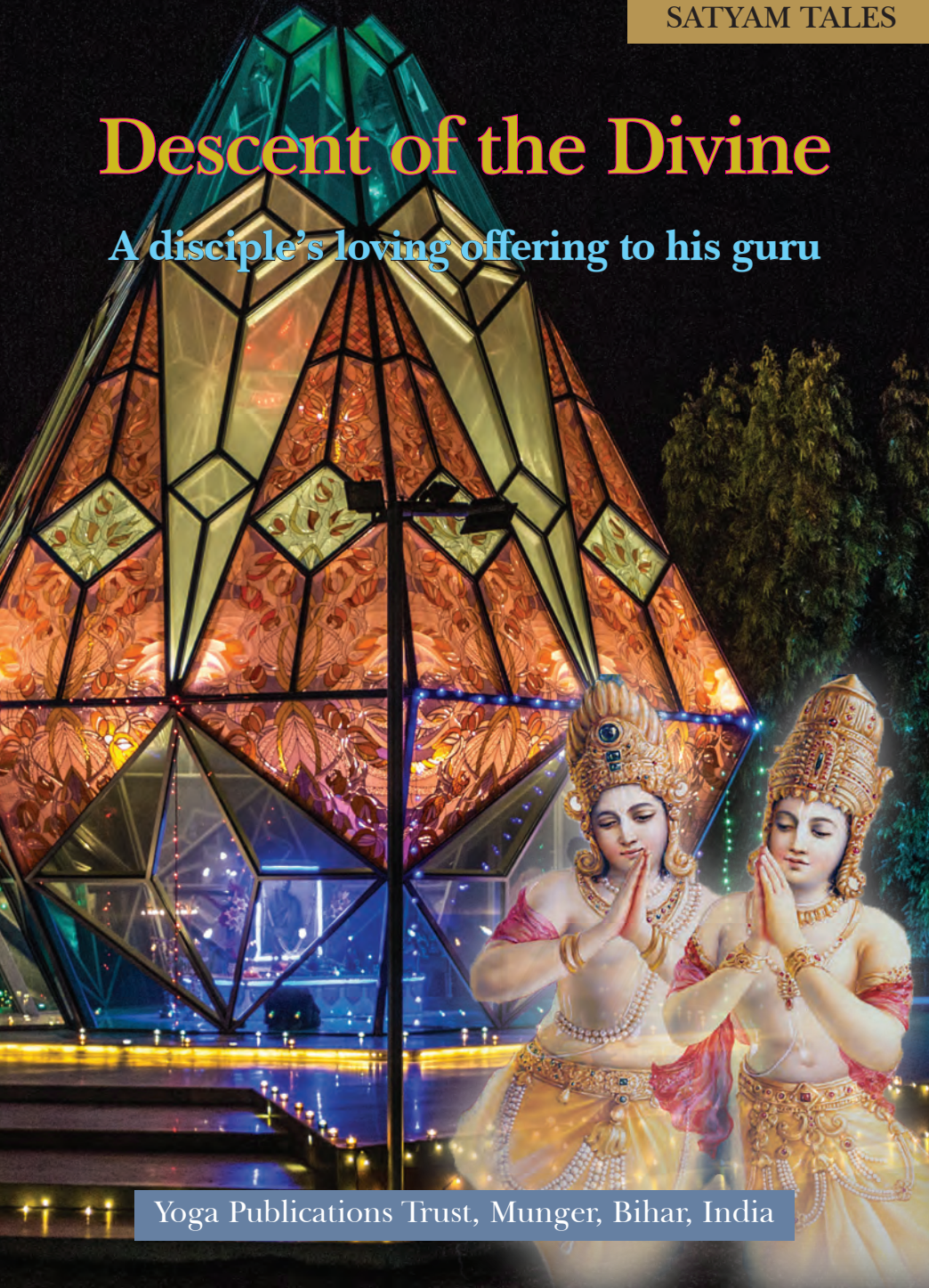


SATYAM TALES

Descent of the Divine

A disciple's loving offering to his guru



Yoga Publications Trust, Munger, Bihar, India



Satyam Tales

Commenced on the occasion of World Yoga Convention & BSY Golden Jubilee, 2013

Descent of the Divine is the thirtieth in the series of *Satyam Tales* depicting the life and teachings of our guru, Sri Swami Satyananda Saraswati. Through the medium of these simple narratives, we hear the voice of Sri Swamiji inspiring all, irrespective of age.

Hammer and Tongs, two young apprentices to the Chief Celestial Architect, Sri Vishwakarma, stumble upon a grand sacred architecture being designed upon Planet Earth. Their master's instruction to wait patiently till the monument materializes proves a blessing, for when they finally witness the consecration of that magnificent memorial, it leaves them and many others totally spellbound and filled with the most sublime sentiments of a most dedicated disciple.

This story is a delightful read for children, adults and old alike. It is an invaluable message for those engaged in the world and for those seeking the spirit. This journey is your journey, these challenges are your challenges, and this victory is your victory. It is a story that will touch your heart, give you joy, hope, conviction and, above all, faith. Perhaps you may experience a glimpse of Sri Swamiji's presence the next time you visit Chhaya Samadhi . . .

