



The Lofty Ideal Of Renunciation

The glorious *Sannyasa Diksha* anniversary that we have the privilege and joy to celebrate this day, which marks the supreme occasion of H. H. Sadgurudev Swami Sivanandaji renunciation of a secular life and his early entry into the holy order of *sannyasa*, commemorates such lofty action. Master has taken to this ancient order and lived his noble life of increasing god works and innumerable services of humanity all over the world. In him, I see a unique and amazing confluence of two trends:

- 1) Renunciation and all the inwardness and detachment.
- 2) The trilling dynamism with all the outwardly activity and active sympathetic interest in human beings.

Our holy Gurudev Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj's act of *tyaga* and *sannyasa* carries the message: "O man! Give up thy little 'I' and thy petty selfish life; and let thy selfless life flower into cosmic love, world brotherhood and service unto all. Give up thy little self, and give yourself in body, mind and spirit to the whole world. To renounce is verily to offer yourself as a gift unto the noble cause of human welfare." Such was the exemplary life of holy Gurudev! His renunciation represents, as it were, a fertile seed out of which has sprung forth a great tree. The giving up of his secular life has come to mean the bestowal of a lofty new Divine Life to countless thousands. The power that sprang out of his renunciation has outspread into the world, and has bought new life, hope, solace, light, strength, joy, and inspiration to literally countless millions of souls. His renunciation can rightly be said to be an offering to God, to appease the hunger of His soul-famished children. It has indeed become transformed into the spirit of Divine Life to pervade the modern world in a form of divine urge, a divine impulse toward virtue, goodness and godliness.

In renunciation lies the end of all strife and hatred. In renunciation lies the source of true peace and progress. By his life, the modern Maharishi has given to humanity the new law of welfare: "O Modern Man! Know ye that renunciation is the law of life. It is the path that leads to friendliness, cooperation and unity. Renounce selfishness, greed, hatred and egoism. Embrace love, humility, contentment and charity. You will have the Kingdom of Heaven on this earth." May the Master's radiance life inspire one and all!

May God Bless You All!

■ *Swami Chidananda*