

Simplicity of life is the true secret of happiness. Therefore your life should never be complicated with too many things.

Regarded individually, waves may be many, but regarded in the context of the ocean, they are one. Even when the waves seem to exist, it is the ocean alone that exists. That is the fact of God and man. That is the fact of the universal soul and the individual soul. There is only one.

Swami Chidananda
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A DIVINE LIFE SOCIETY PUBLICATION



FEELING OF UNITY AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE DIVINE LIFE SOCIETY



Sri Swami Chidananda

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PUBLISHERS' NOTE

24th September 2016 marks the auspicious occasion of Birth Centenary of Worshipful Sri Swami Chidanandaji Maharaj. To commemorate this sacred occasion, the Headquarters Ashram has decided to bring out one hundred booklets comprising illuminating talks of Worshipful Sri Swami Chidanandaji Maharaj for free distribution.

To propagate Sadgurudev Sri Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj's gospel of Divine Life, Worshipful Sri Swamiji Maharaj travelled extensively in India and abroad and showed the path of divine life to countless seekers through his spontaneous and highly inspiring lectures. His lectures, in Sadgurudev's words, are the outpourings of his saintly heart, the revelations of intuitive wisdom.

We are immensely happy to bring out some of his hitherto unpublished lectures in a booklet form as our worshipful offering at his holy feet on the blessed occasion of his Birth Centenary. The present booklet 'FEELING OF UNITY AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE

DIVINE LIFE SOCIETY' is an inspiring talk given at the sacred Samadhi Shrine on 1st August 1995.

We express our heartfelt gratitude towards the inmates of the Headquarters Ashram for their loving service in transcribing and editing this talk.

May the abundant blessings of the Almighty Lord, Sadgurudev Sri Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj and Worshipful Sri Swami Chidanandaji Maharaj be upon all.

—The Divine Life
Society

**FEELING OF UNITY
AMONG THE MEMBERS OF
THE DIVINE LIFE SOCIETY**

Swami Chidananda

Worship and homage at the feet of the supreme, all-pervading Presence Divine! Our adorations to that Great Reality, that is at once beginningless and endless as also boundless and limitless! Infinite and eternal, it is the ever-present Reality that is the source and the origin, the support and the strength, the goal and the fulfillment of all existence. To that great Reality, to that Cosmic Spirit, to that Divine Being, our reverential homage and worship. May Its grace grant you all the four Purusharthas. May its grace guide you on your path to perfection. May its grace grant you illumination and liberation, bless you with success in your earthly life.

Loving adorations to revered and beloved Holy Master Gurudev Swami Sivanandaji in whose spiritual presence we are all assembled here in our early morning spiritual fellowship. May his glance of grace awaken the dormant divinity within you. May his hands of benediction enable your awakened divinity to unfold and to grow and manifest through your thoughts, words and actions, thus flooding your entire life and all its

movements with a divine quality. You become a centre of divine living, you become an embodiment of divine life.

In the religious and spiritual field of India, and specially Hinduism, the number 108 is regarded as a complete number. One hundred being the complete number, and eight is added to it in case of any deficiencies and discrepancies. It makes up for all deficiencies and discrepancies so that the number 100 is full and complete.

Today is the first of August. Next month the Divine Life Society, which Holy Master brought into being in the year 1936, observes His 108th Birthday Anniversary. He was born in 1887 and 1987 became His centenary. And 8 years later the Society observes it in a special way by having not a single day celebration on the 8th of September, but enhancing it by having a three days Birthday Celebration, on the 6th, the 7th and the 8th of September.

Who is celebrating Gurudev's sacred Birthday Anniversary? Is it some impersonal entity? Is it just an organisation? Is it just a set-up called an Ashram? Or is it something more? Is it something more vital, vibrant and living? Is it a group of living beings that is observing and celebrating this event? Is it a group of living people, who have some emotions, some sentiments, some living impulses? Are you celebrating it? Are you observing it?

What exactly is your sentimental and emotional attitude regarding this event?

This is what this servant of the Master would like each one of you to ponder. “With what am I concerned in this Ashram? Its provision for hot water in winter? Its provision for fan in summer? Its provision for other facilities and comforts? Or am I equally concerned with its problems, its difficulties and with its special occasions? There are equally mine because I have benefited from Swami Sivananda, I have been helped by Swami Sivananda’s teachings. I have read his books and they have been an inspiration to me. Therefore, such landmarks, such special celebrations and events directly connected with the Holy Master are as much a concern of mine as a person, as a resident inmate of the Ashram and as a member of the Divine Life Society.”

