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*“In Every Thing Give Thanks”*

# Yes, We Can Know God!

*Opening talk at one of the Self-Realization Fellowship  
Convocations: a week of classes, meditation, and  
spiritual fellowship held annually in Los Angeles*

Tomorrow the classes begin, and I am remembering the time in Salt Lake City, many years ago, when I first took such classes from our revered guru, Paramahansa Yogananda. What a tremendous impact he had on my life!

From my earliest years, I had an unceasing desire to find God in this lifetime. It was in my seventeenth year that I met Paramahansaji. My body was very ill at that time. I was suffering from blood poisoning throughout my system, and the doctors could find no cure for it. One eye was swollen closed, and I had three bandages on my face. Those bandages were actually a blessing, because I stood out rather like a sore thumb even in that large audience!

In those days Master would give several lectures, introducing his teachings, before the classes in which he dealt with the deeper aspects and methods of yoga. After the last of the public lectures, he would invite the congregation to come forward, and would greet them individually. I approached him with legs shaking; I was so very, very shy. When I stood before him, he looked at my disfigured face and asked, "What is the matter with you?" After my mother, with whom I had come to the lectures, explained my health problem, he