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**FROM THE EDITOR**


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On the joyous occasion of entering into the new year 2012, let us keep on asserting that we are basically, intrinsically, essentially noble and divine and therefore our life should be in line with our inner content. For this the first step is to contemplate upon these factors constantly and make a resolve to bring them out along with our thoughts, words and deeds. Right from the moment we get up till we retire to bed everyday let us try to see the goodness behind every individual and event. This will remind us of the inner content. May all our activities - at home, in our field of profession and in society - bear the stamp of Divinity. May our life during the entire New Year thus be blissful not only to us but to all those with whom we are going to be in constant touch.

- *Muktananda*

*Serve God in humanity, to the utmost power that God has granted you, in a Nishkama spirit and be friendly and loving towards all.*

- *Swami Ramdas*

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*Om Sri Ram gai Ram gaijai Ram*  
 ॐ श्री राम जय राम जय जय राम  
*Om Sri Ram gai Ram gaijai Ram*

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**WONDROUS PLAY**


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FOR me the world is God –  
 My Master, Mother Divine.  
 Whenever I talk, I talk to Him.  
 All my acts are His service.  
 Wherever I turn, I see Him;  
 I hear Him and touch Him;  
 His presence fills all space.  
 How beautiful is He!  
 In all varied forms and scenes  
 He plays His wondrous play.

- *Swami Ramdas*

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**THE VISION**

*A Monthly Magazine*

**Anandashram**

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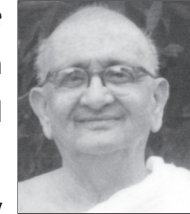
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**THE SPIRITUAL HERO**

*By Swami Ramdas*

It is rightly said that heroes are required to walk on the divine path because they alone with a one pointed mind and effort can reach the goal. Those who try to protect their petty selfish interests and, at the same time, strive to progress on the path cannot achieve anything. It is like a man to whose legs are tied heavy weights attempting to climb up a hill. Unless the spiritual aspirant's mind becomes totally unworldly, unless he is fired with a burning zeal for God, unless his heart with an unflagging aspiration longs and longs for Him alone, he cannot attain spiritual victory.



"To dare is the secret of success" is a saying eminently true in the case of a spiritual aspirant. Human values have to be substituted by spiritual values. Human ambitions must give place to a flaming desire for the Divine. Attractions for the pleasures of flesh should be abandoned for a concentrated love and devotion to God.

The spiritual quest means a tremendous endeavour to transmute the merely temporal and ephemeral conception of life into the radiant, everlasting and blissful knowledge of it. It is a complete transformation which indicates a state of your all round magnificent spiritual perfection.

The moment you put your step on the path, you shed all your weaknesses such as fear, timidity, doubt and selfishness. The very fact that you are out to attain the highest purpose of human life, viz: God, brings sunshine into your heart, light on your face and indomitable strength and courage to your will. Really, when life is dedicated in all its aspects to the Divine, the human being will be born anew, his lower ignorant nature converted into the illuminated divine nature.

What then is the outlook and vision of such an aspirant? The individual now becomes the embodiment of the universal, gifted with an all embracing vision, his heart filled with love and compassion towards all beings and creatures in the world. Love is the dominating feature of such an enlightened and sanctified life. Joy eternal is the sweetest fruit of it. In the fullness and the overflowing exuberance of pure delight, he works untiringly for flooding the hearts of all beings with the light and peace immortal.

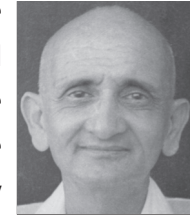
In short, the ultimate fulfillment of human life lies in its revealing the inherent and hidden divine beauty, power and glory.

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### BELOVED PAPA SWAMI RAMDAS ANSWERS

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**Question:** Can we get some practical advice to get rid of pride and attain true humility? Very often, we make efforts to put down pride and we often are proud at having made the very effort to get rid of pride. How can it be got rid of?



