

The Vedanta Society of St. Louis

Swami Chetanananda – Minister and Spiritual Teacher
RAMAKRISHNA ORDER OF INDIA

September 2020

Due to COVID-19, public attendance at Sunday lectures has been suspended until further notice. Lectures will be live streamed Sundays on our YouTube channel starting at 10:35 a.m.

Sunday Services 10:35 a.m.

- September 6** Reminiscences of Swami Shivananda and Vedanta (*archive recording*)
Swami Shraddhananda, former head, Vedanta Society of Sacramento
- 13** Sowing the Seeds of Change
Swami Nirakarananda
- 20** Thoughts on the Gita – Part 109
- 27** Stories of Vedanta Monks – Part 32

No Tuesday or Thursday Classes in September

Appointments for phone interviews should be made with the Swami in advance at 314-721-5118.

Membership in the Society is open to all who accept Vedantic teachings.

The library and bookstore are closed until we reopen. The online bookstore is available at www.vedantastl.org. Lectures are on YouTube at VedantaSTL.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Work

One great danger of Karma Yoga is that it lapses into ordinary work. We may satisfy our natural craving for work, but we may imagine that we are performing Karma Yoga. Every work that brings success, or gratifies our innate desire for work brings some satisfaction to the mind, and this, we may easily mistake for the peace which religion brings. If we read the *Gita* between the lines, the one thought that strikes us as the keynote of Karma Yoga is, that we should rise superior to all considerations as to the agreeableness or disagreeableness of our duties. Attraction for what is pleasant, and aversion for the unpleasant are almost inseparable from human nature. But are they not at the root of all misery, ignorance and evil? The Karma-Yogin is therefore strongly advised to brush them away. He must be master of nature and not its slave. The human must be raised to the divine.

— Sister Nivedita, “Work is Worship,” **Complete Works of Sister Nivedita**, Vol. V, p. 104

To work properly, therefore, you have first to give up the idea of attachment. Secondly, do not mix in the fray. Hold yourself as a witness and go on working. My Master used to say, “Look upon your children as a nurse does.” The nurse will take your baby and fondle it and play with it and behave toward it as gently as if it were her own child. But as soon as you give her notice to quit, she is ready to start off, bag and baggage, from the house. Everything in the shape of attachment is forgotten. It will not give the ordinary nurse the least pang to leave your children and take up other children. Even so are you to be with all that you consider your own. You are like the nurse. If you believe in God, believe that all these things which you consider yours are really His.

— Swami Vivekananda, **Complete Works of Swami Vivekananda**, Vol. I, p. 89