



KAUAI'S HINDU MONASTERY



107 Kaholalele Road, Kapaa, HI 96746

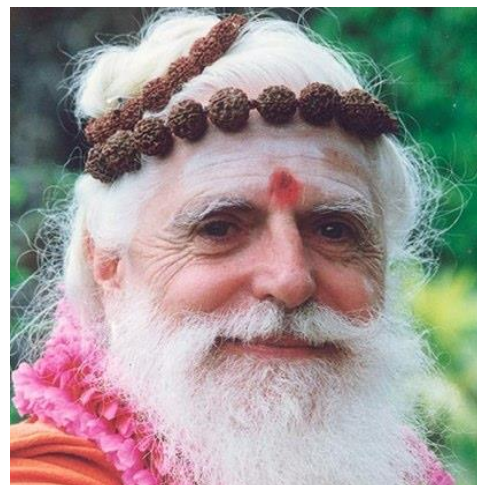
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Website: <http://www.himalayanaacademy.com/monastery/about>

[Kauai's Hindu Monastery](#), or Kauai Aadheenam, is a traditional South Indian style monastery/temple complex on the island of Kauai. It was founded in 1970 by our [Gurudeva, Satguru Sivaya Subramuniyaswami](#) (1927-2001), 162nd Jagadacharya of the Nandinatha Sampradaya's [Kailasa Parampara](#), which extends back 2,200 years and beyond, to Maharishi Nandinatha and his eight disciples—Sanatkumara, Sanakar, Sanadanar, Sananthanar, Sivayogamuni, Patanjali, Vyaghrapada and Tirumular. In recent times the power of this lineage was passed through Siddha Kadaitswami (1804-1891) to Satguru Chellappaswami (1840-1915) and then to [Siva Yogaswami](#) (1872-1964), who ordained Gurudeva as his successor in 1949 with a tremendous slap on the back. Yogaswami instructed Gurudeva to “go ‘round the world and roar like a lion” and “build a bridge between East and West.”

Gurudeva's Kauai monastery, in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, has become a powerful pillar supporting a robust spiritual bridge joining India and America. From this small monastery Gurudeva did indeed roar like a lion—in his travels worldwide, his legacy [Master Course Trilogy](#), his acclaimed international quarterly magazine [Hinduism Today](#) and the many other extensive outreach efforts of [Himalayan Academy](#), the teaching and publishing branch of his organization. The echoes of his roaring become ever stronger as time passes.





AIMS, IDEALS, LEADERSHIP



The mission of Kauai's Hindu Monastery is to protect, preserve and promote the Saivite Hindu religion as embodied in the Tamil culture, traditions and scriptures of South India and Sri Lanka. In addition to the Vedas and Saiva Agamas, Tirumular's [Tirumantiram](#) and Tiruvalluvar's [Tirukural](#) are key scriptures. The [core beliefs](#) are based on [monistic theism](#), which recognizes that monism and dualism/pluralism are equally valid perspectives—each one a clear and correct view, though incomplete as it is only one perspective, as of one side of a prism.



Two traditional Saivite Hindu temples are located on the monastery's 363 acres. [Kadavul Temple](#) enshrines Lord Siva, with smaller shrines to Ganesha, Murugan (Karttikeya) and Gurudeva. [Iraivan Temple](#), a granite Chola-style temple designed by acclaimed architect Ganapati Sthapati according to the Saiva Agamas, is being hand-carved in Bengaluru and assembled on Kauai by master silpis. Also on the monastery grounds are granite murtis of Dakshinamurti, Hanuman, Shanmugam, Murugan's Shakti Vel, Ganesha, Nandi, our Guru Parampara and more.





The present head of the monastery is [Satguru Bodhinatha Veylanswami](#), Gurudeva's seniormost monk and ordained successor. Bodhinatha met Gurudeva in September of 1964 and took his sadhaka vows just eleven months later, at the age of 22. In March, 1972, he received sannyas diksha from Gurudeva; and in 1988 he received acharya diksha, becoming the first acharya of Gurudeva's order.