**Papa:** The best way to get rid of pride is to compare ourselves with God. If we think constantly of the glories, greatness, and magnificance of God, our ego-sense naturally ceases to assert itself and gradually dwindles into nothing. The moment we forget Him, the ego comes up and makes us say that we are doing everything, that we are clever, and so on. So, if we keep our mind engaged in constant thought of God, there is no room for the ego to exist. It is not by fighting darkness that you make it disappear but by bringing in light. So, by bringing into the mind the greatness, omnipresence, omniscience, infinity and eternity of God, automatically, the ego-sense disappears as it cannot stand before the glory of God.

**Question:** Can the repetition of Mantra not be an obstacle so far as it may become automatic and mechanical and hide from us the real path?

**Papa:** In that case we do not know why we are repeating the Mantra. What is the aim? To get our mind purified by constant remembrance of God. Taking God's name, doing Japa, means that we are trying to become conscious of God, because the Mantra, the Name, stands for God. When we tune ourselves with the Name, we tune ourselves with God. That is the purpose of repeating the Mantra; without it the repetition becomes merely mechanical and does not help us in any way. We must knowingly repeat the Mantra and become conscious of God by understanding the object of such repetition.

**Question:** Can you help those of us who are caught in the whirlpool of work so much that we are not conscious of the presence of God?

**Papa:** We do not work the whole day long. There are some hours of leisure. Out of these hours, after spending some time for the necessities of life, outside the field of daily work, some period may be devoted exclusively for remembering God

and getting the necessary communion and contact with Him. By practising like this from day to day, we shall be able to develop a nature in which there will be always peace, even when we are active in our daily routine. Remembrance of God in that state becomes the background to all external activity. Consciousness of God will then be always with us and we get the peace which passeth understanding. Otherwise we are caught in the whirlpool of work we are doing every day and lose ourselves in it so much so that we entirely forget God. We become only machines turning out a certain amount of work and exhausting ourselves. As a result the mind becomes restless, care-worn and unbalanced. So, during our leisure hours, we must devote some time to retire within ourselves and commune with the Divine by remembering Him through prayer and meditation. Gradually we feel so much joy in the work that we never feel fatigued. We now know that the work we are doing is a dedication to the Divine, because we become conscious that we are doing the work not by our will and power, but by the will and power of the Divine.

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WORDS OF PUJYA MATAJI KRISHNABAI

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*(On 30th of January 2012, we observe Pujya Mataji Krishnabai's 23<sup>rd</sup> Mahasamadhi Day. On this occasion we pray to Pujya Mataji to bless us with intense yearning to move towards Him by loving and serving His entire creation and to enjoy eternal happiness.)*



Ram Nam chanted by children has so much power. Even if they give exaggerated figures of Japa done by them, I attach more importance to their Ram Nam than to that of the grown-ups. When chanting Ram Nam, children do so with all faith and concentration while the grown-ups have their minds running in different directions. Beloved Papa, therefore, hearkens to children's prayers.

\*\*\*

I am like the merchant who counts his day's take at the end of the day and is sad when he finds that that day's profits are less than that of the previous day. In my case, I count my gains in terms of Ram

Nam and feel disappointed if I find the day's figures of Nama Japa less than those of the previous day.

\*\*\*

Beloved Papa tests us in many ways. He tests us in the small things at first. Just as a child is first taught how to write the alphabet before he can come to write "OM", similarly Papa tests us in the small things at first. If we pass those tests, then only can we hope to be ready for the bigger tests - the real tests that every Sadhaka has to get through before attaining Papa.

\*\*\*

We should not be afraid when predictions are made of calamitous happenings as they will only help us to turn our minds more and more towards Papa's Nirguna Nirvikar Swaroop. It is a pity but it is true that we remember God intensely only when fear activates us or after receiving knocks in the world.

\*\*\*

I will be truly and really happy only when your minds turn towards Papa. You may do a lot of service with your bodies, you may spend a lot of money to come and stay here (in Anandashram), but it is all of

no avail if your minds do not go to Papa. It would be like coming to the Ashram gates, getting a whiff of the flowers inside and then going back.

