

Saga of a lesser known 'Meera'

Shyama Maa

Leave everything to divine

*'He' protects the honour of those
who take His absolute 'shelter'*

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Publication



HARE RAM HARE RAM RAM RAM HARE HARE
HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISHNA KRISHNA KRISHNA HARE HARE

In Gratitude

Gopal, Krishan & Raj
grand children of Shyama Maa with
a humble attempt to portray
the divine Grace & Mercy along with devotional
manifestations

January 10th 2019
New Delhi

Initiation

Divinity is dynamic flow of consciousness where we all find our abode as per the level of awareness we possess. We may be oscillating between the centrifugal forces, we tend to find our congruent equilibrium as per our alignment with the divine.

Shyama Maa's discourses carry us through the spiritual journey, empowered by the individual devotion and recitation of "Holy Mantras" within, we have to simply shed away all captive cognition and immerse in the divine flow.

I feel blessed being a humble contributor in putting for this collection of 'Her' grace and blessings.

Dr. A.P Maheswari

An ardent devotee embraced into the Shyama Maa Family by her daughter Sarla Devi. He is an officer of Indian Police Service

November 6th 2018
New Delhi

ब्रज की विभूति - पूज्या श्री श्यामा माँ (एक भक्त के उदगार)

भारतीय संस्कृति और जन जीवन की मेरुदण्डरूपा ब्रजभूमि की अन्तर चेतना सदैव से प्राणमयी, जागरूक और उदार भावापन्ना रही है। यमुना के तट पर आज भी भगवान श्री कृष्ण का मुरलीनाद भक्तों को श्रुति गोचर होता है। वृन्दावन अन्य भक्तों, प्रेमियों और साधकों की अपनी तपोभूमि है।

ब्रज मण्डल की पुनीत तपोभूमि में अवतरित पूज्या श्री श्यामा माँ अनन्त दिव्य विभूतियों में से एक हैं। श्री माँ वृन्दावन की पवित्र भूमि में भगवान श्री कृष्ण की अनन्य प्रेमाराधना के सतत् अखण्ड दीपक जलाती रहती हैं। उनकी प्रेमाराधना दिव्य ज्योति बनकर उनके मुख मण्डल और नेत्रों में सदैव प्रवहमान रहती है। जब वे श्री कृष्ण के प्रेम और भक्तिरस के सरोवर में डूब जाती तब उन्हें देहानुसंधान नहीं रहता और वे स्वयं राधामय हो जाती। उस समय उनके मुख मण्डल पर जो दिव्य आभा एवं श्री प्रगट होती, वह अलौकिक और वंदनीय होती।

ब्रज वह भाव भूमि है जहाँ प्रेम है, स्नेह और वात्सल्य है। ऐसे पुनीत ब्रज मण्डल में श्री माँ का आर्विभाव सन् 1916 ई. की कार्तिक कृष्णा त्रयोदशी की रात्रि में 9 बजे मथुरा में पं. छोटे लाल शास्त्री के यहाँ हुआ। पूज्य माँ बाल्यकाल से ही श्याम सुन्दर श्री कृष्ण भगवान की सेवा, पूजा, आरती, भजन, कीर्तन में सदा मग्न रहती थी। कुल परम्परानुसार मथुरा में उनका पाणिग्रहण संस्कार हुआ। परन्तु भक्तिमति मीरा की भाँति परात्पर कृष्ण भगवान के प्रेम एवं भक्ति मार्ग पर चलने में बाधा देने के लिए भाँति-भाँति की यातनाएँ दी गईं। किन्तु कठोर यातनाओं से वे कभी विचलित नहीं हुईं और श्री माँ अपने पूज्य गुरुदेव श्री श्री 108 बाबा राधेश्यामजी गोवर्धन निवासी की प्रेरणा व कृष्ण भक्ति की दीक्षा से गिरधर गोपाल के रंग में रंग गईं। परिणामतः परिवार को सदैव के लिए तिलांजलि देकर साधना रत हो गईं। श्री कृष्ण लाल जी महाराज और शक्ति प्रेम स्वरूपा राज-राजेश्वरी राधा रानी की कृपा उन पर अखण्ड रूप से विद्यमान रहती।

निकट भक्तों को ऐसा भी देखने में मिला है कि माँ की प्रेमाराधना अखण्ड समाधि का रूप धारण कर लेती है जो केवल उच्च कोंटि के ज्ञानी, योगियों एवं सन्तों को ही सुलभ है। श्री माँ जब प्रेम रस व भक्ति रस में भाव-विभोर हो जाती तब वे दृश्य जगत् से हटकर किसी अतीन्द्रिय लोक में विचरन करने लगती। एक दिव्य तेज उनके मुख मण्डल पर झलकने लगता।

