ary W. Kemper aka Brother Shankara, peacefully left behind all his worldly limitations on Friday, March 22, 2024 at 1:56 pm Eastern time, surrounded by family and friends chanting and singing him on his way.

Gary was born in Fresno, California on May 19, 1942 to Clifton W. Kemper and Lora Kemper (née Moore), the eldest of five children, Janice, Richard, Evan, Lisa and himself. Being an "Army brat," he lived in many places across the United States, as well as in France and Germany. His family settled in Riverside, CA in the 1950s. Gary married Marjorie Anderson in Seal Beach, California on January 12, 1963 and had a son, Benjamin, on October 1, 1964.

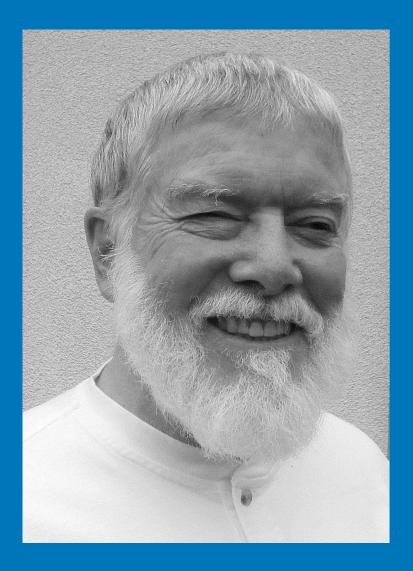
#### Gary becomes Shankara...

In early 1973, Gary's brother Evan recommended that he meet Swami Prabhavananda at the Vedanta Society of Southern California in Hollywood. The resulting meeting would change the course of Gary's (and his son Benjamin's) life. Gary was initiated by Swami Swahananda and was given the name Shankara. Over the years, he would assist Swahanandaji with many projects, including the formation of many satellite centers. He served on the Society's Board for over 25 years.

#### ...and finally, Brother Shankara

Soon after Marjorie passed away on November 12, 2009, Shankara discerned a new calling. He received Brahmacharya vows from Swami Swahananda and, at his request, traveled to Tucker, Georgia to take up the position of Resident Minister of the Vedanta Center of Atlanta in August of 2010. Now Brother Shankara, he led the Center for 14 years. Working with the devotees there, Brother Shankara grew the congregation, rebuilt the Monastery to better accommodate visiting Swamis and Pravajikas, and held the Center together with Zoom talks and classes during the Covid pandemic. He also held classes in Athens, Georgia, and was actively involved in interfaith work in Atlanta, providing talks at Universities and hosting students at the Center.

Despite his health challenges, Brother Shankara gave Sunday talks and led three classes a week on Zoom up until just three weeks prior to his passing. Though we are grateful that he will now be with Thakur and Ma, his teaching, his love, and his generosity of spirit will be missed by friends and devotees in California, Georgia and around the world.



In Memoriam

Brother Shankara/Gary Kemper
Sunday, May 5, 2024, 3 p.m.

The Vedanta Society of Southern California

### And Death Shall have no Dominion

And death shall have no dominion.

Dead men naked they shall be one

With the man in the wind and the west moon;

When their bones are picked clean and the clean bones gone,
They shall have stars at elbow and foot;
Though they go mad they shall be sane,
Though they sink through the sea they shall rise again;
Though lovers be lost love shall not;
And death shall have no dominion.

And death shall have no dominion.
Under the windings of the sea
They lying long shall not die windily;
Twisting on racks when sinews give way,
Strapped to a wheel, yet they shall not break;
Faith in their hands shall snap in two,
And the unicorn evils run them through;
Split all ends up they shan't crack;
And death shall have no dominion.

And death shall have no dominion.

No more may gulls cry at their ears

Or waves break loud on the seashores;

Where blew a flower may a flower no more

Lift its head to the blows of the rain;

Though they be mad and dead as nails,

Heads of the characters hammer through daisies;

Break in the sun till the sun breaks down,

And death shall have no dominion.

— Dylan Thomas

## Program

In the Garden The congregation

Reading from the Upanishads

and the Bhagavad Gita Swami Sarvadevananda

Office of the Dead Part I Swami Mahayogananda

Reading and Eulogy Benjamin Kemper (Bimal)

Love's Shining Peace Cyndi Craven

Tributes and Remembrances Family and friends

Office of the Dead Part II Pravajika Vidyaprana

The Lion of the Spirit Betsie Kemper (Gauri)

The Lord is on that Main Line 
The congregation

Reception immediately following in the Monastery

# Tankas by Brother Shankara

Tanka One:

All silence here, feeling the beat of Master's heart. Thoughts arise, yes, but few and fewer as time passes, unmarked and unknown.

Tanka Two:

This is Master's realm, though Mother's grace embraces, gives life to me here No telling how I know this: all is Their benediction.