You should not simply stand outside the gates of Papa's Mansion, shower compliments and praises on Papa and then turn back, without bothering to enter the gates and experience the bliss of Papa's Eternal Being.

The main reason why you are scared of entering the gates of Papa's Mansion is because the world outside is the world of 'I' and 'mine' and you are scared that if you enter the gates and your minds turn towards Papa, you would lose the world you have been hugging as yours. You do not realise that far from losing your world, you actually gain the whole universe which becomes yours when you realise Papa.

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**PUJYA SWAMI SATCHIDANANDAJI  
ON PUJYA MATAJI**

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Thousands and thousands came in contact with Pujya Mataji and got themselves transformed by such contacts and have never forgotten her all their lives. All those blessed ones may have



many stories to tell about their dear Mataji as to how she helped them regain their cheer, how she solved many a problem of different magnitudes and types, how she helped them on the spiritual path, how she proved to be a pillar of strength for them in their lives and how she, without any ostentation, played the part of a friend, philosopher and guide to those who placed their faith in her.

Selfless service of humanity was the sole passion of Mataji's life. One could not gauge the functioning of her mental machinery. Her mind seemed always engaged in finding ways and means to aid the poor and suffering. Her one misery was when she was not able to give a needy person as much help as she would like to give. Her heart was made only to feel for others, her hands only to give to others, her body only to toil for and serve others. Thoughts and ideas of self-interest and selfishness were totally absent in her. For her, everyone was a manifestation of her Beloved Papa. As such, she wore herself out in His service by serving his innumerable forms. At another level, they were all various parts of her own body. Such was her self-effacing, self-giving life.

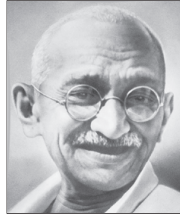
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## WHAT IS PRAYER?

*By Mahatma Gandhi*

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**A medical graduate:** What is the best form of prayer? How much time should be spent at it? In my opinion to do justice is the best form of prayer and one who is sincere about doing justice to all does not need to do any more praying. Some people spend a long time over sandhya and 95% of them do not understand the meaning of what they say. In my opinion prayer should be said in one's mother tongue. It alone can affect the soul best. I should say that a sincere prayer for one minute is enough. It should suffice to promise God not to sin.



**Gandhiji:** Prayer means asking God for something in a reverent attitude. But the word is used also to denote any devotional act. Worship is a better term to use for what the correspondent has in mind. But definition apart, what is it that millions of Hindus, Mussalmans, Christians and Jews and others do every day during the time set apart for the adoration of the Maker? It seems to me that it is a yearning of the heart to be one with the Maker, an invocation for His

blessing. It is in this case the attitude that matters, not words uttered or muttered. And often the association of words that have been handed down from ancient times has an effect which in their rendering into one's mother tongue they will lose altogether. Thus the Gayatri translated and recited in, say, Gujarati, will not have the same effect as the original. The utterance of the word "Rama" will instantaneously affect millions of Hindus, when the word "God", although they may understand the meaning, will leave them untouched. Words after all acquire a power by long usage and sacredness associated with their use. There is much therefore to be said for the retention of the old Sanskrit formulae for the most prevalent mantra or verses. That the meaning of them should be properly understood goes without saying.

There can be no fixed rule laid down as to the time these devotional acts should take. It depends upon individual temperament. These are precious moments in one's daily life. The exercises are intended to sober and humble us and enable us to realize that nothing happens without His will and that we are but "clay in the hands of the Potter". These are moments when one reviews one's immediate past, confesses one's weakness, asks for forgiveness and strength to be and

do better. One minute may be enough for some, twenty-four hours may be too little for others. For those who are filled with the presence of God in them, to labour is to pray, their life is one continuous prayer or act of worship. For those others who act only to sin, to indulge themselves, and live for self, no time is too much. If they had patience and faith and the will to be pure, they would pray till they feel the definite purifying presence of God within them. For us ordinary mortals there must be a middle path between these two extremes. We are not so exalted as to be able to say that all our acts are a dedication nor perhaps are we so far gone as to be living purely for self. Hence have all religions set apart times for general devotion. Unfortunately these have nowadays become merely mechanical and formal, where they are not hypocritical. What is necessary therefore is the correct attitude to accompany these devotions.

