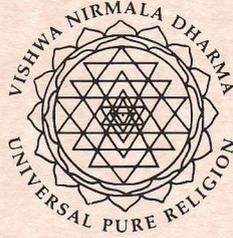


The Divine Cool Breeze

Volume 12, Nos. 1 and 2



February and March 1998

International Newsletter



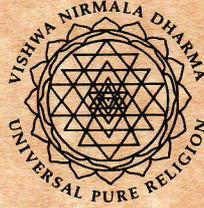
Miracle photo of Mother Mary and Christ, taken one hour before havan, at Tver, near Moscow

"Your beautiful being which is enlightened by the Spirit will prove to the world that Sahaja Yoga is the Truth."

—Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi, Navaratri Puja, Cabella, October 5, 1997

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|| Aum Shri Nirmala Devi, Namohi Namah ||

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Shri Mataji's 75th Birthday Puja

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AFTER THE BIRTH of Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi, Her children from the Nation of Vishwa Nirmala Dharma have followed the course of many rivers to arrive at the shores of the one sea, assembling from the far-flung corners of the Earth to celebrate, worship, and give our heartfelt thanks for Her birth.

How to begin to describe such a rich and condensed experience? This is a mixture of journal entries and recollections of the six-day festivities marking the 75th birthday of Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi, on March 20–26, 1998.

Prior to arriving in India all indications suggested that we would be taking part in a celebration the likes of which had never been seen before. The significance of Shri Mataji's 75th birthday had not been missed. The call had been made and answered, with Yogis from all nations making their way to India, the birthplace of Our Holy Mother. Once again embarking upon a pilgrimage to our spiritual birthplace to place our feet upon the Holy Earth of an ancient land, and travel upon the path leading to that place set aside for Shri Mataji's worship.

It has been said that it is Shri Mataji who invites us to India to perform Her Puja. She arranges for our leave, for the required funds to be present, for all necessary things to be done. We answer the call, and follow the path fashioned for us.

Sahaja Yogis from all over the world began assembling at the Nizamuddin Scout camp in Delhi in numbers unseen before. Over 1,000 foreign Sahaja Yogis, and more than 7,000 Indian brothers and sisters, all converging to be present before Shri Mataji.

Here we are. "Ohhh!" "Hey, hello!" "Ah!" and meeting more old friends than one could imagine.



H.H. Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi, 75th Birthday Puja, Delhi, March 1998

The heart doesn't have time to think about opening, it's open. Sitting on the earth and appreciating the speed with which agitation and tension are absorbed—Mother India. Things forgotten in our daily life suddenly come back and make sense again. The world is changing. We *are* instruments for a new age.

It appeared that every Sahaja Yogi whom one had met during the past 18 years of India Tours was present. Yogis who had not come to India for many years had come to pay homage to Shri Mataji.

While walking around the camp one could not proceed for more than a few metres before there



Scout Camp, Birthday Puja, Delhi, March 1998

would be a reunion with an old friend, with much backslapping, re-establishing old friendships. Time was spent in earnest dialogue about all manner of matters Sahaja during the past five, ten, 15, and even 20 years in some cases, pleasant reminiscences of days gone by, and hopes expressed for the future. This seemed to be a retrospective occasion, faces milling in the crowd discussing past Tours and experiences of Sahaja Yoga in their countries, old friendships rekindled, and new ones formed.

The Nizamuddin camp has taken on a family perspective with the presence of the Dharamsala school children. In earlier times Sahaja Yoga was comprised of many young single people, but as the Yogis have matured and begun families, the next generation of Sahaja Yogis are being introduced to the pilgrimage to India perhaps at a much younger age than any of us would have envisaged. Our children have become familiar and comfortable with all aspects of camp life, totally happy and joyous in each others' company, indifferent to any hardship or discomfort.

The children operate at a level of unqualified acceptance of each other as members of their collective, accommodating all facets of each others' personality. They possess a beautiful and natural affection for each other which allows them to

avoid the disputes one normally sees between young children. They live day by day within a natural and spontaneous universal brotherhood, united in their Sahaja collectivity. They teach us that the things that divide us are an illusion, and the most important union we have beyond that with Shri Mataji is with each other. Shri Mataji once said our

children would be teaching us how Sahaja Yoga should be practiced.

Friday, 20th March The Felicitation Ceremony

The formal part of the celebration began during the early evening hours with the commencement of the Felicitation program. The scenes prior to the start of the program were indicative of the coming seven days: enormous numbers of people arriving at the camp for the program, long queues forming at the two entrances to the pendal, space within the pendal in short supply, access restricted to those displaying their registration badges.

Shri Mataji arrived to find the pendal absolutely full, with hundreds of people standing along the outer perimeter of the pendal and large crowds outside unable to gain entry.

Many prominent Indian politicians and citizens were invited to speak, as well as several of the country leaders in Sahaja Yoga. Several messages were read out or synopsised from various people who could not attend the ceremony, such as the President and Vice President of India, who sent greetings and gratitude for Shri Mataji's "selfless service to mankind"; Claes Nobel, who sent congratulations and said that all the members of the "one big family united by the earth" were present



in spirit at the ceremony; Ayatollah Rouhani; and a cabinet minister of U.P. The yogi reading these messages told us that Shri Mataji had received thousands of letters, telegrams, e-mails, and faxes from the four corners of the world, wishing Her a Happy Birthday.

The first group of speakers were Western leaders who spoke of their love for Shri Mataji. As one said, it was like being a grain of sand standing before Mount Kailash. Shri Mataji has shown us the path to Heaven within our heart. Another

with all the powers She has bestowed upon us, it was not possible to express everything to Her in only three minutes. With his humour, he had hit upon the essential, and with such depth...

Those of us who were sitting close to the stage were able to notice the amazement and awe in the faces of these politicians and dignitaries while the Sahaja Yogis were speaking. These dignitaries were all very deeply touched to see the miracle of people from all over the world being so united, without regard to age, colour, nationality, race,



Birthday Puja , Delhi, March 1998

said that She has freed us of our confines and has brought lasting peace, words being inadequate to express our feelings of love and gratitude, but with a humble heart we bow before Her.

One most moving speech came from Phillip, the leader of Germany, who revealed the dilemma he had been facing on the plane on the way to India. He, as well as the other leaders, had been asked to prepare a short speech, not to exceed three minutes, as there were so many speakers and time was limited. Thus he agonized over how to thank Shri Mataji for all She has done "in only three minutes." How to thank the Primordial Mother for taking birth in the 20th century "in only three minutes"? He concluded that even

age or any other artificial barriers. These people have probably heard many lectures about unity and integration, but never saw the realization of these lofty dreams.

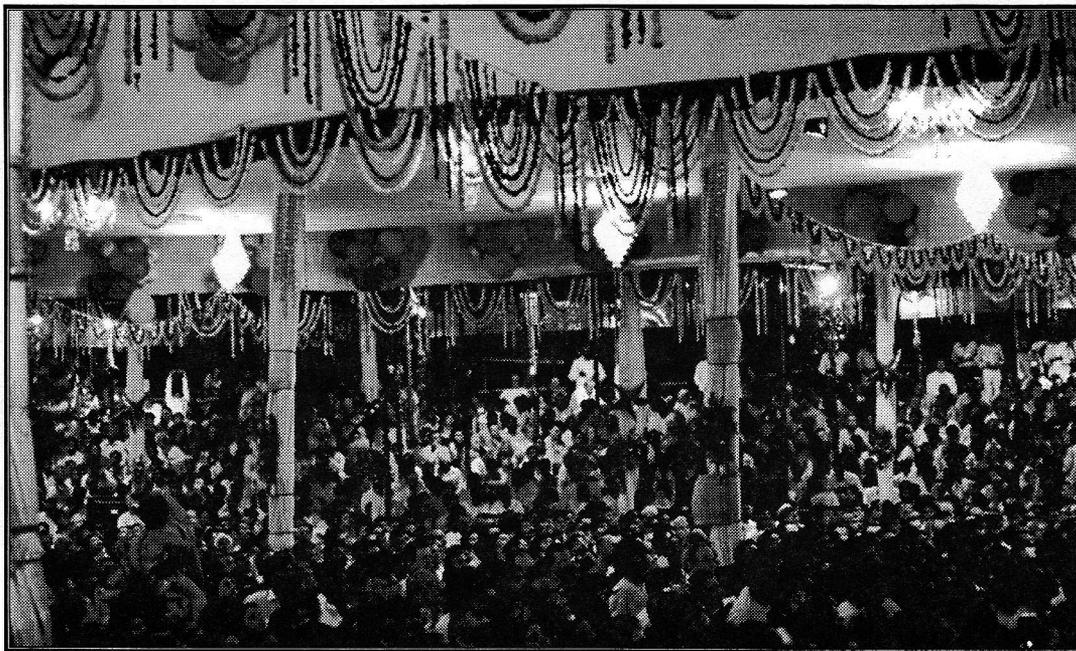
A minister from the BJP party spoke of the universal message of love which is at the core of Shri Mataji's life and Sahaja Yoga, so evident in the nature of the people gathered from around the world. He said he was a person new to Sahaja Yoga, and it was difficult to understand how people could gather from the far reaches of India for this weekend. Yet people had come from more than 50 nations to be present, which in itself spoke of the universal nature and appeal of Sahaja Yoga. With this degree of dedication, the transfor-



mation of the world could now be possible.

