

## A decorative horizontal border featuring stylized flowers and leaves. The design is symmetrical and intricate, with a central flower motif flanked by smaller floral elements and leafy branches. The style is reminiscent of traditional folk art or embroidery patterns.



# Felicitations

Speech written but not given, for Felicitation Evening before Birthday Puja, March 1998.

Her Holiness Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi,  
Sir C. P. Srivastava,  
Distinguished guests,  
Fellow Sahajis from all parts of the world,  
Children of the world...

To the organisers of this occasion, my thanks for the pleasure and privilege to present these felicitations on the great occasion of the 75th anniversary of the birth of our Mother and Guru, the Adi Shakti.

Shri Mataji, with joyful hearts we offer up our thanks for your advent, we convey to you our great love for you and gratitude for what you have done to change the course of our lives, and we pray for your ease and comfort in the future. May we invoke the protection and collaboration of all the Deities in bringing to fruition your vision of a better world.

Shri Mataji how can we praise you; you who are the unknowable, whose dimension is beyond description. From tiny dot to universe, from particles too small to see, to universes too large to comprehend - you are to be found.

As our mother and Guru you are the eightfold entity: Mother, Grandmother, Wife and Householder, but also Guru, Counsellor, Comforter and Redeemer.

You are at the same time our example of the responsible citizen and the true patriot - committed to the ideals of the family life as the cornerstone of a balanced society, as also

to a free and independent society within which that family life can be led.

But at the same time you are Maha Maya, the supreme illusion.

From you we have learnt the way of Dharma, yet at the same time you have taught us that all is not as it seems. We are obliged to become our own gurus, to exercise our own discrimination and to thoughtfully put into effect your advice to us.

For many of us you have saved our lives. When we had lost our way and become desperate in our search for the truth and the right way of life, you rescued us. You showed us true compassion and gave us comfort. You placed the signposts on the maps of our destiny. You showed us the way and set the boundaries of our behaviour.

You introduced to our disoriented Western values the Eastern wisdom of meditation and introspection, through which we would come to know you, as well as coming to know ourselves.

But most importantly, through you we have come to know peace. Your vision of a peaceful society commences with peaceful individuals. For without peace within us, how can there be peace between us?

Through meditation we have become calm and satisfied. You have taught us the right conduct of the harmonious relationship between a brother and a sister. You have given us certainty and security in our lives.

But your work encompasses a greater dimension than the salvation of the individual, crucial though this is. You have shown by your own example, the vigilance and

commitment needed to help in the emancipation of your own country from the unwanted occupation of a colonial power. This work continued with renewed intent, to rid the body politic of the corrosive ill of corruption, so that the common people can once again have faith in those they have elected to represent them.

Likewise have you campaigned against the dark forces of the Mafia and against the excesses of the Vatican.

As equally strong has been your condemnation of the evil work done by the false gurus.

We acknowledge your pioneering work in the field of Sahaja vibrational health care and with the establishment of the Sahaja International School at Dharamsala - where what better example could there be of your vision for an enlightened society than in the faces and demeanour of our children.

You have also extended an invitation of dialogue to leaders of other faiths and philosophies - most noticeably to the leaders of Islam, as a demonstration that Sahaja Yoga incorporates the original truths of the world's main religions.

As equally persuasively, though perhaps less dramatically you have, for many years encouraged and promoted the arts of singing, dancing, poetry, painting, drama and music making within the Sahaja community and have introduced us to many fine artists, masters of their chosen art. You have given substance to your love of the arts by the establishment of the Nagpur Academy - and through the Theatre of Eternal Values, Sahaja drama has been taken to the wider community.

Your vision is of a world in which men and women can live in harmony and peace. The false values of materialism will be replaced with the enduring values of spirituality. Human beings will come to a balance within the Laws of Nature. The fundamental elements of earth, air, fire and water will be restored to their original purity.

There will be an end to war. National boundaries will become meaningless, passports no longer necessary. Humans will forsake materialistic ambition for spiritual enlightenment and will come to trust instinctually in the power of the Paramchaitanya. Crime and corruption will be eliminated, governments will govern for the benefit of those they represent and nations shall be known for the endeavours of their artists rather than the balance sheets of their banks.