For definite personal prayer in the sense of asking God for something, it should certainly be in our own tongue. Nothing can be grander than to make us act justly towards everything that lives.

*Source: <http://www.gandhi-manibhavan.org/eduresources/article14.htm>*

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### DEAR CHILDREN

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I am a mother of three (ages 14, 12, 3) and have recently completed my college degree. The last class I had to take was Sociology. The teacher was absolutely inspiring with the qualities that I wish every human being had been graced with. Her last project of the term was called, 'Smile.' The class was asked to go out and smile at three people and document their reactions.

I am a very friendly person and always smile at everyone and say hello anyway. So, I thought this would be a piece of cake, literally.

Soon after we were assigned the project, my husband, youngest son, and I went out to McDonald's one crisp March morning. It was just our way of sharing special playtime with our son.

We were standing in line, waiting to be served, when all of a sudden everyone around us began to back away, and then even my husband did. I did not move an inch.... An overwhelming feeling of panic welled up inside of me as I turned to see why they had moved.



As I turned around I smelled a horrible 'dirty body' smell, and there, standing behind me, were two poor homeless men. As I looked down at the short gentleman, close to me, he was 'smiling'. His beautiful sky blue eyes were full of God's Light as he searched for acceptance.

He said, 'Good day' as he counted the few coins he had been clutching. The second man fumbled with his hands as he stood behind his friend. I realized the second man was mentally challenged and the blue-eyed gentleman was his salvation. I held my tears as I stood there with them.

The young lady at the counter asked him what they wanted. He said, 'Coffee is all Miss' because that was all they could afford. (If they wanted to sit in the restaurant and warm up, they had to buy something. He just wanted to be warm).

Then I really felt it - the compulsion was so great I almost reached out and embraced the little man with the blue eyes. That is when I noticed all eyes in the restaurant were set on me, judging my every action.

I smiled and asked the young lady behind the counter to give me two more breakfast meals on a

separate tray. I then walked around the corner to the table that the men had chosen as a resting spot. I put the tray on the table and laid my hand on the blue-eyed gentleman's cold hand. He looked up at me, with tears in his eyes, and said, 'Thank you.'

I leaned over, began to pat his hand and said, 'I did not do this for you.... God is here working through me to give you hope.'

I started to cry as I walked away to join my husband and son.. When I sat down my husband smiled at me and said, 'That is why God gave you to me, Honey, to give me hope...'

We held hands for a moment and at that time, we knew that only because of the Grace that we had been given were we able to give. We are not church goers, but we are believers... That day showed me the pure Light of God's sweet love.

I returned to college, on the last evening of class, with this story in hand. I turned in 'my project' and the instructor read it. Then she looked up at me and said, 'Can I share this?'

I slowly nodded as she got the attention of the class...

She began to read and that is when I knew that we as human beings and being part of God share this need to heal people and to be healed. In my own way I had touched the people at McDonald's, my son, the instructor and every soul that shared the classroom on the last night I spent as a college student.

I graduated with one of the biggest lessons I would ever learn: UNCONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE as well to LOVE PEOPLE AND USE THINGS and NOT LOVE THINGS AND USE PEOPLE.

Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart. To handle yourself, use your head... To handle others, use your heart.

God gives every bird it's food, but He does not throw it into its nest.

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### MEDITATION

*By Indira Devi*

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Indira is often asked the best way to do meditation. So far as she knows, however, meditation is not done, it just happens. It is complete relaxation, the act of being and not trying to become anything.