— Editor

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Please note:

- This collection of *Satyam Tales* is dedicated to our masters, Sri Swami Sivananda Saraswati and Sri Swami Satyananda Saraswati, and is the vehicle to bring their spiritual and yogic teachings in an understandable and applicable form into the lives of individuals throughout the world.
- *Satyam Tales* will be exclusively published by Yoga Publications Trust to ensure the accuracy and correctness of the teachings and the context in which they are being presented.
- *Satyam Tales* is a loving offering to all the children and the future generations of the world to remind them of their true nature and inspire them to explore and enhance their own potential.
- We invite all aspirants to share these tales with your group and if you have some tales of your own, we request you to contribute as well. You can also publish these tales in your own language, fulfilling the conditions of YPT, for which you may contact:

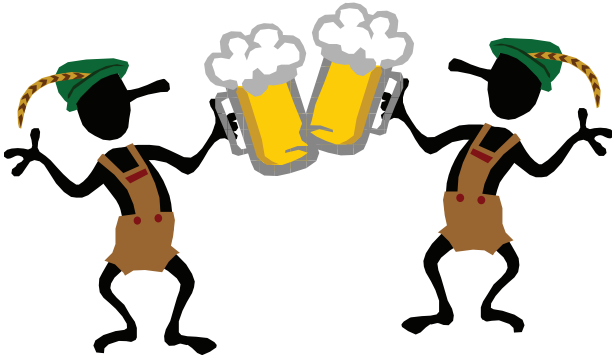
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Descent of the Divine

Somewhere far, far away, above and beyond the outer realms of the Universe at The Celestial Crafts Café, two junior apprentices, Vishwa aka Hammer and Karma aka Tongs, are huddled over their chilled alpha-beta-delta plasma frappes. Both of them can barely contain their excitement about the latest nugget they have gleaned from the astro-grapevine. Hushed whispers were heard amidst the buzzing and brrrring of machinery that reverberated within their cutting-edge department of the Vishwakarma Divine Design Studio. As they slowly put the fragments of sound bites together, a deliciously tantalizing morsel of ‘breaking news’ emerged.

Their maestro, the head of the Divine Artisans and Architects Guild, Sri Vishwakarma, had picked up hints of an ethereal design taking shape in the heart-mind of someone out there in space. Sri Vishwakarma was the celestial architect



and patron deity of all arts and crafts since time immemorial and he had developed a finely-honed instrument over the ages, able to pick up information about any extraordinary creative activity from the time of its very conceptualization. When the dials on his receiving set began humming and dancing like they had not done in a long time, his antenna extended itself to scan the universe and locate its source.

The search led him to Planet Earth and into the pure heart-mind of a perfect disciple who was planning a memorial to his beloved guru – the disciple was Swami Niranjanananda and Swami Satyananda his beloved guru.



storied building. Though the ‘conversation’ was not a spoken one, he felt a little guilty about breaking the *mouna* or silence practised here from 6 am to 6 pm but after all it was his dear cousin Tongs on the waves and they had not tuned in for ages, so . . .

“Yeah, everything is great here. Look, I need your help to earn me a few brownie points at the Divine Design Studio.”

“No problem, Tongs. Shoot! I mean, ask away.” It’s funny how D2 had become so aware of even casually spoken words – spending time in Ganga Darshan was re-wiring his system in many ways!

“So, it’s like this. We have reason to believe that there is something afoot in Ganga Darshan. Have you picked up on any unusual creative stuff? I mean, like design and structurewise. Get my drift, D2?”

“Oh well, there’s always unusual creative stuff happening around here and it’s not just limited to structures of the visible kind. Ha! Now that you ask, there is something going on along one side of the building I live in. I’ve noticed a lot of activity in one corner of the lawn where there used to be a tall pillar of sorts. Give me a few days and I’ll be back on



the waves when I have something to report,” said D2 as he prepared to sign off.

“Thanks a megaton! Will wait to hear more from you. Happy hunting!” Tongs was thrilled that the call had proved fruitful. He knew D2 loved mysteries and treasure hunts – this looked like a really promising one!!

A few days later . . .

There is buzzing on the interstellar waves, it’s D2 calling Tongs. “Whoa! That was quick, cuz. Spill the beans!” exclaimed Tongs.

“Hi Tongs! Ready for red-hot news, are you? I snooped around and heard some very strange speculations. Someone said it was a launching pad for a rocket to the moon, another one thought it was a listening station for intergalactic activity, yet another was convinced that a thermo-solar super powerstation was being built, I mean, they are seriously creative folks down here! And then I happened to overhear Swami Niranjan answering a question about what was coming up behind those green screens. He said that it was an ‘open secret’ – it was right there out in the open in front of everyone’s eyes but only he knows the truth! Even the people working on the site were only being told what to do one step at a time. They had no idea what they were working towards,” D2 chuckled away.

“Oy, no fair! You promised, cuz!” Tongs was feeling quite crushed.

“Look, tell you what, I’ll beam you some images from around Ganga Darshan. It’s truly fascinating and will give you a glimpse into the creations of the heart-minds of Swami Niranjan and Swami Satyananda too. That should give you something to mull over.” D2 flew up above and around the entire campus after activating his infra-ultra camera lens which immediately transmitted a series of images to Tongs’ inner-eye screen.

