

**Br. Martin**

**“The Speaking Voice of Silent God”**

**March 6, 2011 Lake Shrine Temple**

The Guru carries us and takes us to God once we have found the Guru. He does this even though we have the attention span of a jumping bean.

The Guru’s goal is to help each one create a temple of silence within.

It takes the grace of God to do even a short prayer.

The Guru plays many roles.

Br. Martin tells the story of looking for a Book Jacket designer for SRF publications. He called many artists all over the country and many had heard of Paramahansa Yogananda. Br. Martin did visit one designer who hadn't heard of Master but who did have a copy of the *Laws of Success* in his studio!

Master takes a small amount of people directly to God. These are those who accept the Guru disciple relationship.

Karma causes us to get attached and brings suffering.

Br. Martin tells the story of when his younger brother didn’t talk for 3 weeks and people were concerned. Finally his little brother did talk and when asked why he wasn’t talking, Br. Martin’s little brother said “well everything was okay.”

The Guru is an answered prayer.

Before Br. Martin was a monastic he would lie in bed asking for help and a year later he found the path.

Bro. Anandamoy once said “you don’t know how hard you worked to get here.”

Br. Martin told the story of Thomas Merton, an author who spent years seeking. Eventually he became a monk (of the Trappist—Catholic—Order) but he still felt at a loss. In the late 1960’s Br. Lou inherited a lot of books and sent them to Merton with a copy of the AY on top. Merton was leaving on a trip to the east to study yoga and meditation and told Br. Lou that he would read it when he returned, but Merton died while on the trip so he never had the chance to read the book.

In the 1960’s Br. Martin went to USC to join a fraternity while all his pals went to India to explore their spirituality. One of Br. Martin’s fraternity brothers gave him a copy of the AY. When his pals came home,

Br. Martin was the only one who had found a Guru.

Sri Yukteswar: "I will never use you for my own ends. You are always free to go."

It's rare to meet a person who only has your best interests at heart—who doesn't want something for themselves.

Br. Martin referred to the works of Jacob Needleman when discussing the definition of a guru. Think about the following: 1) The qualities of a true teacher can be imitated; 2) How much do I wish for wisdom and guidance? 3) How can I recognize a true teacher?

**Seeking a Guru is a two-way street: when a student is ready the Guru appears. That's the difference between going to India and Having India come to you.**

Br. Martin has traveled to schools, prisons, yoga conferences, etc. One time he went to a yoga conference and hearing of a similar path except this one said the Guru had to be in a physical form.

Bro. Anandamoy said it was easier to meet Master after Master passed than when he was alive.

Lake Shrine was the first temple that took off without Master being there. Master beamed when hearing of Lake Shrine because then he knew people were coming for the teachings.

Mrinalini Mata when offered the V.P. position in SRF thought it too much stress so she and some nuns went to the mountains to seek answers and kept thinking about Guruji's comments about "no one can make you happy if you choose to be unhappy."

As one of the book reviewers for the SRF magazine Br. Martin reviewed Angry Conversations with God which told a story of St. Teresa. St. Teresa was upset at how God treats people, and God said to her "that's how I treat my friends." St. Teresa replied, "That is why you have so few friends."

**Relax your thoughts and let go---another mood will come!**

During his last few years devotees could feel Master's presence more through meditation than when he was in physical form.

For Br. Martin being an intellectual and having paralyzing doubts was not a good combo. Bro. Premamoy talked to him, not reasoned with him. Br. Martin learned that **if you wait until you're in the mood you'll wait forever.**

Br. Martin became Bro. Premamoy's chronic volunteer. Bro. Premamoy told Br. Martin you don't have a chance. After Br. Martin did so much service that Bro. Premamoy told Br. Martin that Divine Mother would do something for him. 20 years later Bro. Premamoy told Br. Martin that he wondered why Divine

Mother never did anything for Br. Martin.

Why do devotees come here? The miracle is that they let us stay here.

Br. Martin said to Bro. Premamoy "It's a miracle the Guru brought us here." And Bro. Premamoy said, "NO, it's a miracle the Guru let us stay here!" It's a testimony to how little we practice the teachings. The Guru's loyalty to us is what is going to save us.

Br. Martin ended the service by telling a Spanky the cat story. When Spanky was young he would knock bird's nests out of trees and eat the eggs. A groundswell grew amongst the monastics and they wanted to get rid of Spanky and a communication meeting was called. Uma Mata attended the meeting and when one monastic mentioned wanting to get rid of Spanky Uma Mata looked at him and said "we'd never get rid of one of our own. We wouldn't get rid of you."