

WHAT IS THE VAISHNAV AGHOR PANTH?



THE ESSENCE OF LOVE AND FREEDOM

© Baba Krishnakali Das Aghori

HUMANITY IS AT A CRISIS POINT

Humanity is at a crisis point. Pandemics; endemic overuse of and dependence on substances (both legal and illegal); depression; morbid obesity and world hunger; global economic instability; break down of the family unit; fixation with technological devices; 'political correctness' gone out of control; abuse polemics (of the environment, women, children, the elderly and other sentient beings); locked in to the rat race; feeling disconnected and bewildered with over-information, misinformation and disinformation.

WHAT IS THE CAUSE?

Humans and consequently the various societies they have created, have evolved, are very complex and intrinsically linked. No human being is an island unto themselves. We presently live in a very dynamic and constantly changing environment meaning shifting demands and real time changes in focus through a technologically driven economy and society. The pay-off is physical and material comfort (termed prosperity) that the average person has probably never quite experienced to this extent in the annals of human history. Everything has a cost however, and here the cost has been longer working hours, more stress, less family quality time, more alienation, more confusion and a loss of sense of purpose beyond self-satisfaction. Despite all the comforts of modern living, there is an ever-existing sense of dissatisfaction and no enduring happiness. Glaringly staring us in the face are waning resilience, reduced loyalty, apathy, moral degradation, a sense of entitlement, hypocrisy and the ever self-indulgent 'I, Me and Mine' mentality.

WHAT IS DRIVING ALL OF THIS?

A variety of factors are driving these disheartening experiences and features.

Greed is one of them and is like a voracious cancer that eats away at our planet's resources creating an insatiable appetite that diminishes one's own peace of mind and with no contentment in sight for those afflicted with this disease. Individuals have become blinded by materialism creating more selfishness to fulfil soulless and ultimately existentially deeply unsatisfying goals.

We have lost our moral compass with a shift in values from community, family and character to a life run by the latest apps, quick fixes and the mentality 'if it is not or you are not of any use to me, I am not interested'.

Real leaders, whether at a government or community level are also truly lacking. There is little inspiration around with a vision that is truly uplifting.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR IN ESSENCE?

Human beings ultimately seek happiness in order to taste 'sweetness' whether that's through money, material acquisitions, sex, progeny, alcohol, drugs, power, titles, victories, affection. In actual fact we want these things to be unending and ever-increasing. But they fail to ever be so!

Everything in this world including ourselves is not everlasting and has its inherent limits on the level of happiness it can give us.

We are therefore left frustrated, unfulfilled, beaten, fearful, unsettled, disrupted and perturbed no matter how little or how much we have due to the effort required, our addictive behaviors, fear of loss and defending what we may have.

Yet we keep struggling for the promise of happiness even though it is all too often illusive. Why?

WHAT IS REAL HAPPINESS?

I will define happiness as feeling and being part of something bigger than oneself, a sense of making a difference (contributing), associations that are nurturing, self-expression and the ability to enter timelessness. Hence why we want the things mentioned previously as objects of happiness to be unending and ever-increasing.

WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF TRUE HAPPINESS?

The temporal cannot by definition gift us with enduring happiness. Only the perennial can. What is perennial in this world? Nothing that is tangible in essence even though that is what we are constantly chasing after with our unruly senses. Our only perennial aspect is our True Nature as a Spirit Soul.

In fact the very source of our unhappiness is due to not recognizing that we are Spirit Souls having a human experience contained in bodily flesh suffused by mind and not just chemical chain reactions within matter (the atheistic perspective) or at best human beings capable of having spiritual experiences (the religious perspective).

The very fact that we seek eternal happiness in a temporary body indicates that we are not these bodies. And just as the reserve bank is the reservoir of the manufacture of money so there must also be an intangible reservoir of happiness. One can then conjecture that the intangible part of us, the Spirit Soul, has access to this intangible reservoir of happiness itself.

HOW TO ACCESS THE RESERVOIR OF HAPPINESS

If the outwards focus does not provide us with complete, ever-increasing, unending happiness we then need to change our focus from out to in.

At best material existence can provide us with a diluted drop of what true happiness is. The beauty of this whole affair of human existence is that we have a choice: focus on the perishable and attempt to squeeze happiness out of it or focus on the true font of happiness that flows effortlessly to us depending on our level of understanding and surrender to receive.

