

**Swami Sri Yukteswar Birthday
Commemorative Service Reading
Volume II**

Commemorative Service Readings

Please use the reading from the volume appropriate for the year in which you are reading. The volume number of the commemorative service readings must match the volume number of the Sunday service readings.

There are two colors of font — black and blue. Black indicates a section created by the reader as an introduction, transition, or summary. These may be altered to suit your reading style. Blue indicates material taken from an SRF sources, such as *Autobiography of a Yogi*, *Mejda*, *Self-Realization Magazine*, etc. These are not to be changed. If you find an error, please notify the chairperson of the readers' committee for correction.

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Swami Sri Yukteswar Birthday

pReading

Volume II

Sri Yukteswar was born on May 10th, 1855 in Serampore. His family name was Priya Nath Karar. As a young boy, Sri Yukteswar was known for his keen intellect. Bestowed with a deep enquiring mind, he took a profound interest in all his studies. Besides being fluent in English, Bengali, Hindi and French, he had a fair knowledge of Sanskrit as well. He had a great regard for the Indian philosophies and other scriptures and was also conversant with religions other than his own. (*Sri Sri Swami Sri Yukteswar Giri The Prophet and His Mission P. 2*)

Sri Yukteswar was a close friend of the reputed Goswami family of Serampore; this is significant as the Goswami family were disciples of Lahiri Mahasaya. It was through this family that Sri Yukteswar learned about Lahiri Mahasaya and he experienced great yearning to meet the Master of Benares. In 1883 his longing was rewarded when he traveled to Banaras to meet Lahiri Mahasaya. The master initiated him into Kriya Yoga that same year.

Priyanath engrossed himself in deep sadhana and thus progressed rapidly. He nurtured his rational bent of mind and experienced the higher states of consciousness. He sought clarification whenever he faced any difficulty through correspondence and visits to the guru's home in

Benaras.... He remained steadfast in the sadhana given by his Guru. This spirit of loyalty enabled him in due course to attain the exalted heights of Self-realization. (Ibid, PP. 3, 4)

At the January 1894 Kumbha Mela in Allahabad, Sri Yukteswar met his paramguru Babaji, who asked him to write a book to show the unity behind all religions. Babaji also promised to send him a disciple who would disseminate the knowledge of yoga in the West. The book that Babaji requested was completed in a short time and was titled *The Holy Science*.

At the behest of Babaji, Priya Nath Karar became a member of the Swami Order, taking the name Sri Yukteswar Giri.

In 1910 Mukunda Lal Ghosh entered Sri Yukteswar's ashram for spiritual training and began his odyssey toward his life mission as Paramahansa Yogananda — this was the disciple Babaji had promised to send.

Sri Yukteswar's path was one of wisdom. In the *Autobiography of a Yogi*, Guruji writes: "Sri Yukteswar may be justly be called a Jnanavatar or Incarnation of Wisdom." (P. 328)

...Quiet evening hours often brought one of my guru's discourses: treasures against time. His every utterance was chiseled in wisdom. A sublime self-assurance marked his mode of expression. It was unique." (Ibid, p 107)

"My Guru Sri Yukteswar said to me, when he accepted me for training: "Allow me to discipline you; for freedom of will does not consist in doing things according to the dictates of prenatal or postnatal habits or of mental whim, but in acting according to the suggestions of wisdom

and free choice. If you tune in your will with mine, you will find freedom." In attunement with his God-guided, wisdom-guided will, I did find freedom." (*The Second Coming of Christ* P. 192)

In regards to the book *The Holy Science*, Guruji writes:

It is owing to Jnanavatar Swami Sri Yukteswar's unerring spiritual insight that it now becomes possible, through this book, to establish a fundamental harmony between the difficult biblical book, Revelation and the Sankhya philosophy of India. (*The Holy Science* Foreword P. v)

This prayer is a selection from *Whispers from Eternity*, entitled "My Guru." As it is read, look with devotion at Sri Yukteswarji's picture as though you yourself are addressing the great master, expressing gratitude for the spiritual richness he has bestowed.

"Thou light of my life — thou camest to spread wisdom's glow over the path of my soul. Centuries of darkness dissolved before the shafts of thy luminous help. As a naughty baby, I cried for my Mother Divine, and She came to me as my Guru — Swami Sri Yukteswar. At that meeting, O my Guru, a spark flew from thee, and the faggots of my God-cravings, gathered through incarnations, smoldered and blazed into bliss. All my questions have been answered through thy flaming, golden touch. Eternal, ever-present satisfaction has come to me through thy glory." (P. 47)