

Paramananda

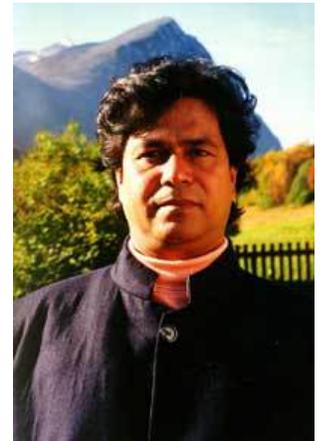
Swami Paramananda to remind Living Paramananda!

- By Bjørn Pettersen -

The person behind Paramananda Mission was a very special man.

Swami Paramananda made a deep impression on everyone he met both for who he was, what he said and what he did. The November 28, 1999 died Swami Paramananda. How do we say it in the West. In his own terminology he died, he left his body.

Mt. Tron entry was posted on finished articles of association and sponsorship Paramananda Mission, when suddenly there came a most unexpected and shocking announcement from India - Swami Paramananda had left his body! It happened soon after midnight, the night of Sunday, November 28, Indian time. A whole world of friends, supporters and admirers feel totally stunned. Immediately it feels unreal that we no longer see and experience Him through our physical senses - that we will no longer be infected by his wonderful smile and receive His unspeakable loving gaze - that we should no longer experience his great kindness, and the large harmony and joy it was to be with him that way. It is a brutal reminder that everything physical is transitory in this world, and that it is important to remember him in our hearts and to live out the ideals and truths he showed us.



*Caption: Swami Paramananda photographed in Lyngseidet in northern Norway, about 1995.
Photographer: Harald Harnang.*

Unikum

Swami Paramananda was a unique specimen of a human. To describe him with words seems almost hopeless. He has meant and means so very much for a huge number of people - tens of thousands - all of which have met him and had a personal relationship with him during his short but very intense life. To him, they have been used to come with their problems, large or small, to reveal their innermost confidences, to seek comfort or counsel, and to be initiated into life's inner mysteries. Or perhaps simply to experience the joy and fun. Paramananda had everything and gave everything. With its spontaneous naturalness, simple living, incredible kindness, sacrificing attitude and infinite wisdom, he won our hearts.

Understood

We felt that he understood us better than we understand ourselves, and therefore he got our full confidence. He has never disappointed or betrayed us. When we were kids, we needed love, safety, protection and care of our parents. After we become adults and can think and decide it yourselves, we still find that we are still mentally immature and has many of the same fundamental needs, in addition to that we want answers to our deepest questions. For sincere seekers is therefore only natural to give his confidence a person who shows that the maturity and experience far beyond what they themselves have, unless you first are so lucky to meet such a

completely human.

Impressions

I hit Paramananda first time at the train station in Burdwan in Bengal, one June day in 1983, while he was on one of his usual trips in Bengal and made a togbytte with a couple hour stay here. He made an indelible impression from the start. Our eyes met as he smiled his inimitable winning smile, while he pronounced my name perfectly Norwegian that no other earnest. How we sat quietly and smiled at each other for a long time, and I felt like I had hit a heartfelt good friend and we had always known each other. Just a few days earlier, I came from a whole month stay at a "typical" guru in northern India. He had a spectacular appearance that he was very aware of and "typical" in the sense that he kept a certain distance from all others, with themselves aloft. He was extremely dominant and manipulative, and held a tough discipline.

From night to day

To come from him directly to Paramananda was like going from night to day without twilight. The difference was almost complete. At the time I knew also of some Indian gurus who had come to the West and given the ancient noble tradition a bad name. They lived a life that emperors with their many minions in the greatest luxury, and with titles such as "His Holiness" etc. Widely famous despite the fact that they did not like children and could not stand the poor people. But I stared into the eyes of something that intuitively and without a hint of doubt, felt genuine and real. All year later taught me that I was wrong then.

Natural

Swami Paramananda has always been graciousness itself. So simple and straightforward, and so liberating naturally in all situations and contexts. Always ready to give herself completely if someone was in distress and needed him. He was extremely dynamic with a powerful energy that apparently inexhaustible. All of the highest spiritual ideals, noble religious motifs and abstract philosophical thought, was done completely practical in his life. He showed us by his own example that these noble ideals of highest degree is alive and achievable, and not just beautiful words we read or remove qualities we strive for. Despite the fact that he had only four years of schooling and never read the books, he was an ocean of wisdom that could keep exhaustive presentation on virtually any topic.

Loved children

He loved children, was always on the weak side, and was absolutely amazing liberal and understanding of every aspect of the human condition. Nothing was too bad or sinful. He used to say that the only sin was to think about sin. And he never set himself above others. He always told them clearly that the highest spiritual goal is inherent in all of us and that anyone can realize it only sincerity is large enough and the intensity of our quest is strong enough. His advice and guidance was always tailored just for you, according to your nature and your inclinations, and they were always aimed to liberate, not to make you dependent on him or anything. One time he said "I have sold myself on the market of life", and indeed we found that he could never say no to anyone who needed him. The total sacrifice was Swami Paramananda life in a nutshell.

Target

Already in 1983 he told us that his body lifecycle in this life would not be more than 47 years, so we who knew him well knew that the time was approaching. Such a man Paramananda never dies, they just leave his body - conscious. Thus, apart from the purely physical, all as before. Living Paramananda!

More info about Paramananda Mision: See <http://www.paramanandamissionindia.org/index.html>

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