Shri Mataji, as we face a decisive moment in the history of our society in Australia, we ask for your council and guidance. Please endow our decision makers with the wisdom and judgement to ensure a fair and just society in the coming millennium.

Finally, Shri Mataji, we salute you on this most auspicious occasion of the 75th anniversary of your birth and convey to you, most fulsomely our love and gratitude for having saved our lives, for having shown us the way of truth and for having granted us the privilege of seeing a glimpse of your vision.

## JAI SHRI MATAJI

Dear Mr Nalgirkar,

I should like to convey to you my total admiration and unqualified thanks and appreciation to yourself and the Delhi collective for the wonderful way you looked after us all during the 75<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations of our beloved Mother.

I sincerely think that what you achieved and the beautiful way you went about achieving it would have been beyond most other Sahaj collectives in the world.

Your task was made doubly difficult by the changes you were obliged to deal with: the cancellation of Shri Shivaratri puja, the rearrangements of the music programs and the constant adjustment to the method of payment; as well as the sheer number of participants, both from all parts of your own country and from the four corners of the world. Yet from the moment that your customs representative met us on our arrival at the airport to the time that you farewelled us at Nizamuddin camp on our departure (alas, for me, all too soon) everything you did for us was done with the utmost courtesy and cheerfulness, as well as efficiency, as to belie the immensity of your task.

As an example: your reassurance to us even before we left Australia, that everything was being done for our care and comfort, despite the fact that we were arriving some eight days before the official celebration, was so amply borne out by your attention to our needs in the difficult circumstances of the ad hoc arrangement you were obliged to make for us at Panchsheel whilst the finishing touches were being made to Nizamuddin camp.

The minor disappointment, to us, of not being able to go straight to Nizamuddin camp was nothing compared to the extra organization and work to which you were put in order to accommodate and look after us in the interim.

One of the first of the many enduring memories of this wonderful time spent in your country, was that of the initial collection of monies by your people. Mr Deshpande and his colleagues just set themselves down amid the bedding of the mens' upstairs room and over an extended period of time and with a cheerfulness and good attention to what they were doing, that I could only marvel at, achieved their task, and took away their not inconsiderable takings in a large plastic shopping bag. I think this system is still shown the have the edge over the ATMs of the western world.

I rejoiced privately to hear Shri Mataji, in that Puja talk, which was so memorable for its quality of motherly love, compliment you (as our host) for what you had achieved, which She said was only possible because of your complete love and dedication to Her.

How nice it was eventually to get to Nizamuddin camp, an oasis of calm, in the clamor and pollution of New Delhi. And again what a splendid job you have all done, though not the owners of the property, yet out of the true instincts of hospitality and the settled

Laxmi tatwa, you had gone to considerable trouble to ensure the calm and cleanliness of our environment.

If circumstances dictate that we must assemble in a large city then what better setting than this familiar place, which we have all vibrated and at which we are in the constant care and protection of our Mother's attention.

It was gratifying finally to see you, unexpectedly, seated at that table in the office building at the camp; with your trusted lieutenants and to have a brief conversation - and to hear you tell me that only earlier in the morning you had been admonished by at least four people complaining strongly that they had not been asked to help with the arrangements. If that is indicative of a level of commitment, then it is a state of affairs to which we can only hope one day to aspire. One of the last of the enduring memories (with all its nice sense of symmetry) was to observe Mr. Deshpande and three of his helpers, banished, by your own admission, from the table at which you were then sitting to a dark corner of the hut on a top bunk, still counting out his money and still with the same good humor and undivided attention.

I should dearly love to ask you to pass special thanks to one or two people who were particularly notable in their concern for our wellbeing, but to do so would be an injustice to all those others whom I suspect worked equally as hard and lovingly - out of sight - and whose names are not known to me. Suffice it to say, in conclusion, that for myself, and on behalf of all my brothers and sisters from Australia who were there - we are eternally in a debt of gratitude to you - and that we see what you achieved as a benchmark by which our own future endeavors might be measured, and as an inspiration to sustain us.

Completely in our Mother's love,  
With fondest love and regards to you and the Delhi collective.  
Our sincere thanks  
Jai Shri Mataji!  
Michael Fogarty,  
for the Sahaj Yogis of Australia.