श्री माँ की प्रेमाराधना संगीतमय है। पदों और गीतों की रचना स्वयं करके उन्हें वाद्यों के संगीत के साथ राग-रागिनियों में बद्ध करके भक्तों को मन्त्र-मुग्ध करके उनका जीवन सार्थक किया। उनकी प्रेमाराधना का महामन्त्र है – नाम संकीर्तन – उनका नाम मन्त्र गुप्त नहीं सर्वविदित है—

“हरे कृष्ण हरे कृष्ण, कृष्ण कृष्ण हरे हरे।
हरे राम हरे राम, राम राम हरे हरे”।।

इस महामन्त्र का चमत्कार श्री माँ के श्री मुख से उच्चरित होने पर ही दृष्टिगत होता। इस महामन्त्र को श्री माँ के मुख से दीक्षा रूप में ग्रहण करके सहस्रों, लाखों सहृदय भारतीय भक्तों ने ही नहीं अपितु विदेशों में स्थित भक्तों ने अपने जीवन को

सार्थक बनाया है तथा कुछ भावुक भक्तों में अलौकिक शक्तियों तक का संचार हो चुका है।

देखा गया है कि श्री माँ जब इस महामन्त्र को अनुभूति और भावुकता से गाती थी तब वंशीधारी नन्द-नन्दन श्री कृष्ण भगवान् स्वयं संकीर्तन की लय व ताल पर थिरकने लगते। श्री माँ मुरलीधर कन्हैया को जो भी भोग अर्पण करती श्री मुरलीधर लाल जी उसे प्रत्यक्ष स्वीकार करते। अनन्त ब्रह्माण्ड नायक, लीलामय पुरुषोत्तम श्री कृष्ण पूज्य माँ द्वारा अर्पित भोग को ग्रहण करते और अपना प्रसाद अपने भक्तों और प्रेमियों के लिए बचा भी देते।

श्री माँ के पास आस्तिक, नास्तिक, धनी, निर्धन, शिशु, युवक, स्त्री-पुरुष सभी दर्शनार्थ आते और सभी के लिए

श्री माँ का द्वार खुला रहता। भक्तों की इच्छा पर ही श्री माँ उनसे सहज रूप से सरलता से मिल लेती। श्री माँ दिन रात, सुख दुख में समभाव से सब के लिए निरन्तर प्रतीक्षा में रहती हुई उनके कष्टों को दूर करने में संलग्न रहती। पूज्य माँ अपने भावुक भक्तों के लिए क्या-क्या लीला करती, वह सब हमारी समझ से बाहर है। अनेक भक्तों ने यह अनुभव किया है कि माँ के श्री मुख

के दर्शन, चरण धूलि व मधुर सम्भाषण से एक अपूर्व शुद्ध सात्विक भाव जाग्रत होता है।

श्री माँ की भक्ति में एक ओर त्याग और वैराग्य तो दूसरी ओर सहृदयता झलकती थी। उनका प्रेम अलौकिक और लोकातीत था तथा उनमें माधुर्य भाव की प्रधानता थी। भगवान के प्रेममय गीतों को मीरा की भौंति गाते हुए बेसुध सी हो जाती। जिसने उस दिव्य आभा के दर्शन किए वह धन्य होकर विस्मय के सागर में डूब जाता। सहस्त्रों नास्तिक उनकी आभा के दर्शन करके आस्तिक बन गये और अपना सर्वस्व श्री राधा रानी के चरणों में समर्पित कर श्री माँ के अनन्य भक्त बन गये। इसीलिए प्रत्येक को यही अनुभव होता कि माँ मेरी है।

माँ की भक्ति और प्रेम ने एक साथ मिलकर लोक संग्रह का रूप भी धारण कर लिया। श्री माँ सतत् दुःखियों, विधवाओं, रोगियों और अनाश्रितों के कष्टों व दुःखों को दूर करने के लिए प्रयत्न करती रहती। इतना ही नहीं राष्ट्र पर आपत्ति पड़ने पर राष्ट्रीय रक्षा कोष में विपुल धन राशि देकर अपना योगदान दिया।

श्री माँ ने अज्ञान को दूर कर भक्ति, धर्म की स्थापना के लिए, असहाय व संतप्त व्यक्तियों के कष्ट निवारण के लिए भारत ही नहीं अपितु सम्पूर्ण विश्व का भ्रमण किया और उनका कहना है कि महामंत्र का निरन्तर निष्काम भावना से जाप करने पर प्राणी मात्र का कल्याण होता है। इस महामंत्र की गूँज विदेशों में भी अविरल भाव से गूँजरित हो रही है।

लन्दन में भारतीय संस्कृति के प्रसार एवं प्रौढ शिक्षा एवं बाल शिक्षा के साथ ही भारतीय कन्याओं के लिए लोक गीत व लोक नृत्य का प्रशिक्षण भी दिया जाता है।

