

## 1. Acknowledgements:

“In the first instance, Bhagavadpada is keen on expressing his gratitude to a number of family friends and *atmaswarupis*, who had spontaneously come forward to support his 2012 ‘Tat Tvam Asi’ pilgrimage-into the continents of North & South America, in one way or the other:

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 Dr Jyoti Chordia,  
 Smt Padmapriya & family,  
 Sri Vineet Krishna and family,  
 Sri Shailini Suave,  
 Sri V Sundaresan & family..

## 2. His Spiritual Pilgrimage to Ojai, CA, and to TMI, Faber, Virginia:

“Bhagavadpada’s personal spiritual pilgrimage commenced, only after his

already scheduled personal meetings, *satsangs*, and retreats [*Atmajnana Yajnas*] in Toronto [Canada], Punta Del Este [Uruguay] and Mexico City [Mexico] came to a close.

“He had the *samkalpa* to take me to the first destination, the Ojai Valley (as I was well aware of the continued impact, the Masters Sri J. Krishnamurti and Sri Sri Bhagavan had had on him, since many decades). In addition, he had initially only wished that his niece Sri Nandini Balakrishna & her husband Sri Peter Christensen should come along with them, but, as this did not prove convenient for both of them, he was very happy to take the helping hand of a younger spiritual associate (Sri Madhu Saiji), whom he had already known in India, when the latter served diligently for many years in the spiritual mission of his beloved Master, Sri Sri Bhagavan.

“He felt that we should be driven from LA (Los Angeles) to Ojai, by someone who had the capacity to feel deeply what this pilgrimage was all about, the profound significance of Krishnaji’s teachings, and this is exactly how it all also happened, during the drives and during the *satsangs* at the Pepper Tree Retreat and at the Pine Tree Cottage. *He desired the long drive very much, because he wanted to feel those mountains, those trees and the land, as all this was infinitely dear to the beloved Master Krishnamurti, when he was still in the body.* Thus, along with Madhuji and myself (who had been working in the US, since going away from the mission of Sri Sri Amma Bhagavan), he spent a peaceful week-end in Ojai valley [California] - the historical abode for decades of the philosopher-Master, known for his radically new approach to self knowing, negation & spiritual learning-an approach of great value to true seekers on the *nivritti marga*.

“On account of his own life-long devotion to this beloved Master (and his late mother’s life-long devotion as well), this visit had the desired profound impact on both of us who were both very receptive to whatever he had to say about this Master, and whatever he read out aloud (at both the Pepper Tree Retreat as well as at the Pine Cottage) from the teachings and biography of this beloved Master.

“In this visit, he was seeking the blessings of this departed Master for bringing his work into the world at this time. Importantly, he had also come here to Ojai for paying homage and for offering gratitude for the awakening he had secured in his younger years in Mumbai (1973), through the teachings of this beloved Master, seeded into the heart through the stern guidance of his other beloved Master Sri Sri Bhagavan.

“Subsequently he also spent a week at the Monroe Institute (**TMI**), in Faber, Virginia (US), *and this time, surprisingly, himself participating in a course in the expansion of consciousness, just to ‘feel’ the sublime consciousness of Robert*

*Monroe and secure for himself a first-hand experience of the ground-breaking research work of the American sage, Robert Monroe, in the field of expansion of consciousness, brought about by new research strides in binaural-beats sound technology.* This week long stay at the Monroe Institute was also fruitful in other ways (as I learnt later on)- he got an opportunity for discussing his own spiritual work on self-knowing and self-realization with the extremely learned director of that Institute, Dr Carol Sabick De La Herran, and also with one of the past learned directors of the Monroe Institute (who also happens to be a Western astrologer), Mrs Nancy H McMoneagle. He had an equally wonderful opportunity to meet a number of interesting seekers and remarkable souls like Kevin Turner as well, seekers and teachers who were on different spiritual paths.

“Throughout his North and South American pilgrimage (except for the Virginia chapter), I accompanied him, and was there to help him with his *Jyotish* consultations in Toronto [Canada], Mexico City [Mexico] & Punta del Este [Uruguay]; and also with his *Atma Jnana Yajnas* in Uruguay & Mexico.

### **3. In Toronto, Canada:**

“We arrived on 10th Sep 2012 in Toronto, without the least travel fatigue and were received at the airport by Sri Bharathyji, Sri Vasugiji and Sri Sivamainthanji and were straightaway taken to the residence of the Bharathys where we stayed for a full 15 days. We were given independent rooms to stay and the consultations took place in their Pooja room, where the main deity was Sri Sri Amma Bhagavan. In all there were 32 *Jyotish* consultations and most of them exceeded two hours, and this seemed a lot of strain on Guruji, but he was ever fresh. The Bharathys were warm and extremely hospitable and took very good care of us. While Bharathyji used to leave early for his fieldwork, Smt Devakiji would leave an hour or so later, after making sure that things were in proper place for their guests. She is a well-known dance teacher and runs an active Bharathanatyam dance school by the name of Sri Kalki Natyalaya, where she imparts lessons in classical Bharatanatyam.

