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CHINMAYA MISSION® WEST BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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His Holiness Swami Tapovanam

The best way to generate true devotion is through association with the knowers of Truth (*satsanga*).

Source: *Ishvara Darshan*

His Holiness Swami Chinmayananda

The great Vedanta Masters kick their disciple children and send them out because the knowledge they seek is something to think on, find out, and realize alone. . . . [yet] faith and utter devotion to the Guru are necessary . . . sans faith in the teacher, the student is a wayfarer--entirely blind, completely deaf, and sadly paralyzed.

Source: *Chinmaya Lahari*



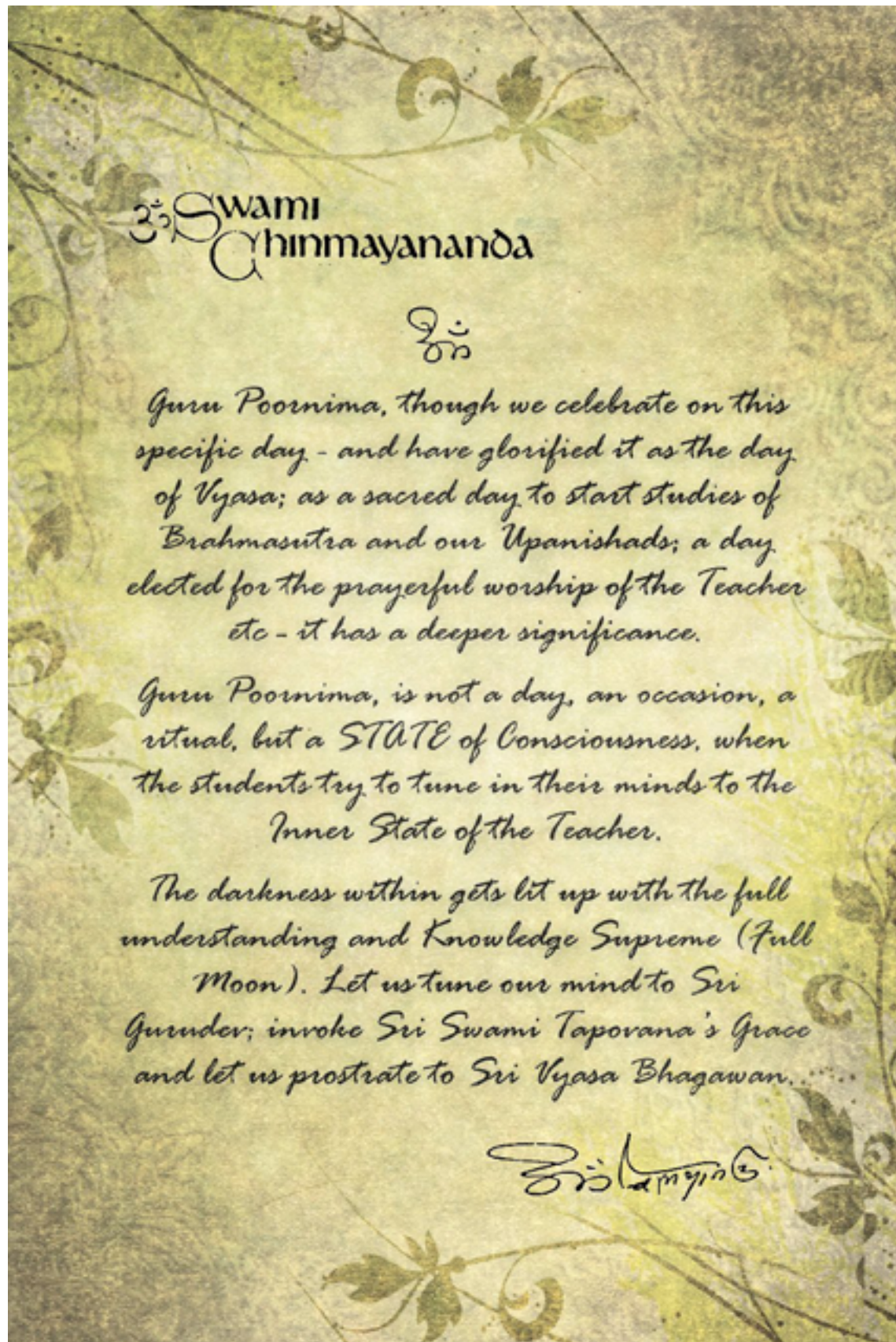
His Holiness Swami Tejomayananda

Without knowing and dealing with the root cause [of delusion], we struggle to eliminate the symptoms without much success. The Guru, by the knowledge of our true Nature, destroys this ignorance. Grateful, indeed, are we for this great task that he achieves so gracefully.

Source: *Tattva Vivekah*

[Click here for Pujya Guruji's Itinerary](#)





Matter and Spirit

by Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda

Excerpts from a transcribed talk given in New York, 1973; Reprinted from The Mananam Series, 1980

Stone, plant, animal, and human—everything is a combination of matter and Spirit. In human beings, the Spirit expresses to the maximum degree because of the subtlety, the sophistication of the equipments. In the animal the Spirit expresses less; in the plant, less; in the stone, least. Not that Consciousness is not there; the Divine is everywhere within, without, everywhere. But in the stone, the mind and intellect are not present, and therefore expression is minimal. In the plant are the beginnings of mind, and therefore, some subtle expression is possible. In an animal, much more expression is present because the mind is fully developed, and the beginnings of a rational intellect are evident.

In the human, the intellect is highly developed, and therefore, Divinity shines through. The grosser and denser the intellect, the smaller the amount of Divinity that comes through. The subtler the intellect, the greater the Divinity that comes through. Until, at last, when the intellect is transcended, there is only infinite Divinity.

Words cannot describe this infinite Divinity. Words can only point out the direction in which we must turn our attention. This ultimate experience nobody can give us, nor can we gain it vicariously. It must be a direct Awakening, a direct personal experience. And the person who experiences it, experiences it. Meaning, those who have not yet experienced it, have no idea at all. They only hear blabber—words, words, words.

Play of Consciousness in Matter

When the supreme Lord, the Ruler, the Controller, the Proprietor, is in the sense organs, both the mind and the intellect function. If He is absent, neither sense

organs, nor mind, nor intellect, function. The Enlivener of all matter is called the Lord. My sense organs—eyes, ears, nose, tongue, skin—function when I am alive; your eyes, ears, nose, tongue, skin function when you are alive. The plant that functions is alive. When He is there, everything goes on. When He is not, everything decays, going back to the five elements from which it came. The body goes back to mud. For years nothing has happened to your body because the Lord has dwelled in it and everything has functioned beautifully.

And this mighty Spark, this Presence, this divine Touch is the same in a worm, in a plant, in an animal, in a human, in a saint, or in a sinner. That Consciousness is one and the same in everything, everywhere. The play of Consciousness in matter is called Life. If Consciousness withdraws from it, matter collapses. So all we are seeing now is the play of Consciousness. This supreme Lord who dwells, who revels, in all names and forms, is that because of which the grass is green; that because of which the flower bursts from the plant; that because of which the butterfly flies; that because of which you walk, run, think, do, feel; that without which I am as much mud as the dead butterfly, or flower, or tree, or leaf. The mud is thrilled into activity because of the touch of this mysterious Power, the supreme Lord.

Consciousness is equally present in everybody; one person is not more conscious than another. No. Consciousness is the same everywhere, but the smaller the ego or the less the selfishness, the greater the Divinity that shines through. Thus, in the case of the selfless sage, be he glorified or insulted, he remains the same. He will not even try to pluck a flower, let alone raise a little finger to destroy another individual. Why? How can he destroy that beauty, the Lord's manifestation?

Love becomes his very breath of existence, his very language of expression.

☞ The Changeless and the Changeable

In all perishing material, in all decay, in all death, in all changes, Consciousness is that which never changes. It is the Changeless in us that remains changeless in the midst of all change, that which remains immutable in the midst of all mutations, that which remains whole in the midst of all breakings, and that which is un-decaying in us in the midst of all decay.

The world around is constantly changing. The body is constantly changing, now healthy, now unhealthy. Are not our minds changing? Have not our ideas and ideals changed? In all these changes, what is changeless? That which is the same in childhood, the same in youth, the same in middle age, the same in old age. Before we were here, It was there; when we die, It shall be there. What is that Changeless in the midst of all our changes? That must be I, who am witnessing all of these changes.

I am standing on the balcony, watching the traffic go by. After some time, someone asks me, “What are you doing?”

“I’ve gone west,” I answer.

“How? A car went west; you didn’t go. You were the observer. You witnessed the car; you saw it going.”

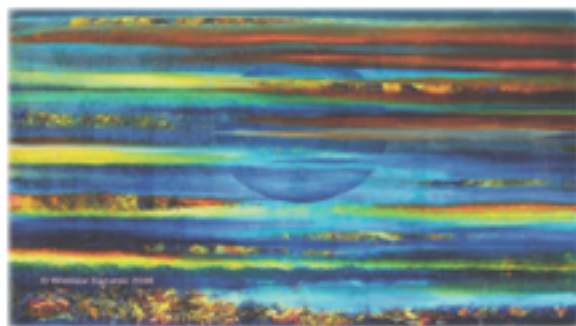
The one who witnesses the passing is himself unaffected by any change. Similarly, on the balcony of the personality, who is the entity who stays on and watches the entire procession of all happenings in life? It is the changeless entity, Consciousness.

I was conscious of my small body, of my mother and father, of my dependence on them, of their giving me milk, of my entire childhood experience. Then my thoughts changed; my mind changed; I was conscious of them. Then came new environments, new experiences, good and bad, and I was conscious of them. Then, in middle age came success and failure, and I was conscious of them. And in old age came pain and agony, and I was conscious of them, too. Even on my deathbed I was conscious.

I was present at birth, during childhood, middle age, old age, and in death. I was constantly there. But the parade and drama of life changed from scene to scene. When an unfortunate thing happened, I called myself unfortunate---my mistake. Then, when happiness came, I thought myself to be happy. But I am neither a happy person nor an unhappy person. Happiness and unhappiness parade in front of me. I am there; I am watching.

Thus, to detach in order to watch, the drama is my entertainment. The Lord, who is really my Self, never projected this world to become a slave to it. I, in my infinite wisdom and beauty and loneliness, staying in my infinitude, thought, “Hey, this is boring. Let me project.” Okay! I can, because I have infinite powers in me. I projected the world, and then, after having projected the world, I don’t know how to come out of it. I suffer. The dream is projected by my own mind. I then identify with the dream and become a dreamer, and suffer the sorrows and joys of the dream until I wake up. Similarly, I started this game of life, and now I am caught up in it and don’t know how to come out of it, because coming out of it seems very painful, agonizing.

The person who recognizes or comes to apprehend this game, apprehends the Truth. The one who comes to experience It, experiences Reality. What is to be experienced? That the One who is common in everyone, in every existent thing, the play of that One is the whole universe. Naturally, therefore, His play also includes me. Around this changeless center, all changes are taking place. When I thus come to discriminate between matter and spirit, a knowledge, an understanding arises—a discovery takes place that ends all my suffering.



