

Welcoming Sri Ganapathi Sachchidananda Swamiji

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(Welcoming speech was given in Dallas TX, April 26, 2008)

It is my distinct honor, great privilege and rare opportunity to introduce His Holiness Sri Ganapathi Sachchidananda Swamiji, Peethadhipati of Avadhuta Datta Peetham of Mysore to all of you who are assembled here. No matter how much we say, what we say and how we say about Sri Swamiji it is going to be inadequate, incomplete and insufficient. Who can describe the Divine? Who can describe Sri Swamiji, the Divine incarnate. With that in mind, let me begin by saying that Sri Swamiji started the Datta Peetham nearly 45 years ago; built 77 Datta temples all over the world installing hundreds of Deities in these Temples - still planning Temples in United Kingdom, Malaysia, Australia and Dallas, Texas; established hundreds of Gnana Bodha Sabhas; traveled to foreign countries nearly hundred times, constructed nearly one hundred Music for Healing and meditation concerts across the globe, composed more than 15000 songs extempore, and conducted thousands of bhajans sessions.

His Ashram is one of the most beautiful places on earth. Every inch planned. It provides accommodation to more than 5000 people. His ashram has one of the largest Nada Mantapam in Asia which accommodates nearly 8000 people. Temples dedicated to Lord Dattatreya and Sri Venkateswara Temple along with other deities such as Shiva, Ganesh, Budevi, Sri Devi, Sri Rajarajeswari, Hanuman, Subrahmanya Swami, Nava Grahas were built. Jayalakshmi Mata Nitya Annadaana Trust was started to provide free food three times a day, every day - in fact it feeds nearly 20,000 people on certain occasions. A very large, beautiful garden was started. About four years one of the best, if not the best, Bonsai Garden was developed. An imposing Vishvam (Museum) was inaugurated about two years ago. He performs Sri Chakra Puja every day; conducts Maha Ganapathi Homa every Sunday; established Vedic, Vedanta, Sanskrit and high schools; conducts Kriya Yoga camps; provides free medical attention through Ayurvedic, Homeopathy, Dental and Mobile clinics; publishes Bhaktimala monthly newsletter in five different languages; published hundreds of books; released hundreds of cassettes, CDs, and videos; engages in a number of charitable activities; and the list goes on.

Who is this Swamiji? How can you describe Sri Swamiji? It is really difficult to describe

God Incarnate, nay God Himself. Please know that we are really lucky, blessed and fortunate to be even born as a contemporary of Sri Swamiji, more fortunate to hear about Sri Swamiji, even more fortunate to have His darshan and listen to His words of wisdom. Nothing is comparable for having Sri Swamiji as our guide, master and Sadguru touching and guiding our lives. Imagine how lucky you are that God Himself came to you in the human form sitting with you and talking to you. No human concept, mind, words, speech, and intelligence can adequately describe Sri Swamiji. Our language is skimpy, our intelligence is limited, our perceptions are impaired, our words are inadequate and our speech is deficient to describe the majesty, the glory and the aura of Sri Swamiji. He is all and all is He. Every thing that exists in the universe also exists in Him. He is also our beloved Master, Guru, Father, Mother, Friend, Teacher, Musician, Singer, Appaji, and simply Sri Swamiji. Sri Swamiji was seen in Viswapoopa in various forms. He was seen as Durga, Amba, Krishna, Venkateswara, Dattatreya, Ganesha, Garuda, Hanuman (on April 20, 2008), an old man attending concerts of great singers, and yes, even as a crow to fit the needs of His devotees. He can assume any Roopa (form) at His will. He is beyond description.

Many of us do not understand the concept of Guru, Sadguru. In fact many people have negative thinking. Realization of the importance of having a guru like Sri Swamiji may not come for many people until we face constant struggles in life, natural calamities, bodily ills, financial problems, domestic troubles, employment hardships and grinding stress. If every thing goes according to our desires, if we succeed in all the attempts we undertake, and if we get all the material things we want, do you think we will ever realize the power of God and the grace of Guru? Pain, suffering and problems bring us closer to God. Without obstacles, our life will be stunted, ego will be ballooned, pride will be overblown and arrogance will be inflated. We will forget that power of God and grace of Guru are behind every action.