Meditation is not breathing exercises, rigid postures or attempting to silence the mind and in the process making oneself that much more tense. Neither is it a mathematical process or a scientific achievement that can be won in the laboratories. Meditation is a contact with the Beloved, your real self. It is the completeness of being alone with oneself, a state of Grace in which one spontaneously opens one's heart to the Light. See how the sunflower opens its petals to the sun - effortlessly, yet so definitely.

Human beings are afraid to be alone lest they have to face themselves and see themselves for what they really are. They want shortcuts to peace, to knowledge and nowadays even to Divinity. Yoga is sold to them in packets with labels and formulas; they draw their inspiration from books and lectures by professional sadhus.

It is possible that the Lord's grace sat easily on Indira because she was totally ignorant of all these manipulative methods to become somebody or something. She had no desire to be a great yogini by silencing the mind to merge into the Formless Brahman. This relaxation or, if you will, surrender of her total being was her door to the Lord's inner castle,

the key to His Heart. She started with a clean slate and she would very much like her friends to do likewise; to forget all recipes, forget the mind, forget the world and themselves. Just remember Him, and relax, relax, relax.

If they would give Him even half an hour a day, they would arrive at an inner harmony and strength. But this half-hour must be His exclusively. Go to Him and say: "Lord, I have come. Tired and weary from my self-created worries, I come to you for rest. Accept me with all my faults and flaws or mould me to your will. If my mind is restless, accept this restlessness. If it is impure, accept this impurity. I don't worry about your glories and you forget about my difficulties. I am yours for this half-hour. Even if the three worlds are shaken from their foundations, I will not leave you. Let me rest in you for this half-hour so that I may walk beside you, work for you and live for you."

"As soon as I sit down to meditate my mind begins to wander. I can neither relax nor concentrate on the Lord." That is the complaint Indira so often hears from people. How can it be otherwise, she tells them, when they make no attempt to keep up their contact with Him during the rest of the day? One should think

of the Lord as often as one can. In this way the mind eventually becomes accustomed to the heights and meditation is made possible. Indira always advises new people, regardless of the work they are engaged in, to think of Him for one minute every half-hour. Even this much will keep up the contact.

What is necessary for each of us is to give what we can. Don't calculate, don't plan. Whatever little you have to give to the Lord, give it today. Some days back Indira overheard one aspirant tell another: "I missed two hours' meditation yesterday. Today I'll make it up." He did not realize that those moments he failed to think of Him were gone forever!

People say: "As soon as I get out of my present circumstances, I'll give myself up to the Lord." But this tomorrow never comes, it is eternally before us. Does a mother say, "Tomorrow, after I do this or that thing, I will love my son?" No, that is not the way. The hostile forces will see to it that your circumstances remain always with you.

Does not the Lord know our circumstances? It is He who has made them, for what purpose He alone knows. He does not expect of us more than we can

give. Even if it is only five minutes a day, let us give it wholly to Him.

If you cannot give yourself completely to Him today, then pray that you may be able to do so tomorrow. Only give what you can today. If we are sincere there will always be time to remember Him, no matter what we are doing. If we truly want Him, He is bound to change our circumstances if they are unfavorable. I defy anyone to disprove this. The crux of the trouble is that we do not really want Him.

*Source: Pilgrims of the Stars*

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### BEING KIND WHEN IT'S SEEN AS A WEAKNESS

*By Linnaea Bohn*

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When I worked in the corporate world, I didn't focus on a race to the top. I enjoyed the day-to-day work of running a product line, finding opportunities for new markets, and helping managers in other countries launch similar lines tailored to their markets.



My approach was to be ethical in all aspects of the work, to have concern for the people I was working

with to achieve results, and to share the credit appropriately. This was not the latest "management style," nor was it proven.

The most senior managers saw the bottom line increase and gave me more responsibility and a promotion, while immediate supervisors discredited me since I was not like them.

A transfer to Asia fortunately took me out of the quagmire of home office politics. I felt the freedom to continue managing in a way that was natural to me: to encourage my teams with kindness, cooperation, and credit while we increased market share and the bottom line.