The Brilliance of the Self

Talks by Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda

Talk at CM Houston, June 2009; transcribed by Preeta Narain; continued from CMW News, May 2011

We, too, have to think whether our thoughts are arising from our individual *vasanas* or from identification with the Lord Himself, the divine Source. This is why it is said that if we are in doubt and don’t know what to do, and even after consulting the scriptures the doubt or confusion remains, then go to a *mahapurusha*, and whatever he says will be right for you. At that time, whatever comes in that *mahapurusha*’s mind is what is to be done. This is “*buddhir-buddhimatam-asmi*.”

These are such beautiful and powerful statements: *Buddhir-buddhimatam-asmi*; *tejas-tejasvinam-aham*; *balam balavatam-asmi*. *Bhagavan* says, “I am the strength (*balam*) of the strong, the might of the mighty—the might that is devoid of attachment and desire. It suddenly struck me one day—when I heard in an *abhanga* or *bhajan*, “*Nirbal ke balram suni re maine* (the Lord is the strength of the weak),”—who is the strength of the strong? See, *Bhagavan* is the strength for, and of, the weak, but he is also the strength of the strong. But the strong and mighty usually think it is their strength. Ravana was mighty, but he thought it was his own strength. All the time he said, “O this strength of mine! These 20 *bhujas* (arms)! I have conquered all!” And when Hanumanji went before him after destroying *Ashokavana*, Ravana asked on whose strength did you destroy all this? Hanumanji replied that he has only one source strength, not many, and that source is the Lord alone. He chided Ravana, saying that by a mere fraction of the Lord’s strength so much was destroyed, and all the time you are boasting that you have conquered this and conquered that. You think it is your strength, but it is not.

See the difference when a person thinks, “It is my might.” Even *pehelvans* (body builders) are proud of their strength, but suppose

one paralytic attack or stroke befalls them, just see what happens. I tell you, even a fly sitting on his nose he can’t remove and drive away; he can’t lift his hand. *Meri taakat* . . . all boasting will go away instantaneously. *Keval nirbal kaa bala Bhagavan nahin hain; balvaanon ke bala bhi Bhagavan hain*.

Thereafter, wherever you look, only *Bhagavan*’s glory will be seen. And then you will realize *etavan-asya mahima ato jyayagamscha purushah padosya vishva-bhutani tripadasyamrtam divi*. What you are seeing everywhere is only a glimpse of *Bhagavan*’s *mahima* (glory, *vibhuti*); *Bhagavan* is much more. *Bhagavan ko kaun jaane? Bhagavan* only. (Who can know God? God alone.) Only when *Bhagavan* Himself reveals Himself to a person will that person know. This is called *teja* in *tejas-tejasvinam-aham*. Once we understand that all the sweetness we see is the Lord’s glory, we clearly see that the *teja* of the Sun is *Bhagavan*’s, and there is no doubt about it.

These are called *vibhutis* of the Lord, and in Chinmaya Mission, whatever we are doing and whatever we are achieving, is our Pujya Gurudev’s *vibhuti*. It is all his *teja* alone that is functioning, and as long as we all remain tuned to that, everything will be fine. This *teja* must be remembered.

I was very lucky I got this name. Swamiji [Pujya Gurudev] wrote to me once, before he gave me *sannyasa diksha*, that this is the time I will be giving you *sannyasa*. He said, “If you have some name in your mind for yourself that you want tell me,” but then he said, “Tejomaya comes to my mind.” This *teja* is his *teja*.

Chinmaya Mission Houston’s ashram is *Chinmaya Prabha*. *Bha* means to shine and *prabha* is *prakrshita bha*, or an exalted shine. A *prabhavali* is an aura or glow of light that

is generally placed just behind the *murtis* of the Lord, as you often see in temples. In simple understanding, it is only ornamental, a decorative piece. The arch-shape of the *prabhavali* represents the sketch of the Lord's throne. And this Lord is the lord of not only one universe, but countless universes; he is *ananta-koti-brahmanda-nayakah*. Thus, the Lord signifies power, and seated on throne, He is the crowned King of all. His *simhasana*, or throne, can be a *ratnaih kalpitam-asanam*, studded with precious gems.

The enthroned king's power is also called *prabha*, for it is related to *prabhava*, which means prowess, might, or influence. A Presidential election candidate first aspires and gets elected, but he has no power until he formally takes the oath of office. Only then is he called the President; until then he is only the President Elect. And once he becomes the President, once he gets the power and authority, his glow changes, isn't it? His persona changes, his role changes. From candidate to winning the election to taking the oath of office, to exercising the power of office—the glow keeps changing. So many people have put their trust and faith in such a person, so this person has a new glow altogether. This is called *prabha*; this is called *prabhava*. When he starts interacting with many dignitaries and taking decisions as the country's leader, more and more people recognize him, more and more countries recognize him. Like this, his *prabhava* also goes on increasing.

If I open a shop and nobody visits, then what will happen? I will have to close it down in one day perhaps. So it depends on how many people come, how many visit your website, how much marketing you get in the media, etc. With television channel companies, advertisers want to first know how much viewership you have. If I alone keep watching my own program, what is the use? The more time one abides in a given position, the more recognition and appreciation one receives, affects one's *prabhava*. Look at the Tirupati Balaji temple—its *prabhava* is different from other temples.

So, as the days pass, and one gloriously abides in one's role, one gains a great glow around that himself. This also happens in a temple where a *murti* has been installed. Many devotees throng there and offer worship. You

know, in a place where daily *puja* is offered, even that face of the Lord appears different there; this is everyone's experience. So, when you buy a *murti* from the market, you buy only a statue. And when you go to pay for the statue, you go on negotiating with the vendor. But once that *murti* is installed, it becomes priceless. This priceless-ness is also *prabha*.

This is why I said that a person who lives a life of devotion and dedication, moral and ethical values, such a person who has spiritual aspirations becomes different. For example, you can touch an ordinary wire, but suppose an electric current is passing through it—then try. Here the power of that so-called ordinary wire will be known as soon as you touch it. This is why so much mantra *uccharana*, and the bringing of the waters from all holy rivers waters, and the devoted *sankalpa* of so many people, is offered at a *prabhavali* function.

There is a *Pauranik* story about the *asura*-face that is in the center of the *prabhavali* arch. There was an *asura* whose name was Jalandhar. And he was married to Vrinda. But with his *asura-vritti*, he suddenly had a desire for Parvati Devi. Height of foolishness, or depth of foolishness! He thought, "I want Parvati, like Ravana wanted Sita." What your desire is you don't even understand. So, arrogantly, he called Rahu to be his messenger and said, "You go to Lord Shiva immediately and tell him to give Parvati!"

Vah, vah, vah! Rahu went to Lord Shiva and said, "I am the messenger of Jalandhar and he has said you please give Parvati Devi to him." Lord Shiva got so furious. And you know when Lord Shiva gets furious, from any part of his body some being can come out! Like Virabhadra did when He pulled out one hair from His head. *Blam!* Virabhadra came! Here, only by his fiery look, a being came forth—terrible in form. Lord Shiva said, "Finish this Rahu! He has come here so foolishly!"

But Rahu was very clever. He had heard that Lord Shiva is *ashutosh* (quickly pleased). So, immediately he fell at his feet. "*Trahi mam, pahi mam! Pahi mam, trahi mam! Trahi mam Parameshvara. Trahi mam Sarveshvara.*" "Save me, save me," he said, "I surrender to you." Now when someone has surrendered, he can't be killed. That's a problem. So, Lord Shiva told him he could go. *Rahu* to

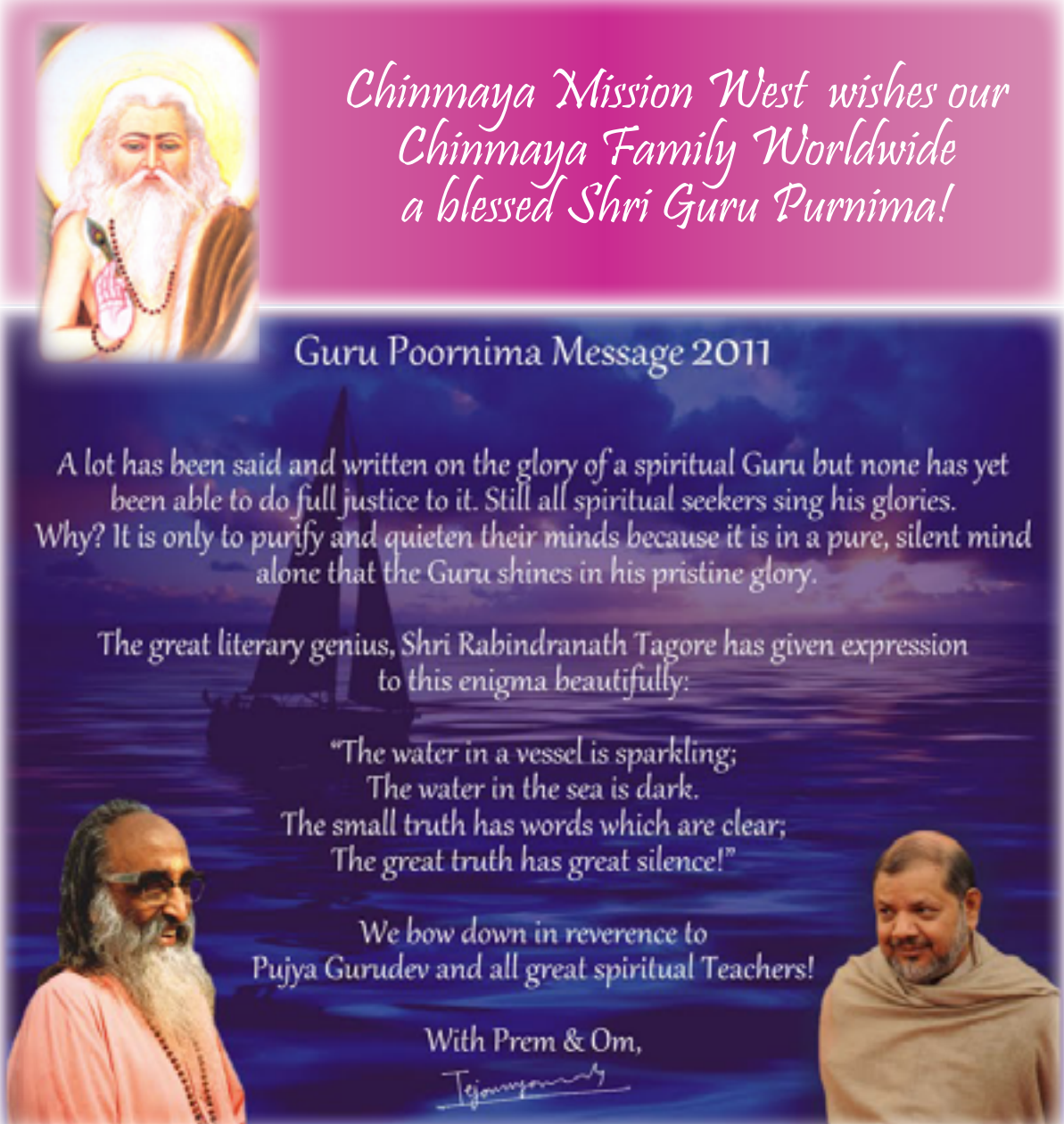
bach gaya (Rahu was saved), but now, this being that had been created, Lord Shiva thought, "What will I do now that I have been born? What is my mission? And now I am also feeling very hungry. What will I eat?"

