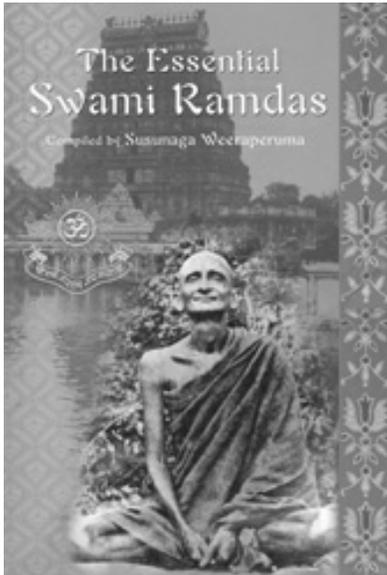


# *The Essential Swami Ramdas: Commemorative Edition*



The writings of Swami Ramdas (1884-1963) possess the same enduring quality found in such classics of spiritual writing as *The Way of a Pilgrim* and *The Gospel of Ramakrishna*. Ramdas was one of the greatest saints of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and he wrote in a simple, eloquent style that any sincere soul—regardless of religion—can understand. Ramdas emphasizes that we can realize God through constant remembrance of the Divine.

*The Essential Swami Ramdas* collects extracts from Ramdas' many books and it emphasizes the heart of his message: unswerving faith in the mercy of God leads to certain deliverance; surrender to the Divine will is the supreme happiness.

ॐ श्री राम जय राम जय जय राम  
*Om Sri Ram jai Ram jai jai Ram*

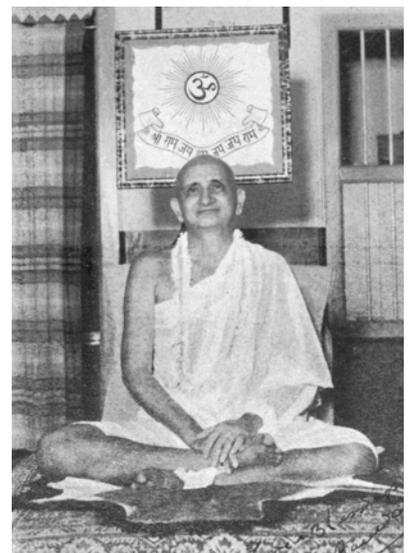
Swami Ramdas' handwritten statement of his mantra

## *Additional Publication Information*

*The Essential Swami Ramdas* also contains:

- ❖ extensive selections from Swami Ramdas' collected writings
- ❖ an 8-page selection of rare sepia photographs
- ❖ a new Foreword by Professor Rebecca Manring
- ❖ an Introduction to the life of Swami Ramdas by Susunaga Weeraperuma
- ❖ samples of Swami Ramdas' handwriting
- ❖ a detailed Bibliography and a comprehensive Glossary of Indian terms

The book has a publication date of May 2005 and has a suggested retail price of \$17.95.



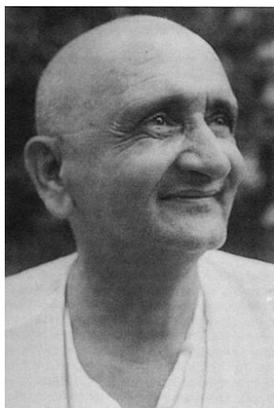
World Wisdom



## An Excerpt from *The Essential Swami Ramdas*

“...Love—pure and glorious love—the immortal divine love—makes us drink always sweetness and joy. Therefore, to open your hearts to the inflow of this intoxicating love and remain ever in the rapture of it is the supreme blessing and purpose of life. All things pass away—your petty ambitions and unregulated aspirations are things of the moment. Your pleasures and pains, your successes and failures... all pass away. The one thing that remains unaltered, permanent, and eternal is Divine Love...”

### About the Author Swami Ramdas



Sri Swami "Papa" Ramdas was born Vittal Rao in the Kerala State of India in 1884. During his life before renunciation, brief periods of employment were followed by longer periods of unemployment and idleness, affecting both his financial condition and domestic life. For relief from his outer circumstances, he began to chant "Ram," a name of God, which brought him great mental peace and joy. Soon after, his father gave him a holy mantra, and from that point on, his progress and detachment from the material world was quick. He left his worldly life and began a pilgrimage, taking on the name Ramdas and living on the road in faith. He never accepted money and no matter how badly he was treated, he responded only with love.

In 1922 he encountered the sage, Ramana Maharshi, and received his grace. In 1931, after years of living on the road in faith, his devotees established Anandashram for him in Kanhangad, Kerala. He worked to improve the living conditions of the local people, founded a school for children, established a free medical clinic, and set up a cooperative for weavers. He also did extensive tours in India, and a world tour in 1954-55, with the purpose of sharing a message of Universal Love and Service, Sri Swami Ramdas died in 1963.



### What others have said about Swami Ramdas

“Ramdas traveled all over India, and he had *maharajas* and millionaires as friends as well as the poorest villagers. He made no distinction among them. All he was interested in was whether the person was sincere in seeking God. And sincere seekers in India ... look for the simplicity, unpretentiousness, and humility that mark a great saint’s intuitive capacity to live in complete harmony with all of life.”

—**Eknath Easwaran**, translator of *The Upanishads*, and author of *God Makes the Rivers to Flow: Sacred Literature of the World*

“In 1970 I came upon the writings of Swami Ramdas. And there it was, so innocently presented, a testament to the possibility that by remembering Ram (God), one’s life could be transformed, totally transformed....”

—**Ram Dass (Richard Alpert)**, author of *Paths to God: Living the Bhagavad Gita*

## About the Author of the Foreword: Rebecca Manring



Rebecca Manring (Ph.D., University of Washington) is an Assistant Professor of India Studies and Religious Studies at Indiana University in Bloomington. A researcher of religious groups in northeastern India, Dr. Manring's *Reconstructing Tradition: Advaita Acarya and Gaudiya Vaisnavism at the Cusp of the Twentieth Century* has been published by Columbia University Press. She has also completed the preservation and cataloguing of the private literary manuscript collection of the late Sukumar Sen (1900-1992), who was an outstanding linguist and Bengali literary scholar. Professor Manring's next project will focus on sectarian Sanskrit grammars.

## About the Author of the Introduction: Susunaga Weeraperuma

Susunaga Weeraperuma was born in Sri Lanka and currently resides in France. After taking a Master's degree in Economics and Political Science at London University, he qualified as a librarian and worked in the British Library and the South Australian Parliamentary Library. Retiring early from his profession, Weeraperuma now devotes his time to spiritual practices, *hatha yoga*, gardening, and the writing of books. He is deeply acquainted with both Oriental and Occidental religious systems, and his writings are predominantly on philosophical and religious subjects. The most important of Weeraperuma's works include: *Major Religions of India*, *Bliss of Reality*, *Homage to Yogaswami*, and *Divine Messengers of Our Time*.



*Om Sri Ram jai Ram jai jai Ram*

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World Wisdom