Other dignitaries spoke in their native tongue about the importance of Shri Mataji, not only to India, but the entire world. They all remarked on the love and compassion of "the Mother," and one mentioned that he was not here to thank Shri Mataji, because a son never thinks of thanking his mother, he takes her for granted. He was here, he said, to ask for more and more

explained that, "I think, on the occasion of Her 75th birthday, that the time has come to surrender Myself fully to Her." (Big applause.) He described the "Divine Lady" and Her very devoted and very persistent hard work to establish Sahaja Yoga. He spoke of his days in London where he saw Shri Mataji's ability to transform people into veritable glowing flowers of humanity, done through Her overriding sense of love and compassion. He told



75th Birthday Puja, Delhi, March 1998

of Her love and blessings.

Mr. Rajesh Shah concluded by saying that Sahaja Yoga had literally transformed the lives of millions of people the world over and tonight we their representatives had come to pay our respects and give thanks to Shri Mataji. He said now a million people have been transformed but there are five billion people remaining.

All of the speeches were moving and came directly from the heart. The surprise came when Sir C.P. stood up to say a few words and addressed his wife as Shri Nirmala Mataji. It was the first time he had ever addressed Her as Mataji, and he

a few anecdotes in his inimitable style, to a rapt audience, and exclaimed that it was a "gathering of angels... a part of heaven presided over by the Divine Herself."

Quoting an Urdu couplet, Sir C.P. said to Shri Mataji what we all had in our hearts:

*May You live ten thousand years
And may each second of Your life last fifty
thousand years.*

He said, "I would like to go one step further, and say that may You live until every one of the five billion humans achieves their self realization, and then until every one of them is established in



Sahaja Yoga, and then live on to make sure every one is continuing to dwell in the right path. He concluded by saying that until this point he had considered himself as an apprentice yogi, but he asked us to now accept him as a Sahaja Yogi. Tears rolled down many cheeks as we stood to applaud this very great saint.

Several books were released, and then it was time for Shri Mataji Herself to speak. It was almost like a public program, in that She directed Her speech to yogis as well as the non-yogis present. She said that all of the problems of the world come because the attention is outside, and that we have to be one with our spirit. She also told the politicians present in a stern yet maternal way, that they must not avoid the importance of spiritual life.

Shri Mataji said alone She could not have done all that was needed, but through the richness of our hearts our love has spread throughout the world, reaching people who have never before known the spirit. In the light of the spirit people have given up all manner of destructive habits which arose through frustration, and a kind of loneliness. The time has come where Sahaja Yoga has to be worked out at a global level, which can be done by collectively developing a universal mind directed towards the spirit.

Shri Mataji concluded by saying, "I wish you a great growth in your spiritual life, your spirituality, so that it covers all the corners of the world, and creates a beautiful world of tomorrow."

To conclude the program a most moving and stirring rendition of *Vande Mataram* was sung. The entire audience stood, and as if Mother India herself was rising in all Her stature, strength and splendour, Shri Mataji stood with awe-inspiring dimension. It was a most moving and poignant moment as Shri Mataji sang with the audience the spiritual anthem of India with full voice before Her who is Mother India, and all nations.

It was a moment those present will never forget. This memorable evening was conceived with the utmost regard for its significance, meticulously planned, and executed with love.

Saturday, 21st March The Puja

From early morning the camp began to swell to even greater proportions than seemed possible, as Sahaja Yogis continued to arrive from all over India. An expectant air hung around the camp as we prepared for Puja. It seemed most appropriate that the maximum number of people possible would gather to celebrate the 75th Birthday Puja.

Puja was scheduled to commence at 7 p.m. By 5 p.m. the queue to enter the pendal extended for over half a kilometre, indicative of the general awareness that the capacity of the venue may not adequately match the collective desire of those wishing to be present. By 6 p.m. the pendal was completely full with thousands of people still queuing to gain entry. The audience was continually asked to move forward to extract all available space to accommodate those still outside. Crammed to bursting in the hot, hot pendal, no question of big bags splayed out on either side—everyone with a shawl, a bottle of water, and their knees up to their chest. We waited for a miraculous extension of the pendal, which did not materialize. By 7 p.m. the pendal was full like never before, with over seven thousand people inside, and a further three thousand that would view the puja via remote television monitors stationed in the courtyard.

Shri Mataji arrived at 7:45 p.m. with Her family, welcomed by a procession of flags of all nations and yogis dressed in colourful traditional national costumes. The flags were presented to Shri Mataji before the commencement of the Puja. Shri Mataji asked that these flags be carried back to their countries with the message that the



time has come for our resurrection. We should rise to a higher level of existence where everything in our lives will change to reflect the beauty of the inner life of the spirit.

Again Shri Mataji's talk was almost like a public program, so universal and touching on so many practical things. (See the synopsis in the next issue.) She again spoke about turning the



Dancers at Birthday Puja celebrations, Delhi, March 1998

attention towards the spirit. When this happens we enter into the state known as *Gunateet*, which is beyond the three gunas, beyond the desires of the three gunas. Our attention moves beyond our conditionings and the qualities of the ego that have dominated us. Then *Kalateet*, beyond time, where the past or present no longer binds us, and we become responsible for the present moment. Then *Dharmateet*, beyond human nature, beyond dharma, meaning we are not bound to any particular pattern, or ritual, entering that awareness where all solutions arise. In some cases dharma may become a ritual or a conditioning of the mind and becomes nonsensical.

Shri Mataji went on to say that a Sahaja Yogi is someone who enjoys everyone and every situation. A realized soul sees himself, what is wrong, and knows when to correct himself. In Sahaja Yoga we have become the spirit and then every-

thing changes, our genes change, we become people who know joy, can give joy, and who enjoy the company of others. Then we can live anywhere, sleep anywhere, because our spirit is always with us to give happiness. Then we become one with all Sahaja Yogis, crossing the boundary which stops one from seeing the truth.

The puja itself was quite short, without the traditional sari held up by seven ladies. The photographs at the end were long as usual, but there was not the mad rush to the stage, especially as the decor had cleverly incorporated potted plants which completely covered the front steps of the stage, blocking access from this direction. Balloons were popped with great gusto on all sides of the pendal, in a collective effort to symbolize the deflating of the Ego.

At the conclusion of the puja, the international gift was presented—a very large oil painting (large enough to fill an entire wall, like a mural) with large figures of Shiva and Parvati in the centre, surrounded by small scenes depicting stories of Shiva. The painting, several centuries old, was originally hung in a palace in Tanjore. Then representatives from many nations queued in alphabetical order to present their gifts to Shri Mataji. The offering would take over two hours as the nations of the Sahaja world bowed before Our Holy Mother.

Many of the gifts were made by the Yogis of the presenting nations which seemed most appropriate and pleasing to Shri Mataji. These included pieces made by children, woven fabric, and beautifully constructed and decorated furniture. A young Malaysian boy presented an inspirational painting depicting Shri Mataji in a selection of Her aspects from this incarnation: scenes from Her youth, Her married life with Sir C.P., the freedom struggle, aspects of Her work establishing Sahaja Yoga, followed at the highest level by Her Divine aspects.



This was a fitting conclusion to the occasion of the 75th Puja celebration of the birth of Shri Adi Shakti Nirmala Devi.