A most unusual-looking seven-storied building at the crest of a hill; immaculately laid out gardens with perfectly



trimmed trees; beautiful beds of colourful flowers; clean bright white buildings with orange-brown detailing; a huge green-covered shelter next to an equally large enclosed space that could be a kitchen . . . what fascinated Tongs the most was a maze-like place with stone-paved pathways set amidst tall teak trees and flowerbeds with many installations, like a theme park. There was a very beautiful fan-like formation at one end of it and when Tongs zoomed in, it took his breath away. It was an amphitheatre of the most wonderful





proportion and design with three exquisite panels behind a raised inlaid-mosaic platform which looked like the ‘stage’! There were portraits of two arresting figures which radiated immense power and magnetism flanking an intricate stained glass swan at the centre of a swirling floral circle.

Hammer simply had to see these images and Tongs set off in search for him. Hammer was in the architectural library. When he noticed Tongs, he grinned and waved him over. “Guess what I have been doing, buddy? It’s to do with our ‘investigation’!”

“Why don’t we go and sit somewhere quiet? I’ve something to show you too.” The two celestial sleuths found themselves an empty cubicle in the library and quickly shut the door.

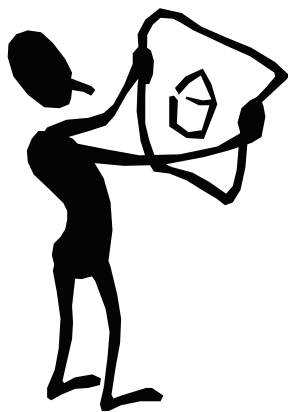
“Okay, you go first!” said Hammer to Tongs. As the pictures were transferred from Tongs’ inner-eye screen to Hammer’s hand-held monitor, he was speechless with excitement! This was the very place that Hammer had been researching among the microfilms and when he saw the two portraits in the amphitheatre, he jumped up in jubilation. They were the same people he had just read about – Swami Sivananda and Swami Satyananda.

“Wow! Isn’t this just amazing? I recognized them immediately even though I had no idea what they looked

like. Maybe I should tell you what I have found out about Ganga Darshan.”

Tongs was quite mystified and couldn't wait to hear Hammer's story.

“Ok, here goes. The hill on which Ganga Darshan stands is a very special place. It is the last hill of the Vindhya range. Geographically, it sits on a seismic fault line and not only does the most sacred river in India, the Ganges, flow around it, the river does a loop and flows back in the northerly direction from where it descended before turning around and heading south again. It is a very auspicious occurrence and endows the land with special power. Over 5,000 years ago, it used to be the seat of a king renowned for his generosity. In fact, the place from where he distributed gold among his people is exactly where a very important hall is now located. It houses an eternal flame which was lit



more than fifty years ago.”

Hammer's enthusiasm was contagious and Tongs' eyes lit up listening about all this.

“What's with the eternal flame? Just hearing all this makes me tingle, tell me more!”

“Well, then please stop interrupting and listen! The flame was lit when Swami Satyananda founded the institution called ‘Bihar School of Yoga’ which he dedicated to his guru, Swami Sivananda. It's no

coincidence that his Guru's ashram was in Rishikesh, way upstream along the very same holy river. Swami Satyananda launched the mission to fulfill the mandate he had received from Swami Sivananda to 'spread yoga from door to door and shore to shore' from here and on the day it was founded, the flame was lit and consecrated to the goddess of learning and wisdom, Saraswati."

"Anyway, to cut to the chase, what interested me was the reference to that seven storied building I mentioned at the very beginning of our search."

"When I dug deeper, I discovered that this building had been constructed way back in the 80s. Architects, contractors and even the suppliers of building materials were confounded by Swami Satyananda's seemingly stupefying specifications at the time. The proof of his incredible foresight and depth of knowledge came only after he had left Ganga Darshan when an earthquake struck. Not a single window so much as cracked though much smaller structures in and around that town were collapsing like nine pins!"

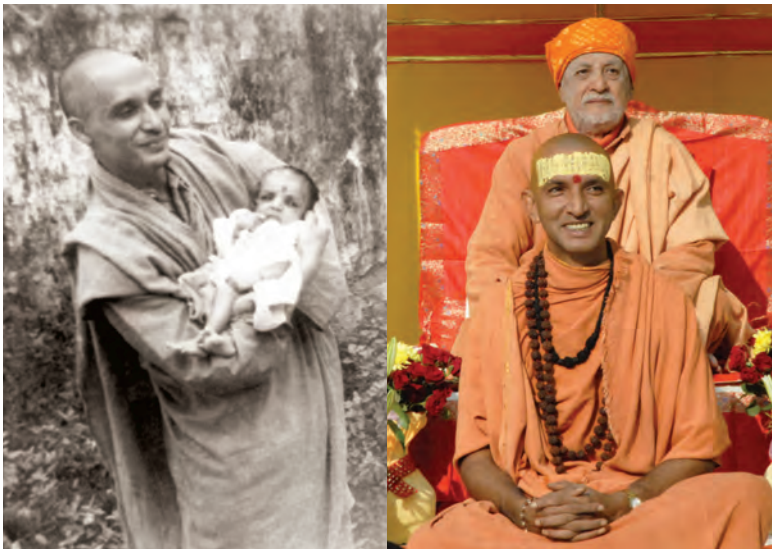
"That's truly incredible!" exclaimed Tongs. "And to think that D2 is living there right now!"



