

# Wally Green

## Part One

I'm Wally Green and I am recording some of my experiences when I was a monk. I have in my hand, right now, a book written about Leo Cocks by one of his good friends. And Leo Cocks is no longer with us anymore, but he was a monk at Self-Realization Fellowship Church. I was really amazed that all the people he knew were the same ones I knew when I was a monk. I was at Self-Realization Fellowship for ten years (1959-1969), mostly at Mother Center, at 3880 San Rafael Avenue, in Los Angeles, zip code 90065. Being a monk was the most precious experience of my life. I didn't really realize what I was getting into. I became acquainted with Self-Realization Fellowship through a friend. I was at his apartment one night and he allowed me to read a letter from a fellow named David Stewart. He was a monk at Self-Realization Fellowship. That letter just had a feeling of love about it, that I couldn't really pinpoint what it was that I was feeling. But, it mentioned the Autobiography of a Yogi in that letter. So I said, "I'm going to get that book and see what Self-Realization Fellowship is all about." I went to downtown Kansas City at a place called Ace Bookstore on 12<sup>th</sup> Street. They had the book, so I bought it. I brought it home and I started reading the book. It just seemed to fill every crevice of emptiness in my body. I don't know really how to explain it well. Everything he said just seemed like my thoughts as well. I said, "I don't know too much about this place, but I want to go there and find out about it!"

In the next few days I got on the highway right outside of Kansas City and hitch-hiked out to Los Angeles. I wanted to be a monk. So all I had with me was a sack that had a jar of peanut butter, a jar of jelly, and a loaf of bread. So I started hitchhiking out to Los Angeles. And I made it, finally, and walked up Mt. Washington. As many of you know, it's quite a little walk going up there. I went to the main entrance of the big building of the Mother Center and let them know I was there. It was twilight and starting to get dark in the evening. I told them what I was interested in. They kind of smiled at me and said, "Well, just a minute." I waited quite a while and finally a monk in an orange robe came to see me. His name was Brother Mokshananda.

I told him I wanted to be a monk. He inquired "Have you read the Lessons, yet?"

I said, "No, I haven't."

Mokshananda said, "Well, there is no way we can accept you unless you have read the Lessons, at least."

And so, that was really quite a deal. I walked back down the mountain and got back on the Interstate. And by that time it was dark. I was hitchhiking in the dark in downtown Los Angeles on the Interstate. You can visualize what kind of experience that was. But somebody picked me up. It was a really nice young fellow who drove me out to the direction I was going. He fed me and took me back to the Interstate. I thought he might have been kind of a weird person, but he wasn't. I think Master must have sent him to me. He fed me vegetarian food, because I guess he was a vegetarian. I don't know anything else about him.

I made it back to Kansas City and applied for the SRF Lessons. I started reading a few Lessons and learned how to recharge my body. Then I said, "I'm not going any farther. I'm going back there." I hitch-hiked back to Los Angeles, because I knew this was the only thing I wanted in my life. This time, I was a little more prepared. I got a job at a furniture store in Hollywood. I found the India Center Café, a very nice vegetarian restaurant run by SRF. They allowed me to volunteer my services in the evening, after I got off work. I was just young, twenty-two years old. After I got off work, I would go there and peel potatoes, or wash dishes, or whatever they let me do. I felt much honored to be able to do that for them.

A few weeks passed and one day Daya Mata showed up. She just got back from India, her first trip to India. She saw me and came over and gave me a big hug..... And I don't know what happened there, but I was just so uplifted spiritually. I don't know what it was. I was full of love and everything. And she said, "I want you to come to Mother Center." And they allowed me to live up at Mother Center.

Meera Mata was in charge of the restaurant. She is the mother of Mrinalini Mata. And I had a lot of spiritual discussions with Meera Mata and it seemed to me that Daya Mata knew I was there. They brought me up there to Mother Center.

How lucky was I? To be there among all these great souls? To be near Daya Mata? I've had many interviews with Daya Mata. It's a blessed blessed experience. One day I had an interview with her. I was sitting there and she was talking to me, and I felt just an excruciating longing for God. She was awakening my soul, evidently. Tears were running down my eyes, I know they were! She said, "Wally, what's wrong?"

"I can't explain it, Daya Mata." I said. "I just have such a longing for God Realization."

She pat me on the head and said, "That's alright. That's alright."

