

From Shree Maa and Swamiji

A memory of Ted dancing before the congregation

In the Hindu calendar in every twelve months, there are at least thirteen festivals, and probably the biggest bash every year is the celebration of Shiva Ratri, near the end of February or beginning of March.

We always concluded the rite early the next morning by having everyone make *arati* to Lord Shiva, which we celebrated with 108 birthday candles divided into two stainless steel platters with 54 candles on each.

The band begins to play and each of the participants steps to the front of the line to take a turn of waving the lights in a rhythmic dance, while balancing the two trays, one in each hand.

Teddy took the trays in his two hands, like an experienced waiter in a high-class restaurant, and he began to dance. Teddy was not so much a Watusi dancer; more like the Jitterbug, and when he started to go, everyone lost control. We all joined in the dance, and pandemonium broke out. Everyone was dancing with everyone, and Teddy was in the center, and we were all dancing around him! He was balancing the two trays of burning candles, which by this time had all melted together into one hot flame in each tray. But that didn't stop him! He rocked on!

And I thought about the sophisticated elderly lawyer who had entered our temple a few hours before, and looked at this transformed rebel rouser, the life of the party, who was lost in the ecstasy of uninhibited worship, leading the entire congregation in worship to Lord Shiva, and I marveled at how many dimensions this man encompassed.

My respects to my dear friend and brother Satchitananda, who is the Bliss of Pure Consciousness.

May God be with you always in all ways, and may you always be with God!

We send you all our love and blessings,

Shree Maa and Swamiji

Please visit us <http://www.ShreeMaa.org>

(From Swami Satyananda Saraswati. He and Shree Maa were our spiritual family and Ted's spiritual teachers for more than twenty years).