

You must not be unhappy

I can truly say that the first time I met Swami Vishwananda was one of the most important days of my life and can never be wiped from my memory. I agreed to go and see Swami at one of his *darshans*. In the parking lot of the venue, I saw the bishop of the Liberal Church. I joked with him lightly saying that we had turned up dressed in matching complimentary colours, he in purple and myself in orange. We were seated together somewhere near the front of the hall. After a little while, Swami arrived and took his place at the front of the room, being duly introduced as having come to bless us all in the form of *darshan* (a concept that was completely new to me).

Beautiful music was playing in the background and we were invited to come up to Swami one by one to receive our blessing and *vibhuti*. As I sat and watched Swami, for some unknown reason, I suddenly became very emotional and whispered to the bishop whether he thought it would have been like this when Jesus blessed the masses. I watched some little children go up for their blessing and as they stood in front of Swami they wrapped their tiny arms around his neck. I now became so emotional that I could feel the tears pouring down my cheeks.

I was seated facing Swami, and I did not want him to see me crying, as that would have been very embarrassing. I managed to compose myself but inside of me a deep stirring emotion was taking place.

During a fifteen-minute interval, I was invited to meet Swami for a five-minute interview, which I politely declined. I was however forced to accept the invitation and after cranking my brain as to what to talk about with Swami, I felt comforted by the knowledge that he came from Mauritius and hence I could speak of another Swami I knew from there. He had his base in Mauritius and was a Swami whose presence had blessed my home many times.

As I was ushered into the interview room I was greeted by Swami Vishwananda with the opening words, "Mataji, you must not be unhappy." I quickly started to talk about my connection with this Swami, whereupon Swami sweetly replied, "Mataji, I am only in my early twenties, so all of this took place before my time." This took the wind out of my sails, so to speak, and again he told me not to be unhappy.

My private interview was soon over and with a warm, loving hug I was ushered out, only to find in the middle of my palm a small ring, which I concluded to myself – quite disrespectfully – to be from a lucky packet in the room. I had no idea about materialization at the time. As I met the bishop outside I was surprised to find that he too had a ring, with the symbol of the cross. We were both dumbfounded.

After *darshan* concluded, Swami mingled freely with everyone and in turn invited the Bishop and me to have lunch with him the next day at the house where he was staying.

I now know that nothing happens coincidentally and that I am immensely grateful to God for having orchestrated this unwilling Mataji to meet with this great soul, Swami Vishwananda. Whenever Swami Vishwanandaji Maharaj is here in South Africa, I just want to sit at his feet and indeed I know as many others do, that he has been sent by the Divine Creator to help us progress spiritually toward our supreme goal. Nowadays I don't let the opportunity to be in his presence pass me by so easily. I have received so much encouragement and willpower from him to continue walking on this often difficult and rugged path towards the supreme Light. *May many souls be blessed by meeting this godsend, Swami Vishwanandaji Maharaj in this lifetime.*

My meeting with Swami has been an unending story full of lessons and blessings. *Long Live our beloved Pujya Swami Vishwanandaji Maharaj.*

Mataji – South Africa