We also had an opportunity to witness two of her students perform at a temple premises. Sri Vasugiji & other friends of theirs joined them to make our stay very comfortable & memorable. Bharathyji, Vasugiji, Sivamainthanji & Lakshmi Kumarji took care of all our transportation needs and drove us to Ottawa, Rochester, Niagara & Kitchener apart from the regular local drives.

“While the Bharathys played the role of angelic hosts, Vasugiji took the responsibility of arranging 32 *Jyotish* consultations well before we reached Toronto. She also, with assistance from the Bharathys and other friends, arranged for a *satsang* at Markham (in Toronto). This was mainly for the Sri Lankan community and about a hundred people attended. Bharathyji had also quickly

organized, upon our request, 20 sets of the *Atmajnana Yajna* DVDs conducted in Chennai, all, copied within a short span of 6 hrs and made available to the seekers.

“Sri Lakshmi Kumarji, organized 2 *satsangs* one at downtown Toronto and the other Kitchener, a place 120 Kms away from Toronto. These two catered to Western seekers; there were 17 at the downtown *satsang* and 25 at Kitchener. Sri Richard Arsic, a friend of Lakshmiiji was very selfless and helpful in the organization of the Kitchener talk. These two *satsangs* evoked lot of interest in the participants which resulted in lively discussions. Some of the photographs taken on these occasions are reproduced below:

#### 4. Satsang at Downtown Toronto:



“All the astrological consultations, including those appointments given to seekers after they attended the *satsangs* (there were 6 Western seekers, who sought *Jyotish* knowledge), were intense and for all of them it was a real eye opener for understanding their lives. Though, on more than one occasion the consultations went beyond 10 PM, the Bharathys were always there, to adjust to our changing



schedules. It was sheer joy to be in their midst, doing our work. We also felt completely at home.

“To secure our visas to Uruguay from the Uruguayan embassy, we had to travel to the Canadian capital, Ottawa. It was Vasugiji with some assistance from Sivamainthanji, who drove the entire 1,000 Kms, to & fro, from Toronto. A memorable trip it turned out to be and it also gave us the opportunity to visit the National Museum in Ottawa and also stroll through some parts of that beautiful city, which was so typically Canadian.

### **5. In Ottawa with Vasugiji:**



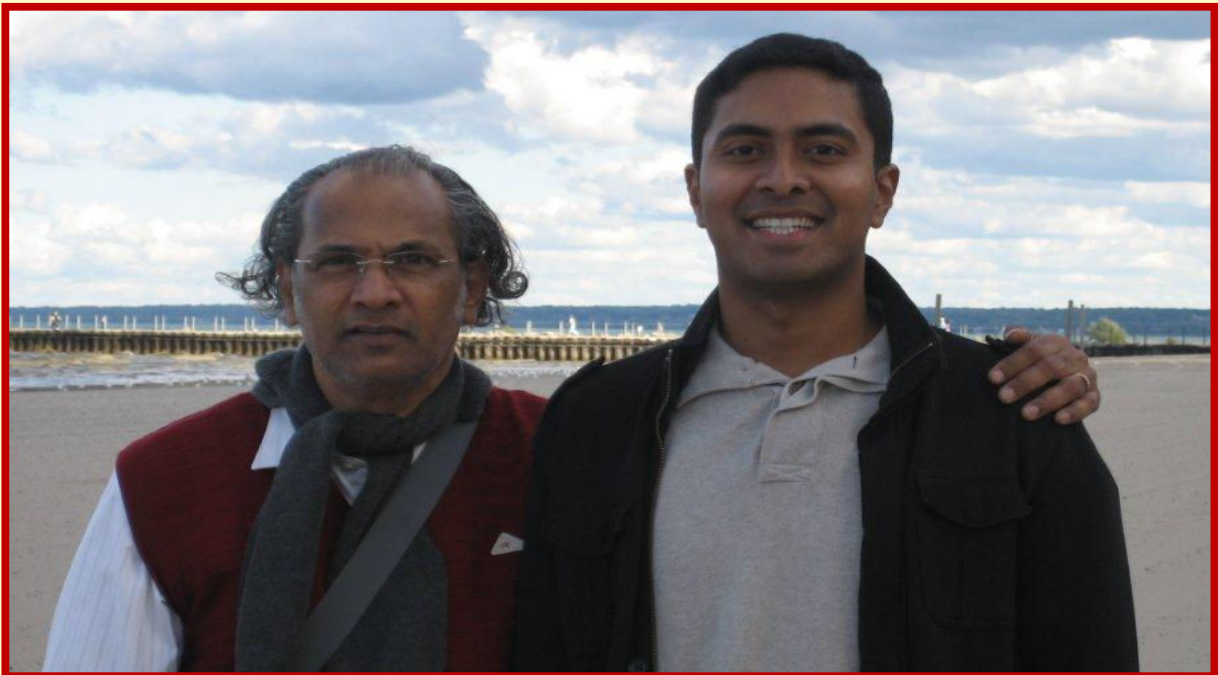
“On two different occasions, Sivamainthanji and the group comprising Vasugiji, Suranayaniji & Jananiji took us to two different water fronts of the lake Ontario; the unhurried walk on the shores of the lake was an experience by itself. The second walk that took place in Key beach was called ‘the board walk’ and it was for a good 3 Kms, and very enchanting as well.

