

But, the next morning Niranjan had torn his good clothes all to shreds. When he was asked what had happened, he replied, "a mouse inside me has torn the clothes. The name of the mouse is sannyasa." Swami Niranjan refused to eat. Eventually his aunt brought him back and said, "Swamiji, he is the only child of his parents." I said, "Then take him back. Who is stopping you? I'm not." But Swami Niranjan refused to go with her.

Guinea pig

Eventually Niranjan won and he was brought to the ashram at the age of seven. Swami Satyananda told Swami Niranjan that he did the right thing by not going to school. "I always told him that I wasted many years on useless schooling, whereas he could save those years." This decision gave Swami Niranjan a natural advantage over others as he started early and could accomplish everything at a young age.

To hear the stories about him at that early age in the ashram from Sri Swamiji is sheer joy. Being the youngest inmate of the ashram, naturally he got his way in everything. If you ask the swamis who were there at the ashram at that time, they each have a story to tell.

Sri Swamiji says, "I think his gurubhais would be better able to tell you about him in those early years. I only know that as a child, when Niranjan slept, you could remove his chowki and take him anywhere and he would not know it. He slept like a log! When he was asleep, the swamis used to take him off his chowki and carry him from one side of the ashram



to the other. They were very mischievous, but not in front of me. I knew all about it, but I never considered this childish mischief to be something negative.

"To manage a child well, you must not be too attached. Think that this is a guinea pig on which to experiment, not your dear child. I experimented on Swami Niranjan. I have never displayed much emotion for him. I do not even love Niranjan, but people think that I love him. I do not know what love is; I do not understand it. Why should I love him? He was a guinea pig for my experiment. I taped the *Gita* and all the Upanishads, and I used to play them to him when he was asleep. The tape would rewind automatically and play throughout the night.

"Swami Niranjan had a problem. He used to sleep so deeply that he could be physically transported from the ashram below to the one above along with his bed, and he would not wake

