

The Vedanta Society of St. Louis

Swami Chetanananda – Minister and Spiritual Teacher

RAMAKRISHNA ORDER OF INDIA

January 2022

We welcome in person attendance at Sunday lectures. We observe covid precautions of reserved seating, mandatory mask wearing, and proof of full vaccination status. The link to reserve seats is on our website, vedantastl.org.

Lectures will continue to be live streamed Sundays on our YouTube channel at 10:35 a.m. To request access to the Q&A zoom meeting following the lecture, send an email to join@vedantastl.org.

Sunday Services 10:30 a.m.

January **2** Success Depends on Struggle

Swami Chetanananda

9 Stories of Vedanta Monks – Part 45

Swami Chetanananda

16 Regain Your Own Empire

Swami Nishpapananda

23 Be Strong, Be Free (*Vivekananda Anniversary Service*)

Swami Nirakarananda

30 Swami Brahmananda as Spiritual Teacher (*Anniversary Service*)

Swami Nishpapananda

Classes No Tuesday or Thursday classes in January

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 Society maintains a rental library for members and stocks books for sale.

www.vedantastl.org YouTube: VedantaSTL

ALL ARE WELCOME

Thoughts of Strength

To injure another creates bondage and hides the truth. Negative virtues are not enough; we have to conquer maya and then it will follow us. We only deserve things when they have ceased to bind us. When the bondage ceases, really and truly, all things come to us. Only those who want nothing are masters of nature.

Take refuge in some soul who has already broken his bondage, and in time he will free you through his mercy. Higher still is to take refuge in the Lord, but it is the most difficult. Only once in a century can one be found who has really done it. Feel nothing, know nothing, do nothing, have nothing, give up all to God and say utterly, "Thy will be done". We only dream this bondage. Wake up and let it go. Take refuge in God; only so can we cross the desert of maya. "Let go thy hold, sannyasin bold! Say, 'Om Tat Sat, Om!'"

It is our privilege to be allowed to be charitable; for only so can we grow. The poor man suffers that we may be helped. Let the giver kneel down and give thanks; let the receiver stand up and permit. See the Lord back of every being, and give to Him. When we cease to see evil, the world must end for us, because to rid us of that mistake is its only object. To think there is any imperfection creates it. Thoughts of strength and perfection alone can cure it. Do what good you can, some evil will inhere in it; but do all without regard to personal results, give up all results to the Lord, then neither good nor evil will affect you.

— Swami Vivekananda, *Inspired Talks*, Thursday, July 25, 1895