

PARMARTH NIKETAN ASHRAM

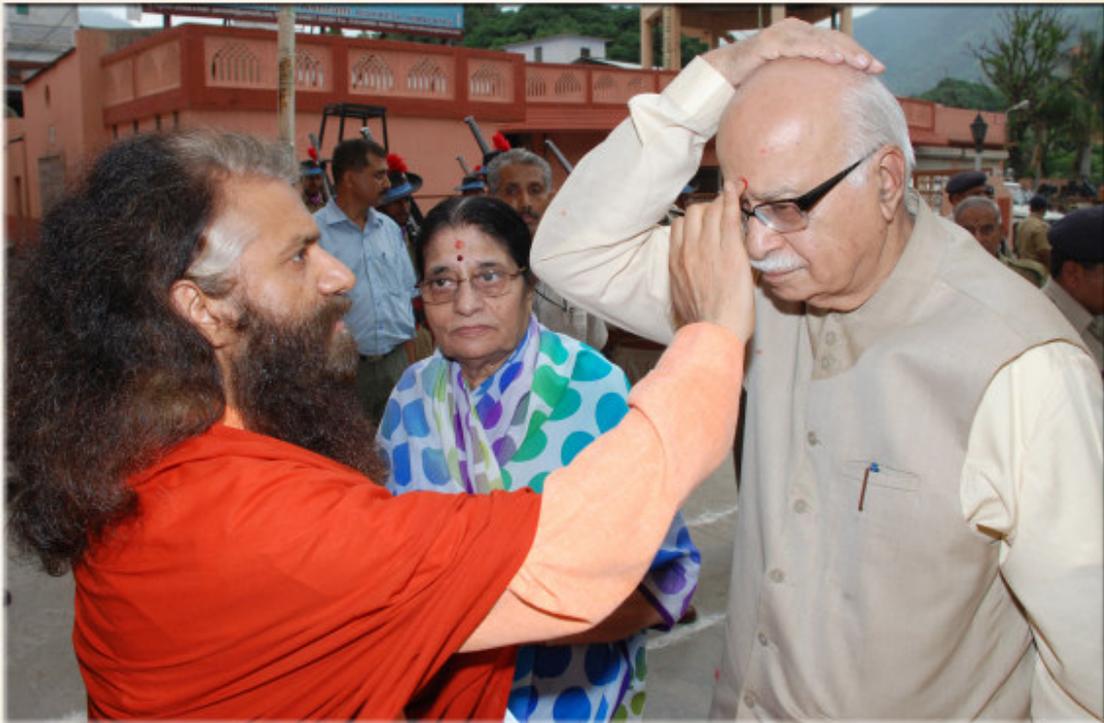


Newsletter
March - June, 2008

Special Guests and Events at Parmarth

Shri LK Advaniji

On June 7, Honorable Shri LK Advaniji, the leader of the Opposition party (BJP) and the one who will be India's next Prime Minister if BJP comes to power, came to Parmarth Niketan with his family. It was wonderful to have him back at home with us.



Pujya Swamiji welcomes Shri Advaniji and blesses him with tilak



Pujya Swamiji welcomes & blesses Pratibhaji Advani (left) and Smt. Kamalji Advani (right)

Shri Advaniji has come several times to the ashram to bask in the lap of the Himalayas, to have darshan of Mother Ganga and perform Her aarti, and to have darshan of Pujya Swamiji and discuss so many positive ideas about the future of India.

Honorable Shri BC Khanduriji, the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, also accompanied Honorable Shri Advaniji.



Pujya Swamiji spoke with Hon. Shri Advaniji as well as with Hon. Shri Khanduriji and Hon. Shri Ramesh Pokhriyalji (health minister of Uttarakhand), sitting in His jhyopri, about so many projects for the betterment and beautification of the lands of Gangotri, Rishikesh and other parts of Uttarakhand.