Sunday, 22nd March The Celebrations Continue

Following the Puja birthday, celebrations continued for another five days—music programs from the 22nd through the 26th. The pattern of the days to come would be generally similar, free time during the days, music throughout the evening and into the early hours of the morning.

Some spent their days shopping in Delhi, some parents went with their children to the zoo and to other attractions around the city. Those immune to the shopkeepers' lure spent pleasant hours in the camp, sun high in the sky overhead, whiling the hours away under the cool shade of trees, conversing with friends. Shadows would fall, and one would find that the day had gone, time slipped away, hours, days, the week would be spent this way, bathing in the waters of Sahaja collectivity.

It would be not quite dark, approaching evening, when we would assemble at the pendal. There would not be room enough for physical comfort, but little did we care for there was no other place we wished to be. Evenings were taken up with listening to the music of the Divine within a heavenly court surrounded by the saints of this age.

The decor in the pendal, and the speed with which it was remade each day, was something extraordinary. Flower chains by the hundreds,

balloons, sparkling stars, and the styrofoam—oh, what they could do with styrofoam! The most exquisite murals, borders, pillars, friezes—all made out of painted styrofoam. Small trees as well as rock gardens formed part of the decor, and the flowering plants which lined the stairs seemed to grow inches every day with the vibrations. After three days, the top row of plants had gotten so high that it had to be removed so that the audi-



Sir C.P. Srivastava and H.H. Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi, 75th Birthday Puja, Delhi, March 1998

ence could see the performers!

As for what happened to the decorations as they were removed and changed each day, well, one yogini spotted a small Indian boy near the Nizamuddin roundabout, walking with a big smile on his face carrying a huge set of styrofoam tablas.

Never, ever, in one's wildest dreams, could we imagine that there would be so many artists of such completely astounding accomplishment in their field. Each night there were at least five performances of either classical dance or music, as well as performances by the students of the Nagpur Academy and some of the Western Sahaja Yogis. It



was like having a huge, exquisite banquet spread out in front of you and, because it is such rich, nourishing and satisfying food, you would be completely full even with a small serving. At times we wished for a greater absorption capacity, as we saw our limited attention get “full up” on the nourishing food by about 2 or 3 o’clock in the morning.

Each night’s program began about 6 p.m. and



Birthday Puja, Delhi, March 1998

carried on to 3 or 4 or 5 o’clock in the morning. The bones creaked from sitting for such a long time, and we enthusiastically took every chance we could to stretch our legs, staying on our feet long after the standing ovations had died down. In fact we waited until Baba Mama insisted that we sit back down before doing so.

It was noticeable that virtually every artist had a deep recognition of Shri Mataji, far beyond the usual politeness with which artists greet a spiritual personality. Many of them said a few words before beginning their performance, and it was

such a joy to hear them praising the Goddess, as well as thanking Her for helping them to perform at their best, which they all said they did when it was in front of yogis and in the presence of Shri Mataji. The contrast with performers in the West was striking—one visualizes a singer taking his final ego-inflating bow, separating himself from the audience, versus these performers who with great reluctance came forward to be applauded, and who saluted us with folded hands, as if to thank us for listening and being part of the experience. Such beautiful humility, and such music! At times during the concerts, one went so deeply into meditation that it was difficult to know where the music ended and our spirit began, such was the complete union of the two. This must be what listening with the Kundalini is, instead of merely with the ears.

Sir C.P. and Kalpana Didi and Sadhana Didi all seemed to enjoy the programs very much. Their appreciation for Indian classical music and dance was evident in their responsive and attentive listening throughout the performances. It was sweet to see Sir C.P. and Shri Mataji sitting together, occasionally leaning towards one another to comment about the music, share a smile, or take a handful of chanas together.

At certain times the yogis spontaneously started clapping with the rhythm of the music. It seems we have come a long way since the days when Baba Mama desperately tried to get our clapping to fall with the beat instead of around it. He was the emcee for the proceedings each night, and it couldn’t have been more graciously and appreciatively done. One felt such a love for this uncle who has done so much to spread music in Sahaja Yoga. His frequent “advertisements” for the Nagpur Academy were well received. In fact, each night as the performances carried on, people started saying to each other how much they would



love to attend the academy, even people who had not previously been attracted to Indian music or dance. He expressed Shri Mataji's wish that there be 100 students at the academy, and after the birthday concerts, circumstances permitting, there would be 5,000 students waiting to register.

During one of the concerts Baba Mama said that once he had asked Shri Mataji to stop time. She said that if She stopped time then there would be no moments where we could feel joy, no opportunity to change our fate. We need time in order to improve and to change our destiny.

The first evening's program began with a performance on shehenai by Pandit Jaggannath Mishra and party, who hail from Uttar Pradesh. He is a disciple of Anant Lal who is a disciple of Bishmillah Khan. It was a virtuoso performance of *Raga Madhuvanti* and *Raga Marubihag*, both meditative and moving and much enjoyed by the audience. He then performed a bhajan and seemed appreciative of the audience's warm reception.

This was followed by a vocal performance by Ajit Kadkade who again displayed his classical virtuosity with a rendition of *Dhannakani Kalya* followed by bhajans. His sensitivity to the spirit of the Indian classical tradition was evident to all present.

Ms. Vanaji Vdaya treated us to a performance of Kuchipudi dance. She captivated us with the elegance and poetry of her performance, depicting the leela of Krishna and Yeshoda. This was followed by a dance of the Devi to the music of *Ai Giri Nandini*. The dance was most expressive in conveying the fierce aspects of the Devi in Her role as both protector and destroyer. The union of dance, rhythm, body and facial expressions helped created the image of She who is the support of the universe, and who vanquishes with a mere glance. Shri Mataji was most appreciative of the performance and was later to say it was the

first occasion that She had seen a dance performance of *Ai Giri Nandini*.

The concluding performance for the evening was a selection of Western classical orchestral pieces performed by a collective of western classical musicians. They first played the Spring element from Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*. This was followed by selections from Sammartini, Mozart, and Tchaikovsky. Shri Mataji was very pleased that the Indian Sahaja Yogis had been presented with an opportunity to appreciate these great western composers. The evening ended with a rendition of *Vinati Suniye*, accompanied by the audience who sang with full voice, providing a stirring finale to a memorable evening.

Monday, 23rd March

The evening's concert began at 5:30 with two hours of music from Nirmal Sangeet Sarita. The first performer was Gaby (Govind) Jasray who performed *Raga Jog*, followed by Dhananjay Dumar who played *Raga Jahansamohini* on the synthesiser, followed by *Brahma Shodhile*. He was succeeded by a vocal piece by Mrs. Basu. Nirmal Sangeet Sarita and the students of the Academy then took the stage, and our hearts, with a performance of the qawwali, *Tu Duniya May Aaya*.

The group featured a Romanian now living in France currently studying at the Academy. He was a founding member of the Romanian Qawwali group. It was a most impressive performance, and a clear demonstration of the work the Academy is doing in preserving and spreading the classical traditions of Indian music. The group received the first of what would be many standing ovations that evening.

The next performance was upon sarod by Danishq Khan, accompanied by the more than impressive Shafatt Ahmed Khan on tabla, who performed a moving rendition of *Raga Rageshree*. Straight was the track they wound to our hearts



and another standing ovation. This was followed by a dazzling solo performance on the tabla by Shafatt Ahmed Khan.

The next artist to take the stage was Satish Vyas who performed on the santoor. The intricacies and subtlety of the instrument did take some time to tune and setup, but the wait was worthwhile as he enchanted the audience with an



Birthday Puja, Delhi, March 1998

interpretation of *Kaunsi Kanuda*. Ms. Meena Patarpekar then presented a classical vocal performance of *Maru-Bihag*, followed by a rendition of *Hasat Ali*.

The last performance for the evening was from Mrs. Zarin Daruwala who Shri Mataji first heard perform as a child prodigy in 1960 with Baba Mama. Since that time she has won numerous awards for her playing. She heralded the early hours of the morning with a subtle and sensitive interpretation of *Raga Jog*. She also received a standing ovation.

Tuesday, 24th March

Considering the previous late evening, the camp roused itself into its normal routine—morning

meditation, early morning showers, and breakfast queues swelled by those who had missed the previous evening's meal.