Lord Shiva looked at him and said, "You eat yourself," so he started swallowing himself. As he continued, *aisa karte karte*, only his face remained. The Lord was very pleased with his devotion and dedication to do whatever the Lord says, so He said, "*Bas!* Now stop! Like

this, your face will ever remain above me."

That face is called Kirtimukha. *Kirti* means fame, glory. *Mukham* means face. Therefore, Kirtimukha remains in all *prabhavalis*. Like this, *Bhagavan* put His servant above Himself. In *Shrimad Bhagavatam*, He says, "*Aham bhakta paradinah.*" *Bhagavan* says everyone thinks that I am the supreme Lord, but my devotees are higher than me; I remain under their control—*bhakta paradinah*.

to be continued



*Chinmaya Mission West wishes our
Chinmaya Family Worldwide
a blessed Shri Guru Purnima!*

Guru Poornima Message 2011

A lot has been said and written on the glory of a spiritual Guru but none has yet been able to do full justice to it. Still all spiritual seekers sing his glories. Why? It is only to purify and quieten their minds because it is in a pure, silent mind alone that the Guru shines in his pristine glory.

The great literary genius, Shri Rabindranath Tagore has given expression to this enigma beautifully:

"The water in a vessel is sparkling;
The water in the sea is dark.
The small truth has words which are clear;
The great truth has great silence!"

We bow down in reverence to
Pujya Gurudev and all great spiritual Teachers!

With Prem & Om,
Tejashwari

|| Om Shri Ganeshaya Namaha ||
|| Om Shri Gurubhyo Namaha ||

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20th to 26th January 2012



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Mukhya Yajaman for all pujas on 24th, 25th, 26th	₹ 1 Lakh	US \$ 2,500
Annadaanam on 26th, including breakfast, lunch/prasad	₹ 50,000	US \$ 1,200

*sponsorship of individual bhikshas will also take place as per tradition

Abhishek Seva on 26th	Donation (₹)	Donation (US \$)
Large copper kalasha	₹ 25,000	US \$ 600
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Small copper kalasha	₹ 1,000	US \$ 30
Mud kalasha	₹ 100	US \$ 10

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24th to 26th January - Pujas
Leading up to the grand occasion of Sahasra-Kalasha Maha Kumbhabhishekam
and Pranapratishta of Lord Ganesha on the auspicious occasion of
Shri Ganesh Jayanti on 26th January 2012



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Gratitude

by Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda

Transcription of a talk, September 2007, Mumbai

Today, I will tell you the meaning of *krtajnata*, or gratitude, to Pujya Gurudev. Through that, his *charitra* and his work can be understood in a different way. I had written this *krtajnata* many years ago. When it was written for the first time, I had the chance of reciting that in his presence, because that day he arrived in Mumbai and there was a public meeting of our Mission.

*samasta-jana kalyane, niratam karunamayam
namami chinmayam devam, sadgurum
brahmaividvaram*

I bow down to my *Sadguru*. The name is indicated: *Chinmayam devam*. He is *Brahmaividvaram*, the *shreshtha* or best among the knowers of *Brahman*. For any *adhyatmik*, spiritual teacher, the most endearing quality there is, is *karunamayam*, their compassionate nature. They are *shrotriyas*, *brahmanishthas*, but they are compassionate teachers. Sometimes, one's compassion remains limited; generally, in ordinary people, it is limited to near and dear ones, but here it is *samasta-jana kalyane*, the one who remains ever engaged in the welfare of all people. There are no bars or restrictions. Ignorant people would keep asking why does Swamiji go to America? They would think it is for some fun or an outing, but masters go there because people are there—seekers are there. So, wherever seekers and people are, for those who seek knowledge or other kind of help, masters go for that purpose everywhere.

The Substratum of My Life

by Acharya Shanker Pillai

For me, there is nothing beyond Pujya Gurudev. He is my master and eternal guide. He alone is the source of my inspiration and energy in my life. In everything I do, He is ever present.

In 1956, in Kerala, Swami Chinmayananda was giving a 21-day discourse on *Bhagavad Gita*, for the silver jubilee celebrations of my college, where I was a second-year student. For all those days, I was posted as an orderly at the house where Swamiji was hosted. I would see him so closely every day, the tall, imposing personality, with black locks of hair, piercing eyes, sharp nose, and a golden face, walking tall and square. How would I ever even dream that he would become my Gurudev! Ten years later, I would stand on the terrace of my office building at Charni Road Station in Bombay, and listen to his thundering lectures from afar, streaming from the open grounds near Marine Drive *maidan*.

I was only a young, ignorant youth, never able to understand the infinite nature of the person I had the opportunity to become close to, but, I now believe that the seeds of my love for him were planted in my bosom in 1955 itself. And I also believe he must have already taken me in.

Another 10 years went by and I would remember him now and then, and would sometimes desire to see him.

In 1977, in Chicago, I was discussing the formation of small religious organization with some friends. One of them suggested that we would invite Swami Chinmayananda for its inauguration. I could not resist and jumped on the suggestion. This friend found out Swamiji's contact information and it was my job to contact him with the official invitation. This was just for a one-evening talk. I still remember. He replied, "I shall come. You will pay my airfare and nothing else. The topic will be, "View, Spiritual."

This was Swami Chinmayananda's very first visit to Chicago. Swamiji left after the lecture. My mind was constantly longing to see him again. I felt like I never wanted to leave him. Three years later, as fate would have it, I received a call from someone I never knew, asking me if I would be interested in joining a committee that was being formed to invite Swami Chinmayananda

for a 10-day series of talks. I jumped in, as though it was the call from above.

All the publicity and video recording was my primary responsibility. Sitting right in front of him, I listened to him all the 10 days, *Bhagavad Gita* Chapter 3, about which I knew nothing. This was an unforgettable experience and it exploded my mind. I never left him ever since. I decided to stay on the path he opened, continuing the work in what way it would happen. That committee, with whoever was left in it, subsequently became Chinmaya Mission Chicago.

From 1977, the first meeting with him in Chicago, until now, he has been my inspiration on a daily basis. I spend more time on the Mission than I do on anything in my personal life. And I am emotionally connected and supported by him.

I remember one time, Gurudev and I were sitting together in Gurudev's room. It was about 4:30 in the morning, at the Allendale camp in 1991. We all knew his health had been failing. I asked Gurudev that the Mission has grown to become such a global organization and how we should proceed if Gurudev is not there to guide us. He said to me, "Strand by strand, the rope has snapped, and I am hanging by one thread. That also will snap, one day." Pausing, he also said to me, "But somebody will come; this all will not go to waste. It is Narayana's work." He looked at me and said, "You keep working. Tapovan's grace will support your work."

Now I see what He willed. And in Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda, what a loving, knowledgeable, and efficient guide and mentor, Gurudev has blessed us all with—in all respects, in his own image!

a dialogue

anonymous

student: it is me who is so wishy-washy.

teacher: who? mind or you?

s: yes, mind. still looking there only.

t: then?

s: it doesn't feel good.

t: laugh at the mind.

s: i am still feeling it.

t: you are never ever touched by the known. to the light, what difference does it make that there are people in the room or no one? i am the knower of both. people and no people. i am the knower of loneliness and the love of others. "other" has no entry in to me—thoughts or people. i was, am, and will remain, *drashta*.

s: i am not reflecting enough because right now this statement about being knower does not feel freeing. it feels like, "so what." because the i is so wrapped up in mind. this alertness—it's tough.

t: reflection is in the mind. to be a seer is your nature. not because of thinking you are the seer.

s: yes, i know. but to reflect even, i must to get to that state of alertness.

t: and then what? to be what you are not is tough. to be is to be.

s: but perhaps alertness will take me away from identifying with mind.

t: so what if the mind says, "whatever." of this frustration, too, you are the seer. like you in the room seeing the tornado and its effects outside on the roads.

s: yes.

t: so, too, you are the seer of the violent, frustrated mind, and its effects, its thoughts.

s: yes. if i act based on this mind i see, i am remain not bound? actions then, whatever they may be, are *prarabdha* finishing off?

t: you never act. you are the knower of the body, senses, and mind that act. they dare to act in your presence.

s: but then why are we warned so much against developing new *vasanas*?

t: developing *vasanas* or giving them up is

essential for the one who has no proper *vivek* of *atma* and *anatma*. for one who has *karta bhava*, it is said to reduce the *vasana*. for the one who knows 'i am the knower,' why should the knower try to bring change in the known?

s: i know what you say when you say it, but i can't say it myself. it always comes out jumbled. the beauty of clarity in your expressions has always amazed me. your *atma vichara* is a direct path.

when desire arises in me, and i struggle to think to follow or not follow, i am not a *viveka*, and so must follow dharma, right?

t: the desire arises in whom? and who knows it arising? they arise in mind and you are the knower. they cannot arise by themselves, just as water cannot become hot without heat of the fire. but when water is hot and boiling, the water molecule and heat have neither exchanged their dharma nor do they have entry in each other. because of the association, it may appear that the water is hot, but never ever water becomes heat nor heat, water. in the same way, mind thinks in my presence, but never ever i become mind nor mind becomes me. never ever can *jada* and *chetan* exchange their nature.

so what if the mind appears to changing? it is, as long as it has my association. but once i know that i never ever had gotten affected by the mind, nor will ever, then why even desire to change the mind? let there be tornado or heat or rains, i know i am the knower and never part of the mind parade.

s: very freeing.

In Everyday Life

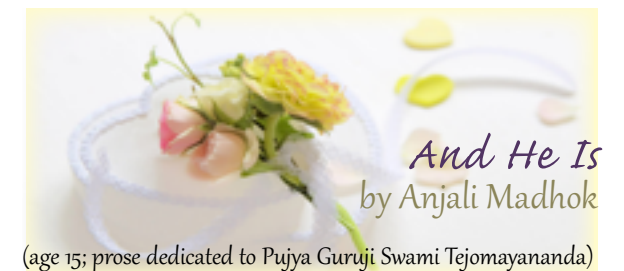
by Bharat Bhaga

Even in casual conversation, Amma (as we all fondly called her) taught life lessons. We watched *October Sky* with her. It was a movie, based on a true story, about a group of American teenagers during the Cold War who attempt to build model rockets from scratch, after being inspired by the launch of the first Russian satellite, Sputnik. The movie also examined the science of life to a degree,

showing how perseverance leads to success.

In the evening lectures, Amma spoke *svadharma* and one's duties in life. She had also talked desires, goals, and how we are driven to do what we do every day, whether for ourselves or for the betterment of others. The lectures, the movie, and the interactions made me wonder about my own life in many ways. Will I enjoy the field I have chosen to be in? Is this really what I want to be doing for the rest of my life? Through the days spent with Swaminiji, I learned that life is not always about the usual things like work, but also our family lives and how we serve our community. As the Chinmaya Mission pledge says, we must strive to "live honestly, a noble life of sacrifice and service."