Hearing D2's name, Hammer asked if there had been any breakthrough in what might be brewing there. Tongs told Hammer what D2 had said. "Ha, ha! 'Open secret', I like this Swami Niranjan already. He sounds really cool!" Hammer chuckled.

Both of them looked carefully at the images of Ganga Darshan that D2 had sent. It was something special for sure. Such perfection was not seen at many places on Planet Earth.

This fired their curiosity about Swami Satyananda and Swami Niranjan and very soon Hammer and Tongs became aware that they had come upon a truly rare relationship between a guru and disciple. Trawling through a fund of data they found on 'Dingle' (the divine search engine accessible to celestials which is way ahead of a similar sounding one used by earthlings), the sleuths got a pretty comprehensive picture about this special guru and disciple and what they meant to each other. Right from before the time of Swami Niranjan's birth and leading up to the most extraordinary manner in which Swami Satyananda chose to leave his mortal frame, they followed the incredible journey that these two special



souls had embarked upon. Continuing to be in close communion till today, the bond they shared was something that really amazed Hammer and Tongs. Everything seemed inexorably linked to the design that had been born in Swami Nirranjan's heart-mind . . .

They were sure that they were on the right track and decided to call D2 as soon as possible. Synchronicity was spot on and just as Tongs was beginning to tune in, the waves danced about madly and sure enough, it was D2!

"Hi, Tongs. It's me again. So here is my plan – how about I set up a secret spotting station on top of the seven storied building? The camera lens will point right where the action is and pick up pictures of whatever is going on behind those green screens. Never mind that it's a secret, at least it's in the open!' D2 was looking forward to this spy-game very much and hoped his cousin would agree to the plan.

"Brilliant idea, D2! By the way, this is Hammer here. Good to 'hear your voice' after so long! Tongs and I have been all agog after finding out about Ganga Darshan, Swami Satyananda and Swami Nirranjan. It will be great to follow this 'open secret'. Go for it!"

"Hurray and then some! I'll get onto it right away and set it up, bye!" and he hurriedly signed off.

Hammer and Tongs gave each other a high five and agreed that a little patience would not be amiss at this point. Secure in the knowledge that D2 was well into the scheme of things, they decided to lie low for a while. As they were heading back to their department, an urgent summons from their maestro, Sri Vishwakarma, was delivered to them: "Report to my office at once!" It was enough to have them quaking in their shoes.



“Vishwa and Karma are here!” announced the secretary as the two of them made their trembling terrified way into the office. Bowing low, they waited for the axe to fall. After waiting in silent suspense for a few seconds, they mustered up a little courage and dared to look up.

Sri Vishwakarma’s eyes were twinkling with suppressed laughter which finally burst out! As the sound of his mirthful laugh rang all around them, Hammer and Tongs couldn’t help but join in, ‘Whew, what a relief!’

“Stop imitating me, silly monkeys!” Sri Vishwakarma roared at them. “Do you have the least idea what it is that I was laughing about?” In an instant their laughing stopped and turned into a stammer, ”Nnnnno, nnoooo, sssoooo sssorryyyy . . .” They were in a total quandary now.

“You both can stop stammering like stuck drilling machines and listen to me very carefully. Do you think I am unaware of what you two have been up to? Your amateur sleuthing is quite amusing and though I am impressed by your perseverance in pursuing this project, I order you to stop all communication with D2 at once. A similar message

has been sent to him in Ganga Darshan as well. We are artists here, not snoops!

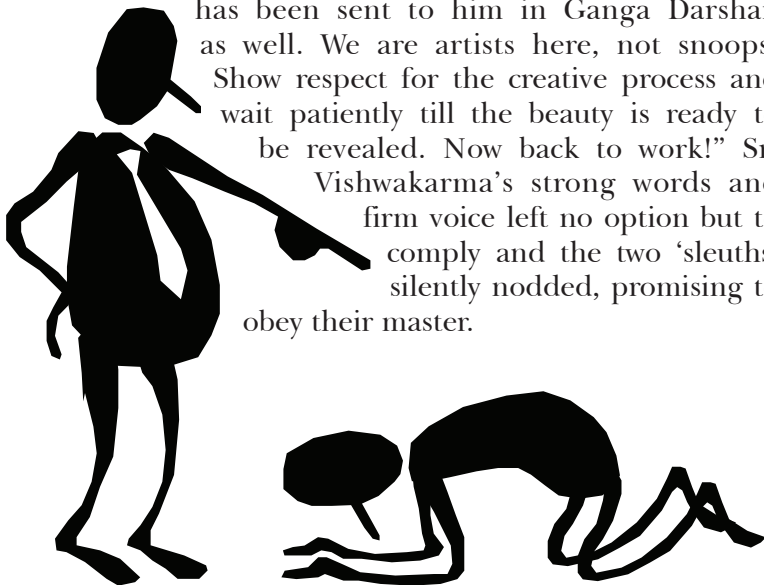
Show respect for the creative process and wait patiently till the beauty is ready to be revealed. Now back to work!” Sri

