

THIS BIOGRAPHY OF SHRI MATAJI WAS COMPILED
BY YOGI MAHAJAN FROM SERIES OF TALKS WITH HER.

HER HOLINESS SHRI MATAJI NIRMALA DEVI

LOVING MOTHER OF THOUSANDS OF SAHAJA YOGIS.

Kalidasa, a great Sanskrit poet starts his epic poem Raghuvansh with words "How great is the clan of Raghus, born of the sun and how limited and wodly is my intellect". These words come to my mind too, while starting to write about Her Holiness Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi. The birth of this great noble soul on the holy land of India was prophesised by Sage Bhrigu. The Prophesy was also confirmed, although much later, by Swamy Bhujander, based on elaborate mathematical calculations. He emphatically predicted that the incarnation would be born some time during 1923 - 1924 and the Sahaja Yoga, would be introduced to the world sometimes around 1970. In the year 1970, Her Holiness Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi, made unique discovery which came to be known as the Sahaja Yoga.

The existence of the Kundalini (Divine power present in coil form at the base of the spine of every human being) is mentioned in a number of Sanskrit books on Yoga and other scriptures. It is also emphasised ⁱⁿ literature that awakening and raising of the Kundalini is the only means of achieving self-realisation. In the 13th Century, Shri Jnaneshwara, with the permission of his Sad-Guru, deviated from "One Guru - One Disciple" tradition of age old 'Natha Sect' to which he belonged and for the first time described in Marathi language, in his book "The Jnaneshwari", the Kundalini for the benefit of common man. He was followed later by saints all over India, like Kabeer.

Her Holiness Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi, has awakened the Kundalini shakti of thousands of Sahaja Yogis from 56 countries.

To those people who are practising the Sahaja Yoga, it is the fulfilment of their lives since they have easily accomplished the self realisations which is the aspiration of all those who are following the spiritual practices of one form or other. The all pervading power of God's love is felt by them on finger tips and they have an additional dimension of collective consciousness in their awareness. This enables them to feel the state of subtle system of 'Chakras and Nadis' (Plexuses and nerves) in their own being as well as of others. The Chakras and Nadis could be cleansed of impurities by following simple and easy-to-learn techniques.

The regular practice of Sahaja Yoga has cured them of diseases. No longer are their minds plagued by the presence of malices and jealousies for others. Like one lamp lighting another, all are united with bond of divine love, having been transformed into compassionate and loving but able personalities, with the glory of Vishwa Nirmal Dharma, permeated into their lives. Without paying any money or making any efforts, they could enter into the kingdom of God. Gently they have been brought from the darkness of ignorance to the state of enlightenment by Her Holiness Shri Mataji.

One, having seen such unprecedented and unlikely-in-future magnificent work, likes to know more about Her Holiness Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi.

Her holiness Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi was born on the 21st March 1923 at Chhindwara, at 12.00 noon. 21st March is the spring equinox when day and night are equal. The City of Chhindwara is situated at the mid-point of the tropic of cancer

that is also at the centre of the land of India. Further, at 12 noon, which is the time of her birth, the Sun is at meridian. Thus, the date, time and place of her birth, are significant considering her mission of establishing human beings in the balance, by awakening the Kundalini Shakti in them and giving them the self-realisation.

Shri Mataji was born in the lineage of ancient Shalivahana kings who are well known in the history. The almanac introduced by them, is still being followed in many Indian States. Her grand father lived at Nandgaon - Shingve and her maternal family was at Nandgaon, both in Ahmed Nagar district.

Shri Prasadrao Keshavrao Salve, Shri Mataji's father, was a reputed lawyer at Nagpur and earned great wealth and glory for the family. However, after he met Mahatma Gandhi, Shri Salve renounced everything including his roaring legal practice and plunged into the freedom movement. Shri Majaji's Mother had taken Master's degree in Mathematics under the guidance and direction of Wrangler Paranjape, from Fergusson College. Both the parents particularly her father were very active in the freedom struggle and consequently had to pass through many jail terms. Salve couple was highly respected by all their associates in freedom struggle, for their generosity, patriotism and sacrifice.

Shri Salve was elected to the Central legislative Assembly. Later became a member of the constituent assembly where he played an important role on the committee for drafting of the constitution of India, together with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Being a lone Christian member, he also worked on minority committee.

Shri Prasadji Salve was a self - realised man of very high moral character, a great linguist and the scholar. He ensured that his children were properly brought up to become ideal and patriotic citizens. Owing to this superb up-bringing, the whole family, could live happily even after renouncing their wealth and glory. Shri Mataji regards her father as her Guru because she says " My father introduced me to ways of human beings and under his guidance I could know, ^{how} deep man kind is pressed under the sea of ignorance.