जीवन की आध्यात्मिक खोज एवं योग चर्चा के लिए श्री कृष्ण के लीला धाम में श्री माँ ने प्रारम्भिक विकास हेतु ब्रज संस्कृति व आध्यात्मिक शिक्षा बाल संस्थान के अंकुर को रमणरेती में 14 अगस्त सन् 1974 को आरोपण किया। इस संस्थान में बौद्धिक विकास को मनोवैज्ञानिक पद्धति के आधार पर 3 वर्ष की आयु से लेकर 11 वर्ष तक के बालक – बालिकाएँ शिक्षा प्राप्त करते हैं। शिशुओं के सर्वांगीण विकास हेतु समय-समय पर

सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम, खेलकूद व काव्य पाठ आदि प्रतियोगिताओं का भी आयोजन किया जाता है। सभी बच्चों को प्रतिदिन निःशुल्क जलपान एवं पोशाक तथा अनेकानेक पुरस्कार भी समय-समय पर प्रदान किए जाते हैं। इसी से यह संस्थान नगर का आकर्षण केन्द्र बन गया है।

श्री माँ का महान व्यक्तित्व भक्ति, प्रेम, कर्म और ज्ञान का पुनीत संगम है। श्री कृष्ण भक्ति व ज्ञान से परिपूर्ण होने पर भी वे प्रदर्शन व प्रचार से दूर रहती। मानव कल्याण साधना में सतत मौन भाव से मग्न रहती। सम्पूर्ण विश्व ही उनका परिवार है। ऐसी दिव्य शक्ति सम्पन्ना श्री माँ का स्नेह व आशीर्वाद प्राप्त कर अपने जीवन को धन्य बनाना हमारा कर्तव्य है।

!! जय श्री राधे !!



A unique place

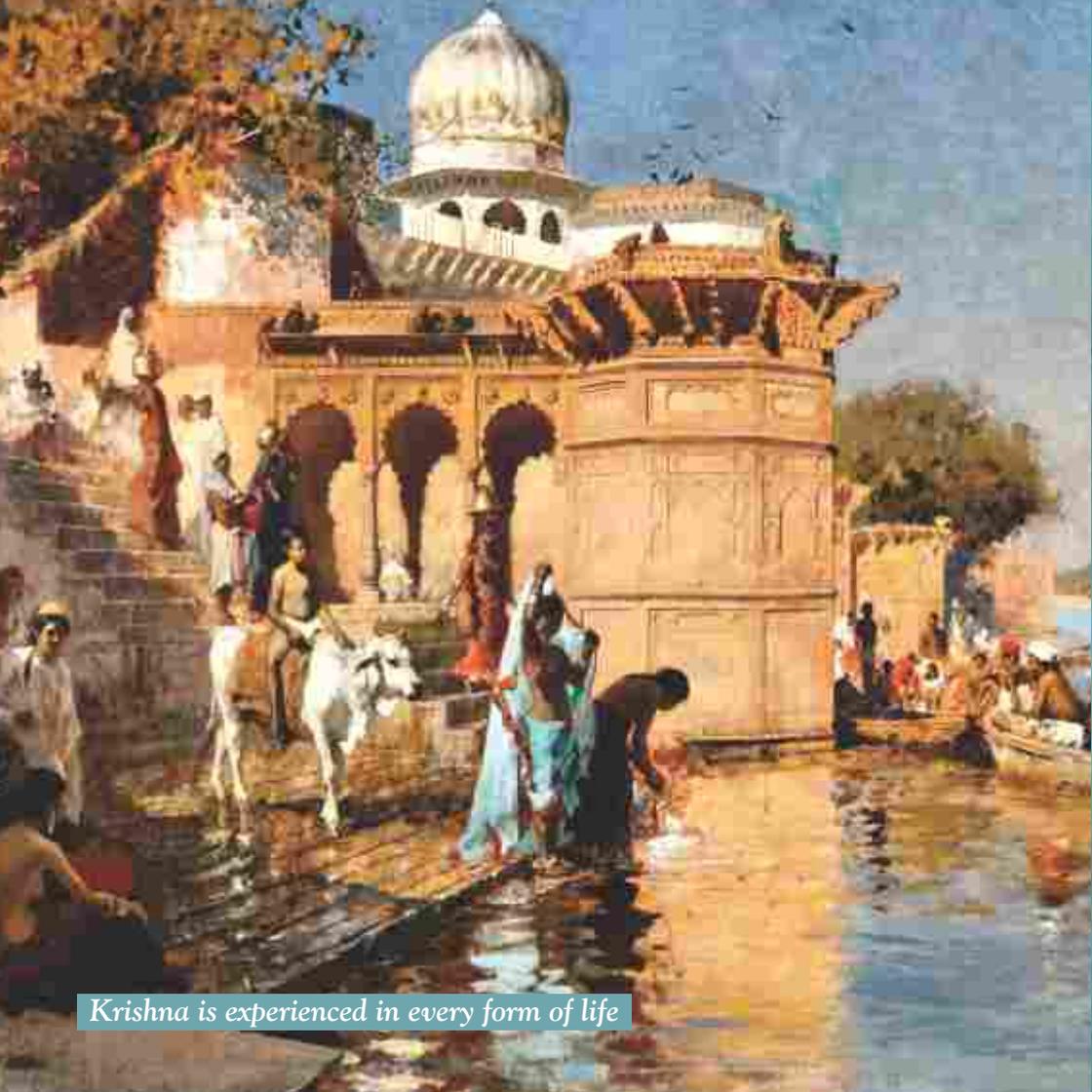
The birth place of *Lord Krishna*, *Mathura Puri*, occupies a unique place in Hindu religious pilgrimages. It is famous since ancient times and has been the abode of sages and saints. It was a prosperous and well known city during Vedic age; elaborate accounts of it can be read in *puranas* also.