The reservoir of true happiness is known by many names across different investigations into the Ultimate Nature of Reality beyond the phenomenal world (and remember that material scientists use material instruments and their physical senses and material brains to observe the world of phenomena at both the microscopic and macroscopic levels while spiritual scientists use their subtle senses (intuition), contemplation and deep meditation in order to investigate and discover the efficient cause behind all phenomena). Seers were spiritual scientists who investigated the Nature of Reality by going deep within self and contemplating the very heart of the Universe and existence itself. Religion then formalized the revelations of the Seers and formulated dogma, institutions and hierarchy around these revelations.

Spiritual schools and disciplic succession of the original Seers, on the other hand, kept the spirit of the law instead of just its letter and provided the inner teachings and pathways for humanity to experience and come to the same conclusions as the Seers had or to further expand upon those revealed Truths.

THE NAMES OF THE DIVINE

Even concepts have names in order for us to relate to or reference them.

In vernacular language we come to consensual agreement on how objects and experiences should be named. However, in regards to the Seers who tapped into the Reservoir of Happiness also known as the Divine Supreme Being, the names were revealed to them as a vibration. God, Brahman, Allah, Buddha, Rama, Krishna, Kali, Shiva, Sat Nam, Jehovah, Yahve and more became known through revelation as that Reservoir of True Happiness that provide eternal divine sweetness.

The information that came with the revelation of the names of the Divine were communicated in that vibratory frequency and became known as the revealed scriptures, e.g. the Vedas in Sanskrit, the Old Testament and the Torah in Hebrew, the Koran in Arabic. These scriptures contain guidelines for the people and condition at that time of revelation as well as universal and transcultural wisdom for all time.

THE POWER OF THE DIVINE NAMES

As the names of the Divine come straight from the source and is not a fabrication of the human mind, it is implied that both the Name and the Divine Source / Being are indistinct from each other. In actual fact where applicable the Names, Forms, Qualities and Pastimes of the Divine are one and the same. Behind all phenomenon and manifestation is an efficient cause. And the Cause of all causes we call God, Allah, Brahman etc.

For example, in Islam there are 99 Most Holy Names of Allah and Al-Koran specifically states:

‘Let it be said that whether you call out to (Him by the name) Allah or (by the name) Rehman, it does not matter how you call out, for in any case all His Names are exalted ones.’ *The Holy Qur’an, 17 (Bani Isra-il). 110*

In the Hebraic faith, 72 angels (Shemhamforash) by name fulfill the Will of the Elohim, of God Himself. So here the causes are the angels at the service of the Cause of all causes, God Himself, the Name above all names.

In the Christian Bible it is stated:

‘Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.’ *Matthew 6.9*

‘Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts; his name is the Lord; exult before him!’ *Psalms 68.4*

And finally in Sanatana Dharma, the Perennial Philosophy:

‘O ye who wish to gain realization of the Supreme Truth, utter the name of "Vishnu" at least once in the steadfast faith that it will lead you to such realization.’ *Rig Veda V.1.15b.3*

‘O Varanana (lovely-faced lady), I chant the holy name of Rama, Rama, Rama and thus constantly enjoy this beautiful sound. This holy name of Sri Rama is equal to one thousand holy names of Lord Vishnu.’ *Brhad Visnusahasranamastotra, Uttarakhanda, Padma Purana 72.335*

‘The pious results (punya) achieved by chanting the thousand holy names of Vishnu (Vishnusahasranama-Stotram) three times can be attained by only one utterance of the holy name of Krishna.’ *Brahmanda Purana*

WHAT IS THE SUPREME NAME?

All names of the Divine are Holy as they are Divine Cosmic Vibrations that come from the Supreme Source. The creation and the Universe are a reflection of the magnanimity of this Supreme Being. We are mesmerized when we contemplate the beauty of a sunset, a clear night sky studded with myriads of starlight and the diversity of life on this beautiful planet of ours. If there is so much opulence and beauty in this Universe, imagine how inconceivably more so must be their Source.

In the oldest Divine Revelation known to humans – the Vedas – beauty, opulence and love personified is Krishna. The word Krishna in Sanskrit means “The All-Attractive”. As the Source of beauty and opulence as observed in the Universe, the Divine would need to be even more attractive than every conceivable object or expression. That Being would indeed be all merciful and the font of Love itself and the most attractive of all, hence Krishna.