“Vasugiji along with Bharathyji and Lakshmi Kumarji drove us to Rochester, the border city on the US side. At Rochester, we went to a Devi Temple and then to a ‘Tim Horton’ outlet [run by her sister Kasthuriji with her husband, Johnji-they were also very warm and hospitable]. Throughout the drive, Lakshmiji was asking Guruji (this is how Bhagavadpada is addressed in India) various Qs, and Guruji was spontaneously and honestly answering every question. From there we went to witness the most beautiful and overwhelming Niagara Waterfalls. This was indeed a very memorable trip, we were in excellent company, and Guruji pointed out that Niagara was a classic example of the Zodiacal Sign Cancer, which represented ‘surging & rushing waters’.

**6. In Rochester, with the group and with Lakshmiji.**







### **7. In Punta Del Este, Uruguay, with Ricardoji:**

“Leaving Toronto on the 25th of Sep, we reached firstly Miami in Florida, and then Montevideo, the capitol of Uruguay on the 26th. The travel to Punta del Este in Uruguay could be undertaken only because of the very sincere and intelligent efforts of Sri Ricardoji and Sri Juan Pablo Diaz. Sri Juan Pablo was instrumental in

organizing our Visa just four days prior to our travel, so there was uncertainty in Toronto. Guruji said that, though he was initially quite shocked to notice within himself, a nonchalance, for it did not matter to him, if the Latin American travel fell through; he suddenly seemed to have realized the gravity of it all that he had to get there, for the happiness of Sri Ricardoji, and for that of all seekers in that part of the world, if not for his own happiness.

“Sri Ricardoji, who was our main host and benefactor, was at the airport to receive us warmly along with his friend Joachim Hua, who drove the distance of 120 Kms to Punta del Este within some 2 hrs. Ricardoji had arranged for our stay at the mystical AWA Hotel and has taken care of all our requirements-his sensitivity and sense of hospitality was exceptional. The two day *Atma Jnana Yajna*, the *satsangs* on the preceding day to the *Yajna* and the *Jyotish* consultations were all very intense and the participants [from Argentina, Chile, Brazil & Uruguay] vastly benefitted through the process of questioning and understanding (*samalochana*). There were 42 seekers in all.

“Sri Ricardoji, with his deep understanding of the subject, translated the English discourse instantaneously in Spanish. This was phenomenal, as there was literally no time delay between the English talk and the Spanish translation. As most of the seekers were very familiar with Spanish, this translation made them perfectly understand the teaching and follow the *Yajna* closely.



“During our stay at Punta del Este, Ricardoji took us around to the Punta del Este’s land’s end, ending in the Atlantic Ocean and also to the residence of Juan Pablo &



Sylvia, a cozy home and were treated to lunch. On an earlier occasion, we had tea at the cozy home of Ricardoji and his wife Nataliaji & their two lovely little daughters.

“Punta del Este is a wonderful small city and is very peaceful; the trip was very fruitful. The proprietor of the AWA Hotel, Analia Suarez, a very warm person, insisted on driving us back to Montevideo airport, so that we could take our flight to Mexico city. It was a fast and lovely drive on a rainy, cold & windy day and she took under 90 mts to bring us to the airport. Earlier in the day, Ricardoji had left for Mexico city, so that he could be at the airport to receive us, when we arrived there.

### **8. In Mexico City:**

“Leaving Montevideo, we reached Mexico City on the 4th Oct around 9 PM and Ricardoji & Monicaji were there to receive us. Monica Gutierrez had brought her spacious SUV and drove us to the house of Maggiji, which was to be our residence for the next 7 days.

