

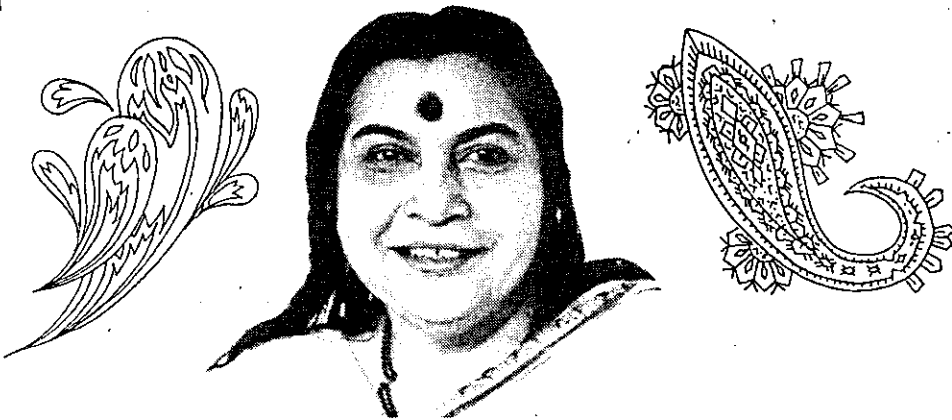
Sahaja Newsletter

ST RATHFIELD

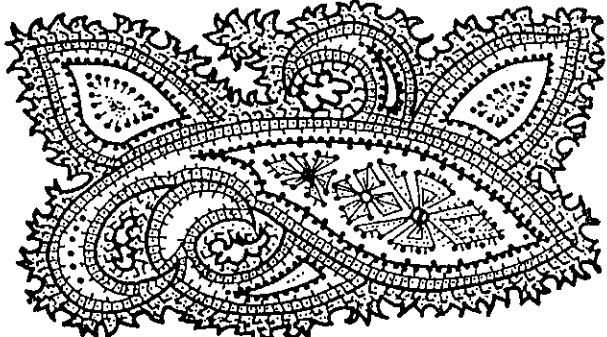
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AUGUST 27th '93



All our ideas of freedom are to be bound by 'maryadas'. If the freedom has no 'maryada', it is abandonment.



During Shri Mataji's last visit to Australia She blessed our land by purchasing 13 acres of land in Queensland at a place known as Wamaram. She has entrusted the task of designing and constructing an Ashram on Her land with the Sahaja Yogis of Brisbane. For the past year Uncle Michael has been involved in the design of a large house to serve as an Ashram and permanent center for Sahaja Yoga in Queensland. When Shri Mataji spoke about the land She advised that the Yogis should mill their own timber from the property for use in construction of the Ashram, and that they should 'brick it up' to keep out the heat of the Queensland sun.

The Sahaja Yogis who are living at Wamaram have made their home in a tin shed on the property while building is being undertaken. Living there are Albert and Pam, Bevan and Kim, Bradley and Debbie, Paul and Scot. Living conditions are not what one would call opulent, but fitted with the task Shri Mataji has laid upon them the Yogis are making great sacrifices to realise the vision. Everything which we take for granted in the city such as water, electricity and waste disposal all take an effort to maintain at Wamaram. Under such circumstances one learns to appreciate the little luxuries of life. The Yogis are making many sacrifices yet at the same time have established a beautiful collective.

Wamaram is a very special place with many beautiful trees, two dams, clear air with the singing of birds the only sound to punctuate the peaceful silence. The children run free all day enjoying the bounties of Mother Earth watched over by the ever faithful Buffy the family dog. The Yogis have established some gardens through which the chickens tend to play havoc, they make up for their inattention by the faithful delivery of a constant supply of eggs. Life away from the city is most relaxing and enjoyable, however each day many of the Yogis make their way back to the rigors of the city for their regular work commitments.

Now that the Yogis have established themselves on the property work on Shri Mataji's house has begun. Uncle Michael has designed a beautiful multi purpose single story building with a verandah on all four sides. Shri Mataji advised that the house should have eight bedrooms. Originally the house was to be of timber construction however due to cost restrictions construction from timber seemed difficult. Analysis of some sections of the property indicated that the soil has 80 percent sand and content. When this is added to a mixture of 5 percent cement together with a small amount of water the resulting mud produces beautiful mud bricks. These were then attested as being of more than adequate strength for building purposes. It was then decided to modify the building plans and construct the building from mud bricks. As it turned out this brought to actuality Shri Mataji's advice about using bricks to keep out the sun. Shri Mataji also advised that the Yogis should use the trees on the property in the construction of the house. The Yogis approached local timber yards but they were not interested in milling the timber. After some investigation a system was developed which will enable the Yogis to mill the timber from the property themselves for use in the construction of the Ashram. Even though Shri Mataji has not visited Her land all the advice She has given has come to fruition.