Vishwakarma’s strong words and firm voice left no option but to

comply and the two ‘sleuths’

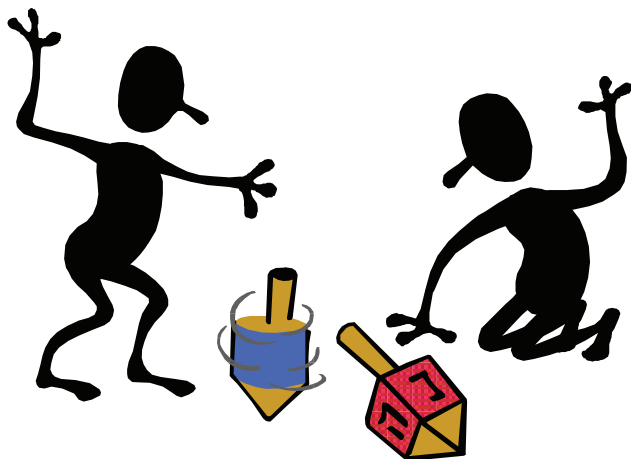
silently nodded, promising to

obey their master.



As they made their way out of the office with folded hands and lowered eyes, Sri Vishwakarma said, “If you obey me and do not give in to the temptation to poke and pry, I assure you that it will bear you rich dividends.” The prospect of a surprise benefit certainly went a long way in sealing their commitment and both promised to adhere to the order.

Many months later . . .



With the memory of their maiden venture into the world of espionage fading into the background, Hammer and Tongs got busy with their work. They displayed exemplary obedience to their master’s order and proved to be diligent apprentices, learning the ropes in all the different departments at the Divine Design Studio. Once in a while Tongs would think of D2, but then he remembered his promise and quickly turned his thoughts away.

One evening everyone at the Divine Design Studio received an invitation from Sri Vishwakarma to Cinema Paradiso, a superlarge surround screen 7-D theatre dome. Speculation was rife since the film to be screened was not disclosed in the invitation. It just said – “*BE THERE!*” with a post script – “*Latecomers will not be admitted.*”

Exactly at the designated hour, the doors opened and the crowd of celestials milling around the foyer quickly filled the theatre. You could cut the air with a knife! Expectations were running high as was the eagerness of the entire audience gathered there. Everyone loves a surprise, especially when it comes from Sri Vishwakarma himself.

As the lights dimmed and the wraparound screen slowly became visible, Sri Vishwakarma took to the stage. He let the suspense build up a little before announcing in his booming voice, "We are going to witness something that has been awaited for a long time. This is no ordinary film about adventures in time and space but a live telecast being beamed to us from Planet Earth. It will take us right into the midst of a very special ceremony in a very special place for the consecration of what will probably be one of the stellar creations of sacred architecture. Over to Planet Earth!"

The entire audience was perched on the edge of their seats, most of all the two ex-sleuths, Hammer and Tongs whose patience and obedience was serving up a surprise beyond their wildest imagination. Perhaps they were the only people in the theatre that evening, apart from Sri Vishwakarma of course, who knew where the celestial telecast was going to be from. It was nowhere else but Ganga Darshan!

As the sonorous sounds of '*Om*' chanting filled the surround-sound-equipped theatre, the screen was flooded with an aerial view of unbelievable beauty. A river made its languid way around a hill on the very top of which was a seven-storied building. As the setting sun bathed the environs in a golden red glow, the camera slowly zoomed down to the corner of a huge lawn that ran along the right side of the building. An ethereal structure rested on a white marble platform with tall green trees forming a beautiful border all around the lawn. It looked like a seven-sided diamond enfolded within petals of a pink lotus with a rich blue sky-waterscape tapering into a golden tip. The mind boggled at the perfect balance of these elements blending

together to create this formidable structure of immense proportions – a towering frame of steel and glass yet of such delicacy it seemed to be floating just a little off the ground!





As the camera zoomed inside the marvellous monument, it revealed a few people standing around a raised structure, also in white marble that was rimmed with a magical blue light. Two of them, dressed in geru robes, were performing what looked like a sacred ceremony while priests chanted verses that resonated with a powerful energy. Flowers were offered and incense waved around a pair of sandals resting on a pedestal in front of the picture which was radiating such joy and peace, it filled everyone's heart with a strange lightness. Rows of lamps were lit on either side of this picture.

Sri Vishwakarma's voice came over the speakers to introduce the two people performing the ceremony as 'Swami Niranjan of Yogapeeth, Munger, and Swami Satsangi of Rikhiapeeth, the disciples of Swami Satyananda.' It was Swami Satyananda who was smiling in the picture with such magnetic delight, one could not help being filled with optimism, hope and joy. As the ceremony drew to a close, the structure began to emanate waves of strong energy, pulsating and glowing stronger and brighter and it was not

merely the effect of beautiful lights. Riveted by what they were witnessing, the audience was spellbound.

