

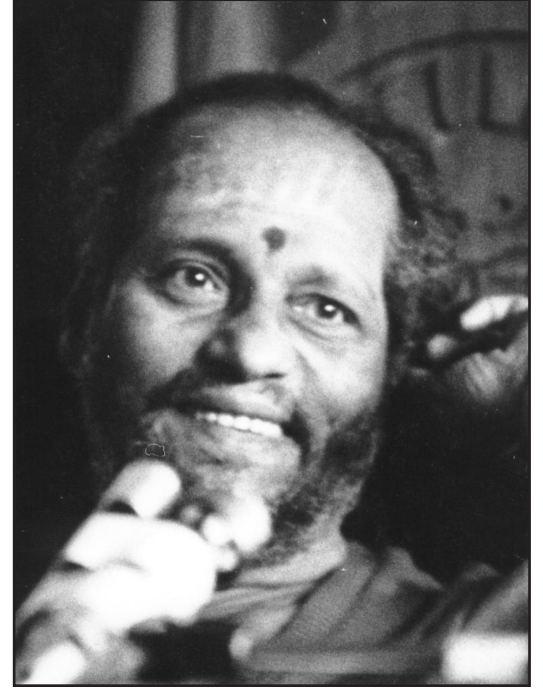
Baba Muktananda's

35th Mahasamadhi Anniversary

Dear Friends:

Greetings and good wishes to you all on Baba's 35th Mahasamadhi anniversary. This year the lunar date falls on October 5, 2017. The solar day was on the 2nd. The past thirty-five years since our beloved Baba left his physical body seems to have passed by very quickly.

Although a great being's death anniversary is considered an auspicious and joyous occasion, for disciples and devotees the day often brings sadness rather than joy. Some don't even like the word 'celebration' associated with the event because they feel it is more a time of loss and sadness rather than a time for celebration. Baba would observe the Mahasamadhi anniversary of his own Guru, Bhagavan Nityananda, with quiet reflection. But at times even Baba would become emotional on that date. I recall, as perhaps many of you do, how tears of sadness suddenly began to flow down his cheeks during a talk he was given on the 15th anniversary of his Guru's passing. I don't think there was a dry eye in the hall that day.



The sadness associated with death is experienced by those left behind. Naturally we miss Baba's physical presence. But for great beings, leaving the body is a joyous occasion. Perhaps one of my favorite verses on this subject is from the saint, Kabir, who said:

*When I was born, everyone was laughing, while I was crying.
When I leave this body, everyone will be crying, but I will be laughing.*

Someone once asked Baba whether he had come to know the time of his own death? Baba said:

"Yes, you know when it is coming. You can foresee it. People like me welcome death much more than life. When you are alive, you are subjected to so much trouble; you have to eat and drink and talk endlessly. But when you die, you dissolve into pure being. A man welcomes the repose of sleep compared to the friction of waking. Similarly, a wise yogi prefers pure deathless being. A yogi may become sick of life but never of death. That is the mark of a true yogi." Baba Muktananda

Although this day may bring sadness, remember that death brings freedom from the body, and that nothing happens to the immortal Self. Therefore, although he has left his physical body, Baba is still with us in a subtle body guiding our way. Keeping this in mind, let us all remember our Babaji with great love and joy on this occasion, and see him as our own inner Self, for the Self never dies.

Sadgurunath Maharaj ki Jai!

With great respect and love,

Swami Prakashananda