

# Swamiji's

On 21<sup>st</sup> February, at around 1.30 pm Swamiji attained Mahasamadhi\*.

Soon afterwards in the Ashram there was a sudden slight drizzle, then a very strong wind blowing blossoms and leaves from the trees, followed by a short shower of rain – all unusual for the time of year. According to ancient scriptures, precisely these phenomena are the signs of a great Soul's departure.

Swamiji's body arrived in the Ashram on 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 6.40 pm, dressed in his yellow sannyas robes. The atmosphere in the Ashram was emotional but very calm. Swamiji's body was welcomed in a serene and silent way. In the silence there was an *arati* and then repeated chanting of 'Hari Om' followed by 'Jai Prema Shanti!' – *May Divine Love and Peace be victorious!*



***“Highly evolved beings such as saints and sages have the ability to reach a great meditative state at the point of death of the body. They emit (...) tremendous divine energy at that time.”*** (Swami Premananda September 1998)



\* When a great Soul leaves their body, we don't say that they have 'died' but we use the words 'attained Samadhi'. Samadhi is the highest state of consciousness in which sages melt with the Divine. When they leave their body a tremendous energy is released and can be felt by the devotees. 'Samadhi' is also the location where great saints' bodies are placed and from where they go on giving powerful blessings to the world.

# Mahasamadhi

From 23<sup>rd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> February Swamiji's body was in the Puja Hall of the Ashram. Everyone could come and pay their respects to him and stay near him. Mantras and bhajans were sung around him 24 hours a day. It was a deep experience for everyone. Many devotees said their initial feelings of grief, sorrow and loss were simply washed away. Swamiji was there, they said, putting a salve of his tremendous divine love on the pain in their hearts and filling them with happiness, feelings of gratitude, divine blessings and grace.



*“Seeing a dead body and contemplating on death,” Swamiji taught in December 1998, “is an essential spiritual practice. Such meditation brings us to our senses about all that we hold dear in the world.”*

*“Death often is shocking. We need shocks sometimes to make us understand reality and to know what is of paramount importance on our spiritual paths.”*

## 28<sup>th</sup> - A Very Special Ceremony for Swamiji's Samadhi



Many devotees shared their experiences and dreams, in which Swamiji had shown them that he is very happy, blessing everyone, sometimes dancing for joy and saying, "I am not dead, they believe I am, but I am not...death is only related to the body."

*17 priests performed a yagam while chanting Vedic mantras and singing ancient songs of the saints of Tamil Nadu.*

On 28<sup>th</sup> February what was the envelope of our divine master was taken to the Shiva Shakti temple in the Ashram. A large bouquet of flowers was offered to him on behalf of the devotees around the world. A big yagam was performed while the preparatory ceremonies for the installation of the Shiva Lingam were carried out. Swamiji, seated on a sandalwood platform covered with sacred herbs and grasses, was placed inside the specially prepared Samadhi (two meters deep by two meters wide, right under the main shrine for Lord Shiva).



Garlanded with tulasi, bilva leaves and rudraksha malars, he was then lovingly showered with vibhuti, sandalwood powder, crystal salts and then earth, as the ancient sages. A stone slab was placed above. Swamiji's body was now consecrated to the earth in which many saints and sages have been buried since time immemorial. Swamiji once explained that it is due to their divine vibrations that India is a holy land.

Everybody was chanting 'Om Namah Shivaya' while the base of the Shiva Lingam was installed on the stone slab. Following special procedures the Lingam was positioned above it. A past made of rare herbs and other substances was packed around the base, sealing the two parts together.



The first abishekam was then performed to the Lingam by the priests. The teertams from the yagam were poured over the Lingam and a special arati with many flames was shown to the new Samadhi. It was a very moving and special ceremony.

In December Swamiji said that the Shiva lingam in this temple would be called '*Kurai Teerkum Shiva*', which means '*Shiva who solves all problems*'.





Swamiji often talked about his samadhi. He said that if we pray there our problems will be solved and our requests granted. He often said that *his spiritual powers will work there for the next 2,500 years.*

For 48 days, two abishekams daily are being performed to the Shiva Lingam of Swamiji's Samadhi. Swamiji always wanted his devotees to be able to

come very close to him. Now also, everyone is being given the great opportunity of performing the abishekam to his Samadhi.

### *Letters to Swamiji*

If you want, you can still write and send private letters to Swamiji. If we receive your letter here, we will place it on Swamiji's Samadhi. Afterwards, your letter will be offered to a monthly yagam.

If you want, you can also continue to send photos to be blessed. Please send them separately from any private letter. The photos will also be offered to the Samadhi and, if you mention your address, they will be returned to you afterwards.

## Mahashivaratri 2011

The devotees who were in the Ashram for Mahashivaratri were visibly very happy and full of joy, their faces radiant and smiling. During Mahashivaratri night wonderful devotional bhajans were sung by devotees from all over the world, making it easy to stay awake all night.



Arti, a young devotee from Puducherry performed a beautiful dance.



Behind the main Samadhi shrine in the temple, a special place was arranged where 'Om Namah Shivaya' was chanted for 24 hours. The first Mahashivaratri Lingams of all the years were displayed in that place, so that everyone could receive their darshan. There was even a holder prepared for a Lingam of 2011, but it was empty...



In the hearts of many devotees there was a secret longing for Swamiji to do something to show them that he is still there with them. And he fulfilled their wish! In the afternoon of 3<sup>rd</sup> March at around 4.30 pm suddenly the temple bells rang and everyone hurried to join the others in the temple. There, amidst the flowers offered to the Shiva Lingam a large pinkish colored Lingam had been found covered with kumkum!



Homage to Swamiji by Priya Voetsch, 11 years old, USA:

*When the dim lights from the sun  
Wash upon your face  
A soul, a beautiful and kind soul has left the world  
Not from our hearts and memories  
But from the physical world in front of us.  
He has helped many through a hard and difficult time  
Shown them the right path to go and follow  
until the end of their days  
Advice that could turn and mend a broken heart.  
He has left the world  
But not our memories.  
He has left the people around him  
But not our hearts,  
Which will become  
A eternal love  
For his good deeds  
And Him.*