Of all the Divine Names, Krishna therefore embodies all Divine qualities and pastimes even though whether one prays to Krishna or Allah or Yahweh, one ultimately is praying to that one and the same Being.

WHAT IS VAISHNAVISM

Those who are devotees forming a personal relationship with and are the servants (dasas) of the Divine Supreme Being as Krishna are known as Vaishnavites and the philosophy they follow is called Vaishnavism, and Sanatana Dharma – the Eternal Path or Way.

‘So serve Me and establish worship for My remembrance’ (Qur’an 20.14)

‘O My servants who believe! Truly, My earth is spacious. Therefore serve Me only.’
(Qur’an 29.56)

‘Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit’. (Luke 23.46)

‘Master, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?’ He answered, ‘Love the Lord your God with all of your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind’. That is the greatest commandment. It comes first. The second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself’. Everything in the Law and the prophets hangs on these two commandments.’ (Matthew 22.36-40)

‘A person who accepts the path of devotional service is not bereft of the results derived from studying the Vedas, performing sacrifices, undergoing austerities, giving charity or pursuing philosophical and fruitive activities. Simply by performing devotional service, he attains all these, and at the end he reaches the supreme eternal abode.’ (Bhagavad Gita 8.28)

‘Abandon all varieties of religion and just surrender unto Me. I shall deliver you from all sinful reactions. Do not fear.’ (Bhagavad Gita 18.66)

WHAT IS AGHOR?

Ghora is darkness, the darkness of ignorance. Aghora is its opposite meaning light, the absence of darkness. In fact the literal meaning of Aghor (=A + ghor; A meaning not and ghor meaning terrible) is non-terrible, i.e., one which is simple. What it alludes to is that spirituality is very straightforward indeed. It does not require any special knowledge, faith, worship or ritual. Just total presence, total acceptance and total surrender.

‘Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven’. *Matthew 18.3*

Aghora is also one of the names of Lord Shiva. The southern facing face of Shiva is called Aghora, south representing death and the cremation ground.

‘Die before you die’ *Hadith, Prophet Mohammed*

'What is the most amazing thing in the world? That at every moment we are surrounded by evidence of death and yet we behave as if we will live forever!'

Mahabharata

Aghora is dying to one's ego becoming childlike entering the Kingdom of Heaven while roaming the Earth.

Aghori Vimalananda, the master Aghori and protagonist in the Aghora Trilogy (as remembered by his disciple Robert E. Svoboda) provides the true definition of Aghora on p.185-186 of 'Aghora, At the Left Hand of God':

You know the reason I quit using intoxicants? I used to use them all day long, twenty-four hours; but then I realized that the greatest intoxicant there is exists within me at all times. It is free, easy to use, harmless, and never gives me a hangover. It is the name of God. It gives the best concentration of mind. The effects of alcohol or marijuana or whatever will wear off by the next day, but the intoxication caused by God's name just goes on increasing; there is no end to it. I use it all the time, and it always works for me. No matter what has been my problem, the holy name of God has always been my solution. This is true Aghora. Forget all the externals; only when your heart melts and is consumed in the flames of your desire for your Beloved will you ever come close to qualifying to learn the true Aghora.

THE VAISHNAV AGHOR PANTH

In ancient times, there were Aghora seekers in the holy city of Varanasi in India of the Vaishnavite tradition. With the passing of time it is said to have disappeared. However, this Spiritual Path or Panth has been revived in our modern day through the inspiration of Baba Totagopinath Das Suryasu Ram.

The Vaishnav Aghor Path is an extremely unique method of love and devotion that is very simple and easy which leads to untrammelled freedom and bliss.

SYPNOPSIS OF THE VAISHNAV AGHOR PANTH – WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

The devotees of the Vaishnav Aghor Panth are followers of Lord Shiva as the Greatest of Vaishnavite. Hence Lord Shiva is ultimately our Guru (Spiritual Preceptor) while Krishna as the All-Attractive One is the God most worthy of our worship. No aspect of God allows such intense and intimate relationships as Krishna does. Krishna is the font of Prem Anandam or Divine Love Bliss.