In '*Sata Yuga*', that famous child devotee *Dhruva* did his penance and realised God in this very place. In '*Treta Yuga*', when the great carnation of *Vishnu*, *Lord Ramchandra* was the king of *Ayodhya*, this place was known as *Madhupuri*. At that time, a great demon called '*lavana sur*' lived here and he harassed and inflicted obstacles in the rituals of great sages and *rishis*. So they assembled together and went to *Lord Ram-chandra* and requested him to save them from the atrocities of *Lavanasur*. *Shatrughna* accomplished his task and named the city *Mathupuri*

The city became safe for penance for saints and *rishis*. This holy city which is situated on the banks of river *yamuna* was later called *Mathura*, which got colloquially corrupted to its present name *Mathura*.



every individual has 'God' within



Krishna is experienced in every form of life

Time ripens for the 'Lotus' to bloom

There are many stories in ancient Hindu scriptures describing the greatness of the city of **Mathura**. This huge and rich city, surrounded by gardens and forests has been a renowned place of pilgrimage. During the '**Dwapar Yuga**', **Krishna** was born in this city. Since then it has acquired immense importance and prestige amongst the holy cities of India. In **Mathura**, the presence of **Krishna** is experienced in every walk of life. The penance done here gives many- fold fruits. Even a passing holy act, may that be, penance, religious ceremony, charity, bestows great results. In such a great and glorious city **Mathura**,
Mother Shyama was born



Extraordinary always emerges from the ordinary

Divine light reflects in its base element



In alignment with the 'Holistic' self

Some persons thought that mother *Yamuna* herself was born in their family in human form, as the waters of holy river *yamuna* (goddess *Yamuna*, as people in *Mathura* call her) are blue in complexion.

*The child was given the name of
'Shyama'*



Every moment 'she' grew with her 'Krishna' within



Immersed in the divine flow of her beloved

Shyama was composed in her behaviour right from the childhood. She never uttered any word that was irrelevant, she was constantly engrossed in chanting and meditation. Even at that age she felt that

Krishna was her life

She was so much intrinsically inclined to purity that she underwent the practice of purification even at the slightest touch of what she regarded extrinsic.

Connecting with the spiritual chords



Replicating spiritual reverbrations through musical notes

Krishna's flute-the real source of divine 'Ragas' connecting soul to the epicentre



a Meera in making



Early family bonds a gateway to further cleansing

Shyama was married at the tender age of eleven.

She used to fervently pray to the lord, "O God! grace me that I can be free from the snare of domestic life. I wish to be penance to realize You. What will be the difference between me and all other animals if I spend my life only in eating, drinking and sleeping? Oh God! If I could get the chance of realizing you, then only I could assist other human beings to be free from the bondage of life".

Her heart was full of such reveries.

*The 'divine' within her
starts surfacing*

" It was not an easy discipline to survive on a quarter of a pint of milk but the Mother Shyama maintained the discipline with great joy in her heart with an intense desire to realise the presence of God. She was unattached to worldly pleasures, she aspired to bind herself in the love of Krishna, shattering the shackles of the world. She kept secret her intense longing for liberation.

At the end of the sixth month of her Sadhana, her mother-in-law took Mother Shyama to the gurudev in Gowardhan. At that time the physical body of mother Shyama was like a skeleton, like a dried piece of log. Gurudev's eyes were filled with tears, he said,

"The penance which she has done could not be accomplished by anyone, an ordinary person could never do this"





the light filters across

Yearning to merge with the beloved



God may visit the house of devotee in any form

The endurance of Mother Shyama knew no bounds and she mentally resolved not to take solid food for her whole life.

"I will continue worshiping God and uttering his name as my physical body doesn't allow its sustenance from food rather thrives on the grace of God."

With a firm resolve, she continued her practices of chanting the mantra, her meditation exactly as before, on the diet of milk only.