In 1995, for the first time, Gurudeva publicly named his first three successors, Bodhinatha being the first. On October 21, 2001, the tenth evening of Gurudeva's 32-day prayopavesha fast, Gurudeva asked Bodhinatha to come to his bedside. All the monks were gathered around. Gurudeva sent for his aadheenakartar pendant, the symbol of the spiritual head of Kauai Aadheenam, and placed it lovingly on Bodhinatha's neck. He took his beautiful golden Namasivaya bracelet and softly clasped it on Bodhinatha's wrist. Gurudeva then removed one of his rings and placed it on his successor's finger, stating his name would be Satguru Bodhinatha Veylanswami. Then he declared, "You are the guru now."



Bodhinatha travels extensively, but most of the year finds him at the monastery, where he oversees the publications of Himalayan Academy, trains the younger monks in their service duties and spiritual practices and guides the lives of hundreds of [devotee families](#) worldwide, initiated members of [Saiva Siddhanta Church](#), the monastery's parent organization. He enjoys chatting with visitors, signing their books and blessing the sacred items they purchase at the monastery's on-premises gift shop.

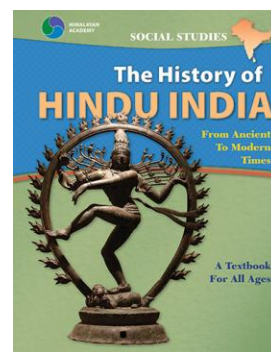
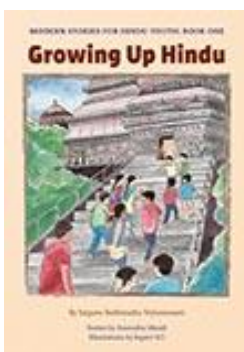
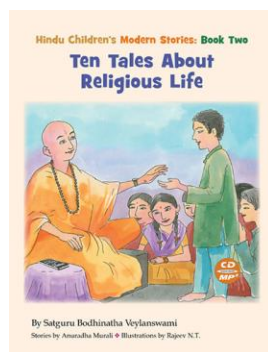
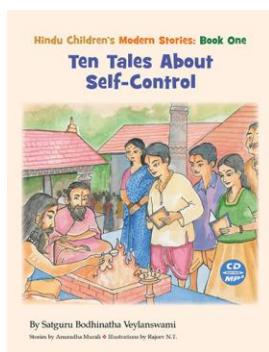
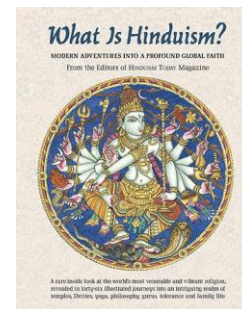
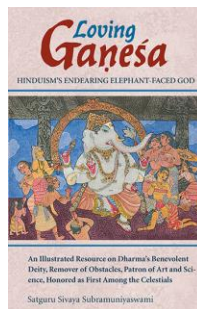
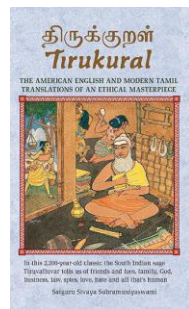
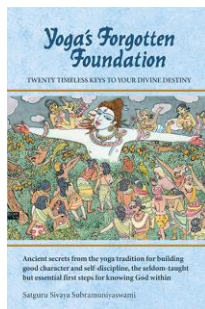
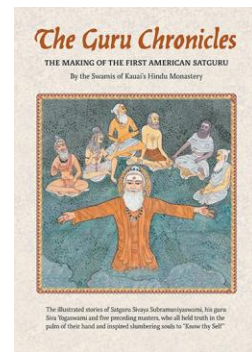
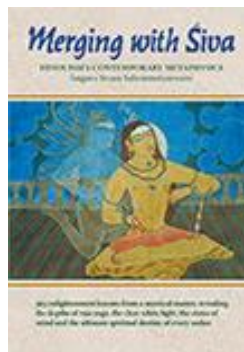
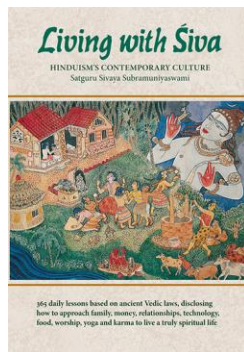
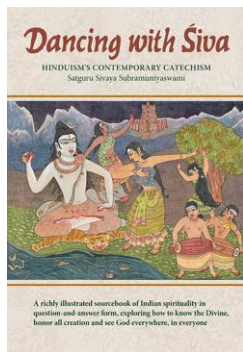
Bodhinatha and his [21 celibate monks](#) from five different countries live at Kauai's Hindu Monastery, serving as a one dedicated brotherhood to advance Gurudeva's [mission](#), following Gurudeva's dictum of "no tolerance for disharmony." Here Bodhinatha initiates a new sadhaka ([monk in training](#)), the son of a family of longtime devotees.