After the discussions everyone went for the divine Ganga havan and aarti ceremony.

After the Aarti Pujya Swamiji spoke, praising and appreciating Shri Advaniji's ceaseless commitment to the country of India. At the age of 80, rather than resting and relaxing in his Golden Years, he is tirelessly working for the people of India. He prayed that God may bless Shri Advaniji with many more years of health and strength to serve the people of India.



Ganga Yagna Ceremony

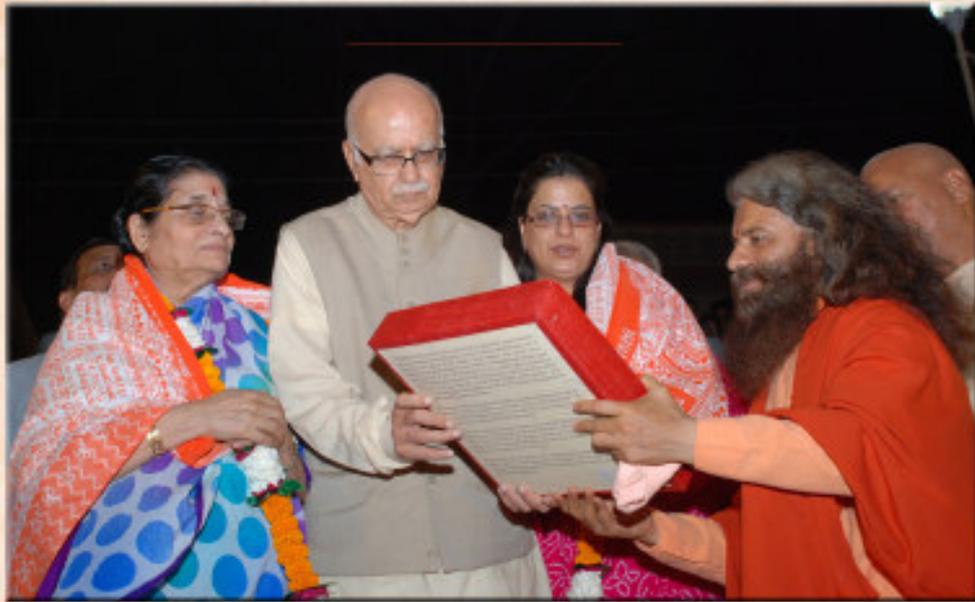


Pujya Swamiji gives a special family-size flower garland for the entire family to symbolize their unity in heart, mind & soul.



Ganga Aarti





Pujya Swamiji gifted the family with a holy picture of Lord Krishna

Following the aarti and sankirtan, Shri Advaniji gave a beautiful talk in which he praised the way that Pujya Swamiji is so devoted to Ganga, to the holy Himalayas and to all people. He was full of praise for the way that Pujya Swamiji thinks and works so selflessly.

Hema Malini



On May 29, Hema Maliniji, the world renowned actress and dancer came to Parmarth Niketan. Pujya Swamiji and Hemaji have known each other for many many years, and it was a beautiful homecoming of Hemaji's. Pujya Swamiji mentioned how the very first program ever performed for the monumental project of Encyclopedia of Hinduism (being brought out by India Heritage Research Foundation, of which Pujya Swamiji is Founder/Chairman) was performed by Hemaji in USA. Now, she will give the divine dance at the launch when EH is complete! Further, she will dance on the new ghat being made at Parmarth, next year when the ghat is ready. It will be a divine dance in the middle of Ganga.



Pujya Swamiji blesses Hemaji with Tilak at the Ganga Yagna ceremony



Rishikumars of our Parmarth Gurukul garland Hemaji and she expresses the divine experience she has had at Parmarth

Hon. Governor of Nagaland

On May 24, His Excellency Shri K. Sankaranarayanji, the Honorable Governor of Nagaland came to Parmarth to perform the divine Ganga aarti and have Pujya Swamiji's darshan. It was his first time at the ashram and he was so touched by the divine aarti ceremony and also by Pujya Swamiji that he had tears in his eyes.