I hope that Swaminiji enjoyed her stay here as much as we enjoyed her company, and I know that everyone in the Ottawa community looks forward to her return next year.



He is an orange-clad being, positively glowing
with the endless wealth of understanding.

He is complex simplicity
that can erase my frustrations.

His dense, wholehearted words can be
strung together and wrapped around
one's body like a cloak.

He embodies a boundless amount of love
that we all try to grasp just a fraction of.

He is the forgotten dreams,
the swirling array of ideas I cannot fathom.

He is the ultimate combination of compassion
and discipline, woven together with
strands of courage.

I sit upon the ground and breathe in the cool
earth, and wonder where the winds will carry us.

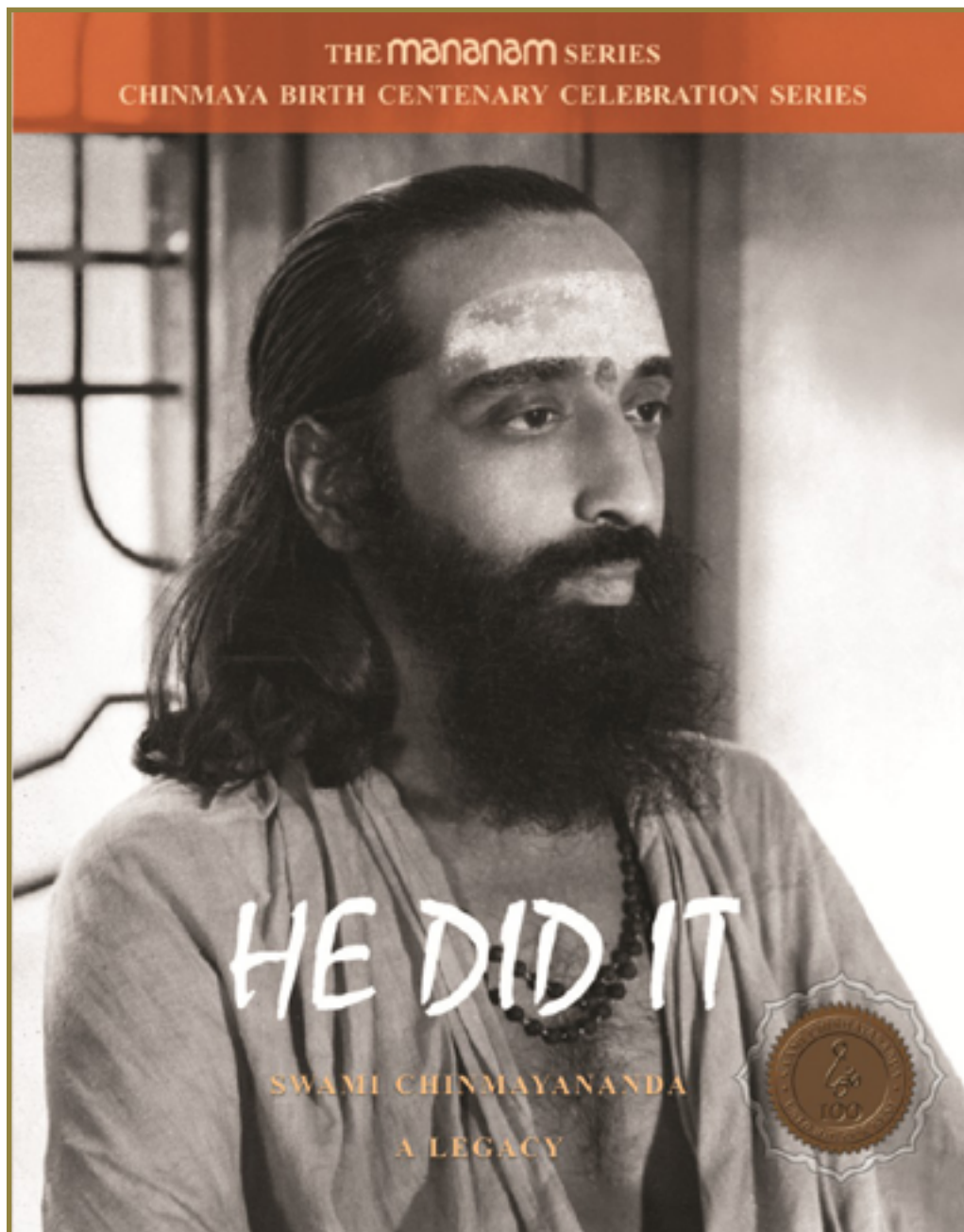
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Unto Him

by Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda

Reprinted from Unto Him, 1994

Unto Him, our beloved Pujya Gurudev, we pay homage by pledging to work tirelessly and selflessly to fulfill the vision He burned into our hearts and minds. While He was still physically with us, He showed lovingly, zealously, without ever a care for His own comfort or convenience—what a difference one selfless human being can make in transforming the consciousness of humanity. The service He rendered to the cause of cultural and spiritual upliftment of humankind is immeasurable. Through His Gita Jnana Yajnas, Chinmaya Mission centers, educational institutions, and social service projects of ever-increasing breadth and depth, He provided inspiring fields for people to work in selflessly in the service of others. And while doing so, He never ceased reminding us of the ineffable beauty and strength at the divine core of our being.

Pujya Gurudev truly fulfilled His life. It is now up to us—His devotees and disciples, admirers and followers—to do our share in continuing those projects that He started but could not complete in His lifetime. . . . Our greatest homage unto Him is to pledge that we shall strive hard, with all devotion and dedication, and to the best of our ability, to fulfill His vision and mission.

I recall a time when I was with Pujya Gurudev at the Chinmaya Mission center at Washington, D.C. The Mission members and devotees were in an excited mood, some prostrating before Him, some singing, some talking to Him. An atmosphere of joy prevailed. A young girl approached me and asked, “Who is this Swamiji and what makes Him different

from others? What has He done or achieved? Why are all these people prostrating before Him?”

Probably she was at such a function for the first time in her young life. I told her that He was the Swamiji who had fully unfolded His personality, just as a bud unfolds to blossom into a flower. By the act of opening up, the flower spreads its fragrance in all directions, and the bees gather around it.

The sun, moon, stars, and everything else in Nature add beauty, life, and energy to this world just by being there. In the same way, a realized soul inspires people by His mere presence alone. In such a soul’s presence, people are inspired to work in a spirit of dedication and devotion. Thus, more important than doing and achieving, is simply being your natural self, as pure Consciousness and Bliss. In the world we may be applauded for our achievements, but we are respected for what we are. Pujya Gurudev earned not only respect, but also deep reverence, by the simple act of emanating the essence of His radiant Self to all.

Pujya Gurudev was and is the heart and soul of Chinmaya Mission. The Mission that began as one small study class, under His guidance and inspiration, has now assumed international dimensions, with hundreds of Mission centers growing around the globe.

One of Pujya Gurudev’s great gifts was His ability to inspire children, young people, and adults equally—and to sustain their enthusiasm and inspiration to lend their hearts and minds to the many tasks at hand. That enthusiasm and dedication to His vision are, to this day, rippling through the many Mission centers around the world as they continue to mount new programs and sustain those already established.

Institutions and organizations founded by individuals generally flourish during

their lifetimes. Once the founder departs from the scene, his or her organization either gains more vitality or disintegrates in time. It all depends on whether the followers have appreciated the vision of their leader. When the vision is clear and followed consistently, the organization grows even after the founder's departure. If the organization has centered around a personality cult, and people have become attached to an individual, it is very possible that the organization will disintegrate after the passing of its leader.

Param Pujya Gurudev was fully aware of this fact. He therefore constantly emphasized that His devotees and disciples understand His vision clearly. The greatest contribution of Pujya Gurudev was that He made people thoroughly aware of his vision—the liberating spiritual knowledge of Vedanta—and that He created love for this knowledge in their hearts. He motivated them to study the scriptures in great depth—on their own, in study groups, in Vedanta classes, and in schools of Vedanta, such as the Sandeepany institutes He Himself founded in various parts of the world. And He urged all those who had undergone in-depth study themselves to pass the Vedantic knowledge onto others, creating a magnificent guru-shishya-parampara movement that is now circling the globe, with Sandeepany-trained teachers bringing the vision of Vedanta to ever-growing audiences.

This is our great and blessed opportunity to pay homage to the Teacher who knew only one way to love—by working selflessly for the good of all others. Let us follow His example and continue the stream of loving work He began, in whatever way we know how, whether by teaching children, leading study groups, giving jnana yajnas, working on publications, serving in hospitals, helping the underprivileged, training medical practitioners, administering and organizing Mission projects, or performing any one of a myriad social service activities. As He kept reminding us all, not only with words but through every action of his life, “Work is love made visible.”

Every morning we offer prayers to the sun, knowing that it fills us with living energy. While the sun and the moon sustain our life, our life gains meaning and purpose only when we come to know our true Self. So, when a Guru comes into our life, by the grace of God, he is like the sun that dispels our dark ignorance. Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda is such a Guru who brightened our life with the glorious gift of true Knowledge.

To celebrate 100 years of the birth of a Guru like Pujya Gurudev is a rare privilege. It is a great opportunity to express our humble gratitude to the one who has opened our eyes to the highest Truth. It is a time to re-inspire ourselves with Gurudev's message, to continue living with his vision in Chinmaya Mission. Indeed, it is not a mere need to celebrate; it is a must to celebrate the birth centenary of the enlightened Master.

- Acharya Gaurang Nanavaty, CM Houston

Pujya Gurudev is our Idol and Ideal. “We Can!” and “We Must!” follow our Ideal! The Chinmaya Mission Pledge, dictated by Pujya Gurudev himself, is the guiding light to follow our Ideal. We must celebrate the significance of this Pledge in his birth centenary celebrations.

- Swami Dheerananda, CM Washington, DC

I feel that we are all truly blessed to have even been alive in the same era as our beloved Pujya Gurudev. Those of us who were touched by his divine grace are even more fortunate. The birth of this mahapurusha has led to the upliftment of mankind, and has transformed people to be positive contributors to society. We look forward to the grand birth centenary celebrations with eagerness, delight, and devotion to his lotus feet.

- Acharya Sharada Kumar, CM Ann Arbor

Let us remember and revere our beloved Gurudev, a personification of 100% inspiration, 100% of the time, the mahapurusha who selflessly and lovingly served all of us more than 100% to enlighten and improve us physically, mentally, intellectually, and spiritually. To show our continued gratitude, let us all cherish his divine presence, grace, and blessings each day of our life, through our smile, spiritual sadhana, and service. May we celebrate his 100th birth anniversary in all the divine and noble grandeur each year, from now onward, culminating in 2016 and beyond!