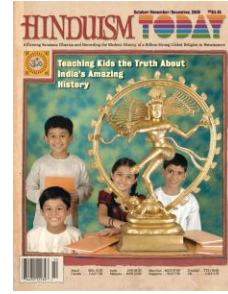




Himalayan Academy

Founded in 1965 by Satguru Sivaya Subramuniyaswami and headquartered at Kauai's Hindu Monastery, [Himalayan Academy](http://HimalayanAcademy.com) is the teaching and publications branch of the organization and an internationally recognized publisher of books, magazines, pamphlets, websites and e-books on the Hindu religion for both adults and children. Each publication is available online (or downloadable) at no charge, as well as in printed form. Himalayan Academy created the first Hindu domain on the Internet in 1995. Today it oversees educational activities in the US, Mauritius, India, Malaysia and Singapore. See all books and pamphlets [here](http://HimalayanAcademy.com).





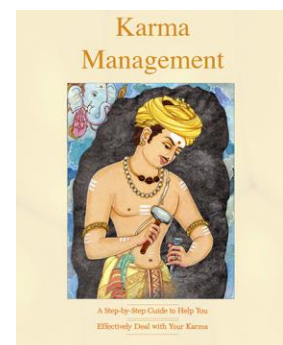
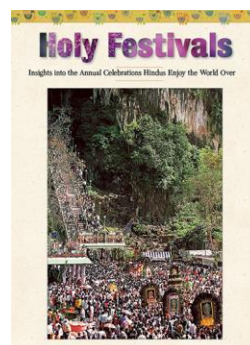
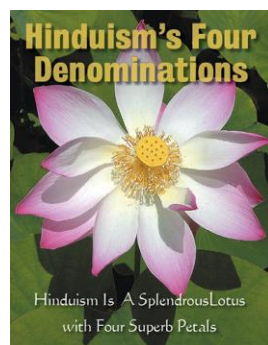
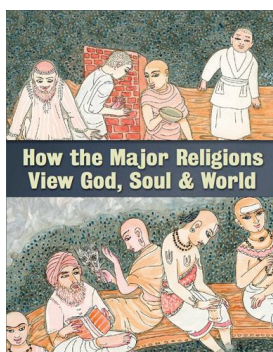
[Hinduism Today](#) is an international quarterly magazine published by Himalayan Academy at Kauai's Hindu Monastery and distributed in 63 countries. Founded in 1979 by Gurudeva, it has a multi-faceted mission:

- 1) To foster Hindu solidarity as a unity in diversity among all sects and lineages;
- 2) To inform and inspire Hindus worldwide and people interested in Hinduism;
- 3) To dispel myths, illusions and misinformation about Hinduism;
- 4) To protect, preserve and promote the sacred Vedas and the Hindu religion;
- 5) To nurture and monitor the ongoing spiritual Hindu renaissance;
- 6) To publish resources for Hindu leaders and educators who promote the Sanatana Dharma.

All are invited to participate in this seva by sending letters, clippings, photographs and reports on events, and by encouraging all who engage in such activities.