The ceremony inside drew to a close, and it was followed by more chanting led by some people seated around the platform and was joined in by many many more people who sat around the whole area. Wonder and amazement was reflected on the faces of all the people gathered there and when Swami Niranjan started to speak, there was pindrop silence. They were waiting with bated breath for him to reveal the story behind this incredible creation.

“What you see here is the Chhaya Samadhi dedicated to our gurudev, Sri Swami Satyananda. This Chhaya Samadhi is a reflection of Sri Swamiji’s Samadhi which is in Rikhiapeeth. He took mahasamadhi in Rikhiapeeth on December 5, 2009 and on December 6 he was given bhusamadhi there when he was placed in the lap of Mother Earth.”





An image of another beautiful place that radiated similar power and beauty flashed in a window on the screen – cool white marble stretched out in all directions and in the centre of it stood a rectangular platform ringed with the same blue light of the Chhaya Samadhi. It had the same kind of energy emerging from it. Above the platform was a picture of Swami Satyananda, for this was his mortal resting place . . .

Swami Niranjan's voice was soft yet strong and full of deep emotions. "The day he took yoga samadhi, he became one with the universal consciousness and energy. I had the good fortune of meeting a great mahatma during my teerth yatra and when he heard that Sri Swamiji had dropped the mortal coil, he said, 'In this age, no other sannyasin has been able to live all dharmas and fulfil all karmas in the manner that Swami Satyananda did. He is the only sannyasin of such calibre who has lived in the present times.' These were the words of spontaneous praise from a great saint himself."

"And it is true because we have seen it in his life – his hard work, his faith, his knowledge, his sacrifice, his surrender, his simplicity, his straightforwardness, his love, his gentleness, the list is endless! Because what

can I really say about my guru? With what words can I express my feelings about the one because of whom my entire life has meaning and purpose?”

Glancing back at the glowing diamond-lotus, he continued, “This image, this design, this idea and creation that you see is 108% a product of my mind and it represents my thoughts and feelings about my guru. It is not an architect’s design. No way! In this ashram no architect has done any design. Not even this seven-storied building. If you see the architect’s design and the building which was finally built, they are two different designs altogether because Sri Swamiji changed everything. In the same manner, everything here is an input of a sannyasin’s brain, not an architect’s idea because behind everything you see here, there is a purpose, an intention and an interpretation.”

Swami Nirranjan then revealed the symbology behind the design. “The form that you see before you is that of a diamond within a lotus. What is the quality of a diamond? It is





transparent and flawless, reflecting the light that falls on it, enhancing and transforming it into many colours to radiate them all around. The white light which falls on a diamond becomes more beautiful, attractive, inviting and inspiring, and you see the hidden beauty of the light – and that was my guru! The nature, character and personality of my guru is like a diamond. He showed us the beauty in everything. Every day we discovered something new about his

aspirations for other people and what he wanted done for future generations. All the wisdom he had was just radiating in different hues like those of a prism in all directions. He surrendered to his guru and submitted to his will which transformed the coal into a diamond! He became the pure diamond, the crest jewel of his guru's crown."

"And what is the quality of a lotus? It is the symbol of pure awakened consciousness, within which a divine power, a force descends in whichever form one is able to perceive and experience it. This place is dedicated to the fullness and completeness of Sri Swamiji which is reflected in the form of a lotus in full bloom whose beauty spreads far and wide, which spends its life in water and mire yet remains totally unaffected by it. This is exactly how our guru lived. His dedication, devotion, sincerity, seriousness and commitment to what he felt was right and had dedicated his life, elevated him from an ordinary human being to the state of siddha. He gained mastery over the elements which was seen in his mahasamadhi when he consciously and willfully left his body

with a promise that he will return. And he will definitely keep the promise and return!”

Everyone witnessing the power that had filled the Samadhi had no doubt about it either!

“All we can do is to keep the flame alive which he had lit. His presence here in the Chhaya Samadhi will be a source of inspiration in the years to come and guide the future aspirations of sannyasins and spiritual seekers. And when he comes again, we pray that he gives us another opportunity to serve him and the luminosity which he brings with him. With this prayer we dedicate this Chhaya Samadhi to Sri Swamiji who is the diamond of my heart and star of your eyes.”

“The genesis of this samadhi came from Sri Swamiji himself. One night both Swami Satsangi and I had a similar dream where one word was heard – Chhaya Samadhi – and we shared the dream the next day. This was like a message from Sri Swamiji himself – ‘Create a Chhaya Samadhi, a reflection of the Samadhi in Rikhia, where I can also become present!’ He had once said to me, ‘If I come to Munger again, it will not be in this physical body, not as a guru, it will be in a different form.’ So when the thought and the inspiration of the Chhaya Samadhi came, it was instinctively known that through this medium he will always be present in Munger.” Every act of a true disciple is guided by his guru and yet again, Swami Niranjan showed this to be a living reality!