In those days, one day a saint, visited the house with great devotion and pleaded to accept food at the hands of Shyama Maa only. He sat for many hours till Mother Shyama gave him some fruit that was in the house. He accepted it with joy, ate it and went away showering blessings on the divine Maa.

*The family turned out to be the the furnace
for bringing out the 'divine' layered beneath*

The family members put several obstacles in the work of Mother Shyama, troubled her a lot but she did not relent. Her husband was inspired by God, perhaps to come to her rescue, ***“She is worshiping God Almighty, how can we stop her ! We can restrain her only from doing something wrong.”***

The path of devotion is indeed full of obstacles. It is not easy to leave the comforts of family life. However, she began to experience miseries and obstacles similar to those experienced by Lord Rama. It is not easy for an ordinary person to put up with such problems and miseries of life.





divine love in amalgamation !

*God doesn't believe in miracles but does so
to save the honour of devotees*

Once Mother Shyama remained locked for three days and three nights. She underwent indescribable torture; she became obsessed in the love of Krishna.

All the family members tried to request Mother Shyama to end her fast.

Mother Shyama then prayed to Lord Krishna,

"Oh God ! You alone will protect my vow; you protected that elephant when he was being dragged away by an alligator. You yourself saved Draupadi when her honour was at stake. Please guard me, show these people some miracle that they stop harassing me."

Exactly at that time, the miracle did happen. There was a huge photo-frame of Lord Krishna. The glass of the frame was broken to pieces and divine power emerged. Experiencing this miracle, all said, "***Let her do as she wishes, no one can stop anyone worshipping God.***" Thus Mother Shyama could hold on to her vow and her discipline.



*towards formless, nameless
excellence of the divine*

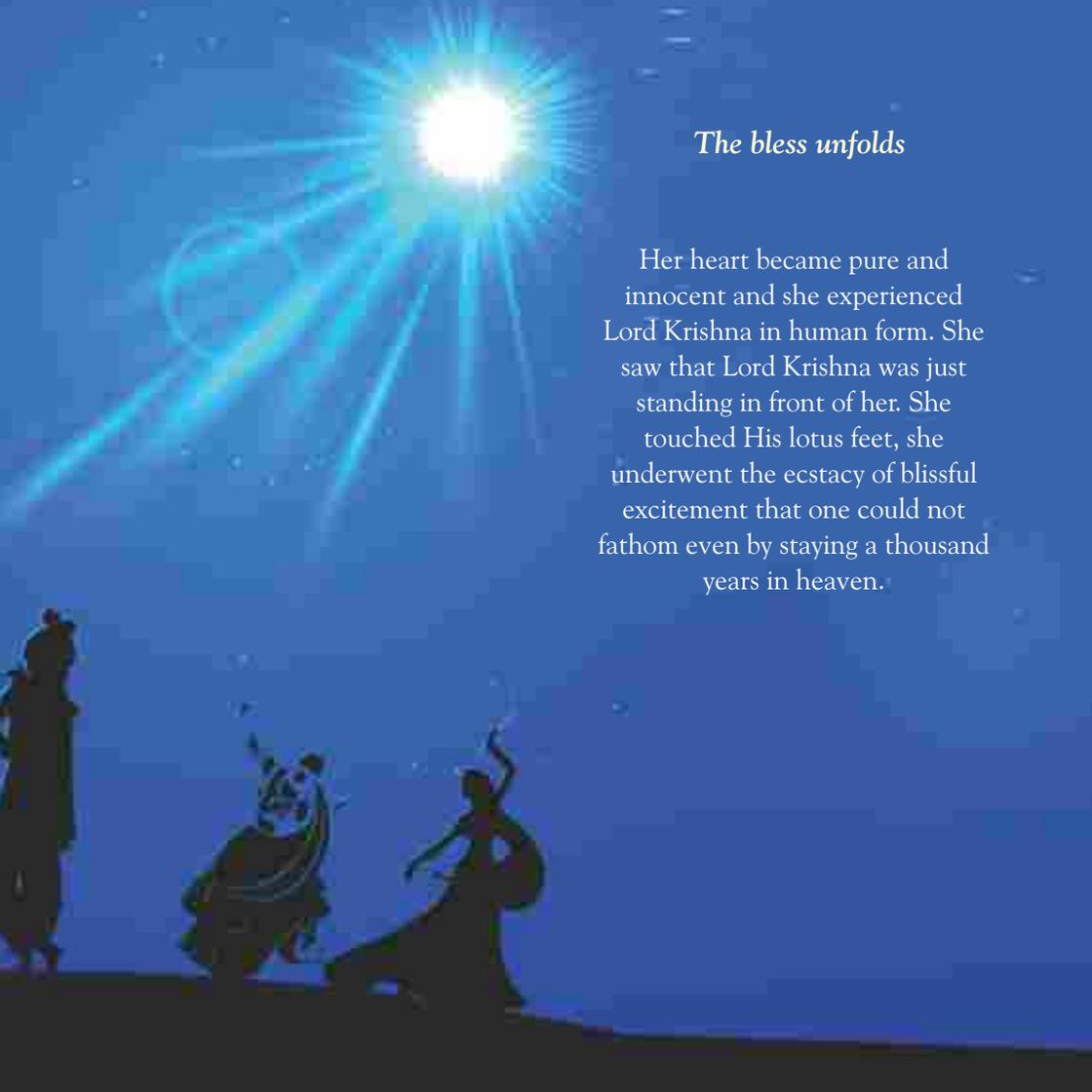
One has to pay for the past 'karmas' in order to get purified for the divine amalgamation