Initially published in newspaper format and later as a monthly magazine for a time, Hinduism Today went to quarterly format in 2002. This gives the monks the time required to produce high-quality, in-depth articles. The [archives](#) are complete online back to February, 1979, when Gurudeva—or Master Subramuniya, as he was known then—first conceived it as “The New Saivite World” and restricted it to his own followers. As time went on he realized the need for an umbrella magazine covering Hinduism worldwide, and thus Hinduism Today was born.

In addition to timely news articles, each issue contains an editorial by the publisher (now Satguru Bodhinatha) and an “Insight” section containing timeless material about the Sanatana Dharma, also published separately in pamphlet form. See all books and pamphlets [here](#). Consider subscribing to the [Hindu Press International](#) news feed, bringing free news summaries approximately 20 times each month.





[Hindu Heritage Endowment](#) (HHE) was founded by Gurudeva in 1994. Its [mission](#) is to strengthen Hindu institutions and activities worldwide by providing them a permanent and growing source of income. Overseen by Satguru Bodhinatha and his senior swamis, HHE currently comprises [77 individual endowment funds](#) whose combined principal now exceeds US\$13.8 million. The income from the invested principal provides an annual grant to the designated beneficiary of each individual fund—while the principal itself is maintained in perpetuity, safe from short-sighted plans concocted by any new group of trustees of the beneficiary institution.

Gurudeva designed HHE with great care. It is a public charitable trust (Tax ID 99-03089224) recognized by the US government, so that a US donor can receive an income tax deduction for supporting Hindu institutions anywhere in the world. Anyone can [create a fund](#) to support their own favorite Hindu charitable institution.



OTHER PUBLIC INTERACTION



Kauai's Hindu Monastery is active in local community affairs. [Kadavul Temple](#) is open to the public daily, 9 a.m. to noon, so the public may attend Siva puja. We also offer frequent [guided tours](#) to the [Iraivan Temple](#) construction site.



At our beautiful seven-acre [Spiritual Park](#) in Mauritius, a majority-Hindu nation, thousands come from all over the island to attend the monthly Ganesha homa.



Sri Sri Sri Jayendra Puri Swami, successor of the great Sri Sri Sri Tiruchi Mahaswamigal of Sri Kailas Ashram in Bengaluru, visited Kauai's Hindu Monastery in [2008](#) and again in [2011](#), making glowing comments about the monastery.





AND ON INTO THE FUTURE...



Gurudeva decreed that Kauai's Hindu Monastery should become completely self-sufficient, no longer dependent even on devotees' donations. The monks use [solar power](#) and grow rare [hardwoods](#), organic [noni](#) and other cash crops on the monastery grounds. All vegans or strict lacto-vegetarians, they grow most of their own food, maintaining an extensive organic [vegetable garden](#) and [fruit orchards](#) and caring for a small herd of purebred [dairy cows](#).



In addition, the monastery's worldwide community of devotees, appreciating the power of endowments, have established and continue to augment many specific endowment funds under the umbrella of [Hindu Heritage Endowment](#), designed to provide uninterrupted and growing support for the many services provided by the monastery, forever. (Here, for space considerations, the funds with the longest names are listed first—otherwise, they are in alphabetical order.)

[Cows of Kadavul and Iraivan Temple \(Kovil Maadu\) Endowment](#)

[Himalayan Academy Publications Book Distribution Fund](#)

[Hindu Heritage Endowment Administration Fund](#)

[Hinduism Today Complimentary Subscription Fund](#)

[Kadavul Nataraja Ardra Abhishekam Endowment](#)

[Kauai Aadheenam Annual Archana Fund](#)

[Kauai Aadheenam Endowment for Hindu Religious Art and Artifacts](#)

[Digital Dharma Endowment](#)

[Gurudeva's Trilogy Distribution Fund](#)

[Hindu Literature Fund](#)

[Hindu of the Year Fund](#)

[Hindu Press International Endowment Fund](#)

[Hinduism Today Lifetime Subscription Fund](#)

[Hinduism Today Production Fund](#)

[Iraivan Temple Endowment](#)

[Kailasa Peedam Gift Fund](#)

[Kauai Aadheenam Mathavasi Medical Fund](#)

[Kauai Aadheenam Monastic Endowment](#)

