

[TRIBUTES AND TESTIMONIALS](#)

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His Holiness Swami Buaji Maharaj, New York:The sublime substance of Saiva Siddhanta was succinctly spread all over the world by this saint. How was this possible for somebody who was born and brought up in a totally different culture? It could not be anything other than an unbreakable bond from the previous birth—poorva janma bandham. He has done whatever was ordained by God and gone back now and merged with Him. The Kauai Aadheenam will continue his noble work. His books will speak for many, many more years. Iraivan Temple will reverberate with his words for many more centuries. The spiritual awareness brought about by him among the Hindus of Western countries is just amazing. Gurudeva's unique method of explaining the most complex principles in the simplest way was astounding. The most complicated philosophies appeared as the simplest and easiest messages in his hands, but with the same power and essence.

S. Sivapalasingam, Colombo, Sri Lanka:

During the last two decades with my satguru, His Holiness had been generous, caring, considerate, loving and compassionate. In March, 1983, at the Subramuniya Ashram in Alaveddy (Jaffna) while Sri Muthusamy Kurukkal performed homa rites and Natarajnaswami chanted 1008 Sri Rudra Mantras, my satguru placed both palms on my head and uttered the holy mantra "Aum Namah Shivaya" into my right ear. It was a powerful diksha that changed my life.

S. Arunasalam, Alaveddy, Sri Lanka: There is nothing so distressing as Gurudeva's departure. It is an inestimable loss to the whole of humanity. My heart is full of anguish at the thought that I will not be able to feel his physical presence and

read his letters and writings. The only consolation is that he has left behind fourteen swamis in whom he will reside and guide them to continue his work unabated. He was born with a world mission and he has fulfilled it perfectly well.

Mary Earle Chase, Kauai: I last saw Gurudeva at a meeting of our Vision Kauai group which he attended on September 23rd. The group, which includes many of Kauai's leaders, discussed the terrorist attacks-how they might affect us and what we should do. Calmly, Gurudeva urged us to take the opportunity to address the terrorism and chemical warfare in our own community. By this he meant the terrorism of domestic violence and chemical warfare

of drug abuse. Peace begins at home, he reminded us, and where we can make the most difference is in our own community.

Swami Omkarananda Saraswati,
Switzerland:Our powers of perception and presentation are inadequate to describe this Satguru, the glorious and inspiring embodiment of the invincible, indestructible, eternal all-comprehensive Light of Hinduism. Is it not so that if Lord Krishna who as Lord Rama worshipped Lord Siva at Rameshwaram, were here in a physical tenement, He would say

that "of all satgurus, I am Satguru Sivaya Subramuniaswami"?

Ravi Duggirala, Memphis USA: I always respected Gurudeva for being forthright, concise, logical and absolute with his answers regarding anything. Whenever I was around him, I felt this energy. The best way I could describe it was the feeling of walking on the edge of a sword. I remember at the book signing in Memphis. I was standing right next to him. The energy was so intense, like being next to the Sun. I thought to not touch

Gurudeva since some gurus did not like being touched without permission. At that exact moment, he leaned into me and put his arm around me. I still remember him smiling at me, and I promise that I could hear him laughing gently in my head. As I write this, emotions of love and happiness flow over me.

Aran Veylan, Edmonton, Canada: To the Lotus Feet of the Birthless and Deathless One, you have prepared us well for this moment. The mathavasis are strong, stainless and united. The grihasthas also

stand as one. Centuries from now, when these bodies have all long passed, when the fragrance of the blossoming of Gurudeva's mission is carried wherever the wind blows, children will wonder what it must have been like to have been alive at the same time as Gurudeva, to have walked and talked and laughed with him, to have asked questions, and to have received answers. What a wonderful, precious gift you have given to all of us. Thank you, Gurudeva, for your love and understanding. Thank you for guiding us through the ocean of karma for the past 30 years. Thank you for guiding our children into adulthood.

Prithviraj Putten, Member of Parliament, Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly,
Mauritius: Our Gurudeva is closer to us all, nearer than breath. He is the sun. We are all blessed to work with him and be under his umbrella for future centuries. He is the life of my life, and I will always remain Eternal to my Gurudeva. Every morning I perform a special puja to Gurudeva, placing fresh water on the shrine table, lighting sandalwood, calling the Kailasa Parampara of the Nandi Natha

Sampradaya. I then place a slightly opened white rose bud for Paramaguru Siva Yogaswami and another white rose flower for Gurudeva in front of his picture. I then offer sambrani, fruit, saffron honey and flower petals to Gurudeva's feet and beard while singing. I finally meditate a bit and read Merging with Siva and Living with Siva. Gurudeva is the life of all the devotees. He is the Sun and is Effulgent Light. Aum.

