

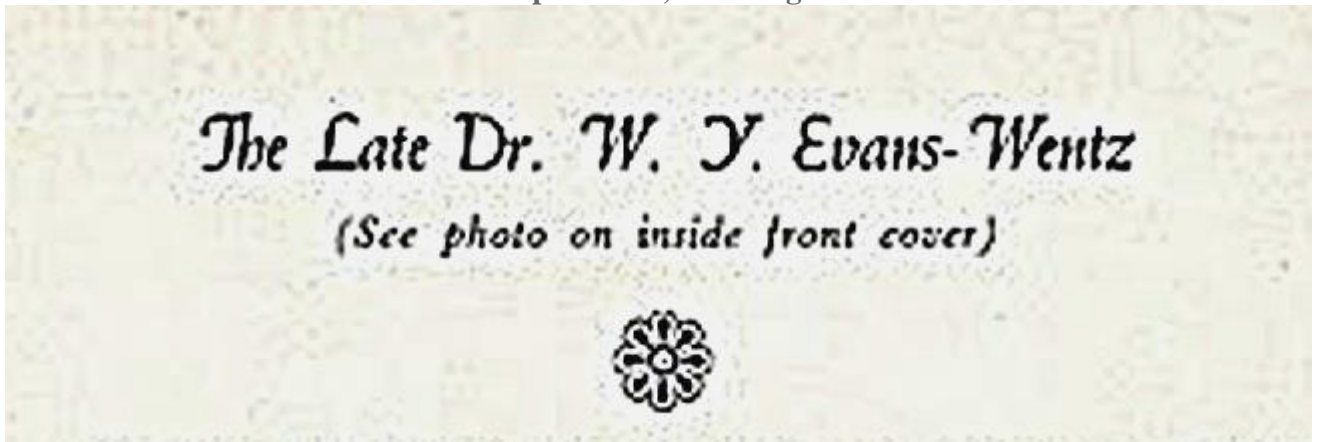
Dr. Walter Y. Evans-Wentz, Paramahansa Yogananda and SRF/YSS – Self-Realization mag. 1965

FEBRUARY 10, 2024 ~ YOGANANDASITE



Paramahansa Yogananda and Dr. W. Y. Evans-Wentz, renowned Orientalist who wrote the foreword in *Autobiography of a Yogi*. Photo taken in 1949 at Self-Realization Fellowship Church, San Diego.

Paramahansa Yogananda and Dr. W.Y. Evans-Wentz, renowned Orientalist, who wrote the forward in *Autobiography of a Yogi*. Photo taken in 1949 at Self-Realization Fellowship Church, San Diego



Self-Realization magazine, 1965, excerpts (see the complete article at the bottom)  
**DR. W.Y. EVANS WENTZ**, 87, internationally known authority on comparative religions, died on July 17, in Encinitas, California. . . .

He travelled to Tibet in 1919 and became a Buddhist monk. Among his many writings, perhaps the most famous are *The Tibetan Book of the Dead*; *The Tibetan Book of the Great Revelation*; *Tibetan Yoga and Secret Doctrines*; and *Tibet's Great Yogi Milarepa*. . .



## EVANS-WENTZ on right

In 1932 he attended a series of Self-Realization Fellowship classes conducted by Paramahansa Yogananda in San Diego, California, and often visited the great master at the SRF hermitage in Encinitas. In 1936 the two friends met again in India.

For *Autobiography of a Yogi* by Paramahansa Yogananda...the Oxford Scholar wrote an appreciative forward. He wrote in his diary, **“Yogananda is in my view a man worthy of any help I can render him.”** Some extracts from Dr. Evans-Wentz forward follow:

The value of Yogananda’s *Autobiography* is greatly enhanced by the fact that it is one of the few books in English about the wise men of India which have been written, not by a journalist or foreigner, but by one of their own race and training — in short, a book about yogis by a yogi. As an eyewitness recountal of the extraordinary lives and powers of modern Hindu saints, the book has importance both timely and timeless.

To its illustrious author, whom I have had the pleasure of knowing in both India and America, may every reader render due appreciation and gratitude. His unusual life document is certainly one of the most revealing of the depths of the Hindu mind and heart, and of the spiritual wealth of India, ever to be published in the West.

*Yogananda, Paramahansa. Autobiography of a Yogi (Self-Realization Fellowship) (p. 16). Self-Realization Fellowship. Kindle Edition.*

See also~~ W. Y. EVANS-WENTZ: Description of SWAMI SRI YUKTESWAR, Preface – Yogananda, AY

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Dr. W. Y. Evans-Wentz (*extreme left*) seated next to the Shankaracharya of Puri at a discussion group after the close of a lecture by His Holiness, attended by 600 persons, at San Diego State College, San Diego, California, Feb. 13, 1958. In center is Dr. John R. Theobald, Professor of English.