“This memorial, this Chhaya Samadhi is also a relationship, a bridge between Munger and Rikhia, Sri Swamiji’s karmabhoomi and tapobhoomi. In Munger he followed and fulfilled the mandate of his guru of yoga propagation, living the life of a perfect disciple. After completing his mission here, he established himself in Rikhiapeth, his tapobhoomi, where he undertook rigorous spiritual sadhanas and attained the heights of spiritual attainments. His physical body was placed in the lap of Mother Earth in Rikhia and that is where his embodied form is enshrined in the Samadhi Sthal. Here in Ganga Darshan it is his dedication, devotion and surrender to his guru that is

enshrined. In both places the light of his karma and tapasya shines in the Samadhi. In Rikhia it is in the open, under the infinite stars which Sri Swamiji wanted. And here as well the crystals create an ambience of infinite stars, galaxies and suns. The light, energy and guru tattwa that is enshrined within it will guide the direction of our paths. And I pray that we will have the opportunity to serve this guru tattwa again.”

The stirring depth of emotions mirrored in his magical voice touched everyone to their very core and the spell being woven was so intense, no one realized that dusk was beginning to descend. It became clear when Swami Niranjan announced the next program.

“Now we commence the abhishek at *godhuli bela*, the time of dusk, which was the time that we gave bhusamadhi to our guru in Rikhiapeeth.” This was not a mere coincidence and deepened the awareness that this was a most auspicious occasion ordained by the Divine!

As the sky turned into a deep azure matching the shade of blue at the top and lower portions of the Chhaya Samadhi, two altars were set up where a Shivalingam and a Sri Yantra representing the two eternal forces present throughout creation – Consciousness and Energy,



Purusha and Prakriti, Shiva and Shakti – were invoked and worshipped by the priests. The energy generated by this worship intensified the power that had already begun to emanate from within the diamond-lotus Chhaya Samadhi and the spectators bathed in its all-pervasive glow.

After the ceremony Swami Niranjan asked Swami Satsangi to say a few words whereupon she said, “I am totally speechless! There are no words left. In the 80s when we lived here with Gurudev, we never imagined that such a day would come and we would be present here. This moment is a historic one, for me it certainly is. It will go down in history as the moment when a disciple created a wonder of the world and offered it to his guru with faith and devotion. This is the pure devotion of a disciple you see here.”

Her eyes misted over and she continued after a tiny pause, “You know, sitting here made me feel poetic, it brought out devotion in me. Drifting memories, beauty, poetry, it brings out tender emotions. What is a monument after all? It is a creation in time and evokes a certain sentiment in the people who behold it. Such pure sentiment! The purity, the devotion, the love, the perfection comes out as soon as you behold this and that is the importance of this monument.”



Swami Satsangi went on to say, “It is a very important moment to have this Chhaya Samadhi at this time. It is important, apart from sankalpa, to have continuity. If there is no continuity, the sankalpa will just die and cannot be fulfilled. And this monument is also a symbol of continuity because as time passes, this monument will act as a very deep and profound reminder of the person who brought all this about. I am really very happy and very, very privileged to be part of this moment. Thank you, Namō Narayana!”

The tears of joy glistening in the eyes of everyone seated around the Chhaya Samadhi mirrored the eyes of the spectators at Cinema Paradiso. Such was the universally experienced magic and strength of that moment! Every single person present at Cinema Paradiso felt hugely privileged, not just for the stupendous creation that the Chhaya Samadhi was, but also for the spiritual depth in Swami Niranjana’s and Swami Satsangi’s inspiring words.

Swami Satsangi requested Swami Niranjana to reveal the special secret about the Chhaya Samadhi and at once everyone was all ears as he spoke. “The most important feature of this Chhaya Samadhi is that inside there is a time capsule which contains all the books that have been written till date by Sri Swamiji and other members of Bihar School of Yoga. It also contains a section of Swamiji’s personal memorabilia – watch, bag, cup, mala, everything. Everything that relates to Sri Swamiji’s life and his work in Munger, in Rikhia, his life story, his items, his publications are kept in the time capsule with instructions that they be opened when we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Sri Swamiji’s mission. Treasures that were accumulated in the first fifty years will be seen by everyone and that will be an inspiration for the future generations – to receive directly the items used by him and dedicated to him and created by him. If I am alive to see it, it will be the most memorable moment of my life!”

The entire audience, in Ganga Darshan as well as in Cinema Paradiso, was spellbound and hoped that they would have the good fortune to be there fifty years down the line.

A voice of incredible sweetness, clear as a bell and reflecting a myriad emotions rang out in the silence with a special song dedicated to Sri Swami Satyananda: “For I know I’ll never find another you!” The words could not have been more accurate in describing what Swami Satyananda meant to everyone there. As the music wove its spell in glimmering skeins of gossamer gliding



through the air, smooth and soothing as silk, there was not a dry eye to be seen. And when hearts were full to the brim, Swami Niranjana took it up a notch further when he offered a hymn to his beloved guru. Playing the harmonium himself, he sang with an ease that belied the depth of feelings that arose from his heart: *“Take my life and let it be consecrated O Lord to thee!”*

Every word bore testament to the way he lived his life, totally dedicated to his guru, drenched in a disciple’s deep devotion. As the last strains of the hymn floated away and became one with the collective emotions experienced by everyone, the fountains on either side of the Samadhi started to dance, illuminated by coloured lights. The sound of the water blended with soft music as a long line of people waited to have darshan within the Samadhi. Hands folded in



reverence, dazzled by the beauty and presence of Sri Swamiji undeniably present inside, they seemed to float out as they returned 'back to earth'. Swami Niranjana stood silently to one side, accepting pranaams and listening to words of praise, joy and gratitude from those who could bring themselves to speak. Most people walked on in silence, filled with a renewed resolve towards living the teachings of the masters. The inspiration was right there in front of them – the Chhaya Samadhi. Two symbols of ultimate purity, a diamond and a lotus, seamlessly blending into a perfect form of beauty, balance and luminosity, nestling on the ground yet pointing to the heights of ethereal perfection from whence it had descended. Truly a descent of the divine!