Soma Sundaram, California, USA: Gurudeva, it has been such a privilege and a blessing to be on this Earth plane the same time as you. Thank you for introducing me to my Hindu Gods, my guardian devas and my wonderful Saivite religion. Thank you for giving me daily lessons for life, sutras for each day of the year, for Shum, Tyeif, for building Hindu temples, for taking me to India, for giving me Aum Namasivaya mantra and for the guidance you have given me and my children.

Radheyshyam Dwivedi, Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh, Inc., USA: Gurudeva left a rich legacy of exemplary asceticism, compassion and spiritual philanthropy. He had a profound influence on countless individuals through his dedicated scholarship and charismatic teaching. We hold him in the highest esteem as the champion of Hindu renaissance in the Western world.

**Arunasalam Sellathurai
Swamikal, Sivathondan
Society, Jaffna, Sri Lanka:
Satguru Sivaya
Subramuniaswami was
a spiritual whale of the
Occident, a prize catch
in the mystic net of Sage
Yogaswamikal. It was a
divine act, a divine
ordination, beyond the
ken of mortals, as
subsequent events have**

proved, supremely great! Astounding! The life, mission and mandate of His Holiness Satguru Sivaya Subramuniaswami led him to the founding of Saiva Siddhanta Church and a monastic order in Hawaii a magnificent task! This will ever remain a monument to his spiritual fervor,

proclaiming worldwide,
East and West, in
trumpet tones that the
Swamikal was a trail
blazer of Lord Siva's
choice to glorify the
spiritual heritage and
essence of Saiva
Siddhanta—the
universality of Lord Siva!

Maya Ma Tiwari, Candler,

USA: I have felt the Great One's presence in my life, guiding and encouraging me.... Now, more than ever, I feel his Eminent Presence strongly and I know beyond a shadow of doubt that his Light will forever guide my silence. As I sit in my middle years in contemplation of Gurudeva's splendor

on this glorious day, my heart aches. I shall miss Him. Like nature herself bringing tears to ancient eyes, here Blue Ridge mountains, Himalayas, speak his simple, pure meaning: Sadhaka Supreme— in whom word and meaning, love and heart had no separation.

**Ravichandran Krishnan,
Johor, Malaysia:** Though
I have known
Gurudeva since I was
18, and revered him, I
wasn't in tune with his
Highness's teachings.
Then last year in June
at Singapore's
Senbagavinayagar's
temple visit, I took a
day off and waited

patiently the whole day to see Gurudeva and touch his feet at all cost! Upon Gurudeva's arrival, during the arati; my mind was transfixed and felt engulfed in rays of light. It was like magnetic force, and I lost total consciousness. I felt

like I had merged into Gurudeva's light. The feeling is incredible. Now I am a completely different person.

Lavina Melwani, New York USA: Gurudeva was always so loving,

witty and cheerful that he brought a wonderful added dimension to religion, making it joyful and celebratory rather than somber. I can honestly say his writings have made my own religion more accessible to me and my children. He wrote

with such clarity that I consult his works when I write about Hinduism. My son and daughter, brought up in America, run to check Dancing with Siva any time a question pertaining to rituals and religion comes up in their lives.

Swami Ghananandaji
Saraswati, Hindu
Monastery of Africa,
Odorkor, Accra,
Ghana: Ever since my
first contact with His
Holiness through the
Hinduism Today
magazine I have
always had informed
discourses and

exchanges with him.
He has always
offered very useful
advice to me
regarding the path
of sannyas, and I will
forever remember
him for this. May His
soul have its
deserved solace at
the sojourn of the

Great Souls.

Devant Maharaj,
Sanatan Dharma
Maha Sabha Inc.
Trinidad and
Tobago: Satguru

Sivaya
Subramuniaswami
graced the shores
of Trinidad last
year and visited
the Maha Sabha
Headquarters and
held discussions
with pundits and
the general Hindu

community here in
Trinidad. He has to
be considered
among the ranks of
the visionary Hindu
leaders that the
world has
produced.
Hinduism Today
remains the only

medium that unites Hindus globally. The Hindu universe is indeed a great deal poorer with the loss of such a great and visionary leader. The life and service of Satguru Sivaya

Subramuniaswami will no doubt be a shining beacon for all Hindus to aspire.

A. Vaithilingam,

**Malaysia Hindu
Sangam:** The
vacuum left affects
the whole Hindu
world, and it can
never be easily
filled. Gurudeva
brought Saivism to
the world,
especially to the

Western world, and has also played a leading role in uniting the Hindus of the world. In fact, Gurudeva has put Hinduism on the map of the world.