It was a beautiful meeting and he promised to come back home soon.



Pujya Swami Govind Giriji

Pujya Swami Govind Giriji was giving divine katha in Rishikesh, near Parmarth Niketan ashram and he came to Parmarth Niketan to meet with Pujya Swamiji and also to participate in the divine Ganga Aarti. Pujya Swamiji and Pujya Swami Govind Giriji have known each other very well for many years and are very close. They traveled together throughout USA for nine weeks on a Dharma Yatra.



Pujya Swami Govind Giriji comes for Divine Ganga Aarti and Yagna

Dipti Salgaocar

Dipti Salgaocar, the daughter of late Divine Soul Shri Dhirubhai and Smt. Kokilaben Ambani, and sister of Anil and Mukesh Ambani, came to Parmarth Niketan to have Pujya Swamiji's darshan and participate in the Divine Ganga Aarti. She also came to personally give Pujya Swamiji -- on Kokilaben's behalf -- the new biography of Shri Dhirubhai Ambani, written and compiled by Smt. Kokilaben. She had sent Diptiben personally to Rishikesh to gift it to Pujya Swamiji for His blessings. Pujya Swamiji was so happy to see the beautiful book about the life and work of beautiful soul late Dhirubhai.

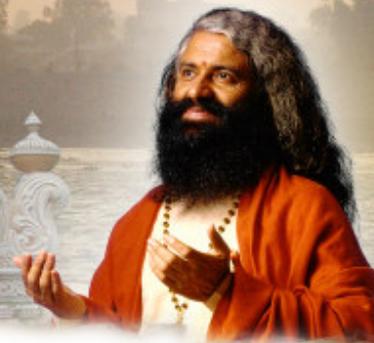


Pujya Swami speaks on the phone to Smt. Kokilaben



Pujya Swamiji and Diptiben look together at the book

Parmarth Niketan



Pujya Swamiji's Travels Within India and Abroad

Spreading wisdom, inspiration and joy to people across the world

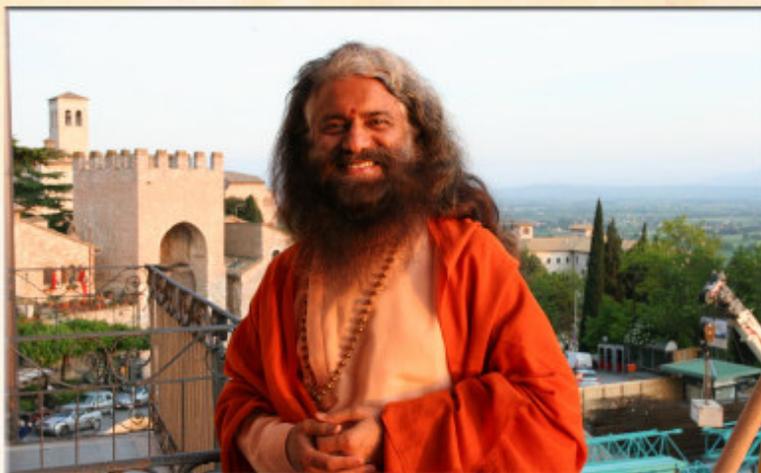
Assisi, Italy



From May 1-4, the Sarvayoga Foundation hosted a beautiful International Yoga Conference in which they called revered yoga experts from all over the world (mostly from India) to teach and speak about the true, deep, ancient lineage of yoga. These days one can learn asanas and even pranayama at thousands of studios around the globe. However, to truly learn the ancient wisdom of the 8-limbs of yoga (including everything from ways of living up to divine ecstasy/trance/immersion) one must turn to India and the traditional Indian lineage.