One may ask how can Sri Swamiji help me and what can he do for me? Based on my personal experience, and the narration of the experiences of numerous other devotees, Sri Swamiji guides you to the right path in the most difficult times, gives enough strength to surmount the hardships, provides unlimited opportunities, gives courage to overcome stress, renders instructions to attain peace of mind, showers countless blessings to overcome hurdles, lifts you from the depths of sorrow and hopelessness, helps you to trounce the EGO – the I --- , removes you from many immanent dangers, helps you constantly day in and day out. His invisible hand is all over. Finally

He will take you the path Vairagya – the renunciation – the true liberator of human bondage. All His devotees feel it and experience it. He is always with you and within you, ever more. It is up to you to accept it or not.

Sri Swamiji's ways are mysterious and varied. No one can predict His behavior. No two people will have the same experiences. He is always looking after His devotees. It is your unflinching, unwavering faith that brings closer to Sri Swamiji. It is that kind of faith exemplified in the purchase of 10 acre land to construct Karya Siddhi Hanuman Temple, brought Sri Swamiji to Dallas. We are the most luckiest to have Him here and have His darshan.

In order to receive His kripa (blessings), one must have total faith in Him. You should be ready to surrender, minimize your ego, cultivate enough bhakti (devotion), and develop spiritual attitude. Then Sri Swamiji will give you every thing you need - peace of mind, joy and bliss. His love is unconditional once you reach this stage.

Then how do we receive the blessings from Sri Swamiji so that we can achieve the maximum benefit?

It is through His anugraha (grace) is in the form of speech through *sandesa*, *upadesa* and *adesa*. They constitute the manifestation of his grace. His teachings, his admonitions, his instructions to us and his positive, imperative directives are the dynamic expression of his grace.

It is through His touch. Mere touch of His devotee He will be able to receive the grace of Guru.

It is through His eye contact.

It is through appearing in dreams.

All these methods are used to help the devotees to awaken the consciousness, reduce ego, grow spiritually, control anger, develop forgiveness, kindle truthfulness, increase knowledge, fulfill responsibilities, encourage charity, develop introspection, purify heart, control mind, subdue senses, live Dharmic life peacefully and impart compassion. These are the most important spiritual canons Sri Swamiji advises His devotees to observe rigidly.

Sri Swamiji is more than all the accomplishments I have listed before, more than description of His personality, and more than all the attributes we can ascribe. There is some power, some aura, some light, some force, some spark, and some illumination behind all these accomplishments and attributes of Sri Swamiji which we cannot see, perceive, and understand. And that is what we

should concentrate upon to see Sri Swamiji.

Sri Swamiji's compassion for His devotees never ceases. In fact it multiplies. Dallas devotee's faith, commitment, determination have translated into the announcement of the construction of Karya Siddhi Hanuman Temple in Frisco. In fact Sri Swamiji has been talking about the unflinching devotion of Dallas devotees for the last four months to various devotees in India, Malaysia, Australia, UK and other places. He came all the way to Frisco to bless the land and all the devotees who helped to buy the land as well as those who are attending this function.

Before we request Sri Swamiji to address the devotees, please remember whenever Sri Swamiji utters any words, you must listen attentively to every word, practice what He says, digest what you heard, and be prepared to take every hint as a suggestion for our own spiritual growth. If you miss the essence of His speech, fail to practice what is preached, fail to open your heart to be filled with Amruta, the very purpose of your presence here today is lost forever. You will never regain this moment gain. Please pay close attention to the Masters words; for they are not repeated again and again.

Listen to what Kabir has to say about Guru:

It is the mercy of my true Guru that has made me to know the unknown;

**I have learned from Him how to walk without feet, to see without eyes,
to hear without ears, to drink without mouth, to fly without wings;**

**I have brought my love and my meditation into the land where
there is no sun and moon, nor day and night.**

**Without eating, I have tasted the sweetness of nectar;
and without water, I have quenched my thirst.**

“The Guru is great beyond words, and great is good fortune of the disciple.”

At this time may I humbly request Sri Swamiji to address the devotees who are gathered here.