- Brahmachari Krishna Moorthy, CM New York

The spiritual, strategic, and social intensity of Pujya Gurudev leaves no room for doubt that he was a manifestation of Bhagavan. And every day since Balakrishnan Menon was transformed to Swami Chinmayananda is a celebration, for the teachings imparted by this rishi have transformed hundreds of millions to live more joyfully. Still, for our sake, the world over is preparing to remember and relive the life of Pujya Gurudev for his birth centenary. He gave his best and now we have to do the same.

- Acharya Vivek Gupta, CM Niagara

There are two related quotes of Gurudev that I constantly remember whenever I find myself in situations that are pleasurable or painful: “What I have is prarabdha, and what I do with what I have is purushartha,” and “What I have is His gift to me, and what I do with what I have is my Gift to Him.” Every encounter is now heartily welcomed as His gift stamped with His immeasurable love. To be able to give back a gift worthy of Him is my prayerful offering. Pujya Gurudev’s greatest gift is this life itself and making it worth living is our least gift that we can return. Let us become a flute in His hands, Gurudev said, so that divine music can flow through us endlessly.

- Acharya K. Sadananda, CM Washington D.C.

We were lucky to be with Pujya Gurudev a few times. We were with him in 1991 at Piercy, during the Bhagavad Gita marathon camp, and got to see him up close. Pujya Gurudev is a legend. It is amazing all the things he accomplished in such a short time. He mobilized and inspired innumerable people all over the world. Whatever we do to honor him is less, but in order to remember the good work by a great person, it is important to celebrate these big milestones. It is to show our appreciation as well as to educate others about the Mission and his work. The 50th anniversary of the Chinmaya Movement in 2001 was truly grand and everyone was reminiscing about Pujya Gurudev. He has touched so many people that it will be electrifying to again have many people gathering for the centenary celebrations in 2015.

- Acharyas P.B. and Asha Ghate, CM Dallas-Fort Worth

Shri Gurudev, for me, was my father and mother put together. My mentor put up with me for all my shortcomings, and slowly and steadily, helped me reach where I am now. It is said a real Satguru, in whose presence you feel the following, is when you know you have found your Guru:

Knowledge flourishes
Sorrow diminishes
Joy wells up without any reason
Abundance dawns
All talents manifest

I found all these in his presence, and I continue to enjoy his presence within me.

- Swami Shantananda, CM Princeton

Mahatmas are incarnations of the Lord that guide the humanity on the path of dharma and moksha. There are many mahatmas, but only a few play the role of visionaries who leave the world with a legacy that lives on even after the mahatma’s physical passing. Pujya Gurudev was one such mahatma who was also a visionary. His presence on this earth purified many through his life and teachings, and his vision, continue to help seekers grow even now. The birth centenary of such a master is indeed a great occasion of celebration.

On Guru Purnima day, we remember the divine sage Veda Vyasa; the great teacher and missionary, Adi Shankaracharya; and the holy tradition of Guru and shishya. On this day, we rededicate ourselves to work for the vision of Pujya Gurudev and offer ourselves at the feet of our beloved Pujya Guruji, who tirelessly continues the traditions and work of the master.

- Brahmachari Prabodh Chaitanya, CM San Jose

The beauty and value of a diamond is decided and manifested by the number of facets that have been cut into it. But how do you describe a mahatma with infinite facets of greatness and glory? How can you recount the glory of such a compassionate soul? In his talks, on several occasions, Gurudev said, “I don’t want to go to Narayana alone. I want to gate-crash with all of you.”

Pujya Gurudev came down to uplift us, as Shri Krishna Himself, giving us Gita and Upanishad pravachans as long as the instrument of his physical body was present. Even after passing of the physical manifestation, see how his grace continues, with the glory of the Mission touching greater heights than ever through his precisely chosen instrument, Pujya Guruji. Like the sthitaprajna purusha in Gita Chapter 2, he is ascharyavat in ever so many ways. And we are like Arjuna, who, on seeing Shri Krishna’s vishva-rupa, was wonderstruck and speechless.

I am sure that many of us have experienced how Pujya Gurudev has revealed what he said: “Whenever you want me, look deep into your heart, and I will be there.” Let us thus remember and glorify him in ever so many ways, as Bhakta Prahlada did when he taught us the nine modes of devotion.

As each center and its members intensify their efforts in preparing for Pujya Gurudev’s centenary celebrations, may the vibhuti of the Master bless and intensify the sadhana of all.

- Acharya Parameswaran Mahadev, CM Los Angeles

Far across the universe, a small star explodes into a massive supernova, lighting up trillions upon trillions of miles of darkness. Like that star, Gurudev, who I have never seen, provides light for the hearts and minds of all humanity, requiring only that one look up to one’s highest attainable values. I see his luminescence reflected in many earnest disciples, but the polestar was already gone when I looked to that quadrant of the sky.

- Brahmachari Eric, CM Piercy

Our experience with Gurudev was in 1989. Though it appeared like an accidental meeting during a family camp, looking back, I can see the divine hand in it. The attraction was instantaneous and has continued to grow in spite of Gurudev’s mahasamadhi in 1993. He has continued to bless us through Swami Tejomayanandaji and in other ways. The birth centenary of Gurudev in 2015-16 will act as a boost to our spiritual sadhana. We plan to attend the celebrations and intensify our sadhana through study groups and personal study.

- Acharyas G.V. and Geetha Raghu, CM Atlanta

We feel grateful to Guruji for reminding us to remember, every day and every moment, the grace of our Gurudev! When we practice guru-smaran for these five years, it will indeed be in our soul forever. The best way to invoke the blessings of the divine Self is to remember the divine Incarnation in our lives—Gurudev!

- Acharya Vilasini Balakrishnan, CM Washington, DC

I am grateful to the Lord Almighty to have brought me under the influence of such a great master, an ocean of love, an all-loving living God-man on earth! Physically, He is not with us. But, every moment in my life is filled with his thoughts. I do not miss him, not even for one moment.

I hope and pray that May 2015-2016 becomes a year of a worldwide festival for all centers and all devotees of Puja Gurudev, celebrating his glory and vibhuti in our lives. He is the greatest gift of God to all of us. To think that we shared time with such a mighty God-man on earth who showered his love and blessings on all of us!

- Acharya Shanker Pillai, CM Chicago

The impact Puja Gurudev has on this generation is immeasurable. He continues to guide us today and will mold the lives of generations to come with the treasure trove and legacy he has left behind. One can see him in the smile of a Bala Vihar child and in the self-assured glance of a CHYK member. For those who were directly blessed by his grace, it is impossible to count their blessings and words are inadequate to describe their experience. Gurudev's birth centenary will be a fitting tribute to the spiritual master and his legacy, celebrated both individually within, and collectively together.

- Acharya Vimal Chaitanya, CM Rio Grande

Puja Gurudev's birth centenary celebrations will be a blessed opportunity to work together in order to glorify and make better known the greatness of Puja Gurudev and his monumental work—the work of a divine avatar in re-establishing dharma and bringing in the light of Truth to a world clouded in darkness. Gurudev himself was a thunderbolt of Light and Truth. And we, as his Chinmaya family, headed by our beloved Puja Guruji, have the most fortunate opportunity to become his willing instruments. By spreading the rain-shower of his love and Vedantic knowledge to more and more people, we ourselves will become transformed, stronger and more unified within ourselves and amongst each other. We can grow to become his own Cosmic Form on earth.

- Brahmacharini Arpita, CM St. Augustine

Puja Gurudev had complete Titiksha (forbearance). He was never bothered even by severe physical discomforts. Once, while sitting on the chair to take dinner bhiksha in Mrs Sarala Birala's house in Calcutta, Puja Gurudev was trying to lift his right leg to sit in a particular posture, but was having lot of difficulty in doing so. Some devotee out of sympathy said, "I see Puja Gurudev is having trouble in the leg". Hearing these words

Puja Gurudev spontaneously replied- "I keep trouble under the table and work on it." His every word is full of deep message. Once someone expressed her concern that Puja Gurudev was inhaling snuff during public discourses, which was not good for the children. Puja Gurudev told her – "You have come up to the nose; try to go beyond".

Puja Gurudev is one with Brahman. So these kinds of statements were so natural to Him. We are really blessed to have the opportunity to serve Him through the Mission.

- Swami Sharanananda, CM Chicago

The Guru is considered as the embodiment of Lord Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva. The Guru's form is the basis of meditation; the Guru's feet are the basis of worship; the Guru's words are the basis of mantra; and the Guru's grace is the basis of enlightenment.

The word guru means "remover of darkness." Thus, Guru Purnima is the day of eradicating ignorance and illuminating our lives with knowledge. On this day, the Guru can inspire us to overcome our limitations and conjure a life of wonderful possibilities. The full moon (purnima) represents enlightenment, which is the full flowering of Consciousness. Guru Purnima is the full moon that falls during July/August and is of greatest light. It is a time when all divine Teachers shower blessings on the earth, providing increased energy for our spiritual awakening.

The day after the mahasamadhi in 1993, I received the last letter from Shri Gurudev with his Guru Purnima message: "Greetings of Guru Poornima to all those who are in Adi Sankara Nilayam! May Sri Tapovanam's blessings be upon us all!" Every moment Gurudev remembers his Guru. Let us also do the same.

- Swami Siddhananda, CM Philadelphia

Regarding a Guru's heart Gurudev has said, "A Guru must have inexhaustible, irresistible flow of compassion to lift the spirits of the disciple!" This is the purnatva of the Guru's heart. As on a full moon night the brilliance of the Sun is made available to us by the moon, so is the compassionate heart of Guru that bestows us a glimpse of Brahman while we grope in the dark night of ignorance. On the auspicious Guru Purnima occasion our hearts should reverentially bow down to Puja Gurudev whose compassionate grace alone can truly lift our waned spirits!

*On the pursuit to be free
begin by observing what is not
worth pursuing in life...
then reaching a Guru
you develop a strong mind
to discard fascination
for the ephemeral...
'Mind your senses'
Guru would instruct first
'sanitize your mind' is next and
'engage in the inner quietude...
to stabilize and bear all
sorrows in rise and fall.
Only on developing infinite patience
with faults of you and others*

*Guru would introduce
God within to you...
faith in Him grows proportional
to your trust on Guru
whose every word is for
your contemplation deep
with composed mind,
you develop intense love
for God within while
you seek Him alone.
Final adventure is when
Guru introduces you to God...
for,
without the familiar face of Guru,
would God ever know you?*

- Swami Ishwarananda, CM Los Angeles



The Chinmaya International Foundation (CIF), founded by Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda in 1989, is a Centre for Sanskrit Research and Indology. CIF offers valuable Home Study Courses for studying Vedanta and Sanskrit. Certificate of completion will be awarded for those who successfully complete the Study Courses.

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with ease and dexterity.

Duration : 12 months

Scheme : 24 lessons and 12 questionnaires

Course fee: INR 1000 / US\$100

Options : Online/Postal mode of study

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Aim: To give an in depth understanding of the important Vedantic concepts dealt with in the prakarana granthas such as Vivekachudamani, Atma Bodha, Tatva Bodha, Vyaka Vritti and Panchadasi.

