

Brother Satyananda – November 1, 2009
“I Will Begin Again” – Sunday Lecture

Every year the monks put on a skit at the MC Halloween Celebration. Brother used to act in these and directed one called “The Haunting of Big Al’s Garage.” Ma witnessed this skit. Ma’s words of inspiration to Brother before the show began: “Tell the monks to go out and make those kids scream!” Master loved to have fun.

Brother’s show had a theme – the theme of today’s service: “I will begin again.” This is the affirmation the kids told Big Al in his Haunted Industrial Park.

We all carry burdens. We experience pain but need to move forward. Master said, “All past sorrows are gone.” There is a lot of comfort and encouragement in Master’s words. We need to have a fresh start – we need to forget the past. This is a life skill we all need.

Christopher Reeve – “Each day I start all over again. I give myself two hours of self-pity, then I start all over again.” His recovery changed him – he was more happy and peaceful after his accident.

“Lord, may thy power increase in me and keep me in the positive consciousness.” – pg. 10 – Where There is Light

A Rama Story. Rama is looking into a wasteland. Ram looks over devastation and asked, “What happened here.” There was a sage who lived alone and then an accident occurred that took his son’s life. In anger, the sage cursed the forest and now he lives alone in darkness and desolation.” Something has died within. Sooner or later, with our will, we can resurrect and move on.

Choose a fresh beginning – regardless of what has happened. Things aren’t tidy and neat – wounds remain open, but we have to choose to move forward. When everything else fails and we can’t live in a dead world anymore, we have to move on.

“Forget the past... every man’s past is full of shame.” – Sri Yukteswar’s words in Autobiography. Master’s favorite part of Autobiography.

The Gurus give us permission to forget the past. Will we allow ourselves to forget the past?

Rubyat – Quatrain 45: “Life is a game.” Wise person learns to see life with all its complexities as a game. Hold on to the peace of meditation. Don’t take life too seriously. Understand the inexorable rules the universe plays. Reincarnation, cycles within this one life, chapters in our own life. Life is like a book with many chapters. Each chapter has a beginning, middle, and end... and has a transition between the end and a new beginning. We go thru transitions and accept change. We must move forward.

Brother's first job for Master (before he became a monk) – He worked on the Encinitas farm. He worked in the fields. Drove a tractor and pulled a disc across the field. He enjoyed going thru the field of old crops. First pass of tractor – the disc would take down crops. Second pass – the disc would work stuff into soil. Third pass would bury plant material and then there would be a smooth dirt field.

The metaphor? Old crops can become compost! Turn it into rich soil! Why not take unresolved problems and make them fertilizer. Convert problems into things we can use to grow. A new beginning.

Be watchful. You will see when chapters come to a close. You can feel inside when something's about to happen and change. You can begin to accept and to let go. With love, we make offerings to God. Then we move into a transition. Allow emotions to heal. Then you open yourself to new possibilities. Sow the new field with new opportunities.

Weave mistakes into the fabric of our life. They become part of the pattern. They become beautiful... a part of the carpet of our life. We need to teach this to our children.

Spiritual HW for November – Ask God to show you a person in your life that has clung to a sorrow for too long. Ask God to help them to see the potential to begin again. People get easily stuck and don't know how to go forward. With your heart and love – don't force it on them. The words might not seem to be received, but when you speak to the soul, those words remain there. Those truths – your contribution – will remain.