She is such a great soul, Daya Mata. Before I became a monk, when I lived in Kansas City, I got a little involved in spiritualism. I didn't know what it was. It was not really the path I wanted to follow, of course, because it is not a path that leads to God. But I got attuned to the astral consciousness and tramp souls bothered me. Many times I felt this vibration and then I started to get paralyzed. I knew that some kind of tramp soul was trying to take over my body. That's true if you get attuned to that consciousness and that's not good. Only get attuned to God Consciousness.

I asked Daya Mata about it when I had my first interview with her

She said, "I tell you what you do, Wally. The next time that happens, you put your attention at the Christ Center and just say Om Guru, Om Guru, Om Guru"

Within a few days, when I started to fall asleep at night, I felt a tramp soul was hovering near me. I started getting paralyzed. It was almost paralyzing my mind. I remembered what Daya Mata told me, so I put my attention at the Christ Center. The instant I thought the words, Om Guru..... Boom! A great white light just covered me. An infinite white light hit me. It vanished, but that was the last time I ever had a problem with tramp souls. Evidently Master just got rid of them. I don't want anyone think I'm trying to draw any attention to myself. I am trying to express what Self-Realization is all about. Daya Mata is a great great soul. When you are around her and if she ever hugs you, lookout! You might be in seventh heaven before you know it. I was so blessed to have some interviews with Daya Mata.

Brother Anandamoy, he is the same way. When you are near Anandamoy, you can feel that magnetism around him. You can just feel it when you get close to him. He was with Master. As you know, Anandamoy is retired and he lives in a little house right near the Mother Center. I used to drive him to India Center on Thursday nights. He gave talks on Thursday nights right below the restaurant. One day I was helping to get the India Hall started and I was moving a big beautiful painting of Mahatma Gandhi. I was carrying it and I ran into something. And I put a hole right in his face. Oh! How embarrassing that was? Gee whiz. But they forgave me, got it fixed, and got the picture back up on the wall.

Dr. Lewis also gave his talks down in India Hall at Hollywood Temple.

I worked with Brother Bimalananda down there. He was such a joyful soul. He was so in tune with Master. Joe Carbone was his name before he became a Brother. He used to sing while we were working. He used to sing in Italian, "O sole mio!" Oh he was such a good singer. He was just full of joy and just wanted to express it. You could see in his eyes, that joy of Master. Because he chanted Om Guru all the time. He was very much in tune with Master. He was a very humble little soul.

There were also other souls there at Mother Center. Brahmacharini Maria was probably in her 70's and came from Germany. Whenever she wanted Brother Bimalananda, she used to call out, "Bima! Bima!" And I got so I

could mimic him. She thought Bimalananda was answering her, so I would have to say, “No, I’m just doing that. It’s just me.” We just had fun.

Brother Bimalananda made his mark on Self-Realization. He and Anandamoy used to work together. They helped put that India Center together. They did construction work. The basement area was for our meetings and meditations. During lunch time, we all had a forty-five minute break. That is when they sent me back down there and I lived down there for a while. I used to go up in our little storage area and I made a little place for myself to meditate. It was so black and dark and quiet; a perfect place to meditate. And that was the first time I ever saw the spiritual eye. I also spent time in Encinitas.

I really enjoyed being with Brother Anandamoy. I used to drive him to India Center every Thursday night from Mother Center. We used to talk about Master. He told me stories, and it was a joy to be right with him and talk with him.

One of the nuns that I was very much impressed with years ago, Tara Mata, was the main editor of the Self-Realization Magazine and she edited the books that you read now. She was a recluse and lived outside of Mother Center. She had a home somewhere real close. Every Christmas, Tara Mata would meet with all the monks at Mother Center and tell us stories about Master. She was such a wise person. Mrinalini Mata is the same way, except she has her own personality. She is a very deep and intelligent person, also. Mrinalini Mata, you would know her by one of her previous incarnations as a Catholic Saint, but I don’t want to discuss that for fear of being inaccurate.

Mrinalini Mata and Tara Mata, Master brought them all here for a purpose. They were here to help Master. Brother Anandamoy, Mrinalini Mata, Daya Mata, Tara Mata, they were with Master in previous lives. Listen. I’m just concluding that they were, because I knew they were real saints. Master brought them all together to be with him for a purpose; to get the science of Kriya Yoga started in the West. I don’t want to say anything that wouldn’t be factual. My experience with those great Saints were more on an intuitive level.

On Christmas Meditation, one year, Daya Mata was leading it. And she went into ecstasy there. You knew it. I was about twenty feet from her. It was quite an experience. But don’t ever touch anybody that’s in samadhi, because you might get electrocuted. Ha! You don’t want to touch them. You might regret it. But to be there with them, you can meditate and go deep very easily. It pulls your own consciousness into that strata of God Consciousness. You get a free ride and hitchhike on her samadhi.