The evening concert began at 6:00 with two hours of music from Nirmal Sangeet Sarita. The first performer was Mr. Nicholas Buff who performed on the saxophone accompanied by Sandesh Papatkar. Nicholas demonstrated a profound understanding, sensitivity and proficiency in Indian classical music earned through many years of study at the academy.

The Swiss Bhajan Group then took the stage with performers playing sitar, tabla, harmonium and flute. They accomplished moving renditions of *Raga Yama*, and bhajans *Jai Durgati* and *Dharoon Tumaro Dhyam* (I meditate upon You).

The next piece was a drama by the Delhi Yogis about the introduction of Sahaja Yoga to a group of college students and their conversion from the culture of Kali Yuga to that of Sahaja. Ms. Shashwati Sen then performed a

Kathak dance accompanied by a troupe of dancers who presented an intricate and expressive performance dazzling the audience. Throughout the performance Ms. Sen narrated the significance of the various movements within the dance, speaking of dance as a reflection of the music of nature, the wind blowing through the trees, water moving in the seas and clouds swirling through the sky.

At Shri Mataji's request, a video documentary of Shri Mataji's life, made by the American yogis, entitled *The Vision*, was shown. In it, there are scenes from Shri Mataji's childhood and youth, then following Her life through to the establishment of Sahaja Yoga. Shri Mataji had commented that every Sahaja Yoga center in the world should



have a copy of this tape. Shri Mataji arrived just as the tape was finishing.

The next performance was *Raga Abhogi*, the raga that takes you away from Maya (Bhog), played on the flute by Mr. Ronu Mujumbar accompanied by Abhijeet on tabla. The flute seems to lend itself most easily to instilling a meditative mood, and this he established to full effect, the ascending mood of the piece mimicking the movements of the Kundalini along the Sushumna.

The concluding performance was by Pandit Bhajan Sapoori who delivered a masterful performance on the santoor of *Raga Kaushi Kanuda*. It was a performance of different style to the santoor of Satis Vyas we had heard previously, being more lively in its execution, with its moods varying from meditative to ecstatic as he displayed his command of the instrument.

This concluded another enjoyable evening of performances played before the Creator of all music and art.

Wednesday, 25th March

The evening concert began at 6:30 with two hours of music from Nirmal Sangeet Sarita. The first performance was Steve Day who sang beautiful western songs he had written inspired by the sky, rolling river, the beautiful expression of Mother Earth around the Nagpur Academy. Nirmal Sangeet Sarita and the students of the Academy took the stage with a stirring rendition of a qawwali, *Vo Pyat Dene Ko Majboor, Tu Pyar Paane Se Majboor*:

*She is compelled to give Her Divine Love to you,
Since even if She wants to, She cannot stop
the flow of Love,
Through which She passes Her energy to us,
While we are incapable and unworthy of
accepting the love.*

Five of the Academy students then performed a Kathak dance rendition of the Maha Mantras,

and a dance in praise of Shri Shiva. Anil, Guruji, Sandesh and Ashok then performed *Ma Tere Nirmala Prema Ko*, and *Sahaja Ke esi Shakti*.

The next performance was by Awininda Shivalikar on sitar of *Raga Yaman*, accompanied by Sandesh Popatkar on tabla. A very sweet man, Mr. Tul Suhib, then came on to the stage. He was introduced as a deputy police commissioner who wrote devotional music "on the side" and who had formed a band. Up they came with synthesizer, drums, electric guitar and chairs to sit on. The group's music was a nice combination of East and West, somehow even the electric guitar sounded Indian, and at the conclusion of their performance, Shri Mataji gave a beautiful speech. She said how great it was that someone who lived in a world of criminals and miscreants could be so spiritual and come so close to Sahaja Yoga. She went on to say that Sahaja Yoga is even being taught in the jails, which is "miraculous." This man, She said, was proof that the world is changing in a beautiful way, because he had that music inside himself despite his circumstances.

Dr. N. Rajan, a virtuoso of the violin, then performed *Raga Jaijivant* and a bhajan to Rama, accompanied by Abhijeet Banerjee on tabla. Dr. Rajan has become someone well known to us, having captivated us on many occasions with the beauty and depth of her playing. Arun Apte then performed *Raga Shyam Kalyan* and *Raga Durga*, followed by two bhajans.

The evening ended with a masterful performance by Vishwa Mohan Bhatt on mohan vina /guitar. He was accompanied by Sandeep Das on tabla. Vishwa Mohan Bhatt has the distinction of being the only Indian performer to have won a Grammy Award, for *A Meeting by the River*, recorded with Ry Cooder. It was an enthralling and dazzling performance of *Raga Hemant*, which was very much appreciated by those fortunate enough to be present.



Shri Mataji later said that She had enjoyed the performance and commented that the Indian classicist had demonstrated how the guitar can be played incorporating a continuous melodious component compared to the breaks normally accompanied by the strumming of the guitar in Western music.

Thursday, 26th March The Last Evening

Shri Mataji had been in attendance for all of the evening programs, except the last one (26th March) when Sir C.P. came on Her behalf. "I'm sure you will be disappointed to see me here alone" he began, and went on to say that because of the strain of several late nights he had encouraged Shri Mataji to rest. He said he hoped this was our wish as well, and was met with strong applause. As always, he found exactly the right words to embody grace and dignity. He said "but don't think for a moment that She is not here because She resides in each and every one of your hearts."

The evening concert began at 6:30 with music from a combined Western bhajan group who performed five songs. Deepak Verma, Simple, Sanjay Talwar and Dr. Rajesh performed, followed by a performance on violin by Anapurna from Romania, now living in Delhi.

This was an evening devoted to qawwali, with a number of groups presenting pieces. The first was the qawwali of Amir Khusrou of *Maiya Tere Charano Ki*. Next was a performance on Sitar by Pratik Chaudhuri of *Raga Shudh Basant*.

The second qawwali group who took centre stage hailed from Lucknow. They were Shia Muslims, and also Sufis. They sang poetical verses praising the Mother and Shri Ganesha. The third group was the Nizamuddin qawwali, with their charismatic leader, who is part singer, actor and poet. He sang most movingly, prose composed in praise of Shri Mataji.

Although the language was foreign to Westerners, the joy it imparts is universal. The meaning of the words could be clearly read upon the faces of our Indian brothers and sisters who frequently jumped to their feet dancing with joy as they roared their appreciation of the words being sung.

Sir C.P. then rose to give the closing address to the 75th birthday celebrations. Sir C.P. epitomizes dignity, wisdom and enlightened intelligence; he chose words that were a fitting tribute and conclusion to the week.

He said that we had all gathered in celebration of that momentous occasion 75 years ago when the light of the world was born. There had been many incarnations in the past, great beings who through the example of their lives had started great religions, and who had helped show mankind the way forward. But these religions had diverged, separating people, resulting in conflict.

Sir C.P. said another incarnation was needed to bring all religions into one, and this incarnation was our Holy Mother. He said that tonight we had heard the qawwali referring to Hindus, Muslims and Christians coming from different parts of the world, becoming one before Her. This dream is becoming a reality. He said he could now go to a mosque and worship—why not? Or a church or synagogue, why not? Everything is now possible.

Sir C.P. referred to the Felicitation program and the account of the early days of Sahaja Yoga where Shri Mataji had helped a destitute boy. He said that Shri Mataji had not asked him his religion, his caste, or background. In Her love and compassion, all that mattered was that he was in need. He has seen this all-pervading love transforming people. In the beginning many people came to Her, some of whom were brilliant young people, who all came away newly-realized souls. Then groups of people came, and so became real-



ized souls, and now the multitudes have become Her children.

We should all see how Sahaja Yoga has grown and when we return home we must take a message back to everyone, and that is today there are a million Sahaja Yogis. But now the time has come when Sahaja Yoga has to enfold the whole world, so that when we celebrate the 80th birthday there will be 100 million Sahaja Yogis, and when we celebrate the 100th birthday there should be 5 billion Sahaja Yogis.

Mr. Nalgirkar was called to thank all the organizers of the event and related how the committee in charge of the celebrations had to convince Shri Mataji to allow us to celebrate the occasion over seven days. At first She was reluctant but with time eventually gave Her consent, and now we look forward to the 80th birthday celebrations where we will have fourteen days of celebrations.

