

**“One Without a Second” —
a feature length documentary film on
Swami Dayananda Saraswati, in progress...**



“ONE WITHOUT A SECOND” is a cinema-virīti style documentary film set in the hills and towns of Tamil Nadu where Swami Dayananda Saraswati unfolds the ancient wisdom of Advaita Vedanta. A poetic contemplation on an important Hindu tradition, this film unveils a basic humanity and universal quest for freedom and wholeness. Though provoking and stunningly cinematic, **“ONE WITHOUT A SECOND”** captures the nuances and intricacies of lived religious experience and evokes a tactile sense of the sacred in Hinduism.

As one of the few remaining traditional teachers of Advaita Vedanta, Dayananda is a rarity. He is sought after not only for his command of Hindu wisdom texts, such as the Upanishads and the Bhagavadgita, but for his capacity to communicate ancient wisdom into living experience. At eighty-one years old, he continues to tirelessly share this knowledge with a diverse group of students.

In recent decades the tradition has crossed national borders and cultural communities. The students at Dayananda's ashram are not only Indian, but come from varied countries such as Japan, Israel, and Brazil. Most have renounced careers, home, and possessions in order to discover something deeper than wealth, power, and security. "ONE WITHOUT A SECOND" is a journey into their lives, a wisdom tradition, and the contemplative space in which it is carried. This feature length documentary explores the importance of a teacher and a tradition. It reveals the nuances of a unique teaching methodology, and the ways tradition is passed down from one generation to another. The film boldly challenges contemporary stereotypes of Indian spirituality and religion resulting from shallow appropriation and uninformed exotification.

With unique access and an insider view, "ONE WITHOUT A SECOND" brings us into a community's process of monastic study and spiritual practice. Deeply observational and experiential, the film kindles the senses and evolves the presence of the place. With warmth and compassion it communicates the world-views embodied by these students, both Indian and non-Indian, and invites the viewers to discover layers of meaning.

Filming "ONE WITHOUT A SECOND" began in May of 2010 after receiving seed funding from the prestigious Hartley Film Foundation, the University of Alberta, and individual donors. Directors, Jillian Elizabeth and Neil Dalal are currently editing the film with acclaimed documentary film editor, Mary Lampson. The project is seeking individual donors to support its completion in 2012. All donations are tax-deductible.

For more information, contact the project online,
go to www.hartleyfoundation.org
and
click on "Films to Support,"
and
select "ONE WITHOUT A SECOND."