Pujya Swamiji gave a beautiful discourse on how to live a yogic life 24 hours a day. He spoke about the importance of both balance and flexibility, not only in our asanas, but also in our lives. Learning balance and flexibility in our physical postures teaches us how to have this in every aspect of our lives. In order to be true yogis and not simply acrobats, we must be balanced, calm, peaceful and flexible.

He also spoke about the multiple meanings of Sarva-Yoga. One meaning is “yoga for all.” Yoga is all inclusive, open and available to everyone regardless of religion, culture or background. Also, it can mean a “Union of all forms of Yoga,” a time and place in which one can learn all different forms and types of yoga.



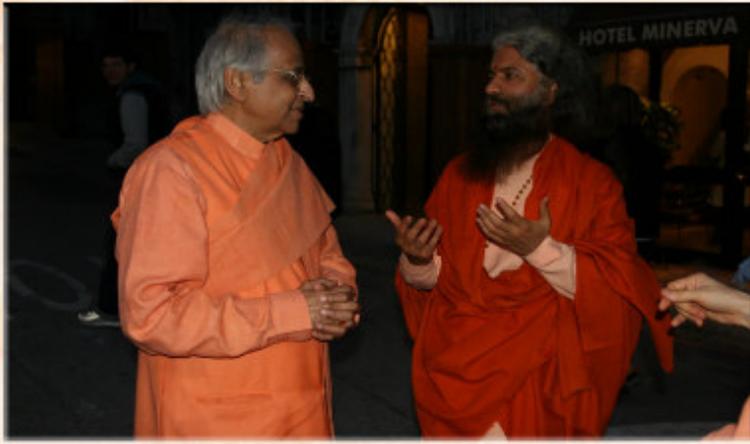
Pujya Swamiji giving a lecture



Sadhvi Bhagwati speaks on the Indian model of education



The beautiful valley of Assisi



Pujya Swamiji with Pujya Swami Veda Bharatiji

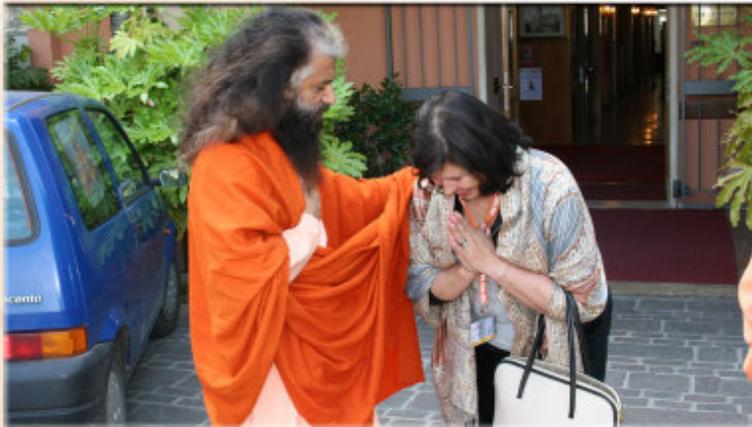
In addition to the large lecture, Pujya Swamiji also gave a special satsang session in which participants had the opportunity to ask questions also. Pujya Swamiji's question-answer satsangs are always a great highlight as He has a very special way of tapping directly into the heart and mind of the questioner. The satsang began with a meditation led by Sadhvi Bhagwati.