Friday, 27th March Postscript

At the conclusion of the official celebrations of Shri Mataji's birthday the camp took on the appearance of a departure lounge of an international airport, with large groups of foreign Yogis completing preparations to board airplanes to take them home.

It was so nice to have had several days, rather than just a weekend, to settle down. And to really converse with people, rather than rushing by saying "nice to see you." The atmosphere was relaxed, and the clearing out (which inevitably takes place during large collective gatherings) was more of the "enjoy" variety than the "pain and suffering" variety.

We cannot forget the brief rainshower one day, falling from a cloudless sky, which was followed

by a complete rainbow over the camp.

The tireless effort of our Indian brothers and sisters to make everything run so smoothly was a tribute to their great humility and love.



Birthday Puja, Delhi, March 1998

Everything from selling Limcas to arranging taxis to reserving space in the front of the pedal for "foreigners"—we only hope that amid all of their responsibilities that they too had some time to enjoy.

Each of us was blessed to have been allowed to spend six consecutive days in Shri Mataji's presence. Not since the India tours of old has Shri Mataji allowed us such a unique opportunity to spend this amount of time in Her presence. It was a matchless occasion we shall always cherish and for which we humbly thank Shri Mataji. We are returning home with the messages of the week's celebrations ringing in our heart and mind.

Also this day over 300 parents, children and staff finalized preparations to make their way to Talnoo, near Dharamsala for the beginning of the school year. Shri Mataji had recommended that the children travel to the school by rail due



to the difficulty of the road.

On the evening of March 27th over 150 children, parents, teachers and staff assembled at platform 1 at Delhi Central Train Station to board the train to Pathankot, which would take them to within 100 kilometres of Dharamsala. The rest of



Birthday Puja, Delhi, March 1998

the journey would be completed by bus.

Somehow a pilgrimage to India would not feel complete unless it included a long bus journey to a far off place with your brothers and sisters by your side. This was in store for the remaining parents and others who travelled to the school. The journey incorporated all the ingredients of the classic India tour bus trip—thirteen hours of overnight travel, loading baggage, a long steep winding road up the Himalayan foothills, the bus travelling from one pothole to the next, and drivers throwing their vehicles at breakneck speed around hairpin corners without a hint of a guard rail.

Saturday, 28th March Dharamsala

The majority of the parents and children arrived at Dharamsala during the morning to be greeted by grey skies and rain. The children were unloaded at the beginning of the unsealed road a few hundred metres from the school. The children seemed to negotiate the muddy and slippery surface with a greater sense of ease than did their parents who tried to follow in their footsteps. It was an amusing scene as we tried to negotiate our way over the muddy pools and small streams that had formed along the road.

We rounded the last bend in the road to catch our first breathtaking impression of the school. The school is nestled upon a hill at a height of around 7,000 feet (2100 m), directly facing the majestic snow-capped Himalayan Dhauladhar Mountain range. The school is within the lap of the Gods, surrounded on three sides by a cavernous ravine, the bottom of which cannot be fathomed.

Our children are privy to the simplest yet most enduring pleasures of life, unspoilt Nature in all Her breathtaking glory, high mountain calm, pure pristine air, an idyllic haven surrounded with pines, rhododendrons and deodar (Himalayan cedar) forests, far from the madding crowds, the heat and stress of modern society.

Outside the school the mountains are a land of shifting colours and moods, grey foreboding, dazzling and brilliant, and all the time the school shining more brilliantly because of them. The children are resident in a place where the Kundalini of Mother India meets the Sahasrara, where Shiva and Parvati once danced, and where swayambhus of Shiva and the Devi create an environment of such auspiciousness that one cannot help but feel oneness with the Divine. On the side of one of the mountains, in view of the school, is a temple containing a Devi swayambhu. No wonder the vibrations here are so strong!



The Mountains dominate one's attention, the majestic Himalayan panorama bathing one with a sense of awe and wonder at the endless majesty of Her creation.

At any time of the day people could be found at any number of vantage points absorbing the vibrations. Meditating in the land of silence seems to impose that silence upon one's busy mind. This seems to recharge body, mind and soul, as one enters into communion with the Divine as reflected with such clarity in Nature. Mere words cannot capture or do justice to the beauty, glory and completeness of the scene, or its effect upon you.

The children seem to naturally fall into a routine of play, reunited with old friends, and at times seem blithely unaware of the panorama stretched before them.

We spent three days with the children helping them settle into their dorms, privileged to be allowed to share their meals and play a small part in their daily routine. The children have everything they require—clean and tidy dormitories, good food and eating facilities, spacious play areas, kind and loving staff, and teachers genuinely devoted to their care and well-being.

Three days seem an appropriate period of time; the longer parents stay after school commences, sometimes the more difficult it is for the children to adjust to their school routine, making the staff's job more difficult.

Monday, 30th March

This was the first day of the school year and it was agreed to be the day most parents would leave for Delhi. We farewelled the children at 6 pm just before evening meditation.

The time of parting is never an easy one, especially leaving behind those dear sweet ones. It is quite a heart-wrenching experience as parents and children part for a period of many months. Despite the best of intentions, detachment is an

art badly practised at a time when so many mixed emotions flood into one's heart.

Yet somehow Shri Mataji gives one the necessary strength to turn around and walk the lonely few hundred metres back down the muddy road to the waiting bus, and commence the journey home.

There is no doubt the school is situated at one of the remotest corners of the earth and implicit with this are difficulties with regard to physical amenities; however, the children have developed an indifference with respect to any inconvenience. They are sustained by the comfort of their spirit, their closeness to Shri Mataji's all-pervading love and attention, and the communion and brotherhood they have formed with each other.

If our children can show us anything it is the deep and abiding love and friendship they share, obliterating any concept of country, race, or class. In this aspect we their parents have much to learn, and to achieve, to become truly united souls as we enter into the coming spiritual age.

As we return home, it's the post-Birthday Puja landing—coming down from heaven into the unreality which covers the world today. Will it be a bumpy landing or smooth? One always prays to be able to retain what was absorbed—the vibrations, the joy, the depth, and thus penetrate our local environments with the subtlety of reality, raising the level a step closer to our Mother's vision of what it can and *will* be like.

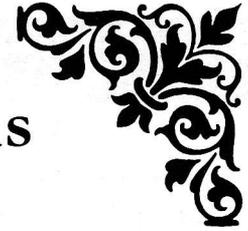
What is left from this great week is an overwhelming sense of gratitude and a feeling of joy that will sustain us until the next opportunity to meet again at the Lotus Feet of our Mother. As a sufi poet who was quoted during the felicitations ceremony wrote,

Heavens are under the Mother's feet.

—Victoria Zbylut, France and
Chris Kyriacou, Australia
Photographs by Beth Checkley



Diwali Puja Talk Synopsis



Lisbon, Portugal, November 2, 1997



“TODAY WE HAVE GATHERED here to worship Shri Lakshmi.” In Diwali in India, they worship Lakshmi because a great rakshasa called Narakasura was killed at the same time Lakshmi came out of the sea.

Lakshmi is the Goddess which gives us wealth, prosperity and protection. She is very blissful and humble because She stands on the lotus. “She is very light—means does not put Her pressure on anyone. These are symbols of Shri Lakshmi, but also She is a part of Mahamaya in the modern times.”

“When people get Lakshmi (the money), they don’t understand that She is their Mother, and that she is to be respected.” When this kind of perverse idea of Shri Lakshmi comes in, then there is destruction of the worst type. So this Lakshmi has to be used with balance. You have to stand on the lotus and not fall into the pond, be above all the lures of this maya.

If somebody gets a lot of money, “they say, ‘He got a lot of maya.’ Now this maya plays the tricks. If money, prosperity, was the salvation, then there would have been no problems in this world, because those people who have money always get ruined. If they’re not ruined, their children, their grandchildren get ruined.” In this age of Kali Yuga, the principle of Lakshmi within us is so dubious and the allurements are so much that if somebody has a good car, or lots of palaces or buildings, or wears designer clothing, people start admiring them, and they think no end of that person.

The Lakshmi tattwa of the Swiss Banks is

now showing its teeth. They took the golden teeth of the Jews—that’s going too far. Their military says they need weapons to protect their country, but who’s going to attack them? Not even Napoleon dared. What great egos they have—for the attack did come, despite their weapons, and it came in a much more subtle and deadly manner.

