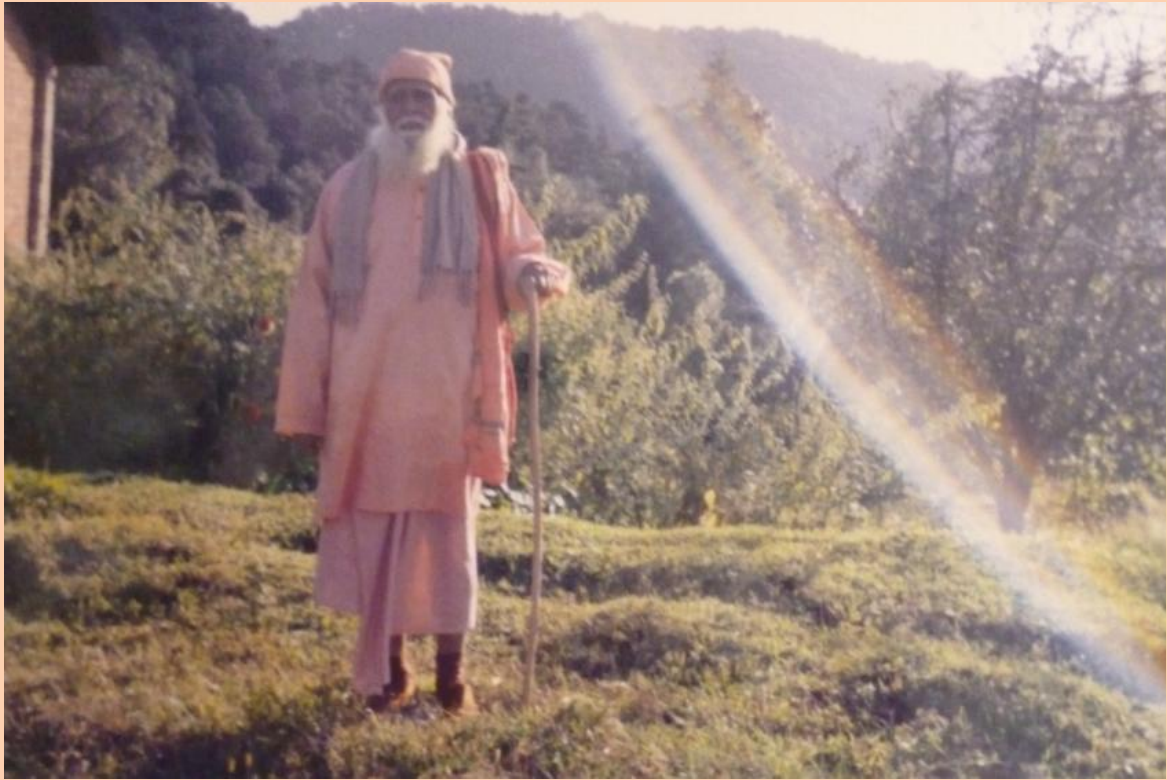


Guruji's letter from Jakhwadi

*By Swami Shantananda Puri Maharaj,
[Jakhwadi Camp (Himalayas) 12-8-98]*



My dear _____,

Hari Om. May God's blessings be on you. My apologies that I have not kept you informed of my movements to a remote and inaccessible part of the Himalayas for Sadhana. Since first week of last month, I am at JAKHWADI in the Kutia of a Sanyasi friend of mind – a one roomed mud house without water electricity – situated in a beautiful valley – for two kms around there being no habitation. The other Swamiji cooks for me also some Khichadi with a lot of edible leaves once a day. The nearest water source is ½ km off – a waterfall from a spring – accessible by 20 narrow, slimy, irregular, impoverished stone steps with BICHU BHOOTI plants on either side, contact with which gives itching (terrific) of the skin and inflammation. Just near the spring await leaches – blood sucking insects. It is a nice life. I am able to do 17 hours of meditation per day. Myself and other SWAMIJI (from KARNATAKA) rarely speak with each other. All roads end at JAKHWADI beyond it only JUNGLES without any road. It is all raining all these days continuously and the roads being broken over many

canals and due to land slides, for days together, there is no communication with outside world.

From VASISHTA GUHA your two telegrams were redirected and they reached today only. I am so sorry to have caused you some anxiety and concern. My health is in good condition, though I am taking medicines for LIVER, heart, Gall Bladder, etc. as advised by DOCTORS. In May I had been to KANPUR and LUCKNOW. In June I went to KEDARNATH and climbed up the last 14 kms by foot (it took me 11am to 10pm to traverse 14 kms). It was a hard exercise to and fro but I endured it. This proves that this vehicle is O.K. and runs well.

My Programme is:- 23-8-98 leaving for UTTARKASHI.

26-8-98 to 8-9-98 – stay UTTARKASHI c/o MANGAL ASHRAM, UTTARKASHI (UP) – PIN
249293

Letters will take 15 to 17 days to reach Uttarkashi.

9-9-98 – LEAVING for Delhi for 8 days stay from 12-9-98

18-9-98 to 3-12-98 – VASISHTA GUHA, GOOLAR DOGI, Pin 249303

I might go to TIRUVANNAMALAI by 1st week of JANUARY 99 VIA MADRAS for 5 to 6 months' stay.

MANTRA CHANTING CAN ALONE TAKE YOU TO GOD REALISATION. HOW ARE YOU? WRITE TO UTTARKASHI or DELHI ADDRESS.

Love and Om

Shantananda

* * HARI OM * *

Note: All the capital words / emphasis / sentences are as written by Swamiji. No significant editing has been done in order to retain the original form of the letter.

Website: <http://www.swamishantanandapurimaharaj.org/>