The Sahaja Yogis of Brisbane now have in their possession building plans, they have ample earth, they have cleared and leveled the site upon which the Ashram is to be built. The site itself is about a 1 acre square, so the house will be quite large. All is in readiness all that is now needed is about 12,000 mud bricks. Being a very practical and inventive group led by Albert they decided that in order to make the number of bricks required for the building they would need to automate the process in some way. Necessity being the mother of invention together with some divine inspiration they invented and built a mud brick making machine. It is quite an ingenious device constructed from steel and iron, incorporating an hydraulic ram, mounted on a trailer for ease of transport and powered by a petrol generator. All that is needed is that one keeps a supply of properly proportioned mud and the brick machine will produce mud bricks at the rate of about one every two minutes.

The Building of an Ashram



Everything is now in readiness to begin production of the bricks. To help the process five Sahaja Yogis from Newcastle and Sydney decided to head north and lend a hand. Following Krishna Pujya Hugh, Arts, Alfred, Steve and Chris made the 12 hour trip from Sydney to Wamaram arriving late one Sunday evening.

During our first day we explored the property as Albert and his crew made some last minute modifications to the brick machine. Later that afternoon all was in readiness and to much acclaim the first mud brick rolled out of the machine. Then began the serious task of full brick production which would occupy us for the rest of the week.

It is a good start but only the beginning of the task at hand. On Friday afternoon we stopped work, toasted our success with some Sahaja Champagne, until dusk. Our day was broken up with morning and afternoon teas and delicious lunches. During each day we would cycle through each station in order to share the work of the brick machine, The Leverman, the one who operates the lever of the brick machine to produce the bricks, and The Stacker, the one who takes the bricks and stacks them for Journeyman, the one who takes the mud from the mixer and continually satisfies the needs of the brick machine, The Mixer, the one who combine the soil, cement and water to produce perfect mud, The Mud Pit, the one who dig the earth and sift the Earth into beautiful clean soil. These are the five stages of brick production, from the start of the process During the week we perfected the work ethic which we termed the Five Stations of the Mud Brick. These are the five stages of brick production, from the start of the process Journeyman, the one who takes the mud from the mixer and continually satisfies the needs of the brick machine, The Mixer, the one who combine the soil, cement and water to produce perfect mud, The Mud Pit, the one who dig the earth and sift the Earth into beautiful clean soil. These are the five stages of brick production, from the start of the process until dusk. Our day was broken up with morning and afternoon teas and delicious lunches. On Friday afternoon we stopped work, toasted our success with some Sahaja Champagne, a cool can of Coke and surveyed the 600 mud bricks which had been completed that week. It is a good start but only the beginning of the task at hand.

At present the jobs needing help are brick making, wood de-nailing and timber milling. The house will incorporate lead lighting so help from anyone with these skills would be much appreciated. A further idea is that iron moldings of the Deities could be incorporated in the verandah.

We really enjoyed traveling together and working as a team it made the experience all the more memorable. Maybe teams from all the cities Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong could come together and make their way north. You would receive a warm welcome and you would be making a valuable contribution in the construction of Shri Mataji's house.

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Subj: Gandhi on Civilisation

Western Reporter
to Gandhi : Mr. Gandhi, what do you think of Western Civilization ?

Gandhi: I think it would be a very good idea.

To: YOGIS
CC: PHILIP
Subj: Quote from Toynbee (historian)

The famous historian, Dr. Arnold Toynbee, in his address delivered at Edinburgh University predicted, "In 50 years, the world would be under the hegemony of the United States of America, but from the 21st century on, when religion captures the place of technology, India, the conquered, will conquer its conquerors."

From: Phil Ward To: yogis
Date: Wednesday, 25 August 1993 08:47

Subject: Shri Krishna Puja memories

*** JAI SHRI MATAJI NIRMALA DEVI !!! ***

Dear Everyone,

Just a few words to try to capture something of the Shri Krishna Puja this weekend in Cabella.