[Kauai Aadheenam Renovation Endowment](#)

[Kauai Aadheenam Yagam Fund](#)

[Loving Ganesha Distribution Fund](#)

[Panchangam Endowment Fund](#)

[Spiritual Park of Mauritius Endowment](#)

[Sri Subramuniya Ashram Scholarship Fund](#)

[Thank You Bodhinatha Fund](#)



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



From 1967 until a few months before his mahasamadhi, Gurudeva led many “[Innersearch](#)” travel-study programs taking students to dozens of different countries, creating an opportunity to detach awareness completely from mundane matters in order to delve deeply into meditation and other aspects of Hinduism under his close personal guidance and that of his swamis. Bodhinatha continues this tradition.



1 / 159 The majority of the program took place the the Spiritual Park



The monks maintain a near-daily blog called [Today at Kauai Aadheenam](#) (TAKA), which offers a glimpse into the daily life of the monastery. Archives (bottom of page) are available back to September 12, 2001. Links on the TAKA page provide entry to many key areas of the vast website.

Most weeks of the year, authorized volunteers offer a [guided tour](#) through the cloistered part of the monastery to [Iraivan Temple](#). Here a tour group is shown in front of the 12-foot-tall black granite Dakshinamurti, who is enthroned under a banyan tree, facing south toward Iraivan Temple (which also faces south).



In the late 1970s Gurudeva learned that the sacred rudraksha tree was becoming extinct in India. He established a small [forest](#) of them on the monastery grounds. Every year devotees [collect](#) the bright blue berries, remove the fruit to expose the beautiful beads inside, and use the cleaned beads to [create](#) malas, bracelets and various jewelry. These items are sold in the monastery’s gift shop (and some online at [minimela.com](#)) to support the continuing construction of Iraivan Temple.



MORE LINKS TO OUR SITES



Gurudeva knew early on that electronic media would become the world's primary means of communication, especially valuable to the Hindu community as it spreads rapidly around the world. In service to Hindus and seekers worldwide, not only [Hinduism Today](#) magazine but also Gurudeva's and Bodhinatha's [writings](#) and hundreds of their recorded [upadeshas](#) are made freely available online, as well as a truly amazing wealth of other free Hindu resources including [artwork](#), [videos](#) and [slideshows](#). Google Analytics indicates that 50,000 unique visitors come to our sites each month. The following links may be particularly useful, and additional links will be found on most of these web pages:

[Today at Kauai Aadheenam](#) (daily blog)

[Introduction to the Monastery](#)

[About the Monastery](#)

[Spiritual Lineage](#)

[Founder of the Monastery](#)

[More about Gurudeva](#)

[Our Guru and Order](#)

[Books and Pamphlets](#)

[Upadeshas](#)

[Study Gurudeva's Teachings](#)

[Iraivan Temple](#)

[Kadavul Temple](#)

[Coming on Pilgrimage](#)

[Meet the Monks](#)

[Current Newsletter](#)

[Basics of Hinduism](#)

[Chanting, Mantras and Songs](#)

[Art and Photos](#)

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[YouTube](#) (also [here](#) and [here](#))

[Online Gift Shop](#)

[Free panchangams](#) for cities worldwide





Satguru Bodhinatha in early-morning meditation at the [Swayambhu Lingam](#), part of Gurudeva's threefold vision of Lord Siva that led to the founding of Iraivan Temple.



HOW TO GET HERE



Travel Directions

To get to the monastery:

- 1) Take the 35-minute inter-island flight from Honolulu to Kauai. From Lihue Airport, drive 1/10 mile to Highway 51 and turn right.
- 2) Drive approximately six miles. Immediately after you cross Wailua River bridge, turn left at the traffic light onto Kuamo'o Road.
- 3) Drive 4.25 miles and turn left on Kaholalele Road.
- 4) Continue one block to the end of the road. Turn right on Temple Lane and park beside the road.
- 5) Walk up the path to the temple entrance gate.



Kauai's Hindu Monastery • 107 Kaholalele Road • Kapa'a, Hawaii • 96746-9304