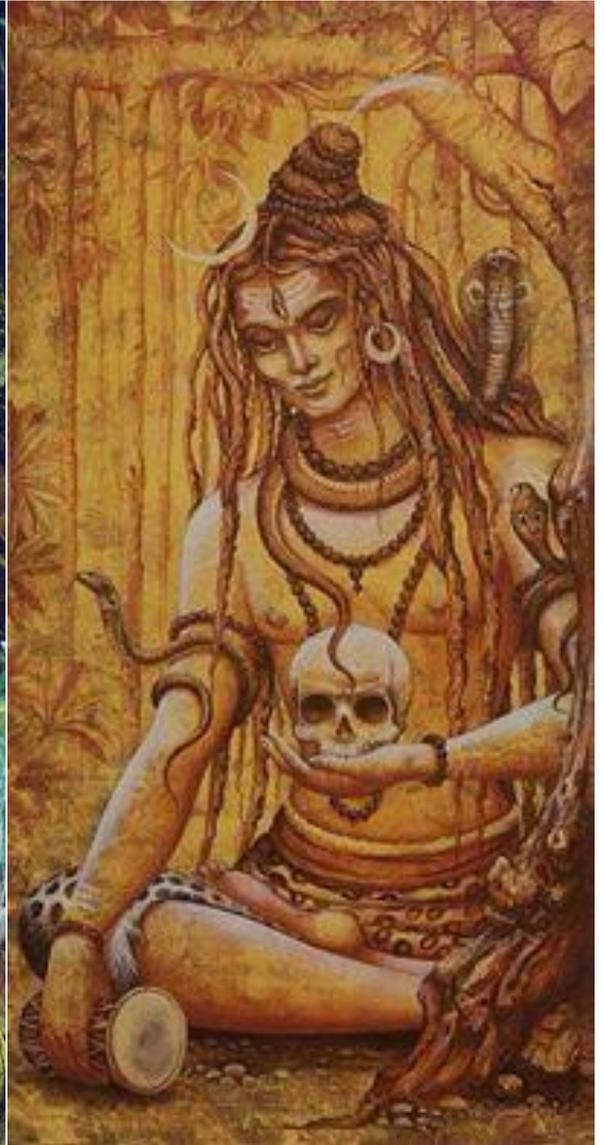
In Sanatana Dharma the Impersonal Absolute Ineffable One Without A Second is called Brahman. Brahman has three main broad universal expressions:

- Kali as the dynamic expression of Brahman, the Prime Moving Energy (Adi Para Shakti) and the Cosmic Womb of the Universe. Kali is the force of evolution of the Universe, species and of the individual as the Kundalini Shakti.
- Shiva as the Consciousness expression of Brahman. Indeed everything is Consciousness in expression through name, form and activity both visible and invisible.
- Krishna as the font of the Ultimate Sweetness all Spirit Souls, embodied or not, ultimately seek. This Sweetness is tasted as Pure Divine Love and Bliss untainted by material contamination of any sort. It is without beginning nor end, and is ever increasing according to our capacity to receive.

Kali and Shiva are ultimately the Power and Consciousness that protect us from further material contamination and elevate us to the spiritual platform in order to empower our consciousness to surrender to the All-Attractive One as Krishna. Hence Shiva (the Pure Liberated Consciousness beyond any dualities = Aghor, the non-terrible, the non-fearful) being the Greatest Devotee of Lord Hari (Hari being another name for Krishna).

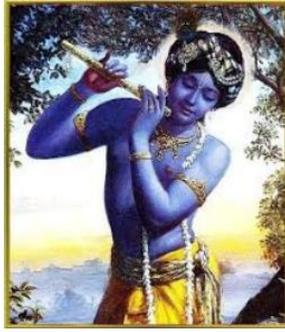
‘Just as the Ganga is greatest among rivers Lord Acyuta is greatest among deities Lord Shiva is greatest among Vaishnavas, similarl this is the greatest among Puranas.’
Srimad Bhagavatam 12.13.16

'Radha said: Gazing at Krishna's dark handsomeness, Shiva became attached to Him. Giving up all normal happiness, Shiva now walks and runs about like a madman, wearing matted hair, drinking poison, covered with ashes and decorated with snakes and skulls' *Garga Samhita 2.18.23*



BRAHMAN IN EXPRESSION!!!

**Bhakti
Marg**



Krishna— Divine Bliss and Love

To taste the Nectar of Bliss and
Become Love serving the Divine
Presence in others.