This Mexico city is the capital of Mexico, the country and is situated at an altitude of some 7,500 feet, above the msl. This is the most populous city in the world, with the population touching 25,000,000(25 millions). The people of Mexico and all Spanish people in fact were very warm and effusive, and all those who attended the AJY, were just wonderful to relate to-so joyous, so selfless in their service.

“What a superb host Maggiji was! Her entire house was placed at our disposal and during lunch and dinner, there used to be the entire team of volunteers (about 12), sharing and enjoying the food that was always available in plenty. It was always lively and there was never a dull moment during the entire stay. Giving us her family rooms, one for Guruji, one for Ricardoji and one for myself and she herself moving into a room with lesser facilities, she made sure that our requirements were always met-she was magnanimous, and it was so pleasant to meet her two sons.

“She offered the huge banquet hall in the ground floor of her house to hold the *Yajna* and the remarkable team of volunteers consisting of Gabrielji, Monicaji, Elviraji, Marcoji, Maggiji, Pipeji, Jimeji, Pepeji, Roselbaji and Sebastianji turned it into a beautiful *Yajna Stal*. Alnoorji, who was at Maggiji’s house, also lent a helping hand and volunteered to help us buy our flight tickets. Latest techniques were used during the *Yajna* and the technical team was simply superb. While they were monitoring the various aspects to see there was not the least hitch, they were also intently listening to the message of the *Yajna*.



“Once again Sri Ricardoji was to the forefront with his terrific translation, that was mesmerizing and we were all wonder stuck at his marvelous & effortless skills. The translation was just flowing from him and it kept the audience riveted to their seats and to the theme, as it facilitated their understanding of the subject. He also made himself available during the breaks, when he was seen explaining the difficult subject with all the seriousness and much humor too. 63 seekers, inclusive of the 10 Yajna team members, attended the *Atma Jnana Yajna*.

#### **9. The Atma Jnana Yajna in Progress [Mexico] City:**



“The following 2 days after the *Yajna*, there were astrological consultations and these were held at the residence of Gabrielji & Monicaji. Full of warmth and love, Gabrielji & Monicaji, like Maggiji, opened their house for this mission work, so that seekers could be well benefitted. On the 2nd day, Maggiji drove us to the house of Monicaji at 11 AM and stayed with us throughout the day, till the session finished at 11:45 PM and drove us back. For a host, managing her house with three guests and then reaching them to the consultation place and also staying with them throughout, showed her involvement and true appreciation of the mission. Her two sons who were then at home were equally warm and hospitable.

### **10. The Astrological Consultations:**

“Leaving Mexico on the 10th Oct, we flew into San Jose the same day at 10:30 PM, and were warmly received by Guruji’s niece Smt Nandiniji and her husband Sri Peterji. We were taken to their residence and the wonderful hospitality continued. During the three days of our stay, we went for long walks, prayed at the local church [the prayer being very powerful], were shown different areas of San Jose [the prestigious Stanford University, the Bay Area where most of the IT companies are] by Peterji. On the morning of the 13th, they dropped us at the San Jose Intl Airport and we were on our way to Ojai valley via LA.

“Starting early on Monday, the 15th, we left Ojai for LA and again Sri Madhuji, by his splendid hospitality, saw that we reached the LA Airport well in time. While Guruji went back to San Jose, I moved to Tampa to be with my brother Sri Kumarji and to take part in his son’s wedding. After 4 days in San Jose, Bhagavadpada left on the 19th to The Monroe Institute to take part in a retreat, which was for a period of 6 days.

Back to Toronto on the 26th night, he was received by the Bharathys and stayed with them for two days, visiting the National Museum, looking up the Kingbridge Centre, built by a philanthropist for sharing thoughts for elevating the human consciousness to higher levels through discussions and also holding a *satsang* for 22 students of Smt Devakiji’s school of dance.

“After seven weeks of such a pilgrimage in the North & South America, Guruji left Toronto on 29th Oct, a Monday and reached Chennai on the midnight of 30th Oct. This indeed was very satisfying, and Guruji said, ‘I do not know how to express our gratitude to: Sri Ricardoji, and his marvelous teammates, to Maggiji, to Analiaji, Juan Pabloji, to the Bharati Family, to Vasugiji, to Lakshmi Kumarji, to Kumarji, to Nandiniji and Peterji, Madhuji; and to all *atmaswarupis*, for without



their selfless and pure hearts, this pilgrimage would have simply failed!’ “Of course, a large number of seekers seemed to have benefitted, through *satsangs* with Guruji-this was also a happy thing for us.”

Aum Tat Sat

-Kannan Subramanian