When a person is born as a human being, it becomes necessary for him to put up with all problems that humans undergo. The life sketches of great people, with all the sufferings they undergo, exemplify how firm one has to become in order to achieve real devotion to God Almighty and achieve His grace.

“दुःसह प्रेश विरह तीव्र ताप धृतासुभाः ।
ध्यान प्राप्ताइत्युताप्लेश निवृत्त्याक्षीणमंगला ॥”

She experienced great misery as one would have felt after spending a thousand years in hell. This experience of misery relieved her from all sins of her lifetime.



A bright sun with rays shining over silhouettes of people on a hill. The sun is in the upper left, casting a strong glow. Below it, three silhouettes of people are visible against the horizon. The person on the left is standing upright. The person in the middle is in a dynamic, dancing pose. The person on the right is also in a dynamic pose, possibly playing a musical instrument. The background is a clear blue sky with some faint clouds.

The bliss unfolds

Her heart became pure and innocent and she experienced Lord Krishna in human form. She saw that Lord Krishna was just standing in front of her. She touched His lotus feet, she underwent the ecstasy of blissful excitement that one could not fathom even by staying a thousand years in heaven.

The bliss is unfolding day by day

Mother Shyama intensified her sadhana. Her deep meditations and incessant chanting of the mantras continued. She was satisfied with either a little milk or water. She hardly slept or rested for an hour, for the rest of the time the process of meditation and chanting of mantra continued. She began to pray for Lord's physical experience before her :

"Oh Shyam! Listen to my request—

I am sick of saying it
again and again.

You rest peacefully in a soft bed,
decorated with flowers—

I spend sleepless nights
being miserable and lonely.

If I do not tell you,
whom shall I complain to!

How long shall I pine in your love ?

In making love!

You have won, I am defeated.

Now appear before me.

Let me drink the nectar from your eyes.

'Shyama' surrenders to you,
her body, mind and soul."

Complete surrender makes the way

After such intense penance and after
keeping awake for many nights
without a break, becoming
infatuated and over whelmed in
Krishna's love, the Lord opened His
door of grace.

When she was chanting the mantra,
sitting on the floor, there appeared
dimly the form of Krishna.

**She could visualise
innumerable images of
Krishna, filling the entire
ferment from heaven to earth.
Her heart was over-powered
with love and joy, seeing the
divine forms of Krishna. Now
she could see those divine
forms of Krishna even with
her naked eyes. They
disappeared and then
reappeared.**

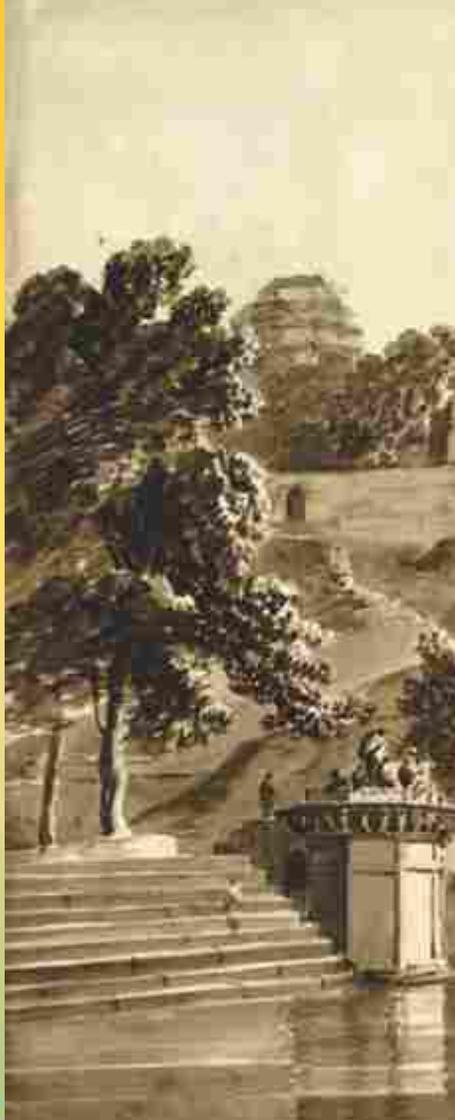
She felt divinity all around, all within



*In the divine journey,
'He' takes over all of you,
and you enjoy his protection*

She had the experience of absolute bliss and gratitude as a result of the touch of Krishna's lotus feet. The beginning of a new life of love and devotion. She became intoxicated with love, much more than a drunkard intoxicated with wine. The devotee who falls in love with Lord Krishna, experiences the seamless heavenly state of divine consciousness.

