

Guru's Love

*The Sadguru is Brahman Himself.
He is an ocean of bliss, knowledge and
mercy. He is the captain of your soul.
He is the fountain of joy. He removes
all your troubles, sorrows, and obsta-
cles. He shows you the right divine
path. He tears your veil of ignorance.
He makes you immortal and divine.
He transmutes your lower, diabolical
nature. He gives you the rope of knowl-
edge, and takes you up when you are
drowning in this ocean of samsara. Do
not consider him to be only a man.
Worship your Guru and bow to him
with reverence. —Swami Sivananda*



Swami Sitaramananda is a senior disciple of Swami Vishnu-devananda. During the summer of 2003 she engaged in intense sadhana at Swamiji's cave, the Sivananda Guha, Gangotri, high in the Himalayan peaks of North India. As her practice deepened she expressed some of her thoughts on life on the spiritual path in a series of poems. The collection, entitled *Darshan, A Vision of God*, was published earlier this year. The book of poems not only portrays the profound transformations on the path of yoga, but also offers keen insights into Swami Vishnu-devananda's training of his disciples. Below are extracts from the collection.

HIS EYES

His eyes looked at you
Fixed and quiet and fathomless.

His eyes looked through you
And revealed all that is imperfect.

His eyes looked for you
And showed you the path, the way.

His eyes looked upon you
Protecting you, giving you life force.

His eyes pierced, peeled, soothed and trans-
formed
Nowhere to hide but to stay quiet,
Accepting defeat, and at the same time to arise
To be who you are, with all glory and might.

My Guru's eyes are the bridge,
The silent enquirer,
The reformer, the disciplinarian,
The giver, and the shoreless ocean.

May I be forever lost in them.

I WILL BRING YOU ACROSS

My Guru became silent
And yet a silence
Of a thousand words.

He makes sure for you to know
That his love is infinite,
That you will never miss him
Because he is always there.

My last visit to him
Was where I saw him first.
He told me in silent words,
I'll bring you across.

Pointing to him, to me
And to the other shore,
He said I'll bring you across.

Thus he brought me across
The blue Caribbean ocean waters,
Samsara ocean, vasana waves.
Silent sailor Guru brought me safe.

I bow to him by the other shore
But already his look is no more, Showing me never to expect
Humanness where there's only holiness.

THE WORLD AS GURU

My Guru sits on me
And keeps me straight.

Who will sit on me
And keep me straight?

Don't worry. The world will sit on me
And keep me straight.

I just have to bow to it
As Guru's grace.

WHO ARE YOU?

I can bring you to the water
But I cannot drink it for you
I can help open your eyes
But I cannot see for you.

You have to realize yourself
Who is the real you
Who is acting, who is playing?
The body is, the mind is.

But immortal Self are you.

LOVE

Love is one
Love is two
Love is three
Love is many
Love is none

GURU'S ADVICE

My Guru was sweet
And wise

When I came to him asking for advice
To release me from my
Attachment to my unhappy job,
He said "Okay, quit it!"

I was happy and went away with
His confirmation of my half desire.
Then the other half struck back
And pleaded how useful I was
In this unhappy job.

I again came to my Guru for advice
To release me from my desire
For freedom from an unhappy job.
He said "Okay, keep it!"

I was happy and went away with
His blessings to keep my
Unhappy job.

Then the feeling of something more I
Could have done with my life
And growth struck me.
And again I came to my Guru for advice
To encourage me to let go of
The known and embrace
The unknown.

He said, "Okay, quit it!"
I was happy and went away with
His light and guidance.

Then I thought: He said yes, he said no,
Did he know what he was saying?
And again I came to my Guru for advice
To release me from my doubts
And know for sure what he was saying.
He said "Quit it or keep it. But
You cannot go back and forth
Like this."

So gently, so sweetly he said so.
I thought: Quit it or keep it. How
Can he make me choose if I
Came to him for advice?
Then I thought: I don't know what
To do, quit it or keep it,
But one thing I know is....
I don't know

I cease to come to my Guru for advice
And stop wanting to quit or keep.
The universe does it for me.
My unhappy job quit me.
All is what it should.
My Guru, my mirror, is playing
With me
Knowing all is what it should.

My sweet and wise Guru.