The festivities began after dinner on Friday evening, as we waited for our Divine Mother to join us, and a spontaneous international bhajans team started up. Shri Mataji kindly came to join us at around 11 p.m., and blessed our music-making with her Divine Presence in the Puja tent

On Saturday morning breakfast was served to everyone in Shri Mataji's ashram (actually an old farm building which the sahaja yogis are converting into accommodation for visiting yogis) on the hillside above the village of Daglio. After breakfast a havan took place at Shri Mataji's request at which 108 names of Shri Vishnu were read, Gregoire having explained to us the need for us to pray for the full manifestation or this most elusive deity. The havan was held on the terrace outside the Daglio ashram under a hot sun. After the 108 names all manner of baddhas were offered to the fire for purification by the three hundred or so yogis present.

After lunch, served next to the puja tent (which is now on the hillside above and to the side of Shri Mataji's house and well above Cabella village), the weekend's activities carried on with a sporting competition, held on the village football field. This was at the suggestion of our Divine Mother, who had said that this puja was a good opportunity for games. Several teams, based loosely on countries, were formed, and the games began. The first game, in which your correspondent had the honour to play, was a tug-of-war, in which our team (Switzerland and Belgium) faced the village sports club (i.e. not sahaja yogis). This was an amazing experience. At first the locals had the upper hand, but suddenly one of our supporters cried out "Hanuman! Hanuman!" This cry was taken up by everybody in the crowd and with each wave of sound Shri Hanuman Himself was pulling on the cord! And in no time the village hearties were heaved over towards us and we were through to the next round.

The sports continued with an egg-and-spoon race, a caterpillar race (in which the team members sit on the ground one in front of another, each holding the ankles of the person behind him), wheelbarrow races, a contest of throwing water-filled balloons, and other events. The winning team was mainly from Germany; posterity recalls that our team came in in the honourable position of last but one.

In the evening, as the last preparations were being made for the evening's programme, we were surprised to see all the leaders walking into the tent wearing splendid turbans (actually scarves tied in Gujarati style headdresses) decorated with strings of pearls. These were in fact presents from Shri Mataji; as Gregoire explained, it was a time for fun, and Shri Mother had made all the

leaders like Christmas trees! The leaders all sat on the stage during the music programme that followed, on either side of the artists, making the stage look like a noble court in royal India.

The music programme starred an old friend of Sahaja Yoga, Anand Murdeshwar, playing his simple flute made of hollow bamboo and entrancing us with a number of different ragas; Chandra Kauns, Mal Kauns... He was ably supported by Yusuf Ali Khan on tabla. The concert came to an end around 3 a.m.

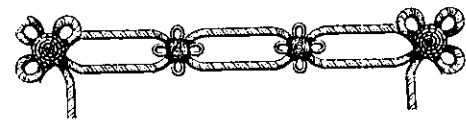
Sunday morning and afternoon were relaxed, bathing in the river - quite low at this time of year - and preparing quietly for the Puja under the warm Italian sun.

As Shri Krishna was born at midnight His Puja is often celebrated at night. This year it began early Sunday evening. Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi arrived for Puja around 7 p.m., and gave a long and rich discourse about Shri Krishna and the Americas and their problems.

Shri Mataji spoke about North America, particularly the U.S., which has come to occupy an important role on the world stage, in a sense as the "world policeman", intervening in Kuwait, Bosnia, Somalia, etc., when they could have quite well remained comfortably at home. Many international initiatives began with the U.S., such as the United Nations. But the Americans have completely lost their dharma, so where will it all finish up? America is going through a stage of punishment, She said, with AIDS, drugs, crime, and violence, as a result of all the wrong done to the native population by the European settlers. Shri Mataji said, however, that during the last century there had been great Americans - She cited Washington and Lincoln, and indicated there had been many more - who had known that colonialism was wrong and had kept the U.S. out of the imperialist scramble for land and domination of the European powers. America is the land of Shri Krishna who is Kubera, the Lord of wealth, hence it is such a beautiful and rich and prosperous country.

As to South America, Shri Mataji described it as poor countries, but whereas most poor countries are dharmic - like India - the dharma had also been lost in South America as well, which makes material development very difficult as the deities lose interest in such places. In Brazil for instance, She said, girls of 13 are openly becoming prostitutes. The left Vishuddhi - under the onslaught of the Catholic Church - causes everyone to feel guilty but prevents anyone addressing the many moral and social problems of these countries. She laid great stress on the importance of introspection as an antidote to problems of the left Vishuddhi chakra. Left vishuddhi problems of sahaja yogis make them vulnerable to attack by black magic.

