating upon our cosmic relationships.
The final oblation, being offered to the sacred fire at the end of the Yajna

God is the supreme Viewer of the whole Cosmos, and God moves in this world in the form of His incarnations, manifestations, expressions, functions and activities.

On the bank of Ganga at Vishwanath Ghat, the sacred bath is a special event of Birthday celebration. Along with the chant of Vedic Mantras, one after the other, pots of cool Ganga water is poured, after bath in milk with other ingredients used for worship.

The whole thing that you are doing is a cosmic work. It is not some person doing, somewhere sitting in one corner. Every activity is a Cosmic Action taking place through every individuality, at all times.
Lord has come to celebrate Swamiji's Birthday in disguise to play the role of Krishna with a flute in hand to give joy and delude everyone as He did in Vrindavan!

God is not merely the awesome justice of the universe but a source of beauty and attraction capable of enchanting the whole world, surpassing every form of beauty and lovableness conceivable anywhere, melting the hearts of things at the very sight and even a thought of that glorious Beauty. Beauty of beauties is God — Sakshat manmatha manmathah.
Muni-ki-Reti Panchayat celebrated every year August 15th i.e. Independence day with flag hoisting, National Anthem and a procession chanting slogans that glorify Bharata Mata. Swamiji was special invitee for hoisting the national flag for many years.

The whole world is a sacrifice, every act of ours, every thought, every feeling is an offering, a worship, a waving of a sacred light before the glory of the Almighty.
Has the childhood memories come to offer their homage to Swamiji by showing their presence and offering their service to take Swamiji around?

Swamiji is on a rare visit to Rameshwaram in south India.

Identify yourself with That which is everywhere. If It is everywhere, you are nowhere. Do you understand me? So who is meditating? That which is everywhere is meditating on Itself.
Devotees like your good self are verily holy places personified. As Lord Himself is enshrined in your heart, you sanctify all the places of pilgrimage by your sacred presence.

(Srimad Bhagavata Mahapurana 1.13.10)
It seems Lord Kartikeya has sent His personal vehicle Peacock to receive Swamiji. Swamiji politely sends back the vehicle with thanks and wishes to walk to the abode of Lord.

There are not many actions taking place in the universe; only one action is taking place, regardless of who is appearing to do it.

O Lord,
Your Manifestation is the most wondrous!

Yoga is the search for the Truth in its ultimate reaches and above its relative utility. Adequate preparations have to be made for this adventure. We have to become honest before Truth, and not merely in the eyes of our friends.
At Kanyakumari, anyone for a dip in the ocean of bliss?

The whole world is in a state of meditation. The whole universe is a body of meditation because the universe is the will of God which is the thought, the original Sankalpa of the Supreme Being.

O Lord! May there be peace and happiness everywhere. Let everyone feel Thy presence in their heart as the very Self.

Just as meditation is not a private practice, your achievement in spiritual life is also not a private achievement. It is a cosmic achievement. Nobody attains God individually. The whole world goes with you.
The world show will not stop. It does not need anyone's help.

We have to gain knowledge of the mysteries of life, the secrets of existence, before we can try to find out the reasons behind our sufferings and our present experiences.

Sri Swami Vimalanandaji with Swamiji providing information about the visit of a foreign group of devotees and their programme in India together with a Birthday greeting!

Mutual cooperation is the essence of duty, and in mutual cooperation, no expectation of fruits is possible because the very fact of mutual cooperation brings all the fruits that are required.
Swami Govindanandaji from Sivananda Publication department is offering to Swamiji, newly released book still warm and fresh.

The love of the Self is the basis of all other loves. One loves another, because one loves the Self the most. The ultimate purpose of all loves is to rest in the satisfaction of one's own Self.

Swamiji with a group of devotees from abroad during their visit

Philosophy is the search for the higher values of life, and not the values of the world as they are available to us.
Swami Yogaswarupanandaji, the present President with Swamiji

It is not good to perceive a person. It is good to feel the presence of a person as one feels one's own self.

Sri Umesh Bhatt, now the senior accountant of the Society, every day visited Swamiji for the blessings and to receive instructions.

There is no such thing as renunciation, if it is to be properly understood. It is a renunciation of a lesser degree of consciousness for the sake of a larger, more inclusive consciousness.
O Lord! Let us abide in Thee, forever and ever.

The salvation of the individual is when the individual merges itself into the infinite consciousness and exists as the Absolute.

Every step should be towards the goal of life, God-realisation! When the Master shows the way, others confidently walk on the footsteps.

Saints and sages are still alive. Great masters are still operating. It is up to you to find where they are.
This picture tells you the whole story of Swamiji's life.

A lotus seed sprouts from the mud under water and begins its upward journey facing all the odds and challenges to emerge out of the waters. There, the bud under the bright sun with its assurance and grace, opens up to full blossom. The blooming lotus with a beautiful smile, blesses the honey bees seeking the bliss of tasting the nectar.

*Your responsibility arises to the extent you are conscious that you are. So if you are there, you have responsibility. If you are not there, you have no responsibility. First of all, decide whether you are there or not.*
In the hearts of devotees are enshrined the holy feet of their Guru ever worshipped; washed with pure mind for milk and pure love for Ganga water, offering meditative thoughts for flowers, inhaling and exhaling breath for ceaseless Japa and waving of lamp in Arati, with million flames, emerging out of every pore in the body, the inner bliss, by the unparallel grace of the Guru.

There is a great solace and comfort given to us by Bhagavan Sri Krishna in the Bhagavadgita that even when you honestly feel a necessity to become perfect, God's grace has already descended upon you.
We offer our earnest gratitude at the holy feet of Most Worshipful Gurudev Sri Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj, who gave to this world a most precious gem, a unique master, in the form of Worshipful Sri Swami Krishnanandaji Maharaj.
Krishnanandaji is a wonder to me! He has excelled me. He has excelled Sankara. He has excelled Dakshinamurthy.

Swami Krishnanandaji is enshrined in the hearts of countless Sadhakas and students of Yoga and Vedanta all over the world by his loving disposition, his kindness to them, and his genuine keen interest in their spiritual progress and welfare.

Swami Sivananda

Swami Chidananda