Child Nirmala was a darling of everyone, among relations, friends, acquaintances and even servants of the family, because of her loving, fearless & innocent nature. Even today people who saw her childhood, remember, what a lovely adorable child she was. She loved all animals and birds around, ^{and} it was not afraid of even snakes. Bursting energy, most of the time, she could inspire her playmates, in drama, songs & dances. At an early age she exhibited exquisite taste for music and arts and innate enjoyment of all forms of beauty.

At the age of seven, she played the role of Shri Krishna in a drama. Very large audience present for the drama, was enraptured by the sweetness and vividness of her acting. A feeling of spontaneous and total identification with the deity was emanating from her acting. It was so effective that for quite some time after the event, her father's friends called her Shri Krishna. However, sometimes, people would find her alone in remote corner of the house, lost in meditation and face beaming with inward

joy. Her parents had to be frequently away from home during their jail terms. Those days, it was she, who was controlling and looking after everything in the house.

In the year 1940 - 41, She was studying at Govt. College, Nagpur, and was just a 17-18 year old girl. Govt. authorities had imposed ban order to prevent, assembly of students and meeting, near the college gate. Undaunted by the presence of a large contingent of Armed Police, Shri Mataji violated the ban order and gave a speech before the students. This led to her arrest, ~~rustication~~, torture and ~~restication~~ from the college. During the Quit India movement, she worked from underground to avoid an arrest for about an year.

Dr. Krishnamurthy, who was then the Principal of Govt. College, Nagpur, told us about the above narrated incident, 45 years later. Even at that time he was all praise for the courage shown by Shri Mataji at such young age. He said, " I could make out there and then, that she is not an ordinary person, but must be an incarnation of Shakti". Dr. Krishnamurthy flatly refused to rusticate Shri Mataji for which he had to face a humiliating transfer. When Dr. Krishnamurthy met Shri Mataji in Pune in March 1986, after a public programme, He felt so overwhelmed with joy, that he could not control his tears.

After the incident at Nagpur, Shri Mataji, took admission at Medical College, Lahore. She was very popular and loved by all her college mates, in that College too. A few years ago Shri Mataji's disciples met one of her professors, from the Medical college, Lahore. He remembered her very well as late as that and recalled with a touch of pride that she had been his

extremely obedient and brightest student. We also met some of her school and College friends and were really amazed, by the tremendous respect and love they all have for her.

Shri Mataji stayed at Mahatma Gandhi's Ashram at Wardha for sometime during the freedom movement. Gandhiji had great regards for her and called her 'Nepali'. Prayers recited in the Ashram those days, were composed in consultation with Shri Mataji. Gandhiji was also a realised soul. He maintained that the freedom should be accomplished first and thereafter could the spiritual work be done. However, Shri Mataji says "the struggle for freedom, ^{had} been spiritualised, we would have got benevolent rulers".

After the struggle for national freedom, young Nirmala, married Shri Chandrika Prasad Srivastava, who was a prominent member of Indian Administrative Service well known for his dedication to duty and capability. He was a senior Lt. Secretary in the Prime Ministers Secretariate when Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri was the Prime Minister. Shastriji was also self - realised soul and had great regards for Shri Mataji.

Later Shri C.P.Srivastva, took over the ^{reigns} of Shipping Corporation of India, as Chairman and Managing Director. Under his Stewardship, the Shipping Corporation of India, grew into one of the prominent shipping companies of the world. For the excellent performance, he was honoured by the Govt. of India, by conferring the title of 'Padma Bhushan' in the year 1971.

Thereafter, having been deputed to International Maritime organisation (United Nations) as India's permanent representative, Shri Srivastava, was unanimously elected by 134 member countries as its secretary General, for four successive terms. In recognition of his meritorious services, the British Govt. gave him the highest knighthood, viz "The Knight Commander of most distinguished order of St. Michael and St. George". He is the only Indian after Independence to have been conferred of this highest honour by the British Govt. Another 31 countries have also conferred similar highest honours of their respective Countries. Dr. Sir C.P. Srivastava, (He is the only Indian to have received the degree of Doctor of Laws, from the Wales University) He is the Chancellor of lone Maritime University of the world, established by him in Sweden.