Duration : 12 months

Scheme : 24 lessons and 24 questionnaires

Course fee: INR 2000 / US\$100

Options : Online/Postal mode of study

Easy Sanskrit Learning Course

Aim : The Course gives the basics of Sanskrit Grammar without burdening the student with too many details. The course is a stepping stone for learning the divine language Sanskrit and will serve as a window for all those who want to have a peep into the priceless tradition, culture and philosophy of India.

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Scheme : 13 modules

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Aim: This course is meant for those who have already some basic introduction to Sanskrit and seek to delve deeper into the language.

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Scheme: 40 lessons @ 2 lessons a month

Course fee: INR 1500 / US\$200

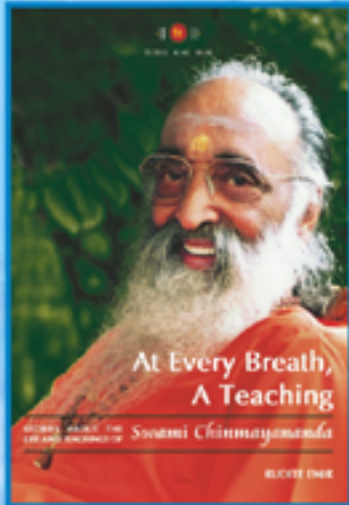
Options: Postal mode of study

Ways to Promote the CIF Home Study Courses at Your Center/City

- Every other month or so, request time to speak about the offerings and benefits of the Courses to the weekly assembly
- Request time during Jnana Yajnas and Camps to speak about the offerings and benefits of the Courses
- Encourage all Bala Vihar Sevaks to take up the Foundation Vedanta Course and/or the Easy Sanskrit Course
- The local Acharya or Senior Members can conduct Discussion Groups to facilitate and motivate the completion of these Courses
- Encourage all Study Group Sevaks to take up the Advanced Vedanta Course to help them serve better
- Where Sanskrit is being offered, encourage the usage of the Easy Sanskrit Self Study Kit as the primary Course material or complementary Course material
- Ensure that CIF posters are prevalent in the Center and venues where other activities are taking place (i.e. conference rooms for Jnana Yajnas, on tables for walkathons, etc.)
- Ensure there are ample brochures in the Center and venues where other activities are taking place (i.e. conference rooms for Jnana Yajnas, on tables for walkathons, etc.)
- Put a link for CIF onto your local website
- Include CIF materials in your print and online Newsletters
- Encourage members to visit Chinmaya International Foundation when visiting Bharat

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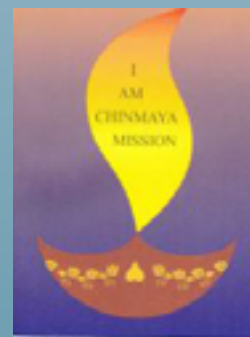
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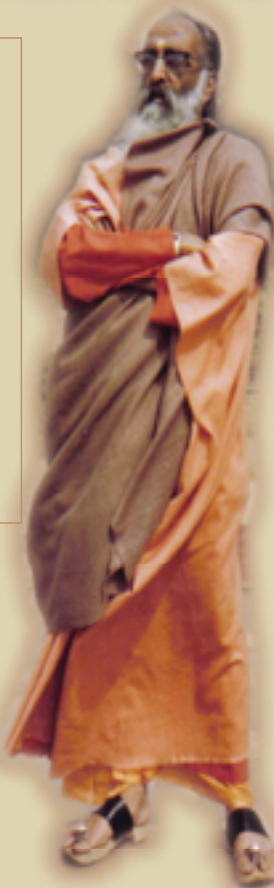
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NEWS

Pujya Guruji on the Speaking Tree

Chinmaya Mission is pleased to announce that the writings and messages of Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda will now be available on the Speaking Tree, a spiritual networking portal. Expect to find practical tips for living and thought-provoking blog and wall posts through this portal. Enjoy Guruji's videos that bring out the singular message of Vedanta. In addition, find out when Guruji will be visiting your city, in the Upcoming Events section. Visit www.speakingtree.in/swamitejomayananda. Log in. Follow. Grow.

Swamini Umananda Visits CM Ottawa

Swamini Umananda (CM France) visited CM Ottawa for a week in May 2011, to conduct a series of wellness workshops in French, a *Ramayana jnana yajna* in English, and weekend classes on meditation. Her friendliness in all sessions put the listeners at ease for open dialogue and questions. The CM Ottawa Family looks forward to her visit next year.

Mindful Living by Charles Goulet (translated from French)

"The Art of Mindful Living" was the topic of the series of discourses presented by Swamini Umananda in three morning sessions at the headquarters of Canada's National Capital Commission.



In the first session, she described in different ways how modern life causes people to live their lives in a disconnected fashion. She then invited the participants to bring their attention to the present moment, to the actions we take, to realize there are

numerous situations wherein we act or think automatically, without reflecting.

In the second session, she broached the topic of the fluidity of life, of harmony, where everything seems simple and natural, and where we have a feeling of lightness of being. This helps us in seeing the importance of focusing on the inner Self. She said



what hinders us in understanding this is the excessive importance we give to our individual personality and personal desires. When we put aside our personal wants, an 'opening' emerges, which allows inner awakening to the fluidity of life.

Swaminiji's last session focused on meditation not only in terms of spiritual goals (which is of course important to reach for on a daily basis), but also as a way of life.

A Medley of Meditation Techniques by Anu Ram

Swaminiji presented a medley of meditation techniques in the silence of the early morning of May 22. She taught us how to first relax the body, focus on breathing, and then remain as the witness of the silence. This was followed by an hour of yoga exercises. We discovered how various muscles can be challenged and how healthy one feels thereafter.



After a nutritious breakfast, we set out for an hour of nature walk, which Swaminiji said is another kind of meditation.

We were instructed to avoid talking to each other and observe Nature with a sense of

awareness, to be in the present throughout the walk. And so, we walked in unison with the silence of the woods, the chirping of the birds, the perfect breeze, the trees that canopied the woods, and a few friendly deer.



Once we returned, Swaminiji explained meditation as a way of life. She defined meditation as the art of bringing the mind from its usual wanderings and letting it abide in holy, blissful Presence.

For one's sitting meditation to be successful, one's way of life has to be perfected. Swaminiji gave the following pointers:

- *Satsanga*, study of scriptures, and *karma yoga* help us quieten the mind.
- Every action has to be done with full attention, by never getting lost in the past or the future. This will bring us to the core of our being immediately.
- Love service, or dedication to a higher cause will develop an inner connection to the holy Presence.
- It is important to practice being aware of everything, such as doing or not doing, one's breathing, and one's thoughts.

Swaminiji encouraged us with humor that being aware that we are not aware of things is itself a big development. The day concluded with another guided sitting meditation. The peace and joy carried home was invaluable.

Happy Living Camp at CM LA

There were smiling faces galore at CM LA's *Chinmaya Rameshwaram* ashram for the Happy Living Family Camp conducted by resident *acharya* Swami Ishwarananda, May 28-29, 2011. The theme, based on four humorous video talks given by Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda, centered around four main points: "Take charge. Perform to potential. Workable tips. Harmony in human relationships." Pujya Guruji's talks were

based on his book, *Jivan Sutrani: Tips for Happy Living*.

Swamiji explained that the idea for the camp had emerged from his observance of the connection between the CM motto and the U.S. Declaration of Independence, which states "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" among the unalienable rights of man. His discussions intrigued camp attendees, who participated with enthusiasm. Each of the lighthearted and profound videos was followed by Swamiji's exposition on key points. After each class and discussion, attendees had an interactive workshop. The ashram corridors were filled with the laughter of 75 adults, 12 youth, and children, all of whom participated wholeheartedly throughout the camp.



A unique session of "laugh time" began with one minute of laughter. While most camp attendees began to do so consciously, it soon produced spontaneous "laugh aloud" moments. This was followed by groups of attendees narrating jokes for the entire camp. Swamiji concluded each day with a question and answer session.

Upanayanam at CM Austin

Twelve young initiates sat with their families and friends by their side in the *Saraswati Vidya Mandir* at *Chinmaya Vatika*, the home of Chinmaya Mission Austin. The previous day, the families had spent the day at the ashram, understanding the 16 *samskaras* in Hinduism, as taught by resident *acharya*, Brahmachari Girish Chaitanya.

On the blessed and auspicious day of March 20, 2011, eight boys and four girls, including four

sets of siblings, undertook the *upanayanam samskara* as enjoined in *Yajur Veda*. This was the first time CM Austin had organized such an event. The initiates were: Anjana Mittal, Rachala Polisetty, Anushka Saini, Rajatkamal Polisetty, Sriram Mittal, Avinav Saini, Ritvik Maryala, Kavin Maryala, Siddharth Rao, Sameer Chennakeshu, Arunachalam Natesan, and Shakti Shrima.



Young Voices Chant Gita

by Vidya Iyer

CM Houston's *Bhagavad Gita* Chanting Competition commemorated *Shri Chinmaya Jayanti* Day and was held at the *Chinmaya Prabha* ashram on May 7, 2011. This year's focus was *Gita*, Chapter 9 and featured 138 participating children, who ranged from ages 3 to 18 years.

The children were classified into four groups based on grade levels, and the largest group was grades 3-5. It is notable that participation at the youngest pre-k grade level doubled since last year—12 children between ages of 3 and 5 chanted this year.



Acharya Gaurang Nanavaty had asked the parents to support and motivate the children, explaining to parents to patiently cajole, entice, and guide the children to learn the sacred *Gita*, as this knowledge will bring them great benefits in the years to come. The children and parents took his request to heart and began preparing from March. Week after week, they stayed after Chinmaya Bala Vihar classes to learn the *Gita*, listen to the audio samples, and sharpen their pronunciations.

The oldest grade group of grades 9 to 12 faced the tough challenge of explaining the key concepts of the whole chapter by using specific verses. In spite of their demanding schoolwork and other activities, it was amazing to hear the beautiful explanations that the teenagers brought forth.



It was quite amazing to note stories that all of a sudden, instead of arguing in the car, children were chanting the *Gita*! While playing, they were chanting completely unaware. Younger children used the power of listening to learn more verses because of their older sibling's preparation. Other members in the household began to learn as well and soon enough, the whole house was immersed in *Gita* study.



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Dance: Ramaa Bharadvaj - Director, Dance - Chinmaya Naada Bindu

A renowned dancer/choreographer and acclaimed writer/commentator, Ramaa Bharadvaj is a winner of multiple Lester Horton Dance Awards in California for choreography and performance. She was awarded the Directors Award from California Arts Council for her contributions to the Arts in the State of California and was selected as one of 21 exceptional South Asian women living in the U.S., whose lives and stories are presented in the book "Spices in the Melting Pot" released in 2005. A tireless advocate of multicultural education, she served on the dance faculty of Pomona College and Orange Coast College and was visiting professor of dance at several educational institutions in the U.S. Her outreach programs have reached over 15,000 children in the US. After 31 years of a successful dance career in the United States Ramaa returned to India in 2009 and now serves as Director of Dance at Chinmaya Naada Bindu.



Music: Pramodini Rao - Director, Chinmaya Naada Bindu

(assisted by **Shoba Iyer**)

A graduate of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's music Visharad course, Pramodini Rao is currently a disciple of Vikas Kashalkar. Herself a composer and lyricist, she has to her credit several cassettes/CDs of bhajans. She has conducted numerous teachers training workshops and bhajan residencies.