**Vedas (Gayatri)
Upanishads (OM)**



Brahman—The One Without A Second—The Absolute
Beyond Name, Form and Attribute

**Tantra
Marg**



Kali—Divine Power
Universal and Spiritual Evolution

**Yoga
Marg**



Shiva—Divine Consciousness
Everything is Consciousness
leading to Moksha.

THE VAISHNAV AGHOR PANTH AS THE SPIRITUAL PATH MOST RELEVANT FOR TODAY'S WORLD IN CRISIS

Most of humanity has outgrown the dogma of religions and these are not offering the panacea, the nectar, the sweetness that both the individuals and collective are searching for in their daily lives. It is increasingly apparent that the available materialistic and religious philosophies and pursuits are not fulfilling that ultimate need for satiation.

In the Perennial Philosophy (Sanatana Dharma) it is said that humanity goes through an ever recurring cycle of four Ages called the Yugas. The current Age we are in is called the Iron Age or the Kali Yuga. It is an Age where Dharma or righteousness is on the decline. In actual fact the Kali Yuga is known as the Age of conflict, that is individuals and the collective being conflicted by their minds, emotions and their environments.

The revealed Vedic scriptures inform us of the following as the ideal panacea for the Kali Yuga:

‘In this age of quarrel and hypocrisy the only means of deliverance is chanting the holy name of the Lord. There is no other way’. *Brhan Naradiya Purana*

‘This mantra, consisting of 16 words and 32 syllables, is the only means against evil in this age. After searching through all the Vedic literature, one cannot find a method of religion more sublime for the age of Kali than the chanting of Hare Krsna’. *Kali Santarana Upanishad*

WHAT IS THE HARE KRISHNA MANTRA?

HARE KRSNA HARE KRSNA KRSNA KRSNA HARE HARE

HARE RAMA HARE RAMA RAMA RAMA HARE HARE

The word "mantra" means to deliver or free the mind. The word "Hare" refers to the divine feminine potency of God. "Krishna" means the All-Attractive One, and "Rama" is the reservoir of all pleasure.

The Hare Krishna Mantra is also known as the Maha Mantra or the Great Mantra. The sound vibration of this mantra has a direct impact on the soul. According to the philosophy of ancient India, the soul is spiritually asleep. Just as an alarm clock awakes a sleeping person, the Hare Krishna mantra awakens the soul to its spiritual reality — whereby it can experience its eternal connection with Krishna or God. The sound vibration of the Maha Mantra transcends the sensual, mental and intellectual levels of consciousness and puts one directly in touch with the spiritual essence.

The Maha Mantra has the potency to transport one from the material to the transcendental platform, from the restrictions of the carnal body and mind to the liberated eternal Self full of Bliss.



BEFITTING ATTITUDES FOR ALL RELIGIONISTS

The following Last Sermon was given by Lord Krishna to his disciple Uddhava which contains a short, simple, and easy way to God-realization befitting any religionist:

‘Do your duty, to the best of your ability, for Me without worrying about the outcome.

Remember Me at all times.

Perceive that God is within every living being. Mentally bow down to all beings and treat all beings equally.

Perceive through the activities of the mind, senses, breathing, and emotions that the power of God is within you at all times, and is constantly doing all the work using you as a mere instrument and a trustee.’

A PARTING MESSAGE TO ATHEISTS AND ACTIVISTS

Express kindness to all beings. Remember that everything is here for our use but not for our misuse or abuse – this includes our bodies, minds, other sentient beings, material goods, the Earth’s resources and the environment.

Be the change you want to see and experience for yourself, your loved ones and future generations. If we want peace in the world, it starts with us. We must be peaceful first – at peace with ourselves and others. We must walk the talk. And remember that there is no freedom without responsibility and accountability.

Satisfy your needs but minimize your wants. Remember this: there is enough for everyone’s needs but never enough for someone’s greed. Simple living goes a long way towards reducing stress and is conducive to the pricelessness of contentment and peace of mind.

INITIATION INTO THE VAISHNAV AGHOR PANTH

If after reading this booklet, you are convinced that this may be a path that you want to explore you are most welcome to apply for Initiation.