My staff felt safe and enjoyed their work. The division prospered. However, my immediate superior didn't value my approach. He viewed it as a sign of weakness that I was caring and thoughtful, and that I cooperated and shared with each colleague.

Even though I had added millions to the bottom line, I lost my job, my career.

When I'd started on MBA years before, I'd dreamed of changing the world in some significant way by helping others. There was no major in that, so

I did an independent major: marketing for not-for-profits.

It was hard to find a job after graduation, since arts organizations in the mid 1970s didn't see the need to hire an MBA. I realized that if I wanted to share knowledge and skills to change the world in some way, and do it while being kind, I had to go solo.

I went on a solo trek to the Himalayas to clear my mind and spent a month meditating at a small monastery near Kathmandu. I then journeyed to India for a healing purification retreat.

Months later at a Buddhist initiation, I heard the Bodhisattva vows. They were about putting others before self, being kind, keeping one's word, and more. I breathed a sigh of relief. I felt like I'd come home.

I wanted to put those vows into practice in a practical way. At first I thought I would return to Hong Kong as an entrepreneur and send my earnings to Tibetans to start refugee schools. I learned, however, that it would be more beneficial to help refugees create opportunities for work. So I did.

I made the Himalayas my home, and volunteered to help Tibetan refugees develop small enterprises based

on their skills and suited to their temperament and culture. This way they could become economically self-sufficient, eliminating the need for charitable donations.

My neighbors in the village where I lived were Punjabi widows—refugees themselves, without any income. Yet they could knit well. I helped them turn their lives around by teaching them designs, colors, and sizes that were in style. I also showed them how to sell these sweaters locally on their own.

It felt so natural to be kind and help others there. Kindness was a way of life for many.

A story that comes to mind involves a woman and a dog. Dogs that are not used as shepherds in the Himalayas are feral. They look for scraps and fight a lot. People are terrified of the packs.

One day I heard a puppy whimpering. Village children, who had taken it as a temporary toy, helped me retrace their path to place the pup near a sibling. The mother dog came out of hiding to wash and feed the pup. Her bony body somehow produced milk for five puppies.

From that day I cooked brown rice for her, concerned that she herself would starve from feeding them. I would

leave the food near the home she'd dug for her family under a log in a small wooded area.

One day that spring there was a long, slow snowstorm that prevented me from feeding her.

At daybreak the next day I placed some food near her shelter, but she didn't come out. I waited and then slowly approached the hole. There was a snow-covered burlap sac covering the mouth of the shelter, but not one dog. Someone had been kind to protect the family from the storm, but the dogs were gone.

As I walked through the small woods looking for them, I noticed a house. A woman came to the door. Using hand signs and imitating the whimpering sounds of pups, I asked if she had seen the dogs.

She took me by the hand to a tiny abode. On the veranda of this one room structure was a woman cooking a small copper pot of rice on a stick fire. Around the fire were the mom and pups, lying comfortably and soaking in the warmth. The woman's own children and husband were inside under a blanket on the single rope cot.

This frail bodied woman from Rajasthan, in her thin cotton sari and shawl, shared her family's only pot of rice with the dog family.

She and her husband were day laborers, carrying boulders on their heads as roads were being excavated through the mountains.

They earned less than a dollar a day for their combined work. In a bare room with a doorway as the only opening, they lived with clothes suited for the 120 degree heat of the desert, eating one meal a day.

This woman unflinchingly shared her food with this female dog and her puppies. She didn't have much to give, but that didn't stop her from giving what she could.

I had come to India to help others, with a vision to change the world in some small but significant way. Yet without intent, education, or desire, this woman changed my life in a very significant way. Her instinctive kindness that received no appreciation, let alone results or rewards, softened my heart.

I see that being a kind human has value in any walk of life. This is what I took with me into future work. Even though I may not be the manager other people want me to be, I am valuable in any organization because I am kind.