I don’t have anything negative to say about Self-Realization Fellowship, because it was such a positive experience for me. I had “good-enough” karma that I was there for ten years and I was very thankful for it. To meet and be with those great devotees was a great blessing for me. I really don’t understand why I was lucky enough to be accepted, because I’m nobody, just a boy from Kansas. But I thank God every day. I have them with me right here (pointing to the altar of SRF Gurus in his living room).

In one of my interviews with Daya Mata, she said she wished I could have been there when Master was there. But I missed him by a couple of years. I was fifteen years old when he went into mahasamadhi. If only I could have been incarnated a little sooner.

I worked in the printing department at Mother Center and designed one of the Convocation booklets. Brahmachari Allen gave me the job of doing it.

My mom, Olive Green, asked me three times about taking the SRF Lessons before I finally got them going for her. I hadn’t been a monk very long when my mom came out to visit and go to Convocation. She met two other ladies at Convocation who were also from Kansas City. That is when the Kansas City Meditation Group got started by Alberta Fiorella, Iris Shelton, Olive Green, and there was a fourth person, who I can’t remember her name. (Editor’s note: The fourth person was a young lady who later became Sister Chinmayi, who today is an

SRF Nun.) Babaji said that he could feel sincere God-longing people in America. That's why he wanted to bring the science of Kriya Yoga to us here and somehow God draws them to the path. It's not just them, but their sincere devotion for wanting to know God or know truth or that inner feeling that they cannot explain. It draws them to the real path of Self-Realization. It's amazing.

Leo's book is called "I Became My Heart." And that is a dead-ringer for my experiences. Leo was with Master. And I was with Daya Mata. I was very fortunate to be with her. If anyone listens to these words, if you ever get them in print, I want you to know I'm just talking from my heart. And I'm not trying to draw attention to myself, of course. Because God is the Great One. And if anyone is helped in some weird way by reading this, then it is really coming from your Guru, Paramahansa Yogananda, not from me. I don't want anyone think I am stuck on myself or trying to make myself known. I am just a humble devotee of Self-Realization Fellowship. My master is Paramahansa Yogananda. And I thank God, that I was drawn here. I love the little church here that you bought (in Kansas City). It is really nice. We should thank God that it is there for us. Remember that if you are doing anything to help the church, you are doing it for God. And as much as you can, try to keep the thought of God in your mind when you work for God. That helps you to be in tune with God's wishes.



SRF monks at *kirtan* on grounds of SRF headquarters, Los Angeles. Several Indian instruments are employed: *khatal* (castanets with loose metallic discs attached), *tabla* (small drums), *kartal* (flat cymbals), *mandira* (cupped cymbals), and *mridanga* (long drum). A harmonium (*center*) is also used.

Around 1961, Monks Kirtan, From Left-Right: Bro. Turiyananda (Marcel Calet), Br. Daniel (Dan Hart) on tabla, Bro. Dharmananda, Unknown, Bro. Achalananda (without beard playing harmonium), Bro. Jivananda (in the back), Bro. Mokshananda, Br. Wally (Wally Green) on mridangam.

## Part Two

I went on retreat with just Brother Bhaktananda and myself out at Twentynine Palms. I cooked for him whatever he wanted to eat. One evening I prepared his food for him and I really prepared way too much. He is not a very big guy and there was a lot of food on his plate. He sat down and ate every bit of it. Then he said, "I'm going to meditate, now" Right after he ate all that food! So he went to his room and shut the door. And I did not see him until the next day. He must have meditated a long long time.

Brother Bhaktananda was a very humble soul, a very quiet person. He always did the mantra Om Guru Om Guru with his attention at the Christ Center. And that is very powerful thing to chant, which anyone can find out for themselves. Try that. Keep your attention there. Not your eyes. You don't have to focus your eyes at the Christ Center as you go about your duties remembering God. When you go to meditate, then your mind is not far from God at all. You are already attuned to that consciousness. If you go about your day with worldly thoughts in your mind, it's almost impossible to go deep into meditation, because your mind is not ready for it.

You have to prepare the garden of your mind with uplifting thoughts, satvic thoughts, of God, Guru. If you do that, when you go to meditate, you are already there. You'll get to the point where you just do a few Kriyas and you've already gone into pratyahara, interiorization of the mind. Then after pratyahara, samadhi is not too much further once you go through the spiritual eye. So it's very important during your daily activities to remember God. Don't get too far away from Him. It's Master's teaching. Daya Mata taught that. "Keep your mind with God," she always used to say. "Immerse your mind in the thoughts of God." Then when you meditate, you'll go much deeper.