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SELF-REALIZATION

Dr. Y.W. Evans-Wentz (extreme left) seated next to the [Shankaracharya of Puri](#) at a discussion group after the close of a lecture by His Holiness, attended by 600 persons, at San Diego State College, San Diego, California, Feb. 13, 1958...

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### **A Beautiful Tribute to Yogananda in 1952**

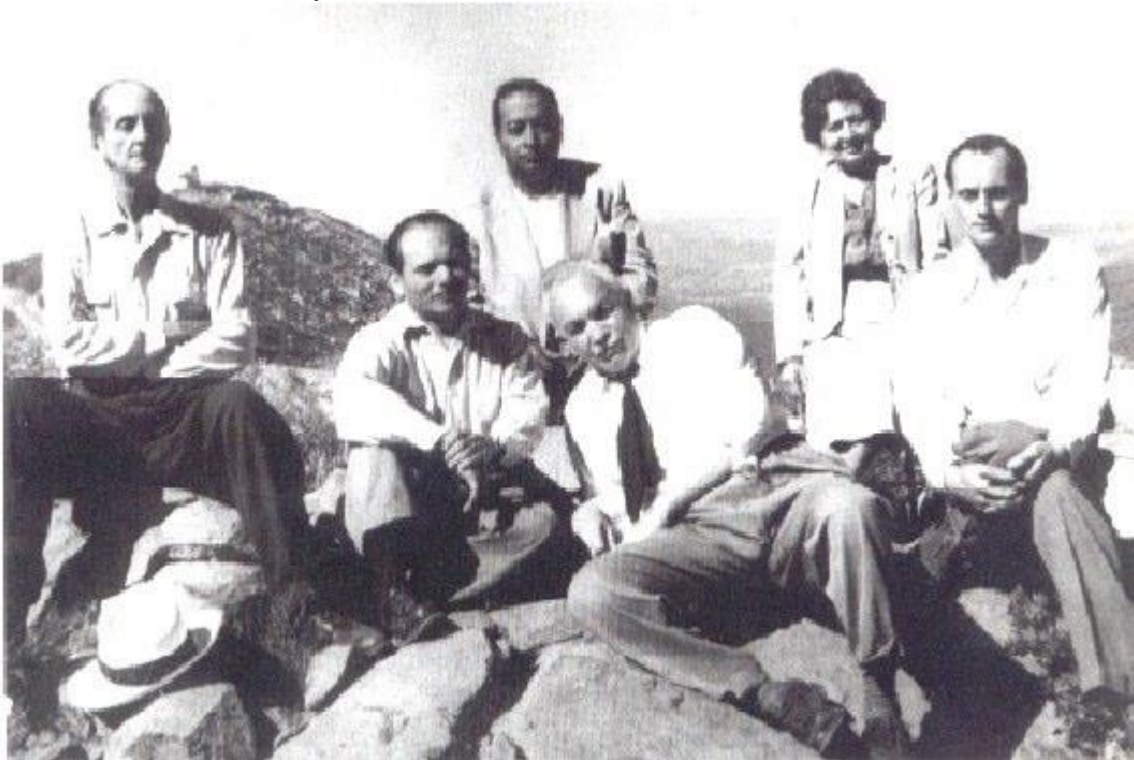
**In 1952, at the time of Paramahansa Yogananda's *mahasamadhi*, Dr. Evans-Wentz wrote to SRF the following tribute:**

“For all future time, Paramahansa Yogananda, now no longer incarnate among us, will be regarded as one of India's greatest ambassadors of the higher culture to the New World. The numerous centers of Self-Realization Fellowship . . . are self-evident proof of the remarkable success of his mission on earth. It is now the mighty privilege of all those yet in incarnation who venerate Paramahansa Yogananda as their Guide and Teacher to carry forward, and to transmit to the next generation, the saving teachings that he entrusted to them.

About a year ago Dr. Evans-Wentz, who had resided for a long time in San Diego, California, expressed a wish to live in Encinitas at the Self-Realization Colony. He came to Encinitas and lived there until his death. Brahmachari Lou, a resident SRF disciple in the colony, served as the scholar's secretary and daily companion. Dr. Evans-Wentz took a tremendous interest in Self-Realization Fellowship and all its activities. He revered the line of SRF Gurus and often joined Brahmachari Lou, particularly to Mahavatar Babaji.

The distinguished writer kept up his literary work until the end of his life. He recently completed the manuscript of his last book, Sacred Mountains of the World. Included in it are chapters on the Himalayas and other mountains of India, and on mountains in the U.S.A. that are considered holy by the American Indians...

Recently the great scholar made a donation to Yogoda Satsanga Society (founded in India by Paramahansa Yogananda) of some valuable property in Puri—the ancient pilgrimage city in which Sri Yukteswar's body is buried.



Brahmachari Lou of SRF conducted part of the funeral services for the renowned Orientalist. He said:

“I have known Dr. Evans-Wentz for about fifteen years, and for the past year I have been his secretary. Today I realize deeply that the world has lost a great scholar, and we here today have lost a great friend. I think it is fitting, at this time, to read a few lines from his famous book *The Tibetan Book of the Dead*.

