

## [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.

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### **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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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"?

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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:

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Road

Kapaa, Hawaii,  
96746-9304  
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or faxed to:  
808.822.4351

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