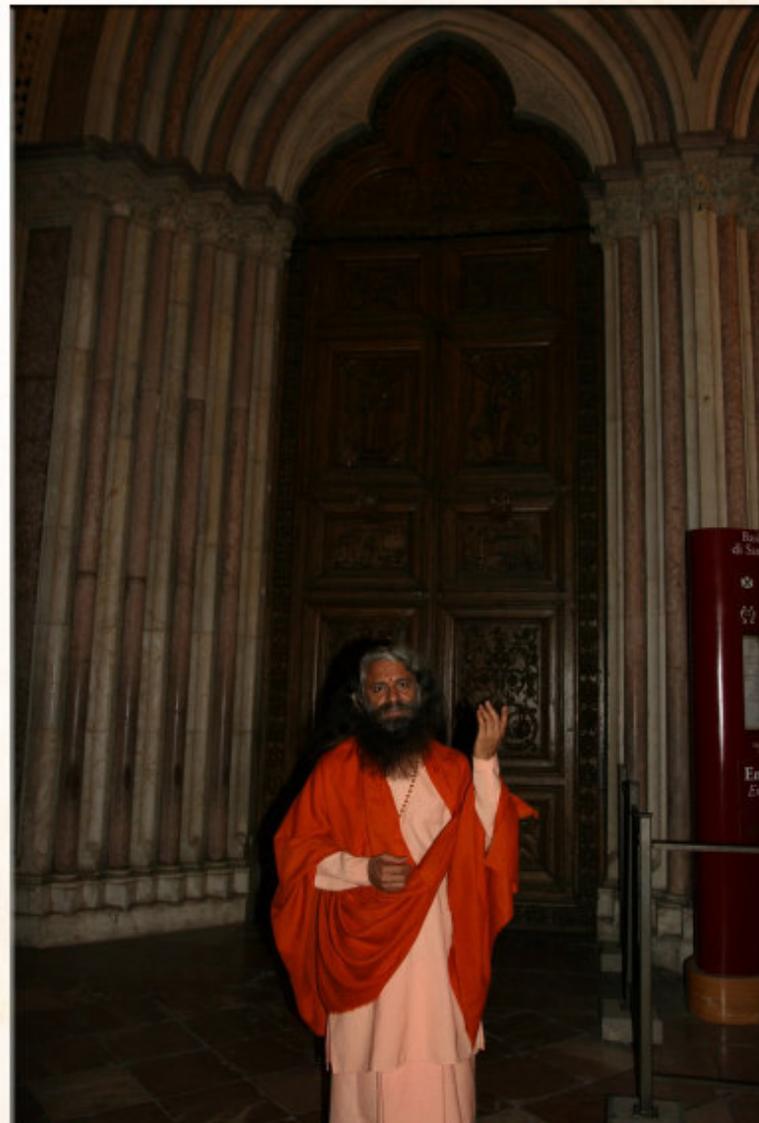
Pujya Swamiji gives satsang & Question-Answer Session

Dear Antonietta Rozzi, the organizer of the entire conference served as the translator from English into Italian for Pujya Swamiji's lecture as well as the satsang.

During His time in Assisi, Pujya Swamiji also visited the main cathedral of St. Francis, and listened to a special program of Gregorian chanting.



Pujya Swamiji blesses Antonietta



The cathedral lit at night

After the Gregorian chanting program, He had a beautiful conversation with the man who had done the chanting, explaining that the sound and intonation of the Gregorian chant sounded exactly like the Sanskrit Samveda. It's amazing to see how many of the world's traditions have their roots in Indian / Sanskrit tradition



Pujya Swamiji blessing a wood-carver who makes the beautiful, sacred, religious pieces all by hand



The audience at Pujya Swamiji's lecture

Jwala Devi Mandir, HP

At the auspicious time of Vaisakhi, on the sacred day of Rama Navami (the day Bhagwan Rama incarnated in human form), Pujya Swamiji went to Jwala Devi Mandir in Himachal Pradesh for a special function organized by the Maha Boddhi Society, which is headed by Dr. Bhupendra Kumar Modi. Leaders of Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism came together in this holy land of the Mother Goddess for a program titled "Hinduism & Buddhism - Back to Basics."



Pujya Swamiji and Dr. BK Modiji present an Indian Splendor Award to Bhadant Gnana Jagat Mahathero



The religious leaders give inspiring and uplifting messages at a beautiful hall in Jwala Mukhi

Hero Honda, Haridwar

On April 7, Pujya Swamiji, Pujya Swami Ramdevji, Pujya Swami Satyamitranandji and Acharya Balkrishanji were the Chief Guests at the opening of the Hero Honda factory in Haridwar, owned and established by the very dedicated, devoted and pious Munjal family.