Going against the Lakshmi principle to get money is very common these days. “Money is such a lure for human beings that it kills all sense of decency and higher values.” A brother who is very nice, if he gets money out of proportion by doing all the hanky panky, he neglects his family. Then all of Shri Lakshmi’s blessings become a challenge to your dignity.

In America, the land of Shri Krishna, of Kubera, the God of wealth, people are all indebted. So many Indians went to America and they can’t come to India now. What do you get out of having three Mercedes? Now they are all a bit shaken up, since all the nonsense about the stock exchange and other camouflages are now coming out. “So this is no Lakshmi, because Lakshmi must give you dignity, prosperity and respect.”

What is the difference between money and Lakshmi? She gives you money, but “what happens to that money which comes to you? It is a very subtle thing one should understand.... In India, if you give 100 rupees to a servant, immediately he’ll go to drink somewhere.... That means any money you give to them, it spoils their life completely. Lakshmi has been given, all right, so what happens to this Lakshmi? She changes her form, and her form is so bad that



you are completely ruined with that.”

We have to understand how we can use the Lakshmi. If you get money, immediately you try to think who to give something to, or what to buy for the ashram. The mind starts working in a very socialistic, not individualistic way.

A gentleman who was a disciple of Gandhiji organized a cooperative company for distributing milk which became very successful. So he started giving money to all those who laboured there. Then he didn't know what to do because this availability of money had attracted prostitutes and drugs and the children no longer wanted to study. He said, “This is a curse of money,” and he was crying.

“How can Lakshmi become a curse? It does. It is in the Nabhi. What a central position it has, and when this Nabhi starts working... you feel like gobbling food all the time.... You go on eating like mad, and then some bhoot comes in to eat with you, inside the Nabhi. Then you eat so much that no human beings can eat like that except for the people who are rich. Then you start a big science on what you can call etiquettes. I don't want to hurt anybody. If you are eating well, I don't mind, eat well. Because today is Diwali I'm trying to tell you all these interesting stories.”

At dinners with French diplomats, for 45 minutes they were discussing what to drink today, and another 80 minutes to decide what to eat. The cheese was smelling awful, we couldn't bear it, so my husband told them, “Today is our fasting day, for both of us.” Such horrible cheese they brought, boasting they have 200 types of this smelly cheese. “They said this is French perfection.... It's such a bhootish thing to eat all that.”

When Lakshmi goes into the hands of bhoots

on a lesser level, then it goes into the heads of people who want to exploit poor people and countries which are downtrodden.

“*Alakshmi* means you have money and you don't have the qualities of a person who should have money.... You become very miserly. You don't even want to help your brothers and sisters. You don't want to give any money to anyone. And even if you give it, you give it to false gurus and wrong things.” This is *Alakshmi*. The behaviour becomes very arrogant.

We have to realize how Lakshmi takes us to wrong things. Firstly, She makes you very egoistical. A person who is normal suddenly starts behaving in a strange manner when he gets money. Around the Lakshmi is the valence of dharma, and if you cross the limit of dharma, or deviate from dharma, then you can do whatever you like which is *adhharma*, which is irreligious, which is hideous.

“There are ten valencies human beings have got. But apart from that, there are many dharmas which are surrounding us like angels. First dharma is your love for humanity.... It starts with *Shri Dharma*, the dharma of the woman—how she should live, how she should get married, how she should look after her children, what should be her behaviour.”

Then there is *Patni Dharma*, the wife's dharma. “In her dharma, she looks nice. If she gives up her dharma, then she is a prostitute.”

Then there is *Pati Dharma*, how a husband should be, how he should behave towards his family, how he should pay attention towards his wife and the entire family, all the relations (called *Pariwaras*). That is his dharma.

“But beyond that is the dharma of *Satya Dharma*, how much he sticks to the truth. Then the dharma for creativity, *Khala Dharma* which



is not much expressed in modern times with money standing on their heads.

Then we have what you call politics, *Rajkurana Dharma*. By taking bribes, corruption, competition and fighting and all that, they are falling away from their dharma of *Rajkurana*.

“Education, we call it as *Shikhshada*. All such things are dharmas. There is a kind of a principle which we have to keep; otherwise you can topple down from the lotus.”

Now we have also *Rashtra Dharma*, the dharma of your country. When you have to fight for your country, you should, but you should not be aggressive or try to dominate other countries, nor you should bring a bad name to your country.

“It is very important Sahaja Yogis have all these intact, absolutely, because you are standing on the lotuses already.... Mostly Sahaja Yogis don’t fall into these traps. That’s why their Lakshmi tattwa will definitely improve. They’ll have little problems, here and there, but without problems, if you get Lakshmi, you’ll not have value for Her. So, with little problems, you’ll get the Lakshmi, but Lakshmi doesn’t give you all this imbalance. Such a man has to be extremely balanced because beyond that is the step of Mahalakshmi, where your seeking starts.... You go beyond Lakshmi principle and this Mahalakshmi principle starts coming into you.”

“In America, one lady was married to an Indian, and he used to tell Me how consumerism works.” He gave his wife money to buy two shirts, but she returned with five skirts. She explained that with the same money, she could buy five skirts instead of two shirts, even though her husband needed shirts, and she already had many skirts. To correct her, the hus-

band should tell her he wants to buy some skirts for her and go buy five shirts. “Then she will realize that if the money was given to her for one purpose, it should be used for that.”

“This is a very subtle principle I follow because I don’t understand money.... Whatever money I get, I put in packets. This is for this, this is for this, into packets.... If I spend some money from one packet for some emergency, then I again fill it back. It’s written there—so much is there. So the money is available at the right time for whatever I want to do, and the money is in the packet,” not to buy a Mercedes or a Rolls Royce. It is for some purpose. So when you go into a shop and see something, you won’t buy it because that money is not kept for that particular thing. For Sahaja Yogis it is very easy to handle their money with respect.”

You may also buy something spontaneously, but “it should have a value behind it. That is the dharma part.... When you want to buy something, just don’t buy because you’re mad—instead of shirts, you buy skirts—not that way. But anything that has an artistic value or some special value, then you should buy that.”

“This sari has a special value... made in a place called Paithan, the capital of a kingdom which belonged to My forefathers, Shalivahanas.” Now it has value because they’re very honest, very religious. They were called Shalivahanas because they used to give shawl to the Goddess. They were very generous people, very deep, and they made many beautiful temples. “So many temples are built like this in India by people who had money, and they believed that if you spend your money in this kind of work you are blessed.”

“I bought a land near the River Nira. That’s My home name, Nira. I just bought it—just like



that, without thinking." Then they told that their guru was the Shalivahana's guru, Shandhilya, and this place had belonged to him.... Then in the newspaper it came out that this land was the place where the greatest devotee of Shri Vishnu, Pralahd, was praying." Pralahd's father was a horrible rakshasa, so his mother ran away and was helped by Indra. He brought her to the place of Guru Shandhilya, and Shandhilya told him, "I'll look after her and her child is going to get the Avatara of Narasimha." Narasimha is the man and the lion. When the child was 5 years old, he had to go back to his father who tried to kill him and torture him, but the child had boons so Shri Vishnu appeared as Narasimha and he killed the father. Imagine how great it was, that thousands of years back this must have happened, and that I should purchase that land!"

Pralahd came into the dreams of the people who built the temple and said, "I have already made the statue of Narasimha along the river Nira, in sand." It's a miracle. So they went to see the statue, they brought it back and installed it in that temple and it is still there, made of sand.

"The value of money which was collected to build this temple had such an old value. So the value is not money—this, one should understand. What is the value of the thing? You want to give something to others, then the feeling in your heart is the value, and that value is the real Lakshmi." When you build a house, what you are trying to express through that house is the value of that house. "You have to buy, with this Lakshmi, or you have to use this Lakshmi for certain value, and not for showing off or for money. This superficialness that we have about money itself is like an ordinary glass, but if you put behind the glass, the mercury, you can see

the value. So when you start buying something, what is the purpose, why are you buying it—this will determine the value."

"So if your Lakshmi is this much, once you add to it value, it becomes so big. The sign of a person who is *Lakshmi pati* is this—he should have a house like the lotus in the hands of the Goddess. He should protect people who are depending on him, and from the left hand he should give. This is the image of the Lakshmi, this is what the Lakshmi is within you. If you have these four things in balance, without conditioning, without ego, then you are a Sahaja Yogi. Otherwise you are not."