Mother Shyama walked towards Vrindaban in the middle of the night after abandoning the house. She left the streets of Mathura and came on the highway to Vrindaban. She might have walked a couple of miles when she entered a jungle full of wild animals, but she had become fearless. She remembered Krishna and while chanting his sacred names, she proceeded further.





So concludes the devotee

**It is not easy to meet
Krishna. Innumerable
hardships has one to
undergo. No one could bear
the fire of love if the path
was so easy to win over
“Hari.”**



*The fear of worldly pulls brings in a push towards
holy places in Maa's life*

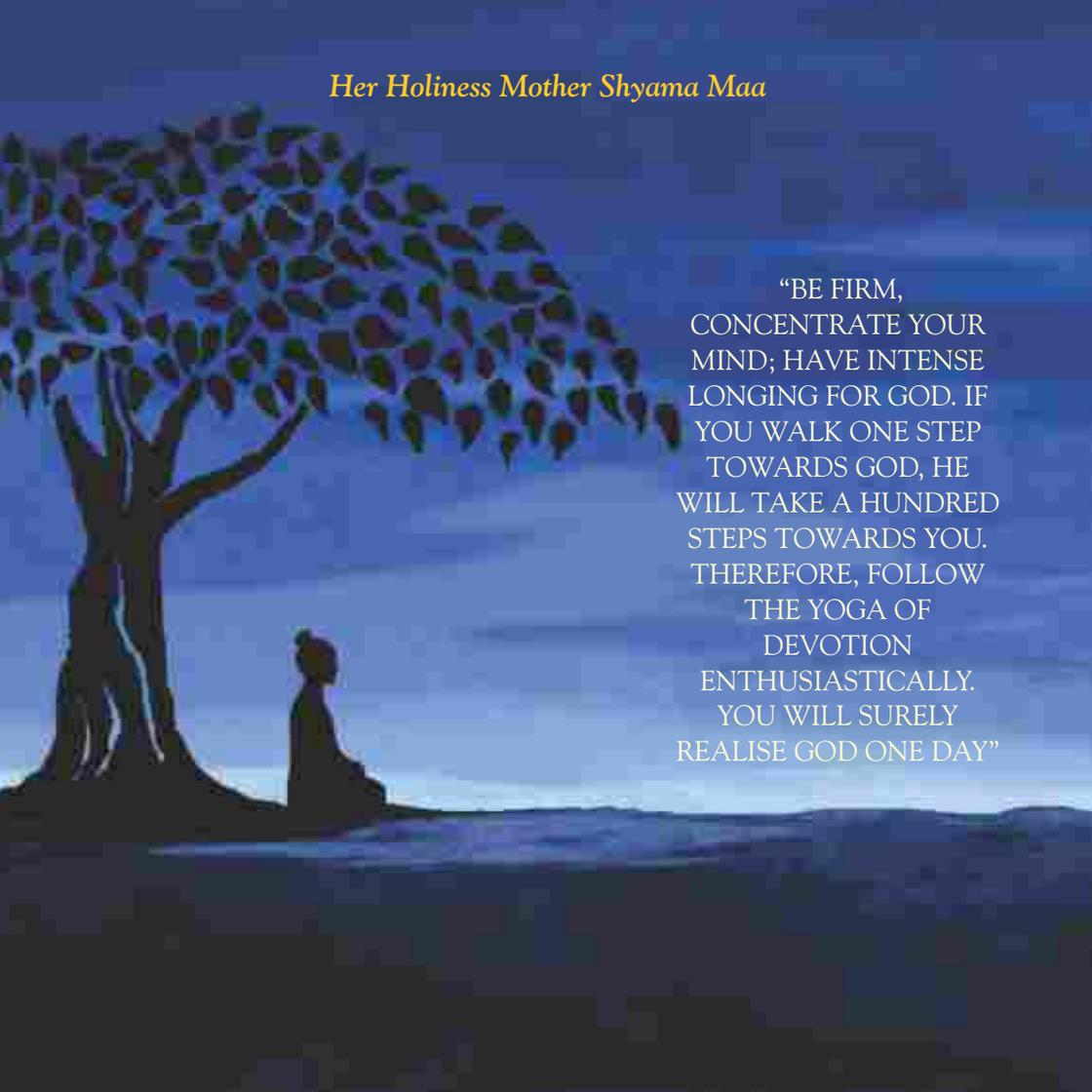
While staying in that desolate house, Mother Shyama faced a threat that her relatives from Mathura might come in search of her and drag her back to domestic life. She was meditating on Krishna in her mind. He appeared in divine vision in front of her. In her heart she was experiencing Krishna's play with *gopis* in Vrindaban.