Gurukul Kangri, Haridwar



On June 7, it was the annual convocation ceremony at Gurukul Kangri University in Haridwar, the renowned and esteemed institute based on the traditional form of Indian education. Pujya Swamiji was a Special Guest at the ceremony, with Honorable Shri LK Advani, Honorable Shri BC Khanduriji the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Dr. Devendra Trigunait (the internationally famous Ayurvedic expert) and other dignitaries. The event began with a sacred havan ceremony and was followed by speeches and conferring of awards.



Recitation of prayers and National Anthem



On stage at the Convocation



Pujya Swamiji gives a beautiful talk



Pujya Swamiji with Pratibhaji Advani



Seva and Sanskaras

Every month innumerable people and families come to Parmarth to perform sacred rites ceremonies, primarily mundan ceremony (the first hair cut) and the final ash immersion puja. People also come for the auspicious and beautiful events of marriage, sacred thread ceremony and other rites of passage. To see the way these events are performed at Parmarth see: www.parmarth.com/sanskaras.html

Further, so many people come to Parmarth filled with the desire to perform some kind of selfless seva (service) for the divine rishikumars of our gurukul, or the poor, wandering sadhus, or the children in our free schools or innumerable other projects. It is impossible to list here all those who come to perform sacred sanskaras (sacred rites) or seva, but following is a small sample of those who have come during this time period, with an emphasis on those who have traveled thousands of miles away to perform these ceremonies or celebrate these special events on the holy banks of Mother Ganga.

Free Prosthetic Limbs Camp

From March 14 - 19, Parmarth Niketan and India Heritage Research Foundation (IHRF) hosted and sponsored a free medical camp to provide new, prosthetic limbs to those who lost them through disease or accident.

The camp gave the gift of new life and new hope to more than 100 of the poorest of the poor who had lost feet and/or legs. Both adults and children were treated and received new limbs.

The camp was jointly organized by Manav Seva Sannidhi, led by divine soul Abhilasha Singhviji (daughter of most respected Dr. L.M. Singhviji) and Parmarth Niketan.





The Concluding Program was attended by Shri Subhash Kumarji, the Commissioner of Garhwal



Our Rishikumars help children practice walking on their new legs



Pujya Swamiji speaks at the opening day



Pujya Swamiji with children who received prosthetic limbs

FREE UROLOGY CAMP

On May 24-25, a free diagnostic urology camp was held in honor of Pujya Swamiji's upcoming birthday, led by prominent Urology Surgeon, Dr. Anshumaan Kapoor of Chandigarh, Haryana.

The following services were provided for free during this camp: Urology consultation, medicines, laboratory investigation, uroflow meter examination and computerized recording of urination.

Dr. Anshumaan Kapoor is very devoted and dedicated to all of Parmarth's charitable activities especially health-care. He has held other free camps here previously and his next camp will be a free Urology Surgical Camp.

FREE ACUPRESSURE CAMP

In May, Dr. Khemka and Dr. KC Agarwal came from Allahabad with their team of acupressure doctors. They come to Parmarth annually and run free seva camps in which so many people benefit from the non-invasive, effective and side-effect-free treatment!

At this camp they treated over 1000 patients for diseases ranging from blood pressure to diabetes to arthritis to headache and so much more.



Inauguration of camp by Pujya Swamiji, Honorable Governor of Nagaland and Dr. Anshumaan Kapoor



Parmarth International School

India Heritage Research Foundation (see www.ihrf.com and www.parmarth.com/newsletter-newyear.pdf) of which Pujya Swamiji is the Founder/Chairman added new children's schools to its wide and vast free, charitable projects. These schools are located in Himachal Pradesh -- in Hamirpur, Hiranagar and Mehra. Currently, approximately 300 children are enrolled in nursery through 6th class, with plans to expand.

