

Finding my Swami again

I met Swami Vishwananda in Mauritius in 1997, together with my husband and our little daughter. We went there to see him as we had heard of him before. When I met him, I immediately knew in my heart that he was the spiritual master I had been looking for. Since the age of twenty I had been praying to find my *guru*. When I saw Swami, there was not the slightest doubt in my mind, no more questions. *He was my guru, I had found him again!* But it went even further than just a simple reunion. It was not my mind telling me that I knew him; it was my heart. When I saw him I was sure that we had known each other for a very long time and he confirmed that feeling. Since that day, he represents what is most important in my life. I know that he is always around.

He is the incarnation of Love. Beyond a shadow of a doubt I feel that I should be with him and no one else.

If one's heart is wide and open, one feels the Divine in his presence. This Divine Love is pouring out of Swami Vishwananda, together with lots of joy and a great simplicity. For my husband as well as my daughter it is a great joy to be with him and I am happy to share these experiences with them.

When we are around him, we find our spontaneity become children again, because we are not judged, we are simply loved with all our weaknesses and our imperfections. Personally speaking, this kind of relationship exactly corresponds to how I define my relationship with God.

We were blessed that he lived with us, and for me every single day was a blessing. Numerous appearances of the Divine Mother marked this period at home. She spontaneously appeared to him and seeing him on his knees, his hands stretched out towards Her, touched us very deeply. We built a little chapel dedicated to Her, a very modest one, and She named it "The Chapel of Forgiveness". Since miracles are part of the Divine, they may also be a part of daily life. Appearances,

materialisations etc. - this reality was made tangible through my *guru*. The world is absolutely not limited to our five senses.

At the same time, the presence of my guru brought me peace of mind and a better acceptance of my suffering body. Since childhood I have suffered from a paralysis, which has severely limited the use of my legs. As an adult I underwent a surgery which didn't turn out as I hoped for, and since that time I have been forced to spend my life in a wheel chair, leading a life full of tests but where God has incarnated Himself to reassure me, giving me hope. Manifesting his love and this closeness are like a soothing balm for my heart. Certainly my personal history gives me hope that people will open their hearts towards those who suffer and that they will respond with love to the suffering of others; rather than the common human mentality that says, "As long as you haven't suffered you can't understand", which is a polite excuse for a nearly cruel indifference.

I truly believe that Swami Vishwananda may awaken this consciousness so that people will care for one another.

It is a platitude to say that there are too many things to do on this earth, because everyone may find their place to help, to share the burden. This is also a way of believing in God. Swami Vishwananda shows us how important it is to actively participate while allowing us to develop our spiritual consciousness in every moment. He himself is very practical, concrete and always completely centred in God.

In contrast to common expectations, I realised that it is not in spiritual circles where I met the most compassionate or simply caring people, and I do really appreciate that Swami Vishwananda watches out that the people around him develop this kindness and caring attitude instead of a useless spiritual ego. Like Saint Francis of Assisi, Swami Vishwananda demonstrates that in this period of advanced technology and intellectualism, human beings still and always will need as much love as possible to relieve their miseries and their shortcomings.

Before I met Swami Vishwananda I was already on my spiritual path, I had my faith, I prayed. But meeting him was like a divine blessing brought to me on my spiritual journey. He represents the unconditional love in a very simple and adorable way.

I am a Christian pastor in a metaphysical church and even though Swami Vishwananda is Hindu, he truly teaches the message of Christ. If one searches for Christ within oneself, it doesn't matter if one is Christian or Hindu. The only thing that matters is the realisation of this Christ.

In my previous lives I certainly practised mantras, which may explain why I feel so at ease to recite them now. It doesn't matter in which way one prays, as everything is already here. The immortal soul collects different experiences in different cultures and religions during its numerous incarnations. Reciting mantras or praying the Christian way, both will lead to God if the wish comes from the heart. Whether one sings God's name in *Sanskrit* or in other languages, it is the same.

Personally I truly believe that having a good grounding in this world is very important whilst being on the spiritual path. Lots of people "disconnect" in this universe where spirituality has so many faces and forms.

I have looked after people on a psycho-spiritual basis for numerous years, and I can see the confusion that exists in the minds and hearts of those who are in search of themselves. There are people searching all the time for new *gurus* and unbelievable experiences. All this may end with an escape into illusion without integrating reality. It may also be a waste of time, when one master who talks to our heart is the *one* and is patiently waiting for us, full of love. This is my point of view.

But every day I thank God to have found my Swami again, He who has been accompanying me since the beginning and will accompany me forever in my search for the truth.

Jaya - Nadège Bretaudeau – France