The Puja seemed quite short; after the Atharva Shirsha as the children performed the Ganesha Puja, we immediately started to sing a Krishna bhajan, "Krishna Govinda..." and this was followed by other songs in praise of our Mother, finishing with Vishwa Vandita just before the Aarti, as the leaders of the countries of North and South America were offering symbolical crowns to the Lotus Feet of the Empress of the Universe.



FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE

A letter has arrived from Helja Kallionen with news of Sri Mataji's recent two week tour of Russia. Three Australians travelled with Shri Mataji - Bohdan, Stan (Vienna) and Helja. The highlight of the tour was Togliatti, the Sahaj capital of Russia. It is the Ganesha of Russia and the Volga River curves around it in the shape of an elephant. There are 20,000 Sahaj yogis living there!!

At the Shakti puja held at Togliatti, Shri Mataji spoke of the power of love, which is the most powerful thing in the world.

Helja said the people of Togliatti are very friendly and loving and they demonstrated that love by sending us a music tape of Russian songs written in praise of Shri Mataji. They have also included a booklet of translations.

26.8.93

SYDNEY NEWS

EXHIBITION OF THE NEW AGE - CHATSWOOD

Sahaja Yoga is to put on an Exhibition of the New Age on

Saturday, 4th September

at the Bailey Hall, Victoria Avenue, Chatswood (opp. Westfield Entrance)

The hours will be 10.00 am to 2.00 pm.
We are only allowed 1 hour to set up and 1 hour to dismantle, so we will need help from at least ten people.

Please contact Hari at Ramsay Road, Haberfield - Tel. 798-4051 if you help..... We need the helpers there by 8.45 am and if anyone can bring cakes or sandwiches, it would be much appreciated.

* * * * *

PEARLY GATES



After the puja came entertainment. The Californian sahaja yogis had prepared a hilarious video depicting a day in the life of an American sahaja yogi as he went about Los Angeles postering, persuading the harassed and cynical editor of the Los Angeles Tribune's "Religion" column to allow him a few seconds to talk about Sahaja Yoga, leafleting in the Maha Yogurt Ice Cream garden (where all the local seekers, joggers, trendies, and weird people hang out), and throwing some well-aimed lemons at notable sources of negativity, including a hirsute false guru who declared a miracle to have taken place as a celestial lemon had fallen from the sky to hit him on the head! Of course everything ended happily, as the "Religion" editor, the "Tribune" security guard, and several members of the Maha Yogurt Ice Cream scene all came to the centre, got their realization, and could be seen sitting in meditation, transformed by our Divine Mother's Blessings.

The Sahaja Yogis from Colombia then presented their video, which depicted the birth and early life of Shri Krishna and how this was very sweetly matched by the traditions of dance of different parts of Colombia.

Shri Mataji requested us all to have our attention very much on America. In particular She asked us to have our attention on the Jews of America, not only because they are so influential there but also because many of the Jews who come to Sahaja Yoga make excellent sahaja yogis. Shri Mataji also mentioned the need for us to have attention on the Iranians, whom She will be seeing in a special programme in Los Angeles, and on the American people in general.

The American sahaja yogis, who had been in Cabella for a week working hard to prepare the puja, gave each family present a gift of a cassette of songs and music recorded by sahaja yogis from different countries from Canada to Argentina. One which particularly sticks in my mind is a remarkable setting for choir and orchestra of our Divine Mother's song "Binati Suniye", sung by the Calgary Boys Choir.

After a short break we were re-joined by Anand Murdeshwar and Yusuf Ali Khan, who completed the recital they had begun the previous evening with more delightful ragas. At the end of their recital Shri Mataji's husband, Sir C.P. Srivastava, made a short speech in which he said how he had never had such a musical evening, and praised the musicians. Both, he said, were grandsons of great musicians, Anand Murdeshwar of Pannalal Ghosh, the great flute master, and Yusuf Ali Khan of Ustad Alauddin Khan, guru of Ravi Shankar and whose name is synonymous with Indian music itself. Sir C.P. said it was symbolical that the two musicians (who were playing together for the first time) came from the two countries of India and Bangladesh, and that if the two musicians could collaborate musically like this the two countries (whose relationship has not always been easy) could do likewise. At this point the two musicians spontaneously embraced on the stage, to thunderous applause.

Shri Mataji took leave of us around 2 a.m., leaving us joyful and inspired for the work ahead of us. May America arise!

Much love - Phil