As the lights came on in Cinema Paradiso, Sri Vishwakarma walked into the centre of the stage. "What we all witnessed is one of the most outstanding examples of 'sacred architecture' in every sense of the word. It was the coming together of perfection in every sense of the term, of head, heart and hands, from intention to realization of a dream, dedicated to a master by his perfect disciple. The purity of intention behind every creative endeavor is what makes its magnificent material manifestation much more than mere monument or memorial. Arising from within the core of his immaculate, untainted heart and symbolizing the profound sentiments which represent the eternal bond between them, Swami Niranjana has created an indescribably exquisite offering to his guru, Sri Swami Satyananda."

"I would like to share some insights I had during this inspiring and uplifting event. The diamond within a lotus illustrates the perfectly complementary nature of two very different entities. The indestructible diamond nestles inside the soft petals of a flower. A brilliant, inert, transparent, tough element is held within a living opaque sheath that is gentle and delicate. Does that seem like an oddity? Isn't it usually the other way around where a vulnerable and precious treasure is shielded and protected by something much stronger?"

“Images of two great incarnations of Lord Vishnu, Sri Rama and Sri Krishna arose in my mind. It seems particularly appropriate because Swami Satyananda descended from the Ikshvaku clan, the solar dynasty of Sri Rama. Swami Niranjan brings the entire spectrum of Sri Krishna’s qualities into living embodiment, especially his effortless ability to steal the heart of everyone who merely hears about him, just like Sri Krishna stole butter as well as the love that flowed towards him from all sentient and insentient beings. Now, you may wonder what this has to do with the diamond and lotus.”



“Think about the quality of *maryada*, the perfect restraint and appropriateness epitomized by Sri Rama. Doesn’t it represent the diamond-like quality of the immaculate, indestructible adherence to dharma which illuminated Sri Rama’s every thought, word and deed? His life is a shining example of how one should live in this world, full of wisdom and endowed with the unshakable strength and resolve which comes from total commitment and conviction to one’s ideals.”

“Sri Krishna is known as *prem avatar*, the incarnation of love, and the lotus symbolizes the beauty of

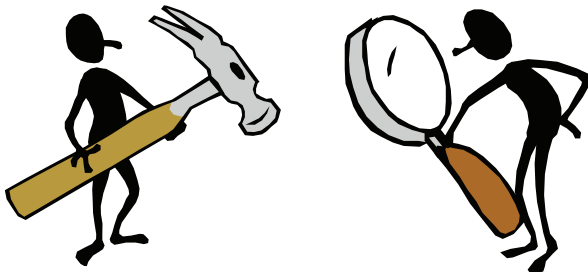


unconditional divine love. The soft, gentle and delicate emotions that are expressed through love are not only uplifting but bring with it steadfastness and strength that does not waver even in the face of the most intimidating obstacle. All barriers and difficulties melt away with the unrelenting power of pure love, love that is not influenced by negativity just like a lotus which blooms in the midst of mire.”

“When maryada and prem combine in perfect harmony they enhance each other, strengthen their inherent qualities and that is what I see in the diamond-lotus of the Chhaya Samadhi. I feel humbled by this creation and draw inspiration from the perfection that ensues when a disciple dedicates his entire existence in utmost devotion to the guru.”

“The symbology associated with the seven-sided structure will be the next assignment for all apprentices. I can assure you that it will reveal, yet again, the innumerable layers of perfection that manifest when an offering is dedicated with the deepest sentiments of love and thanksgiving, not just to the guru but to all mankind, for every living being will draw inspiration from it in a myriad different ways, all innumerable as the rays of light that are refracted and reflected by a diamond and as beautiful as a lotus flower..”

A hundred thoughts flashed through the minds of all the apprentices, especially Vishwa ‘Hammer’ and Karma ‘Tongs’. They couldn’t wait to start on this new assignment! Perhaps we shall have a chance to look at their findings in a sequel, for there is no doubt in anyone’s mind that more magical manifestations from Munger will surely have the wires on Sri Vishwakarma’s ‘surveillance’ set buzzing again! Over and out!!



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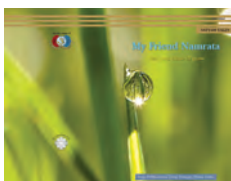
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and a ment
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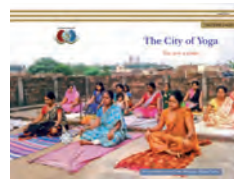
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