"On a Diwali day, we have to promise ourselves that whatever we are going to get now as Lakshmi principle or as a Lakshmi prasad should be used in getting things which have value. And thus you will learn that you have used your Lakshmi very well, and with that, your Mahalakshmi principle will become very strong, by which you will ascend very fast."

"Today is the day for us to celebrate the Lakshmi Puja, but Lakshmi Puja doesn't mean that you worship money. Money, as it is, is the most dangerous thing, and I think it is the hidden weapon of Lakshmi Devi. If you try to misuse Her, She goes on punching with it. With one punch, if you don't realize, then She gives you another punch. Then She might little bit twist you, to suggest. She'll try everything, to convince you that what you are doing is nonsense—ultimately She sees your destruction completely."

"So Lakshmi, though She is the one who is giver of boons, giver of everything, you should not be misled by the Mahamaya character. I'm your Mother, so I'd better tell you to be very careful." 



Diwali Puja 1997

HER HOLINESS SHRI MATAJI ARRIVED in Lisbon, Portugal on Thursday, October 30, before the puja weekend and was received by a the collectives from Portugal, France, Spain, Ivory Coast and Romania. From the airport She went to a beautiful hotel in Sintra located on a hill top which was formerly a palace of a Portuguese princess.

The following day She had a meeting with the leaders of the organizing countries and stayed up till 4 a.m. on both nights working out various projects for these countries. There was a musical program on Friday night which was a grand success.

On Saturday evening the much-awaited sitar and tabla duo from Nagpur (under Baba Mama's guidance) rendered soul-stirring ragas for over three hours in the background of very heavy rain and storms... and the whole atmosphere was just charged with vibrations. The other highlight of the evening was a mime show by a French yogi and beautiful African music and dance from the yogis of Ivory Coast and Benin, most of whom were seeing Shri Mataji for the first time in their life.

Shri Mataji mentioned that it was the day of *Bhaubeej* when we celebrate the pure relationship between a brother and a sister. There was the most spectacular display of fireworks in the sky organized by the local yogis.

There was a havan the following morning that created the necessary atmosphere for the puja. A light drizzle during the end of the havan further cleared the vibrations.

The puja began early in the evening and the Goddess Shri Mahalakshmi sakshat Shri

Mataji whose face was shining like the moon spoke about the significance of Diwali, the qualities of Shri Lakshmi, the different types of dharma associated with the Nabhi chakra, and the dangers resulting from going against the Lakshmi tattwa.

After the puja, before Shri Mataji was about to leave, She asked a Romanian yogi to sing a song. He began with a Marathi bhajan with a fast pace. Immediately everyone got up to dance and then there was no stopping—non-stop dancing, joy and ecstasy for the next hour or so! She was very happy at the end of the puja and told us next day that the vibrations were just tremendous and that all the yogis enjoyed them very much.

The proof of that we saw in the public program on the following day in Lisbon where about 700 people came. The moment Shri Mataji entered the hall, most people achieved their realization, and vibrations were even stronger after the program! All the Portuguese people had a constant smile on their faces after the program.

The following day we were over 100 yogis who were able to see off Shri Mataji at the airport. We thanked Her ever so much for giving us the chance to worship Her as the Goddess Mahalakshmi and for the most joy-giving puja ever.

I really do not have the right words to express the joy that we all experienced during this puja, but I have tried to share some of what happened with you all. Please forgive me for any errors or omissions against the Divine protocol.

—With love and much respect,
Amit Gupta, USA

News from Around the World

Florida TV Update

The series of half-hour interviews about Shri Mataji and Sahaja Yoga on TV in Florida, USA, is progressing and the producer of the show is very excited to continue interviewing us.

The second interview was scheduled and we were prepared with video clips of Shri Mataji's lectures, backup material and the like. Then the producer called and asked if it would be possible to record the third show together with the second, because someone else had cancelled a slot!

Caught by surprise, we started thinking, "What could the third topic be? What video material can we edit within hours that would be broadcast quality?" Then we thought of the obvious—why not give them Self-Realization? After all, this is what Sahaja Yoga is all about, isn't it? So we got hold of a broadcast-quality video of a meditation with Shri Mataji and told the producer we were ready.

Both shows were recorded in 'one go' without cuts and the vibrations were tremendous! What we did not know at that moment was that our leader had sent a fax to Shri Mataji the day before about some other matter, but mentioning also the upcoming TV interview. So when, at the beginning of the interview, we put our attention at Shri Mataji's Lotus Feet, imagining Her in beautiful Cabella, we felt such strong vibrations that we were concerned for a moment that it would be difficult to speak! Everything went very smoothly.

This show will be on the air three times in the beginning of June, and will reach a potential audience of 500,000 people. The interviewer was quite impressed and asked great questions. She is coming to get her Self-Realization in a few days,

by the way! Thank you, Shri Mataji, for all your blessings! Thank you, dear brothers and sisters, for all your support and enlightened attention!

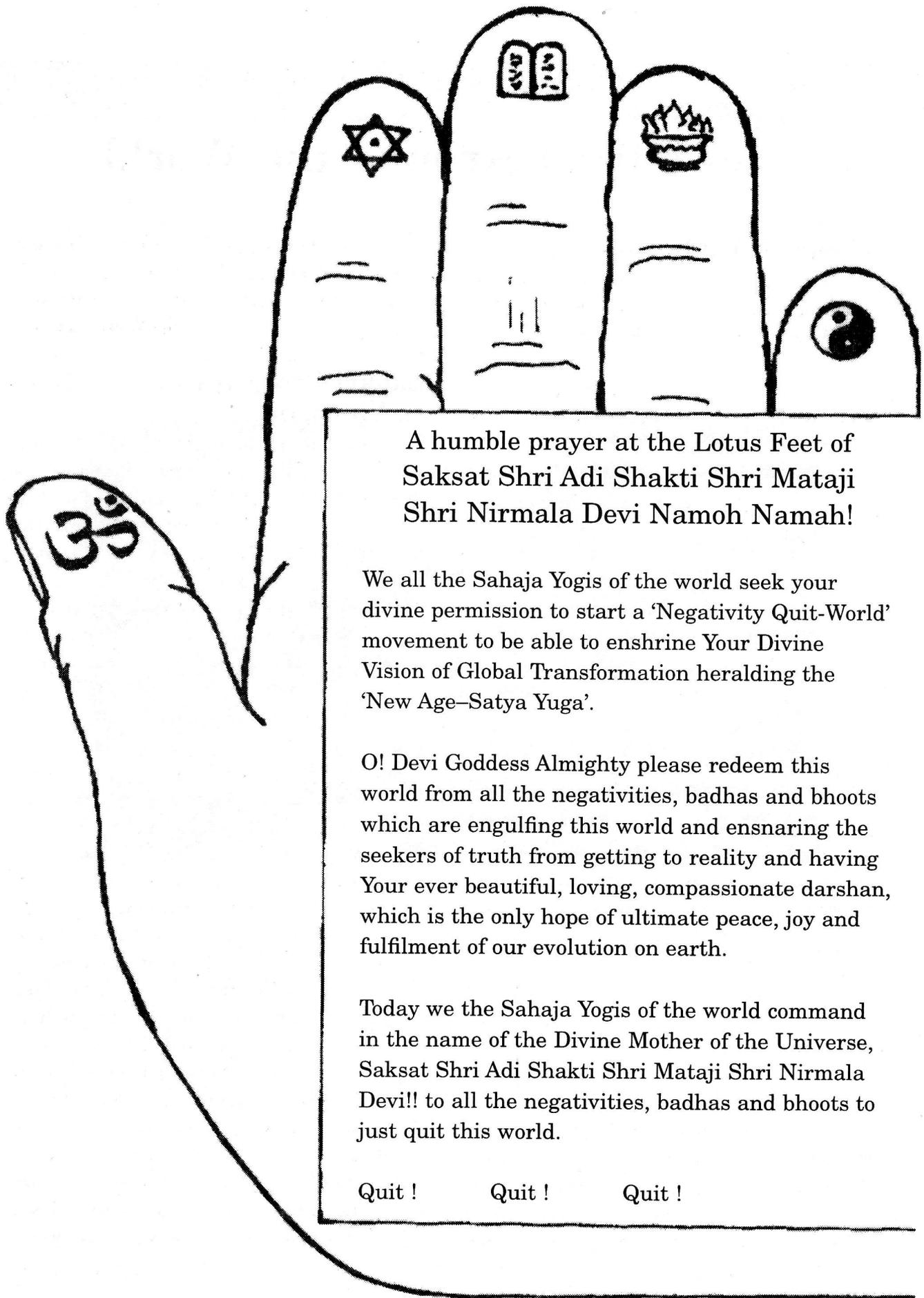
—The Sahaja Yogis of Florida

Sahaja Programs in Singapore

On April 14th, we had our first advertised program in Singapore in the heart (downtown) of the city of Singapore. We had booked a room that held 70 people, not knowing what the turnout would be. The meeting was to start at 7:30 p.m. and at 7:20 there were 90 people and no place to sit. All the floor space was taken and people still kept on arriving. With a last-minute flurry of activity to find a bigger room, we finally started around 8 p.m. and by then there were 120 people. And more people kept coming in during Shri Mataji's video.

