

An Interview with Krishna Das

What initially brought you to Yoga?

Deep unhappiness...Feelings of inadequacy and inability to really involve myself in things.

Tell us a little bit about your time and connections with Ram Dass and Neem Karoli Baba.

I met Ram Dass in the winter on 1968/69. The minute I walked into the room where he was sitting, without a word being spoken, I knew, intuitively that whatever it was that I was searching for, was REAL...it existed in this world and could be found. This totally changed the way I felt about life.

I was with Maharaj-ji for two and half years, before he sent me back to US. It was the first time I had ever been loved unconditionally, without any limitation...it was also the first time I was able to love completely, without any fear.

How did you get your spiritual name? What does it mean?

Maharaj-ji. He was calling me driver at this time, having taken the keys to Ram Dass' VW bus and given them to me. All my other friends had gotten Indian names, but he was still calling me Driver. One night I wrote in my diary that, "I guess I will always be Driver." The next morning Maharaj-ji called me in and gave me the name Krishna Das. It means "servant of God". We are in the lineage of Hanuman who worshipped God thru service and devotion.

Give us your take on Bhakti Yoga, what does it mean to you?

Falling in love with love.

Do you practice other types of Yoga? If so, how has your practice evolved over the years?

Practice removes the covering that hides our own inner beauty... the love that lives within us as who we truly are. Any spiritual practice that one does will reveal more of our Self to us over time.

What are some of your favorite chants?

All chants are my favorite chants.

What are some of your favorite books about Yoga and Spirituality?

Miracle of Love by Ram Dass. Autobiography of a Yogi by Paramhansa Yogananda. InDEvine Presence about Bhagavan Nityananda by Hatengdi. The Life and Teachings of Sai Baba Of Shirdi by Rigopoulos. Blazing Splendor by Tulku Urgyen Rinpoche. The Art of Happiness by the Dalai Lama.

What is it like working with Deva Premal & Miten for the upcoming tour?

It's wonderful to work with people of like mind and heart.

Tell us a little bit about your most recent book Chants of Lifetime.

It has many stories of my time with my guru in India and how that led to my Chanting with people now.

What guidance would you offer to those who are new to the practice of Bhakti Yoga?

No one is new to Bhakti Yoga. Bhakti yoga is Love...Everyone is looking for love. All love leads to the Inner Heart, eventually. Bhakti is a way of going directly to that instead of following every dead end on the way. ▲