Behind the success of Dr. Sir C.P. Srivastava, is Her Holiness Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi, who has always extended to him her unflinching support, undiluted cooperation and unmistakable counselling. He has admitted it, in a number of felicitation programmes. Shri Mataji, is loved and praised even by her in-laws. They coated "verily She has been the Griha Laxmi. Ever since she came to the house, grace and wealth have flown in the Srivastava family". Shri Mataji has educated about 30-35 boys and girls, from her relations and helped them settle in their lives. A number of relatives even now adore her for silent, unassuming, and obliging nature. Her relations, come together from far off places, to meet her, when they know about her arrival.

Despite the fact that she commands great respect and reverence with the thousand of people all over the world who even worship

her, Shri Mataji happily takes all brunt of married life and goes on labouring for the house-hold. Her hospitality does not discriminate between a close relation and a first time - visitor. She personally ensures, that every guest is properly received and all courtesies are shown to him. An ideal wife, mother and grandmother, Shri. Mataji, devotes her time to her family life, social obligations and Sahaja Yoga in a full and profound way. God alone knows, how she does it ! She had put two conditions to her husband, firstly he must never drink and secondly never in his life, must he accept even a pice which he has not earned.

Her Holiness Shri Mataji, extends her exquisite motherly touch to everybody she cares for, may it be domestic servants or staff members from her husband's office. Even now the employees of Shipping Corporation, who worked with Dr. Sir C.P. Srivastava fondly remember, " She was precious like mother to us. Because of her we always felt, as if we were her family members". Shri Srivastava has always been a centre of love and regards of his staff, being a very honest, sincere, disciplined, efficient and patriotic Govt. Officer. With that and due to the divine love of Shri Mataji, all staff members were united as a family.

Her Holiness Shri Mataji's two daughters, Son's in law, grand daughters share her loving attention with thousands of disciples who claim a different but very real type of dependence. Very lovingly she enquires about the well being of her disciples gives instruction even on small matters, how should they behave, how to look after the children etc. She also helps them solving their personal and family problems. No discrimination, due to caste, race, religion, nationality rich-poor etc, ever touches her mind.

While her motherly divine love encompasses every one She does not mince words, when it comes to pointing out wrongs committed by the people severally, collectively, traditionally, She is forthright in criticising evil customs, tradition harmful to the society, false gurus, habits and conditionings detrimental to spiritual progress, may she be addressing the congregation of Sahaja Yogis or speaking in public programmes. She says, " I am your mother. I must tell you what is in your interest". She is also equally frank to call the spade a spade, in foreign countries.

However, there is no artificiality, in any of her actions, or talks Everything is spontaneous, coming from genuine love and concern for common man. From the desire to bring well being to masses, She makes relentless, untiring efforts, so that the Sahaja Yoga, which has tremendous potentials to achieve the benevolence for common man, reaches to all strata of the society. That is the reason why she is very particular, that the knowledge of Sahaja Yoga and its ability to bequeath spiritual progress, Physical mental and psychic health and alround progress, benefits in agriculture etc. should be imparted absolutely free.

Shri Mataji has no time to read books. Yet she competantly speaks on any subject, medical science, natural science, architecture, economics, aesthetics, or engineering. She explains subtle points of any subject in such a way, that listeners enjoy her talks. Russian doctors and Scientists who had detailed dialogues with her during her visits to USSR, felt amazed by her knowledge. Witty remarks during the course of discussion

or lectures, keep the audience in joyous mood, while the point is driven home. Indeed her lectures are treats of divine bliss which one would love to remenise over and over again.

Shri Mataji's modesty has unique sweetness of its own. But that modesty has depth too, which is the profound ocean of divine bliss. The waves of divine bliss emanating from the ocean, drench ones soul in the ambrose of divinity.

We sit around her, on the floor listening to her for hours together, enjoying her subtle jokes and sparkling wits. She weaves the flow of hours, hearts, minds and happenings in exquisite and refined tapestry of collectively, which unites, hearts to hearts and mind to minds. It becomes an invaluable possession of one's life.

Whatever, Shri Mataji is doing, advising Shahja Yogis, Speaking in public programmes, giving the self realisation, discussing with doctors and scientists, or doing a house-hold work, she does it with fully involvement with proper care.

In every such occassion, despite her total concerntation, she is beyond everything, completely detached.

Shri Mataji is divine of personality, cannot be categorized or described in any way. Unbound love and compassion, unfathomable peace, unlimited knowledge, and nobility, simplicity, amidst regality, the innocence of a child all are personified in Shri Mataji. Shri Mataji is the concept which is beyond human comprehension. To understand that concept (the concept that she is) one should take the self realisation and jump into the ocean of thoughtless awareness and divine joy.