Some of the benefits of getting initiated into and practicing the Vaishnav Aghor Panth as a way of life are the following:

- ‘In this endeavor there is no loss or diminution, and a little advancement on this path can protect one from the most dangerous type of fear.’ *Bhagavat Gita 2.40*
- The true fulfilment of having taken a human birth: Self-realization leading to God-realization.
- Untrammeled freedom and unalloyed devotion.
- Divine Love and Bliss uncontained and unrestrained.
- Serving the Divine Supreme Being through service to all of life.
- Belonging and having loving exchanges with a global community of devotees.
- Opening one’s consciousness to receive true spiritual knowledge and growth in Wisdom.
- Enlightenment and experiencing one’s spiritual body in the Divine Realms.

To apply for Initiation, please send email to krishnakalidasaghor@gmail.com with the following information:

- Full name
- Date of birth
- City and country of residence
- Contact number such as Skype, Messenger, Zoom and Whatsapp
- Reason for Initiation
- Current and past Sadhana (Spiritual Practices) and affiliations
- Any service you may be able to provide the Vaishnav Aghor Panth and the community of devotees (computer skills, artistic and craft skills, music, any other talents, experiences and qualifications)

Once your email is received, contact will be made to organize a time for Diksha (Mantra Initiation) and Satsangh.

Resources

<https://jaiaghor.weebly.com/>

Sri Vaishnava Aghora Sampradaya main webpage

<https://srivaishnavaaghora.blogspot.com/>

Sri Vaishnava Aghora Sampradaya international webpage created by devotee

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jagannath>

Jagannath, Lord of the Universe

<https://www.shriaghoreshwar.org/en/aghor-aghori-and-aughar/>

Kina Ram lineage

<http://www.aghori.it/history.htm>

Great Aghor resources

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qh0XZi_5hgE&feature=youtu.be

Aghori documentary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMTky12q1X4&feature=youtu.be>

Hari Das Thakur – devotee Saint of reciting the Holy Name, the Maha Mantra

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YSnrsslxjzl&t=81s>

Ecstatic Maha Mantra Kirtan led by Aindra Prabhu, Vrindavan Dham

‘God first, last and always’ Baba Krishnakali Das Aghori

‘Accept everything in life, whether good or bad, as an offering from the Divine. Give every thought, spoken word, emotion, feeling and activity as an offering to the Divine. Everything is Divine, therefore see and experience all things as either an offering from or to the Divine.’ Baba Krishnakali Das Aghori



Founder & Aghoracharya Baba Totagopinath Suryasu Ram



Lord Shiva gave the initial instructions to our founding Acharya, Baba Totagopinath Das Aghori, to begin the revival of this ecstatic approach to devotional service; which Baba Totagopinath initially rejected. It was only after his godbrother Gopal Das Babaji insisted that he give diksha and siksha in this Vaishnavaghorī Panth, did he begin to consider it more seriously. After spending so many years in Vrindavan as the humble disciple of Sri Sri 108 Hridayananda Das Babaji & taking his blessings, Baba Totagopinath left to Varanasi on his quest for Aghora as he could no longer ignore the summons of his true spiritual master, Lord Shiva. Baba Totagopinath eventually found himself as the disciple of Babaji Anil Ram Aghori of the Kinaram lineage. Babaji Anil Ram Aghori would go onto grant our Acharya Aghori Diksha and give his blessing as well to this Vaishnavaghorī Panth.



Vaishnav Aghor Panth Mahant, Australia – Baba Krishnakali Das Aghori



Baba Krishnakali Das Aghori has for the past 30 years practiced and been Initiated into many different Yoga Paths. His illustrious spiritual career as an Initiate and Spiritual Mentor (Guru) includes:

- . Initiation as a Kriyaban Yogi by the Self-Realization Fellowship in 1993.
- . Awarded the title Yogacharya by the International Centre for Yoga Education and Research (ICYER), Tamil Nadu South India in 2002.
- . One of the foremost long-term disciple of Tantra Master Swami Anandakapila Saraswati (Dr Jonn Mumford).
- . Member of the Vedic Friends Association since 2010 giving numerous public talks on various aspects of Sanatana Dharma.
- . Nitai Gaura Ashraya Diksha from Gaurangapada Sadhu.
- . Brahmin Initiation (Sacred Thread and Gayatri Diksha) - Gayatri Pariwar.
- . Tibetan Kapalika Aghor Initiations.
- . Nath Aghori and Kaula Initiations from Shivnath Aghori Peer.
- . Full Initiation into Sri Vaishnava Aghora Sampradaya.

Facebook Page: Vaishnav Aghor Panth – Australia

www.empoweredthroughtantra.com