One of my jobs was keeping Master's car clean after he passed on. He had a Cadillac that was given to him. Ananda Mata, Daya Mata's sister, drove that car. She would drive Daya Mata to wherever they were going. It was in mint condition, just like it was new. I washed it and waxed it. And made sure the interior was just perfect. Ananda Mata complimented me, saying, "Oh, you sure keep this car nice." She was a great soul as well.

One day, Brother Mokshananda told me this story. He was new on the path and he was the last monk to join Master before Master's Mahasamadhi in 1952. I don't know if Mokshananda was trying to test Master, but he saw Master getting into his car at Mother Center. And Mokshananda was down at the garages doing something. He mentally asked, "Dear Master, will I know God in this life?" The car left the main building and when Master passed the driveway leading to the garages he stopped the car about 100 feet away from Mokshananda and yelled out, "I heard your thoughts and don't worry about it." Master picked up his thoughts in the midst of all that activity, with everything that was going on at Mother Center, with all the monks and nuns. It demonstrated the omnipresent mind of Master. Brahmachari Leland was his name before Mokshananda.

Paramahansa Yogananda was a real Avatar. I wish I could have been there years earlier to meet my Master. But it was in my karma to have me there at a certain time for a certain reason. He is aware of every one of his devotees. We can't comprehend the omnipresence of God. But He is watching over you and me. And I have their pictures to remind me of them if I ever forget them. I have them nice and big.

I had a tremendous experience with Babaji when I was working at Mother Center. One night I was finished meditating and laid down to go to sleep. All of a sudden this young man with long hair came running up to me and he took my hand. "I am going to show you all the places you were at in India," he said. I don't know how we got there, but he took me wherever he wanted to and then he brought me back. He erased all that experience from my mind, but I can remember him taking my hand and we were off somewhere and then being back. My consciousness was very elevated the next couple of days after that super-conscious experience. I intuitively knew it was Babaji. I have no idea if it lasted two minutes or many hours. I saw Babaji. He let me remember that much. I remember Him. I remember Him taking hold of my hand. And somehow, boom we were gone. And he was taking me around to some of my different incarnations. All the Gurus are helping us.

## Part Three

In 1969, when I left the monastic life, I moved back to Kansas. Through a matchmaker service, in 1970 I met Carol from Olathe, Kansas, and I ended up marrying her. We were married for thirty-nine years. She was a very spiritual person herself. She was agnostic and did not belong to any particular religion. She took the SRF Lessons and at her first experience at recharging exercises she said, “I can see a light in my forehead!” But she didn’t pursue it and didn’t meditate. But she was really good about my meditations. She accepted it and knew I was going to meditate every night and every morning. I got up at three or four o’clock in the morning and meditated before I went to work. And, of course, at night I did the same thing. But I had to compromise a little bit on my vegetarian diet, because my wife wasn’t use to that kind of diet. I ate some meat but avoided it mostly.

You’ll find in the Lessons where Master is teaching the different sounds you are supposed to chant mentally while doing Kriya up and down the spine. I’ll do about two of those and I’m gone. Your spine becomes magnetized. When you do Kriya for fifty years, it really makes a difference. It really works and anybody who does Kriya will learn to love God. And Kriya Yoga will help them to love people as well. You will become one with everyone’s spirit. I want to hug everybody because my dorsal center is awakened. And that’s because I do Kriya.

One of the greatest powers I have is to love God and to love my neighbor. Because you feel oneness with mankind. You think, “Maybe I’m not doing it perfectly enough. Maybe the sounds aren’t quite right.” But Master is guiding you. He wants you to know God as much or more than you yourself want to know God. Divine Mother longs for our love. And Kriya Yoga will take you there. I like the Second Kriya Yoga technique—it helps awaken the centers. Before you know it, “By gosh,” you say. “That Kriya Yoga is really helping me!”

One time my Mom came out to the Convocation. At night she had a vision of Sri Yukteswarji. He told her, “You need to do more samadhi.” That was hilarious that she told me that. After I returned to Kansas City, we used to meet at Iris Shelton’s house for meditation. And then we also met in my mom’s house and set up an altar with all the Gurus.

I hope what I have talked about will be helpful. My greatest experience being a monk was just being close to Daya Mata, such a holy person. That is the reason why I have her picture. “Wally, always keep your mind with God. Always keep your mind with God,” she says to me almost every time I see her. I love everybody I see, because they are an expression of God.

– Wally Green, October 6, 2013