Everyone who resides in Sivananda Ashram, by virtue of his or her residence, is automatically a member of the Divine Life Society, promising to adhere by the principles of truth, non-injury and chastity. The duty of all members is to adhere to truthfulness, to non-injury, kindness and compassion and chastity, purity of thought, word and deed, noble character and righteous conduct. It is the sacred duty, the spiritual privilege and special blessedness of each and every inmate of Sivananda Ashram to live by these principles and to

make themselves personifications and embodiments of these principles, because they are also regarded as members and their life is entwined with the headquarters of the organisation, which is encouraging this noble pattern of living. They are a part of it, they are inseparable from the headquarters of the institution that is propagating this ideal, preaching this ideal.

And so, this servant would like each one of you to take a look at yourself from this angle, to see yourself in this light and ponder what it implies, what it means. This is number one in connection with the forthcoming 108th Birth Anniversary of Holy Master Swami Sivanandaji.

And number two, being part of the organisation, if the organisation is observing it, is celebrating it, it would be the most natural thing for each and everyone to sit up and think, “Now that this date is approaching, in what way should I observe it, celebrate it? In what way should I assist the Ashram people, the executives on whose shoulders this responsibility is, in what way can I assist them in observing this special Birthday Anniversary?”

Perhaps both these considerations are the essence of the matter in relation to the forthcoming 108th Birthday Anniversary of Guru Maharaj. For then it would be a token of our feeling of oneness in this Ashram of Gurudev. We are part of it. If the Ashram is

celebrating, it is not the buildings that are celebrating Sivananda's Birthday; it is not the stationery and the furniture, the machinery, the vessels and the land that is celebrating Sivananda's Birthday. It is we who are celebrating, who are to observe, if we have reason to be grateful.

"Yes I shall celebrate it by doing more Japa in my room." Well, you could do that if you wish. But, when you ponder that whatever knowledge he put down in black and white, has reached your hands in and through his Society, in and through the workers of the Sivananda Ashram Headquarters, the Press, the Publication Department - it is thus that Sivananda came into your life. He did not appear and say, "Here my beloved seeker, I give you this inspiration, I give you this illumining teaching, I give you enlightening Upadesha". He did not come and give a book in its manuscript form. We have to be grateful to the baker because he is the connection between the farmer who produces wheat and you who eat the bread. That is the special position of the baker.

Even so, God comes to us through his saints. These saints come to us and produce a living human organism in the form of their immediate disciples.

Jesus did not reach out to the world and proclaim the Kingdom, the joyful news of the Kingdom. No. The apostles made Jesus to reach the entire then known

world. It is they who did it – twelve apostles, at the cost of their lives. So they have a vital place of significance, importance, value. They were the liaison between the Teacher of Galilee and the source whom He was able to touch. Even after his physical disappearance from the gaze of men, His work went on. How? He did not appear in 100 places and gave His teachings directly. He did it through a vital organism that He had created in the form of His apostles.

Even so it is with all the great teachers. Buddha left behind him Bhikhus. Great philosophers and Zen masters handed down their great way through their chosen disciples. Some did it through their books, some did it through their chosen disciples. Those who printed no books left behind living books in the form of their chosen disciples. And thus we should respond to the reality in the form that it merits to be responded to. And thus you must ponder well your position as ex-officio members of the Divine Life Society by virtue of your residence in this holy Ashram and begin to say, “How shall we celebrate, how shall we help to celebrate, how shall we contribute in celebrating this special Birthday Anniversary of Gurudev Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj on the 8th of September 1995, the 108th birthday?”

Soon another event is to follow. In January 1936 the Divine Life Society came into being, and in January 1996

the Society completes 60 years of its existence, carrying on its work as envisaged by its founder, Holy Master Gurudev Swami Sivanandaji. From the 1st of January to the 31st of December 1996 there will be a Diamond Jubilee year of the Divine Life Society. This is not my subject or the point of today. I am just putting this thought into your mind, so that in the same way as I have suggested that you should relate yourself to the special 108th Birthday Anniversary of Master, you may also reflect upon the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations later.

I would like each and every one of you to respond to this call by being actively involved, by setting the example of yourselves following the principles Swami Sivananda set before us. Being responded in this living manner, with noble sentiments of piety, devotion, and gratitude to Gurudev, these events are going to be wondrous events, inspiring everyone who participates in them and may be transforming many lives. Because it is the human factor that contributes to the living quality of any event. Inert objects are just there, but they contribute nothing; they can assist, but only when the human factor becomes associated with them. A printing machine is a dead thing until the machine man goes behind it and starts working. The human factor is the vital thing. Nowadays, they are trying to make everything automatic. They can set the hour when the

electric current will be put on and the machine will start its automatic work. But the brain that invented this automatic function ultimately is a human factor; that is the very essence of all things. And, therefore, you constitute the human factor in everything that this Society is doing now and will do in the future.

This is how I look at you, and this is how I would have you look at yourself. And may God's grace and Gurudev's benedictions provide you with a clear vision of what you are and what you are capable of doing and what you must do. May God and Gurudev grace you and bless you and grant you to see things with perfect clarity and in the right perspective. God bless you all!

Hari Om Tat Sat!

