

## LOVE IS THE SOLUTION TO ALL PROBLEMS

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*Where there is Love, no rule is required. Where there is no Love, no rule is required.*

“This is a law I have discovered”, said Guruji Sw. Tejomayanandaji while introducing his text “Bhakti-Sudha” (Nectar of Devotion) on the opening day of the three day Yajna in Salisbury, MD. Explaining this rather paradoxical statement, Guruji noted that the



serious maladies facing human society cannot be cured by piling rules upon rules that act only as a shackle on the human spirit, but must be resolved by practicing the selfless Love that releases each of us to greater heights of sacrifice and positive achievement. Absent such love, rules are at best temporary fixes that sooner or later someone or some group will find it expedient to break.

The Yajna, held from July 23 through 25, 2004 at the beautiful Hindu Temple of Eastern Shore, Salisbury, MD, was delivered in the presence of the divine idols of Durga, Radha-Krishna, and Uma-Maheswara and attended by some 150 eager participants. Expectation ran high among those who had previously listened to Guruji and they were not disappointed a bit. The text, composed in Sanskrit by Guruji himself, plumbs the depths of Devotion in thirty-one short, brisk verses.

Bhakti, pointed out Sw. Tejomayanandaji, is superior to the four purusharthas of Dharma, Artha, Kama, and Moksha. Bhakti correctly practiced ensures that all of one’s actions are according to Dharma, it yields more happiness than either Artha or Kama can, and finally it does lead to Moksha or liberation. What is Bhakti? It is the Supreme love for God, which comes from identification with God and renunciation of ego, selfishness and attachment to worldly objects. This devotion is more efficacious than other yogas in that devotees need no special qualification. While the other yogas are no doubt good, Bhakti yoga is both good and pleasant, as Gurudev may have phrased it! “The joy experienced by the devotee is most delightful... Yogis do not get to experience it”, notes Guruji.

The talks explored the important aspects of devotion such as how pure love differs from attachment, the varieties of expressions of devotion, various means of devotion, and the characteristics of devotees.

Naturally, Guruji's talks were liberally sprinkled with sweet bhajans evoking the rapturous moods of bhakti. It was also spiced with many one-liners that set the audience roaring in laughter.



The organizers of the Salisbury Yajna are to be complimented for the disciplined and efficient planning that obviously preceded the smoothly run event. Those of us attending the Yajna from Washington DC suburbs and other distant towns, also appreciated the comfortable lodging and fabulous food arrangements. So, if you were not in Salisbury for the Yajna, you have only yourself to blame for all the joys you missed.