*[Read this section from the last page of the article posted below]*

And now these words of Lord Buddha:

“Get thee away from life-lust, from conceit’  
From ignorance, and from distraction’s craze;  
Sunder the bonds;, so only shalt thou come  
To utter end of ill. Throw off the chain  
of birth and death–thou knowest what they mean.  
So, free from craving in this life on earth,  
Thou shalt go on thy way calm and serene.”

With these words Dr. Evans-Wentz, in your new home of Light, we send you our love and goodwill.

*July-September, 1965 Self-Realization magazine*

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*The Late Dr. W. J. Evans-Wentz*

*(See photo on inside front cover)*



## The Late Dr. W. Y. Evans-Wentz

(See photo on inside front cover)



Dr. Walter Y. Evans-Wentz, 87, internationally known authority on comparative religion, died on July 17th in Encinitas, California. He was born in Trenton, New Jersey, on February 2, 1878. He received B.A. and M.A. degrees from Stanford University, California, in 1906 and 1907; a degree of Docteur ès lettres from University of Rennes in France, in 1909; and a B.Sc. degree from Oxford University, England, in 1910. In 1931 Oxford University conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Science in Comparative Religion; he was the first American to receive this degree.

He traveled to Tibet in 1919 and became a Buddhist monk. Among his many writings, perhaps the most famous are *The Tibetan Book of the Dead*; *The Tibetan Book of the Great Liberation*; *Tibetan Yoga and Secret Doctrines*, and *Tibet's Great Yogi Milarepa* (all published by Oxford University Press).

In 1932 he attended a series of Self-Realization Fellowship classes conducted by Paramahansa Yogananda in San Diego, California, and often visited the great master at the SRF Hermitage in Encinitas. In 1936 the two friends met again in India.

### Wrote Foreword in "Autobiography of a Yogi"

For *Autobiography of a Yogi* by Paramahansa Yogananda (published in 1946), the Oxford scholar wrote an appreciative foreword. He wrote in his diary: "Yogananda is, in my view, a man worthy of any help I can render him." Some extracts from Dr. Evans-Wentz's foreword follow:

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gratitude. His unusual life document is certainly one of the most revealing of the depths of the Hindu mind and heart, and of the spiritual wealth of India, ever to be published in the West.

"It has been my privilege to meet one of the sages whose life history is herein narrated — Sri Yukteswar Giri. A likeness of the venerable saint appeared as part of the frontispiece of my *Tibetan Yoga and Secret Doctrines*. It was in Puri, in Orissa, on the Bay of Bengal, that I encountered Sri Yukteswar. He was then the head of a quiet ashram near the seashore there, and was chiefly occupied in the spiritual training of a group of youthful disciples. He . . . was of gentle mien and voice, of pleasing presence, and worthy of the veneration that his followers spontaneously accorded to him. Every person who knew him, whether of his own community or not, held him in the highest esteem. . . .

"I am glad, indeed, to be able to record this testimony to the high character and holiness of Sri Yukteswar. Content to remain afar from the multitude, he gave himself unreservedly and in tranquillity to that ideal life which Paramahansa Yogananda, his disciple, has now described for the ages."

In late 1946 Dr. Evans-Wentz wrote in his diary as follows: "Yogananda's *Autobiography* is published with my brief foreword. The book makes an excellent appearance and will, I think, attain unusual success."



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*an Book of the Dead.* It is customary in Tibet for this passage to be read after the death of the body:

"Reverend Sir, now that thou art experiencing the Fundamental Clear Light, try to abide in that state which now thou art experiencing. O Nobly-born, Dr. Walter Y. Evans-Wentz, listen. Now thou art experiencing the Radiance of the Clear Light of Pure Reality. Recognize it. O Nobly-born, thy present intellect, in its real nature void, not formed into anything as regards characteristics or color, naturally void, is the very Reality, the All-Good.

"Thine own intellect, which is now voidness, yet not to be regarded as of the voidness of nothingness, but as being the intellect itself, unobstructed, shining, thrilling, and blissful, is the very consciousness, the All-good Buddha. Thine own consciousness, not formed into anything, in reality void, and the intellect, shining and blissful — these two are inseparable. The union of them is the state of Perfect Enlightenment.

"Thine own consciousness, shining, void, and inseparable from the Great Body of Radiance, hath no birth, nor death, and is the Immutable Light. Knowing this is sufficient. Recognizing the voidness of thine own intellect to be Buddhahood, and looking upon it as being thine own consciousness, is to keep thyself in the state of the divine mind of the Buddha."

And now these words of Lord Buddha:

"Get thee away from life-lust, from conceit,  
From ignorance, and from distraction's craze;  
Sunder the bonds; so only shalt thou come  
To utter end of Ill. Throw off the chain  
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