On Pujya Swamiji's visit to Jwala Devi on the 14th and 15th April, He went to visit the schools, as Samir (the in-charge) had been requesting Him to come and bless the schools since their opening. He visited 3 schools and was happy particularly to see the computer rooms!





The Parmarth International Schools also have school buses provided by IHRF to pick up children who live in remote areas.

Other Functions at Parmarth

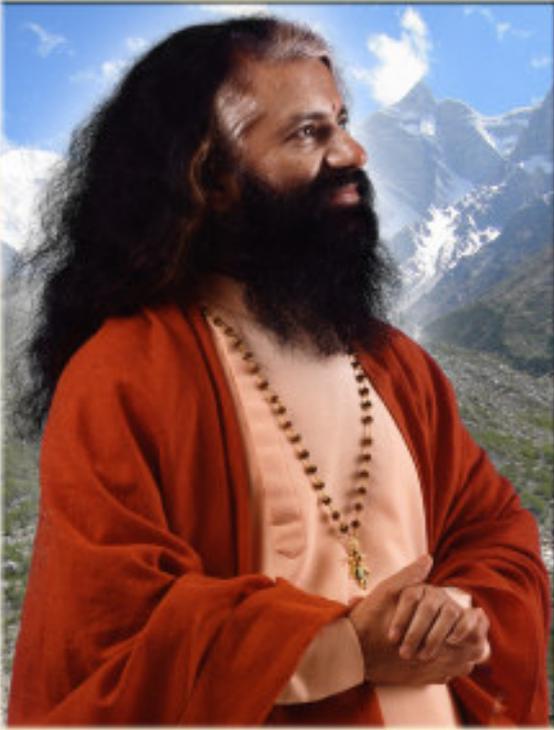


The month of March was further sanctified by the divine Bhagwat Katha given by Shri Srikant Vyasji of Calcutta at Parmarth. The entire land became filled with divine song and dance.



From April 19-20 a special Rotary Assembly Conference was organized here at Parmarth in which hundreds of Rotarians from several districts came to have seminars, receive blessings and words of inspiration from Pujya Swamiji and also to participate in Divine Ganga Aarti.

Divine Message



Embracing Life's Challenges So We Can Soar High

There was once a man who noticed a beautifully woven cocoon on a tree outside his home. He carefully watched the cocoon every day in order to catch the first glimpse of the beautiful butterfly he knew would emerge. Finally, one day he saw a tiny hole in the cocoon which grew quickly as the hours passed. He sat watching the butterfly break her way out of the cocoon. However, suddenly he noticed that it seemed the butterfly had stopped making progress. The hole did not get any larger and the butterfly seemed to be stuck. The cocoon was bouncing up and down on the branch as the

butterfly tried to squeeze herself, unsuccessfully, through the hole she had created.

The man watched in dismay as it seemed his butterfly would not be able to emerge. Finally, he went inside, took a small pair of scissors, and carefully cut the cocoon, allowing the butterfly to emerge easily. However, the butterfly immediately dropped to the ground instead of soaring gracefully into the sky as he imagined she would.

The man noticed that the butterfly's stomach was swollen and distended but her wings were small and shriveled, explaining her inability to fly. He assumed that after some time, the stomach would shrink and the wings would expand, and she would fly in her fullest glory. However, this was never to be.

The man didn't know that it was the very act of forcing her body through the tiny hole in the cocoon which would push all the fluid from her stomach into her wings. Without that external pressure, the stomach would always be swollen and the wings would always be shriveled. The butterfly would never fly.

