

**Pujya Sri Swami Dayananda Saraswati**  
**Birthday address on 15th August 2015,**  
**Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Saylorsburg, USA**

We reckon one year from the past birthday to this day. This year implies growth. That is why we celebrate. If it implies anything, it is a matter of celebration. The birthday is always growth. Health wise there may be decline, but as a person who has *anubhava*, in terms of this *anubhava* what can be definitely more mature therefore deserves liberation.

For a mahatma there is more *anubhava*. No exception. There may be some learning also in a relative sense. Therefore, it's a matter of celebration. I have survived one more year. I don't know if it's a matter of celebration, but the fact is I survived one more year. I went through a lot of pain, a lot of suffering; I did not enjoy them, but I did not allow them to take over me.

You can be either possessed of sorrow, pain, or you can be on top of it. Our attempt should be to be on top of it. Life is but pleasant and unpleasant experiences unfolded by *punya papa*. There is no doubt about it. We should be ready to face them equally. This is what in the Gita, Bhagavan says "*samatvam*": *istanistopapattisu nitya samacittatvam*. Having the same response towards both a desired thing and an unwanted thing, unpleasant thing, is a tall order. When it is pleasant you are elated. When it is unpleasant you are down. It's common. What is common is not the subject matter of Veda. What is uncommon, what can be accomplished, is the subject matter of the Gita. It can be accomplished. In the wake of an unpleasant experience, you may not be ecstatic, you need not show ecstasy, but you can retain your composure and deal with it objectively. Finally it comes to objectivity. You deal with things objectively, because all that is here is *Ishvara*. Therefore, to be objective, is to be in touch with *Ishvara*. You may not be in touch with *Ishvara*, you may be objective; you have come a long way towards *Ishvara*. If you are objective, you have come a long way towards *Ishvara*.

Thank you all very much for coming here. I wish you well. Thanks.

Thanks for your love. Om tat sat.