I care about the people who work around me. I care about each individual client, customer, and colleague. This may not be a prerequisite for a successful career, but it's my prerequisite for a successful life.

Each kindness changes the world. Being kind is what makes my world significant.

Whatever values you hold dear—whether it's kindness, gentleness, calmness, or honesty—live it. Be it, even if the people around you don't seem to value the same things; especially if the people around you don't seem to value those things. That might be the very reason you came into their lives.

Source: <http://tinybuddha.com/blog/being-kind-when-its-seen-as-a-weakness/>

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### EPISTLES OF SWAMI RAMDAS

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Beloved Ram,

...Sri Ram is infinite love. Jnana without Bhakti and Prem is tasteless. Jnana merely gives knowledge, whereas Prem sweetens life. Premanand is Purnanand, is the highest bliss (Love-bliss is complete bliss). That you are immortal is a self-evident truth. But Prem is the very perfume that comes out of a life of simplicity,

purity, self-sacrifice, humility, compassion and forgiveness. Oh! the joy of such a life! Love all. Love all. All, all is He, the Beloved One.

*Ramdas*

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### IMPORTANT DAYS - 2012

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Jan. 30	Mon.	Pujya Mataji's Mahasamadhi Day
Apr. 6	Fri.	Beloved Papa's Jayanti
Jul. 3	Tues.	Guru Purnima
Jul. 24	Tues.	Beloved Papa's Mahasamadhi Day
Oct. 12	Fri.	Pujya Swamiji's Mahasamadhi Day
Oct. 15	Mon.	Pujya Mataji's Jayanthi
Nov. 12	Mon.	Pujya Swamiji's Jayanthi
Dec. 27	Thur.	Beloved Papa's Sannyas Day

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### IN MEMORIAM

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Smt Uma Bhavanishanker Savanal, aged 83 years, was called by Beloved Papa on the 20th of November. She was the grand-daughter of Smt Laxmi Devi (Beloved Papa's Purvashram elder sister). She had been ailing for some time. May Beloved Papa bless the departed soul with eternal rest and peace at His lotus feet.

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**ANANDASHRAM NEWS**


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**15,500-CRORE NAMA JAPA YAGNA FOR WORLD PEACE:** The total Nama Japa for world peace done during the month of October 2011 is 198 crores. The grand total of the Japa done so far now stands at 800 crores.

**ANANDASHRAM SATSANG SAMITI, HANAMKONDA TO CELEBRATE ITS GOLDEN JUBILEE:** In the year 1962 Smt Puttalakshmi Amma, during her visit to the Ashram, requested Beloved Papa and Pujya Mataji to initiate 5 ladies of Hanamkonda through letters. Beloved Papa was reluctant. However, Pujya Mataji was moved by their ardent desire and requested Papa to acquiesce to their request and they were initiated through postcards.

Thereafter Smt Puttalakshmi Amma started regular satsangs in her house and thus started the saga of the Samiti...

Many others were also inspired and took mantra initiation. The Satsang group started growing. Later, Anandashram Satsang Samiti was formally set up and another devotee Smt Chandikamba donated her house for this purpose.

The Anandashram Satsang Samiti, Hanamkonda will be celebrating its Golden Jubilee from the 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> of January 2012. Pujya Swami Muktanandaji will be there for the programmes on the 17<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Devotees who would like to participate in the Celebrations may contact Sri C H Laxminarayana (Cell: 09908765323) and Sri A Bhoopalu (09441289708).

**PUJYA SWAMI MUKTANANAJI TO OBSERVE PARTIAL MOUNA:** Responding to the inner call, Pujya Swami Muktanandaji intends not to go out for any programs during the months of February, March and April 2012. He will be either in Ashram or at Wayanad during the said period and proposes to observe Mouna throughout the day except for 2½ hours from 3.30 pm to 6.00 pm.

*The great object of life is to crystallize all desires into the one supreme desire for the realization of God. In the fulfilment of this supreme desire all other desires will be automatically realized.*

*- Swami Ramdas*