Sanskrit & Vedic Chanting: Swami Ramakrishnananda

The architect of the highly successful Easy Sanskrit Course, Swami Ramakrishnananda's meticulously developed pedagogy is complimented by his humorous and spontaneously creative teaching style. A favorite among the youth and adults alike, his Easy Sanskrit Course has been approved by Indira Gandhi National Open University through Chinmaya International Foundation and is currently being translated into Spanish, Chinese and German.



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Donation

US \$660 (or equivalent) - Boarding (shared rooms) & 3 meals for 22 days (July 31 to Aug 21) + lessons & field trip. Students from India please write to us for cost in INR.

How to apply

1) A letter of intent with following information:

- Name and address
- Dance training history (# of years and # of class/practice hours a week)
- Why you wish to attend the intensive at Chinmaya Naada Bindu
- An online link to your formal or informal performance (optional)

Email to: cnb@chinmayamission.com with CC to ramaabharadvaj@yahoo.com

2) Registration - Deadline July 15, 2011 - (see Registration Form):

Letter of Intent deadline: Immediate

Registration deadline: July 15, 2011 (non-refundable donation deposit of \$330 due)

Arrival: July 31, 2011 (full amount due)

Contact for information:

Chinmaya Naada Bindu @Chinmaya Vibhooti
At Post Kolwan, Taluka Mulashi,
Dist. Pune - 412108, Maharashtra, INDIA
Email: cnb@chinmayamission.com

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devotional presentation, both lovingly named by the Vidyalaya high school students as, “*Chinmaya Mahima*.”

The village of Calcutta in Trinidad was treated to a mass of color and festivity as the students of Chinmaya Vidyalayas marched to the ashram, with balloons flying and streamers flowing in the Caribbean breeze. The procession was led by Brahmachari Hamerajh, and included a beautiful portrait of Pujya Gurudev with the title, “Celebrating the Birth of a Saint,” and the chanting of “*Jaya Jagadisha Hare*.”



At the ashram, Mr. Rambharthy, President of CM Trinidad, spoke briefly about the evolution of Chinmaya Mission from a small *yajna* in Pune and about Pujya Gurudev’s mighty vision for the education of children. Rambharthyji then led students and parents in the release of 95 orange and blue helium balloons into the sky.

In the devotional program held at the ashram’s *Vidya Mandir*, students offered readings from Pujya Gurudev’s works, a short biography, *guru kirtans* and *bhajans*, and a song medley. The film clip on Pujya Gurudev showed how thousands upon thousands have gotten inspired to come on the spiritual path and to become a part of Chinmaya Movement. After recitation of the Chinmaya Mission Pledge, each student and parent made offerings at the feet of Param Pujya Gurudev’s *puja sthala*. Each student of the pre-school and primary school received gifts in Pujya Gurudev’s name.

CM Trinidad members also participated in a three-night *yajna* on select verses from *Gita* and *Ramayana*, conducted by resident

acharya, Swami Prakashananda, and Ravi Bharati of *Param Dham* ashram. CM Trinidad also announced the release of *Mananam*’s first Chinmaya Birth Centenary Celebration Series publication, *He Did It: Swami Chinmayananda, A Legacy*.

CM Atlanta's CORD Walk and Yajna



CM Atlanta (CMA) organized a CORD walkathon on May 7, 2011 at Bethesda Park in Lawrenceville, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Over 200 CMA family members came out to participate on the warm spring day. The walkathon was held in conjunction with CMA’s annual picnic and *Shri Chinmaya Jayanti* celebrations.



Members gathered to walk at their own pace on a beautifully shaded 1.5-mile trail. Each walker chose his number of laps. The walkers ranged from seven years old to seventy.



In addition to the various games organized, a sumptuous lunch buffet was served. CMA President, Acharya G.V.

Raghu, addressed the families during lunch and thanked them for their enthusiastic participation: “Service to humanity is one of the core principles of Hindu dharma and of Chinmaya Mission. . . . Today, our members have walked the talk and gone the extra mile in implementing what they learn weekly in their Vedanta classes. We at CMA are highly appreciative of all the good work CORD is doing in India and Sri Lanka, and we are glad

Children, parents, teachers, and judges eagerly gathered on the bright morning of May 7 to joyfully put their learning to test. Commencing with invocation prayers to Lord Krishna and Pujya Gurudev, sweet, sacred *Gita* chanting filled the ashram halls. Every competitor chanted the verses with a fresh innocence and fearless joy. All the parents in the hall that day looked proud and pleased to see their child giving his best as an offering for Pujya Gurudev’s birthday.



Indeed, the judges’ job was difficult, since all the children excelled. The winners were: Uma Kamath, Ayush Manoj, and Yashwanth Arra in Group 1; Bhavya Kethireddipalli, Aarushi Das, Charvi Negandhi, and Avaneesh Joshi in Group 2; Shreyas Ganesh, Nidhi Wunnava, and Amogh Pandey in Group 3; and Gaurav Nayak, Sumedha Rao, and Krishna Narra in Group 4.

Each participant received a small gift in recognition of his diligence and dedication. By the Lord’s grace, as children discover the joy of the *Gita* every year, the building of a strong foundation for a great future based on immortal ancient wisdom continues.

May Celebrations at CM Minneapolis

by Manu Madhok

May was a happening month at *Chinmaya Ganapati*. We started the month with Mother’s Day celebrations, wherein all the children did *Matr Puja* and the fathers cooked lunch for everyone.

Pujya Gurudev’s *jayanti* was marked with a *Guru Paduka Puja* that was performed by all

the Chinmaya Bala Vihar teachers, after which, they were all recognized. The festivities were followed by *mahaprasadam*.

The following weekend marked the completion of the 2010-2011 year of Chinmaya Bala Vihar. There was a graduation ceremony for the seven kids who graduated from high school. The ceremony included the traditional Vedic chanting of *Shiksha Valli* from *Taittiriya Upanishad*. Each student was gifted a plaque and Pujya Gurudev’s book, *Kindle Life*. The day also marked the annual cultural performances from all classes, which make presentations to showcase what they have learnt throughout the year.

Acharya Gaurang Nanavaty (CM Houston) had *satsanga* with members and gave discourses on stress management through *Bhaja Govindam*. All the attendees found the talks to be insightful and apt. Gaurangji was also the Chief Guest at the center’s annual banquet, which featured an enthralling program of Indian classical dance and music by CHYKs.

Chinmaya Mahima at CM Trinidad

The celebration of the 95th year of Pujya Gurudev’s *jayanti*, known as “Chinmaya Day” at Chinmaya Vidyalayas in Trinidad, saw the convergence of over 200 Vidyalaya students across the island at Chinmaya Ashram, the administrative center of all CM Trinidad Vidyalayas.



Students, parents, staff, and Mission members engaged in two programs to commemorate the birth of the Master—a *yatra* and a

to contribute and raise awareness.” CMA raised \$2,501 for CORD.



Swami Shantananda (CM Princeton) conducted *jnana yajnas* on *Bhagavad Gita*, Chapter 13 and *Purusha Suktam* in Atlanta, April 25-29, 2011. The *Gita yajna* was held at the Global Mall in Norcross and the morning *yajna* on *Purusha Suktam* was held at a residence in Tucker.

CM Birmingham's Annual Program

by Raman Krishnan

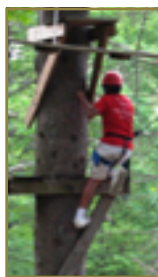
CM Birmingham proudly celebrated its third annual program on May 1, 2011—this time, as an official CMW center. The Chinmaya Bala Vihar students wowed the Chinmaya Family with skits, *bhajans*, and Sanskrit chanting. The effort of all the teachers, organizers, and parents was impressive, and spoke volumes about their devotion and dedication to Chinmaya Mission.



A video on CM Birmingham may be viewed at: <http://vimeo.com/23397400>. CM Birmingham looks forward to it Bala Vihar Opening Day for 2011-12 on August 20, with a *yajna* conducted by Acharya Vilasini Balakrishnan (CM Washington DC).

CM Princeton and Philadelphia's Family Camp

by Krishna Gotur (Grade 7)



Of the many fun-filled activities that Chinmaya Mission offers around the world, the Memorial Day Camp conducted by CM Princeton and CM Philadelphia is one of the best. This three-day camp offers many indoor and outdoor activities and a plethora of dining options. This camp is a must for any fun-loving, Chinmaya family.

This year, our *acharyas* picked an especially intriguing topic for the camp: “Serve 2 Deserve: The Spirit of *Seva*.” *Seva* in its simplest form is whole-hearted service to anyone, anywhere, without question or order. *Seva* requires a sense of gratitude and humility, and throughout one's camp experience, one could see so many outstanding examples.



A newcomer to this camp, it was refreshing and inspiring to see the many activities available. Mornings would always begin with Vedic chanting classes and meditation sessions,

followed by yoga classes, *Guru Paduka Puja*, and spiritual classes and *satsang* sessions.



Vigi Sham said, “It felt good being here. The yoga classes were relaxing and stimulating. It created a warm and friendly atmosphere. The *satsangs* with the Swamijiis were especially interesting.”



Aside from the spiritual classes, this camp offered zip lining, boating, rock climbing, swimming, basketball, volleyball, tennis, cricket, movies, campfires, and a variety of other games and activities.

“The activities are amazing. I liked the zip line and cricket the best,” said Suraj Manikandan (grade 5).

One of the most enjoyable parts of the camp was the food. Swami Shantananda said that the quality of the food was directly proportional to the amount of people at the camp. With a split menu for adults and kids, everyone enjoyed all the options.

Many campers left with a higher sense of service and involvement, ready to come back next year.

Walk for CORD in Kansas City

CM Kansas City held its first CORD Walkathon at Heritage Park in Olathe, Kansas

on April 24, 2011. The goal for this year's walkathon was to create awareness for CORD, raise funds, and provide an opportunity for Chinmaya family members to interact with each other in a fun setting. Despite unfavorable weather conditions, around 80 families (250 people) participated in the event and raised \$3,600.



Unmindful of the cold and windy conditions, the five-mile walk began at 10 a.m. after a short prayer. Once the walk started, the young volunteers set a brisk pace, making the adult volunteers sweat to keep pace with them.

Following the walk, the stage was set for a variety of fun games—Krishna Candy Walk; Ravana Knockdown: Good, Bad, and Ugly; Mahabharata Tug-of-War between teachers and parents; and kite flying. The event concluded at noon after a picnic lunch.



