



Blazing Fire Of Renunciation

Beloved and worshipful Gurudev! Homage unto thy glorious and gracious spiritual presence! I bow to your presence and invoke thy glance of grace, *kripa-kataksha*, I pray thy *guru-kripa* and choicest blessings may enable the aspiring souls to lead the life sublime, to lead a life of *tyaga* and *tapashcharya*, *nivritti* and *sannyasa*, *bhakti* and *bhajan*, self-control and discipline, concentration and meditation, a life of active enquiry, discrimination and analysis, a life of introspection, reflection and contemplation, a divine life of truth, purity, compassion and kindness, a divine life of service, devotion, meditation and aspiration and self-realisation. May this be your special gift on this day, June 1, the anniversary of your *sannyasa*! Blessed is that day, for out of your embracing the monastic order has sprung up monastic family of effulgent monks filled with a light of a higher awareness, benefitting others by this inner light.

You came here as a lone wanderer towards the end of 1923. You had but one thought - to be in seclusion, in silence, and to chant the Name of God, pray to Him and to attain Realisation. You had an intense longing, an all-consuming desire in the heart, a desire implanted by God, *Viday-maya* “*Dharmaaviruddho Bhooteshu Kaamo’smi Bharatarshabha – In all beings, I am desire unopposed to dharma, O Arjuna.*” [Gita 7.11] It is such desire that liberates, that awakens, that brings into dynamism the latent tendencies and dormant spiritual *samskaras*. It is like a flame applied to a combustible material that immediately burst forth into a blaze full of radiance.

That was what happened. Dr. Kuppuswami’s heart was afire for Self-realisation, for Brahma-jnana, to have “*Sukhamaatyantikam Yattad Buddhi Graahyamateendriyam – endless Bliss beyond the senses that may only be grasped by the pure intellect.*” [Gita 6.21] which gave *nitya-tripti* (eternal satisfaction). And he kept this longing ever clear, ever ablaze, ever fiery. He never allowed it to be dull. It was this that was the key to Self-realisation, sainthood and sagehood of beloved and worshipful Guru Maharaj Swami Sivanandaji.

Guru Maharaj was that awakening and sparking factor, who ignited within you the dormant and latent spiritual tendencies through his wisdom teachings. For innumerable souls all over the world, the wisdom teachings of Gurudev have acted as a sparking factor, awakening touch, transforming force.

May God Bless You All!

■ Swami Chidananda