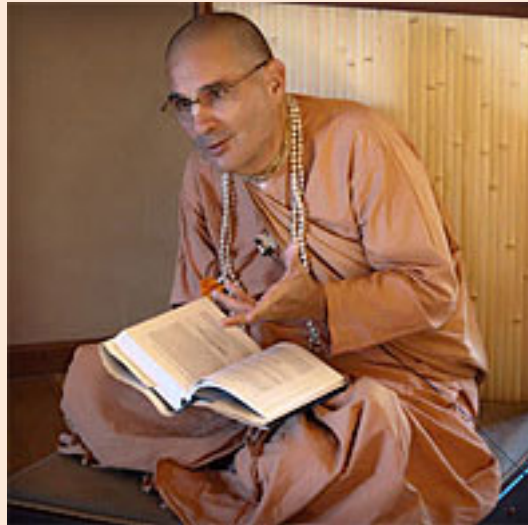


Swami Tripurari

It is difficult to find someone from the West that both understands and can elegantly express the theory behind an Eastern mystical tradition. It is even more difficult to find a modern mystic. In Swami Tripurari we have both: a traditional mystic who can articulate the teachings of an ancient spiritual tradition. A compelling speaker, to hear him and be in his presence is itself a spiritual experience.



I met my Guru, Swami Tripurari, in 1987. The year my father passed away from cancer. There is nothing that will bring on the urgency of questioning our own mortality quite like watching someone you love dearly die. I had been searching for years for those difficult questions; Who am I? Who is God? And Why am I here? This had taken me from Christianity to Buddhism and still I was not satisfied with the answers to my questions. Only after my fathers passing did I meet a true spiritual master. He could answer all my questions and was kind, gentle and soft spoken. He was not driven by ego and always had a wonderful smile to lift one up from the depths.

I recently returned, with my Godsister Vrindavan, from a week spent at his ashram in Northern California and have to say after 25 years of knowing him, he only gets better with age. We awoke early in the morning to greet God and His creation. Inspired and uplifted we would chant mantra and await Swami for his morning class. I have to say that he spoke of love, true love that we taste so rarely, but when we do, nothing will satiate our appetites for this love again. Swami met his initiating guru, Srila A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, in the spring of 1972. Swami relates that he felt as though he had met a long-lost friend, as Srila Prabhupada blessed him with his all-knowing glance. Over the years of service that followed, Srila Prabhupada showered Swami with affection and repeatedly expressed his appreciation for Swami's selfless service and ability to inspire others. In 1974 Srila Prabhupada instructed him in a widely circulated letter, "So you organize freely. You are the incarnation of book distribution. Take the leadership and do the needful." Accordingly, Swami has set an example of one who is independently thoughtful and capable of making an insightful literary contribution to the world.

Today Swami lives at his monastery, Audarya, in northern California and travels throughout the world sharing his spiritual realization. He is the author of a dozen books and a columnist for Beliefnet.com. He also publishes answers to the numerous questions he receives over the Internet in his Sanga email newsletter. Swami's recorded discourses exceed four hundred in number and they are available in CD and MP3 formats.

Dynamic in its scope, bold, and uncompromising, his outreach is grounded in deep realization that has the power to turn wayward hearts homeward. In spite of his lofty realizations, Swami is readily accessible and unassuming. Wearing in his own words a "small halo," the extent of his inner life is perhaps experienced more by his affection for others than anything else.

Should any of you out there wish to join me on my next visit, let me know!

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