CM Bakersfield Youth Camp

by Sudha Bhatt

Chinmaya Mission Bakersfield held its 7th Annual Summer Youth Camp at the *Chinmaya Gokul* ashram, June 6-11. This year's camp, attended by 40 children, ages 4-13 years, was a great success. The children learned about “The Glory of Divine Mother” as well as the significance and symbolism of *Navaratri*. The camp was conducted by

Pujya Guruji's 61st Birthday Celebrations June 30, 2011, CM Houston



Swami Sharanananda (CM Chicago), who was assisted by trained *sevikas* of CM Bakersfield. Each day began at 8:30 a.m. with opening prayers, followed by two classroom sessions and a juice break. There was a yoga class daily for children grades 3 and up. After an appealing lunch, the children gathered in the shrine to learn *bhajans* and Vedic chanting. The afternoons were spent on arts and crafts, sports and games, and preparation of items for the cultural program.



groups. The children also enjoyed a Jeopardy game on the camp theme, where even the youngest children (pre-k and kg group) knew a lot of answers. It took a tiebreaker to determine the First and Second Place winning teams, each member of which received an idol of Mother Saraswati.



The week culminated with a cultural show and graduation ceremony where the children demonstrated to their family and friends their understanding of the material learned over the week. Some of the items presented included skits and a dance. A five-minute video presentation gave parents a glimpse of the camp's week-long activities and events. Senior students also presented a funny skit with a role-play of Swamiji and other camp *sevikas*.

The week's activities were facilitated by 10-12 dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers, who coordinated registration, food, snacks, arts and crafts, cleaning, and the cultural program. The most valuable help came from two college-bound CHYK volunteers who attended all the days and worked with the children on every activity.

CM Bakerfield's summer camp would be incomplete without a "Fun Day," during which the children enjoyed a water slide, popcorn, and snow cone machines. The children also made bracelets and took turns in breaking a piñata in the shape of Mother Lakshmi's golden *kalasha*, which was filled with gold coins of chocolate and party favors.

Senior students took part in an extempore speech competition, wherein they received a random topic and spoke on it for two minutes. Three judges heard each child speak twice, and then identified the First, Second and Third Prize winners.

All the campers took a one-hour quiz on the camp theme, and First and Second Prize winners were selected from three grade

Glimpse of Ramayana

Report submitted by CM Ottawa

CM Ottawa celebrated its annual open house on May 8, 2011 in Britannia Park, by the Ottawa River. In the pavilion, the fully-packed hall was buzzing with children entering in striking costumes, eager audience members settling in, vibrant display stalls of Chinmaya Publications and more, and the audio-visual team making their final preparations. The

stage was radiant with Pujya Gurudev's smiling picture. The evening's theme was "A Glimpse of the *Ramayana*," wherein the children brought out the beauty of values in action, as shown by *Ramayana* characters. The program was a loving offering to our Pujya Gurudev and all mothers, as May 8 marked *Shri Chinmaya Jayanti* and Mother's Day.

The program commenced with a Chinmaya Bala Vihar song in Hindi as all the children marched into the hall. The tiny tots walked in dressed up as little Hanumans with beautiful long tails. Indeed, the monkeys of the *Ramayana* days would have longed for such decorations on their tails!

The opening song's profound meaning provided a fitting prelude for the program to come. After the Chinmaya Mission Pledge and prayers, the children presented *Ramayana* sequences full of emotion and devotion as Shri Rama became *Vanavasi* Rama.

The children brought out various flavors of devotion, unique to each devotee, through the stories of Guha, Kevata, Bharata, and Shabari. *Nava-vidha bhakti* was beautifully presented in simple words.

The entertaining youth play entitled, "Practical Days," focused on how *Ramayana* teachings apply to modern day challenges.

The grand finale was a dance on a melodious chanting of *Shri Hanuman Chalisa*. The program ended with a sumptuous dinner.

All the children gave outstanding performances. The costumes, makeup, and props exhibited the creativity and artistic expertise of the

parents. Everyone gave their best in various ways, with a sense of family unity. *Vasudhaiva kutumbakam* echoed in the hearts of all.

CMH's Bala Vihar Graduation

by Uma Aggarwal

Chinmaya Mission Houston (CMH) proudly celebrated the graduation of 30 Bala Vihar students on June 12 in a special ceremony that honored both their scholastic achievements and their committed learning of Hindu scriptures and Indian culture.

One of the crowning moments in this year's graduation was when graduate Dev Gandhi spoke about his father graduating from Bala Vihar in 1985 and seeing an entire generation guided by the wisdom of the Bala Vihar tradition. Each graduating student's sustained interest in a distant culture, while growing up in another country, felt like a renewal of faith for all. Indeed, this was part of the grand vision of Pujya Gurudev when he started the Bala Vihar wing of Chinmaya Mission as early as 1955. He saw children as the architects of a future world, filled with strong character and spiritual values.

CMH's graduation ceremony commenced on June 12 with Acharya Gaurang Nanavaty's discourse on *Shikshavalli* of *Taittiriya Upanishad*. He reiterated the wisdom of the Upanishadic commencement address, addressing specifically the graduating students who would now be stepping into the working world. He elaborated on the true meaning of the famous verse, *satyam vada*, or "Speak the truth." He said seeing the One in all



should be the ideal of every graduate. He emphasized performing one's duties, working diligently, and making a commitment to keep up scriptural studies.

The slideshow presentation featured each graduate, his accomplishments, selected college, years in Bala Vihar, favorite memory, and favorite quote. Each student lit a lamp symbolizing the passing of knowledge from teacher to student, and received a plaque from Acharya Gaurangji.

Each student recounted his Bala Vihar experience in his unique way. Srinidhi Rao made the audience laugh with a self-made favorite quote: "Take action to get action!" Priyanka Mehta quoted Oscar Wilde: "Be yourself. Everyone is already taken." Nipun Marwaha quoted Albert Einstein's "Logic will get you from A to B, but imagination will get you everywhere." Many graduates this year had attended Chinmaya Bala Vihar for 12-14 years, and had unforgettable memories, such as lock-in-s, *Holi*, Chinmaya Camp celebrations, and teaching younger Bala Vihar kids.

The memorable program concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony and the graduates served lunch to their Bala Vihar teachers to show their gratitude. As in prior years, the CMH Family felt joyful and confident about



At CM Dallas-Fort Worth's Chinmaya Chitrakoot Ashram



The Chinmaya Inspiration Yatra (CIY)
December 19, 2011 – January 7, 2012



20 CHYKs from the West—20 days in Bharat
Accompanied by Acharya Vivek (CM Niagara)
Engage in Satsanga, Seva and Sadhana
in the company of like-minded seekers!

Highlights Include:
 Attending Vedanta Course with Pujya Guruji Teaching
 Full Global CHYK Camp
 Visiting Temple of Pujya Gurudev's 1st discourse

Travel through planes, trains, boats and buses to Chinmaya Dhams:
 Sandeepany Sadhanalaya, Mumbai
 Adi Sankara Nilayam (CIF), Veliyanad
 Chinmaya International Residential School (CIRS), Coimbatore
 Chinmaya Organization for Rural Development (CORD), Siruvani
 Chinmaya Vibhooti, Kolwan

Cost (includes food, accommodation and travel on Yatra only):
 \$1,000 USD (travel to/from India not provided)
 Registration - 1st payment of \$500 by June 19 (non-refundable)
 Confirmation - 2nd payment of \$500 by September 19 (non-refundable)



Limited availability—those interested will be selected by Acharya Vivek
 For more information contact Chinmaya Niagara: niagara@chinmayamission.org or (905) 356-4451

Chinmaya Mission presents




WHERE EAGLES DARE
Global CHYK Camp 2011

Dates: 24 Dec 2011 - 1 Jan 2012
Venue: Chinmaya International Residential School, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India
Cost: \$300 (USD)
For further information: contact your local Chinmaya Mission centre

“Where Eagles Dare,” the Fourth Annual Global CHYK Camp,
 conducted by Swami Swaroopananda in Coimbatore, India, December 24, 2011-January 1, 2012.

Text: *Taittiriya Upanishad*, Chapter 2

Topics: How and why did creation take place, Understanding the creative power of our own thought, Discovering the Self by utilizing the body, mind, and intellect to its full potential, while experiencing worldly success and fulfillment in the process

To register or get details, visit www.globalchykcamp.com or www.chinmayamission.org.

As is tradition every year, interested CHYKs are welcome to register for a yet another weeklong spiritual journey, guided by Swami Swaroopananda. The post-camp journey in 2012 will begin with a flight to the Himalayan ranges and culminate at the holy abode of Pujya Gurudev in Sidhbari, India.

Jan. 1: Coimbatore to Delhi, visit Chinmaya Chetna, stay at Delhi
 Jan. 2: Travel to Amritsar by bus, visit Wagah border and Jallianwala Bagh, stay at Amritsar
 Jan. 3: Visit Golden Temple, bus to Sidhbari
 Jan. 4: Sidhbari
 Jan. 5: Visit Dharamshala and McLeod Ganj
 Jan. 6: Sidhbari
 Jan. 7: Depart Sidhbari for Delhi by bus

Cost: US\$450/person (includes all air/bus travel Jan. 1-7, includes all lodging/boarding)
 Registration Deadline: June 30, after which costs are subject to change
 To register, e-mail your name, age, and country of residence to: jitinkapoor@gmail.com

Upcoming CHYK Camps

Jul. 29-Aug. 3, Chicago: Mind and Beyond	708-657-6372
Aug. 12-14, Washington DC: All You Need Is Love	301-300-9909
Aug. 26-28, Boston: Efficiency through Spirituality	508-369-6174
Dec. 19-Jan. 7, India: Chinmaya Inspiration Yatra	905-356-4451

Seekers

*A black hole
tunneling
to light
finds itself
in another
black hole.*

*How did it
forget,
it is made of
light?*

*A vortex
of thoughts
swirls around
vortices of
thoughts.*

*Unaware it
seeks
its center.*

- Chetana Neerchal

With immense joy, we announce the move of Chinmaya Shivalaya as we continue to grow and offer more services to our large and diverse community.

We are blessed to have Guruji, H.H. Swami Tejomayananda to inaugurate the new ashram. We would like to extend a warm invitation to you and your congregation to participate in all the inauguration programs. Please advise us of the participation from your center so our hospitality team will be ready to welcome you. Please contact the coordinator Ranu Ramraj ranuramraj@gmail.com

Please note these dates in your calendar

July 29, 2011 8.00am – 1.00pm

Reinstallation of Lord Shiva's Moorti in the new location

August 5, 2011 7.00pm – 9.00pm

Inauguration ceremony presided by Swami Tejomayananda, followed by dinner

August 6, 2011 10.00am – 12.00 noon

An auspicious and rare opportunity to invoke the grace of Shri Ram and Hanumanji, with Pujya Guruji, the spiritual master and Hanumanji's Bhakta, singing Hanuman Chalisa in seven different ragas interspaced with anecdotes of Hanumanji.

We invite sponsorships for this special occasion. Suggested offering of \$1001.00 in support of Chinmaya Mission Toronto

**Our new address: 8832 The Gore Road
Brampton, ON**

For information please visit www.chinmayatoronto.org

CORD USA Service Visit

A service visit to CORD centers is an opportunity for high school students to travel to India and volunteer their time serving the under-served. This year's participants from across the USA went to Sidhbari in Himachal Pradesh, India, to help with CORD's integrated rural development and women's empowerment program. Read their experiences: cordusa2011.blogspot.com/

For more information about CORD USA and volunteering opportunities, visit cordusa.org.