The Essence

Life of an urban spiritual practitioner

About

Jay Shetty / Ghanashyam Priya Das writes "The Essence", an insight into the life of an urban spiritual practitioner. After graduating from Cass Business School, London, in 2010, with a BSc in Management, he decided to take a gap year to delve deeper into teachings of Krishna Consciousness and Eastern philosophy. The gap year includes a monastic style of life and traveling to various spiritual sites all over the world. "The Essence" is dedicated to reflections from the journey ahead.

He is also a public speaker and has facilitated several interactive sessions and appeared on panel discussions, on religion, philosophy and spirituality at Schools and Universities all over the country including the London School of Economics, Cass Business School and Queen Mary, University of London. He was the President of a National Youth Group for some years and has undertaken courses in Leadership, Public Speaking, Enterprise and Innovation.

He received first initiation, (committing to specific spiritual vows) from His Holiness Radhanath Swami (www.radhanathswami.com) in 2010, where he was given the spiritual name Ghanashyam priya das.

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[redacted] wrote @ June 28, 2010 at 8:21 pm

Mr Shetty,

Your creative skills have developed a beautiful blog in order to share your knowledge and experience you capture throughout your journey of 'The Essence'. I look forward to the material uploaded throughout your journey and wish you a safe and self-enlightening experience.

All the best,

[redacted]

Reply

Jay Shetty / Ghanashyam Priya Das wrote @ November 11, 2010 at 9:16 am

Mate! It's been way too long. I'm hoping to catch you at city late january when I come down. How's everything going with the degree?

Reply

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My Spiritual Master

Radhanath Swami, then Richard Slavin, was born in Chicago in 1950. In his teenage years, the longing for knowledge about God lead him on a journey throughout Europe and the Middle East, during which he undertook a careful study of the scriptures of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. This journey ultimately led him to India, where he lived for several years, met Srila Prabhupada, and came to reside in Vrindavan. He is now a spiritual leader, author and public speaker. A practitioner of Bhakti-Yoga for almost 40 years, he helps individuals find greater inner fulfillment through devotional service all over the world.

For more information please see:

http://www.radhanathswami.com

http://www.thejourneyhomebook.com

Biography

In 1970, at the age of only nineteen, Radhanath Swami left his home in America seeking adventure and spiritual knowledge. After trekking across Europe for months, he reached his long hoped for destination: India. After living there for many years as a sadhu or wandering monk, he returned to America in order to share the sacred knowledge and wisdom he had learned from the many holy men and women he had met there. It was an extraordinary choice, given what he had survived to get there: a journey filled with bizarre characters, mystical experiences, and dangerous adventures. The story is recounted in his recently published memoir The Journey Home (San Rafael, CA: Mandala Publishing, 2009). Reviewers have called Radhanath's saga "at once an engaging yarn, a love story, and the evocation of a transcendent paradise in all its savagery, solitude, and splendor."

Radhanath Swami emerged from his years of travel wanting to explain for others the beauty and rewards of a life devoted to God, and therein lay a dilemma. His many followers and friends describe him as completely selfless and consequently unwilling to take credit for his work and restless when a spotlight is focused on him. By choosing A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami (1896-1977), a spiritual activist, as his guru (after declining offers of initiation from several tyagis or renunciants in the Himalayas), Radhanath Swami cast his fate to the wind, cut his matted locks, and entered back into the society.

More than a symbolic gesture, these were first steps toward an active, engaged form of devotion. This contemporary strain of the Bhakti or devotional yoga tradition maintains that people who become aware of their spiritual identity share an imperative to reduce suffering in the world—a truth slowly revealed to him in the years prior to his formal initiation by other famous spiritual teachers he had met including the Dalai Lama, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Ananda Mayi Ma, Swami Satcidananda, and many more who make their appearances in The Journey Home.

In spite of his constant global travels over many years, Radhanath Swami established his spiritual headquarters at Radha Gopinath Temple in Chowpatty, Mumbai. For the past twenty years he has guided the community development and has initiated a number of acclaimed social action programs including Midday Meals, which feeds more than 200,000 plates of nutritious vegetarian food to indigent children daily; missionary hospitals and eye camps; eco-friendly farms, schools and ashrams; and a number of emergency relief programs throughout India.

"He sees life as a continuous blessing of God's grace," one follower says, "and yet he never loses

his humanness. His accessibility leaves people feeling that, with a little sincere effort, they too will find the path to inner peace and God realization."

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1 Comment»

[redacted] wrote @ August 10, 2011 at 12:58 pm

Nice to hear about Radhanth Swamiji's glory and his kindness and strong belief in Lord makes us feel very inspiring.

Reply