Chaitanya
Christensen, USA:
Although
Vaishnavas don't
usually praise
other gurus, I feel
this is appropriate,
since His Holiness
was not an
ordinary being. He

was born a white American and still demonstrated the universal nature and application of Sanatana Dharma to millions of people all over the planet. He helped bring our ancient

traditions into the
21st century,
revitalizing them
without
threatening their
integrity in any
way. Although his
school of Saiva
Siddhanta is very
orthodox, he

skillfully
addressed every
last contemporary
issue from
abortion, abuse of
women, aging, to
media control,
consumerism,
genocide, genetic
engineering, to

deforestation and environmentalism.

Kailash
Dhaksinamurthi,
Minneapolis, USA:

Thank you for so many things in this life. First, your teachings and support have guided me to find my true religion Sanatana Dharma when other leaders

discouraged this path, insisting one has to be born a Hindu. You gave me the tools to practice Hinduism: I learned how to do puja, how to worship in a temple, how to

feel the darshan
of a Deity, how to
participate in the
great festivals.
Without these
tools I would still
be a wanderer
and seeker. Your
teachings echoed
the old motto,

"Keep it simple, stupid," reminding me to work first on yamas and niyamas, to learn to be a better husband, for instance, before grappling with existential

ontologies.

Maryanne Kusaka,
Honorable Mayor
of Kauai: Gurudeva
was a shining

example of
goodness in a
world sorely in
need of one. He
was a wise mentor
to many. He was a
kind and attentive
father to Kauai's
children and
families of all

faiths. He will be
ever hovering in
our collective
soul— a white
dove— a vision of
beauty and purity.
He will continue to
show himself in all
that is good as we
who loved him

follow in his
radiant light.

Puvaneswary
Roberts,
Netherlands: He

helped me to understand the purpose of my life. I am able to see dharma, and have the courage to face my karmas. Before, I too asked the question "Why me? What have I

done to deserve
the loss of my
father at age
five?" But, now it
is my karma, and
all of life is a
challenge, but I
know I have God
Siva's presence
with me to cope

with and
overcome the
challenges.

Linda Masterson,
Kauai, USA: I

cherish the things
I have learned
from you,
Gurudeva: 1) that
oneness with God
is the supreme
human endeavor
and that it is an
endeavor that the
simplest ordinary

human can
embrace; 2) that a
path to God can
honor all paths to
God; 3) that being
devoted to a life
of religious service
includes being
joyful and vibrant
and humorous and

delighted with life
and people; 4)
that peace is
always in my
heart, that my
heart is a place of
worship and that
worship can be
constant, with
each breath; 5)

what it is to be
good neighbors, to
share celebration
and bounty and
kinship with our
circle of
neighbors; 6) to
honor public
officials, whether I
agreed with their

policies or not, for
the office they
were holding was
sacred and
deserved my
respect and 7)
that holding a
grand vision is not
foolish when it is
held on behalf of

the community interest, that temples to last a thousand years and endowments of \$5 billion are possible when a pure heart and a clear intent is focused on these

goals.

Benjamin J.
Cayetano,
Governor, State
of Hawaii:

Subramuniaswami leaves an impressive legacy, including his efforts to reduce violence and his commitment to the future of

Hinduism around the globe. He will be sorely missed by his followers and by the residents of Kauai, who affectionately referred to him

as Gurudeva.

Mihir Meghani,
Hindu Students
Council, USA: For

years, Hindu
Students Council
members have
read Hinduism
Today for news
and information
about Hindu
religious
systems,

philosophies and
issues affecting
Hindus. Guruji's
books and
editorials have
guided many
Hindu students
in their lives. Our
association with

the swamis
under him has
helped our
organization
grow and has
reaffirmed our
dedication to
Hindu dharma.

S. Perampalam,
Malaysian
Ceylon Saivites
Assoc.: Swamiji
was the
greatest jnani,
the Lion of
Dharma and
leader of the

modern day
Saivite
renaissance. He
was a wise,
revered mentor
and a radiant
light who
defended Hindu

Dharma.
Swamiji's
multifarious
accomplishmen
ts and his
profound
leadership
inspired intense

love and loyalty
in his followers.

Hari Bansh Jha,
Kathmandu,

Nepal: I always looked at him as my guide, master or Guru. He impressed me most in Rishikesh when he said, "Don't

feel that you
are alone!" This
one sentence
had a great
impact on my
life. I don't
know how the
possible

vacuum to be
created in his
absence will
help us in
pursuit of our
spiritual
journey. I feel
bereaved.

Dee See Mana,
California, USA:
Love is all there
is and this is
what he gave
the Hopi
Peoples. He was
also a protector

of my very
small projects.
And, without all
the monks, I
would have
been defeated
so long ago. He
has meant

much to us, the
Hopi, and
others in need.

Letters with
writer's name,
address and

daytime phone
number, should
be sent to:

Letters,
Hinduism Today

107 Kaholalele
Road

Kapaa, Hawaii,
96746-9304
USA

or faxed to:
808.822.4351

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letters@hindu.org

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