After so many years in America, this was a dream come true. We were so moved that silently we kept thanking Shri Mataji in our hearts. The program was fantastic—such wonderful people, so simple and humble. Very well-educated, too. One of Sir C.P. Srivastava's nephews and his wife attended, and another gentleman was a colleague of Sir C.P.'s during his tenure at the Shipping Corporation of India. Some of the people had gotten realization in India, but having moved to Singapore, didn't know how to continue. One lady, who had got her realization in Perth at Shri Mataji's program a few years ago hugged me, thanking us profusely for having come to Singapore. She had been praying to Shri Mataji for a collective here, and after two long, long years, her prayers were answered, she said. You can all imagine how we felt. No words

Continued on page 24



A humble prayer at the Lotus Feet of
Saksat Shri Adi Shakti Shri Mataji
Shri Nirmala Devi Namoh Namah!

We all the Sahaja Yogis of the world seek your divine permission to start a 'Negativity Quit-World' movement to be able to enshrine Your Divine Vision of Global Transformation heralding the 'New Age-Satya Yuga'.

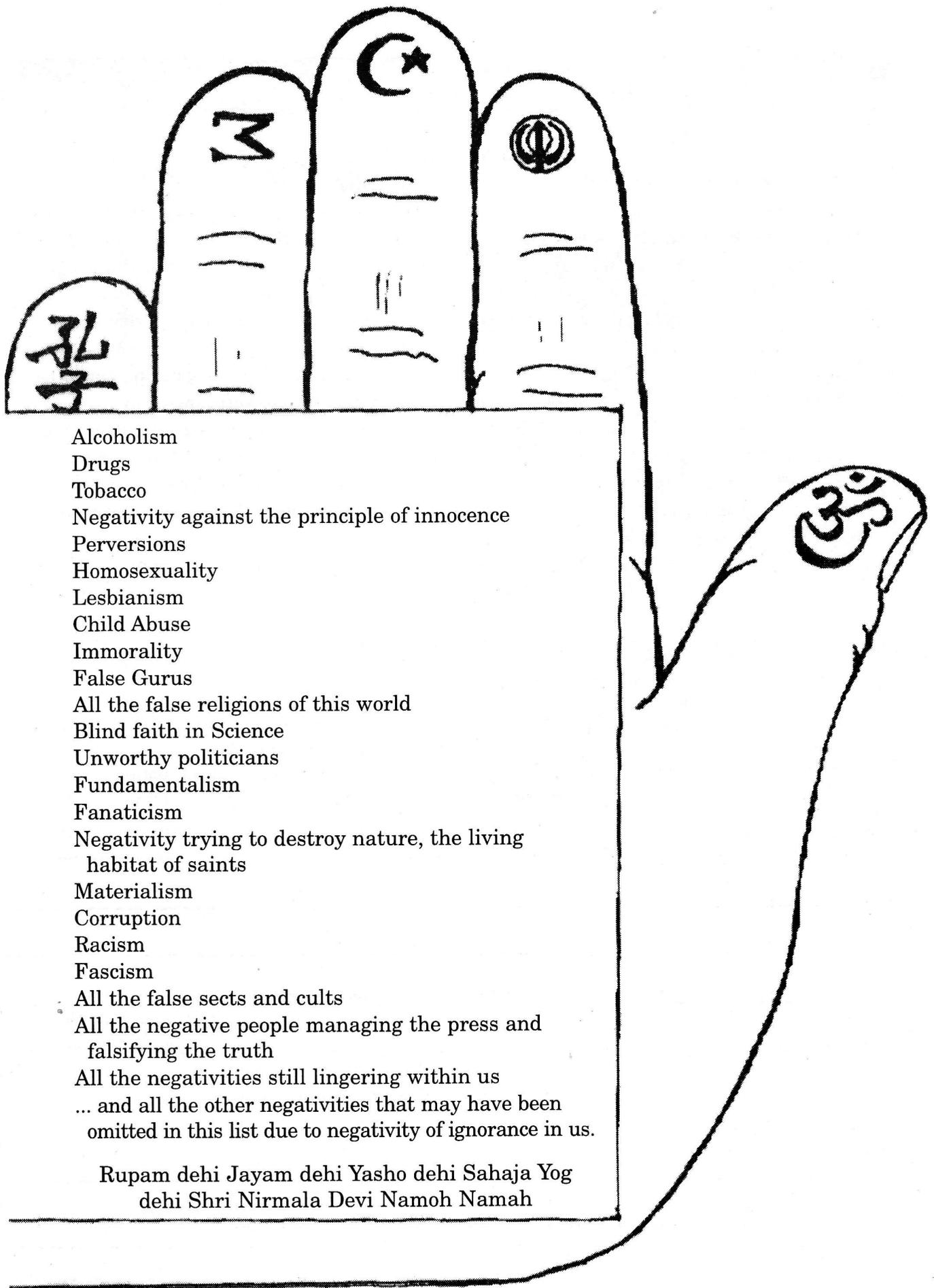
O! Devi Goddess Almighty please redeem this world from all the negativities, badhas and bhoots which are engulfing this world and ensnaring the seekers of truth from getting to reality and having Your ever beautiful, loving, compassionate darshan, which is the only hope of ultimate peace, joy and fulfilment of our evolution on earth.

Today we the Sahaja Yogis of the world command in the name of the Divine Mother of the Universe, Saksat Shri Adi Shakti Shri Mataji Shri Nirmala Devi!! to all the negativities, badhas and bhoots to just quit this world.

Quit !

Quit !

Quit !



Alcoholism
Drugs
Tobacco
Negativity against the principle of innocence
Perversions
Homosexuality
Lesbianism
Child Abuse
Immorality
False Gurus
All the false religions of this world
Blind faith in Science
Unworthy politicians
Fundamentalism
Fanaticism
Negativity trying to destroy nature, the living
habitat of saints
Materialism
Corruption
Racism
Fascism
All the false sects and cults
All the negative people managing the press and
falsifying the truth
All the negativities still lingering within us
... and all the other negativities that may have been
omitted in this list due to negativity of ignorance in us.

Rupam dehi Jayam dehi Yasho dehi Sahaja Yog
dehi Shri Nirmala Devi Namoh Namah

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can describe the joy. We are still flying high, though it has been a couple of days.

As a parent, there was another unexpected gift from Shri Mataji that came to light. Our daughter, who turned 13 on April 15th, talked beautifully about Sahaja Yoga to the many seekers that were present. (We were short-handed, as you can imagine.) At one point, we turned around to see our little Radhika surrounded by a group of four Chinese men and women, all listening raptly about the beauty of the cool breeze and how easy it is to feel it. They all kept nodding whole-heartedly. She has learned to speak very well and very simply about Sahaj—the fruits of all those years in Dharamsala. All the uncles and aunties in America who know her

would have been very proud to see her.

As if that was not enough, the last couple of days have been hectic with more than 20 calls inquiring about Sahaj techniques, vibrations, etc. One man said he felt vibrations all day and all night and was wondering if that was normal... lucky fellow! I assured him that it was a great blessing that he could feel so easily.

As I reflect on what is happening here, Our Holy Mother's words keep ringing in my ears—that Americans have to spread Sahaja Yoga globally. That is the responsibility of America. The world is eager and waiting for America to take on its real role in the spiritual awakening of mankind.

—Dave and Madhuri Dunphy, Singapore