* * *

In life, too frequently, we avoid the challenges, looking for the easy way out. We look for people who will "cut our cocoons," so that we never have to work and push our way through anything. However, little do we realize that it is going

through those times of difficulty which prepare us for the road ahead. The obstacles in our path are God's way of making us able to fly. With every bit of pushing and struggling, our wings become fuller and fuller. Without successfully navigating our challenges, struggles and hurdles we never learn how to fly. We never are able to leave the chains which bind us. We never become that beautiful, final product that God has envisioned for us. A butterfly's ultimate destiny is to soar gracefully and beautifully, yet in order to do so she has to push herself through a tight cocoon. We can never know our own ultimate, highest destiny unless we are prepared to face and overcome the struggles that life puts in our path.

So frequently, people come to me and say, *"Oh, why has God given me so much strife. Why has He put so many obstacles in my path? Why is He punishing me?"*

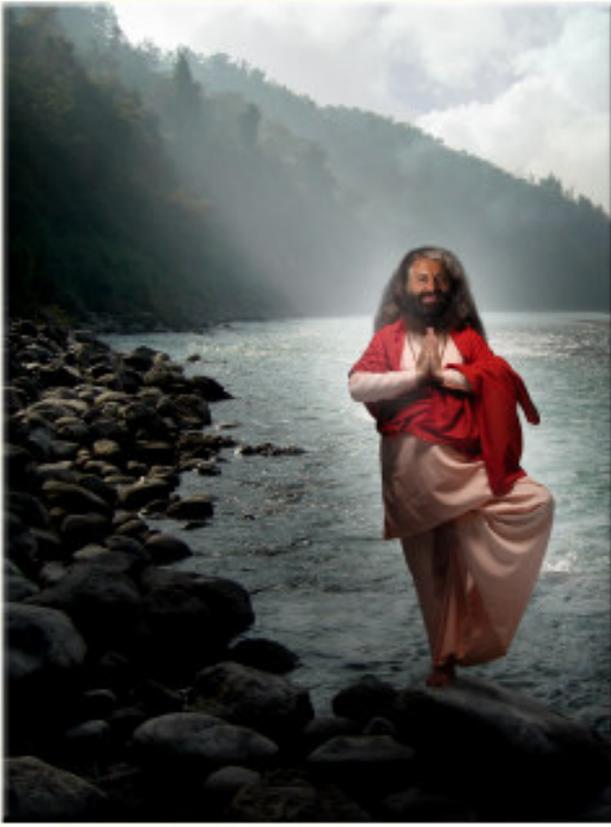
We must realize these are not punishments. Sure, karma plays a large role in what we receive in this lifetime, but even the things that seem like "bad" karma, are actually opportunities for growth. Even an extra small hole to squeeze through is actually an opportunity for our wings to expand to great lengths.

So, let us learn to take our challenges for what they are, rather than looking around for a "different" hole, or for someone with a pair of scissors. These things may help us quickly through the cocoon, but we will be unable to fly in life.

With love and blessings to you all.

In the service of God and humanity,

Swami Chidanand Saraswati



Pujya Swamiji's Itinerary June - August 2008

June

1-2	Rishikesh
3-4	Delhi
5-15	Rishikesh
16	Uttarkashi
17	Haridwar
18-19	Rishikesh
20-22	Uttarkashi
23	Delhi
24	Rishikesh
25	Delhi
26-29	Rishikesh

July

3	Bangkok
4-10	Hong Kong & SE Asia
12-13	Los Angeles
15-16	San Francisco Bay Area
18-19	Louisville, KY
20	Atlanta, Georgia
21-22	Toronto
23-24	Winnipeg
25-27	Chicago
28-31	Pittsburgh

August

1	Pittsburgh
2-4	Harrisburg/ Vraj, PA
9	Frederick, Maryland
11-17	Brazil

** For Details of Pujya Swamiji's Public Discourse, Satsang and Darshan schedule abroad please see www.parmarth.com/swamijisitinerary.html or contact bhagwati@parmarth.com*

Please note: Pujya Swamiji's schedule is always subject to change.

Please email to parmarth@parmarth.com for up-to-date information on His availability in Rishikesh