

## **John D. Rockefeller Story**

Swami once asked the question, “Do you know how to live a long life? Do you know the secret of long life”? Everyone was anxious to hear what the answer was, and Swami said, “Only two things are needed, one is sacrifice and the other is love. Sacrifice is the medicine, while love is the diet. If we take the medicine without following the diet, the disease will never be cured. If we follow the diet without taking the medicine, we are nearer to the grave. So the medicine of sacrifice and diet of love - both are necessary to live a long life.”

Then Swami gave an example from the United States, John D. Rockefeller, born on July 8, 1839. “Today, in the United States there is the Rockefeller Foundation. This charity is working all over the USA. How did it come about? Rockefeller was very wealthy; he had no time to think of anything other than making money. He reached the stage where he forgot the amount of money he had because he was so very busy.”

However, at the age of about 48, Rockefeller became very ill. The doctors said, “You are not going to survive for more than eight or ten months”. When Rockefeller heard this news, he decided that he’d better find a place to put his money, and he began distributing to Educational Institutions, Medical Institutions, and many others all over the United States. His gift of 5 million helped found the Great Smokey Mountains National Park.

An amazing thing happened to him when he began researching places to put his money, and where it would do the most good. He began manifesting this love that is inside him, making him feel very good to help others. He became so engrossed in helping others that he lived 40 more years instead of the months that the doctors had told him. He lived to be almost 98 years old. This happened because of his sacrifice and the love that manifested from giving. He had retained only small fraction of his wealth when he died on May 23, 1937.