She lived and moved in the divine state of meditation, meditating upon the worldly manifestations of Lord Krishna and chanting his holy name. She had imbibed intense feelings of renunciation, the pomp and comforts of the world appeared trifling to her. The secret of this mystic existence may not be easily comprehended by everyone. It is the strength of devotion that makes this type of existence possible.

She visited many temples and hermits in Prayag and pondered where to stay. Then she had an inner inspiration to proceed to the holy city of Ayodhya. In Ayodhya while visiting temples, she met a great saint on the banks of the river at Laxman Ghat.

She went to Chitrakoot from Ayodhya. She was delighted to see the lovely forest and a beautiful little mountain, an ideal place for a sanyasi. She took a bath in the holy waters of Mandakini river, went around the hill of Kamadgiri, she visited the places famous for penance.

Her Holiness Mother Shyama Maa

A silhouette of a person in a meditative pose sitting under a large tree against a blue sky. The person is sitting on the ground, facing right, with their back straight and hands resting on their knees. The tree is large and has many leaves, and its trunk is thick and gnarled. The background is a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and serene.

“BE FIRM,
CONCENTRATE YOUR
MIND; HAVE INTENSE
LONGING FOR GOD. IF
YOU WALK ONE STEP
TOWARDS GOD, HE
WILL TAKE A HUNDRED
STEPS TOWARDS YOU.
THEREFORE, FOLLOW
THE YOGA OF
DEVOTION
ENTHUSIASTICALLY.
YOU WILL SURELY
REALISE GOD ONE DAY”

One of her sayings aptly demonstrates her persona and the path she illuminated.

Maa fully realised God in a wonderfully short time by simply focusing her entire being on his divine names, night and day. Awesome miracles and exquisite songs of devotions have emanated from her ever since.

Shyama Maa came into this life on October 24th, 1916 in the hallowed old city of Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, northern India. This town of temples is celebrated as the birthplace of Lord Krishna. Her father an adept astrologer had prophesied that this would be a special divine child. The infant girl was named “SHYAMA” for her auspicious bluish complexion, which later turned almost black, then brown. As a girl Shyama loved to chant and meditate on Krishna and enact lilas (playful antics) of his life as a Godman disguised as a darling cowherd boy.

Later on she was recognised as “Shyama Devi”, “Meera Bai”, “Shyama Mataji”, “Shyama Maa”, and Maa etc by devotees all over the world, which further developed into a large family consisting of devotees of Maa spread across England, Canada, Africa and India.

In 1964 Shyama Maa visited the numerous Indians living in poor conditions in Africa, and she established an Ashram in Ndola, Zambia, and kirtan committees in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania.

The divine music pulling the inner chords



She visited Leicester, England in 1967, and London in 1970, establishing temples – Radha Krishna Bhakti Ashram in Leicester and Radha Krishna Temple-Shyama Maa Ashram in London, for many Indians who had emigrated to England. A number of visits to the eastern United States and Canada were made by Maa since 1970.

She also established temples and ashrams across India in places like Surat – Radha Krishna Mandir – Shyama Maa Ashram, Dwarka – Meera Mandir and Nava Dweep near Calcutta.

In the year 1965 Maa established Radha Sant Niwas, Shyama Maa Ashram in Vrindavan (Mathura) the birth place of Krishna and a maternity hospital called Shyama Maa Chikitsalaya (Hospital) at Goverdhan near Mathura in the year 1972.

She also established a primary school in the 70's called Shyama Maa Bal Shikshan Sansthan at Vrindavan for poor children wherein free education is being imparted to all including free distribution of books, school dresses and food.

Her core message remained:

“In devotion, all are equal. No one is high and no one is low. Men, women, children, the rich and the poor, the old and the young, all are equal in the path of devotion. All can pray, God is for everyone, and all are children of God”.

Fully composed after worldly upheavals, full of nectar within



He protects the devotees

One day the Mother was walking to the temple when she met a notorious robber on the way. He was tempted by the diamond in the nose ring of the Mother, and followed her. Although the Mother was very weak, by the grace of God she got strength and climbed a tree and attacked the robber with the branches of the tree. Also started chanting the holy name of the Lord aloud. Hearing the prayer of the Mother, the people of the group came running. Seeing them, the robber ran away. The Mother then went to the temple with the group.

The Mother found the people of the world enticed in worldly affairs. She wanted to lead them to the path of peace and happiness. So long as a pious person does not serve mankind, his life remains incomplete (If someone earns millions and yet does not spend a penny in philanthropy or charity, his millions are of no avail to humanity.) When the Mother had earned the wealth of devotion, she decided to share it. The wealth of devotional love increases limitlessly when it is spread amongst the people.

Physically here but consciously beyond the meta world



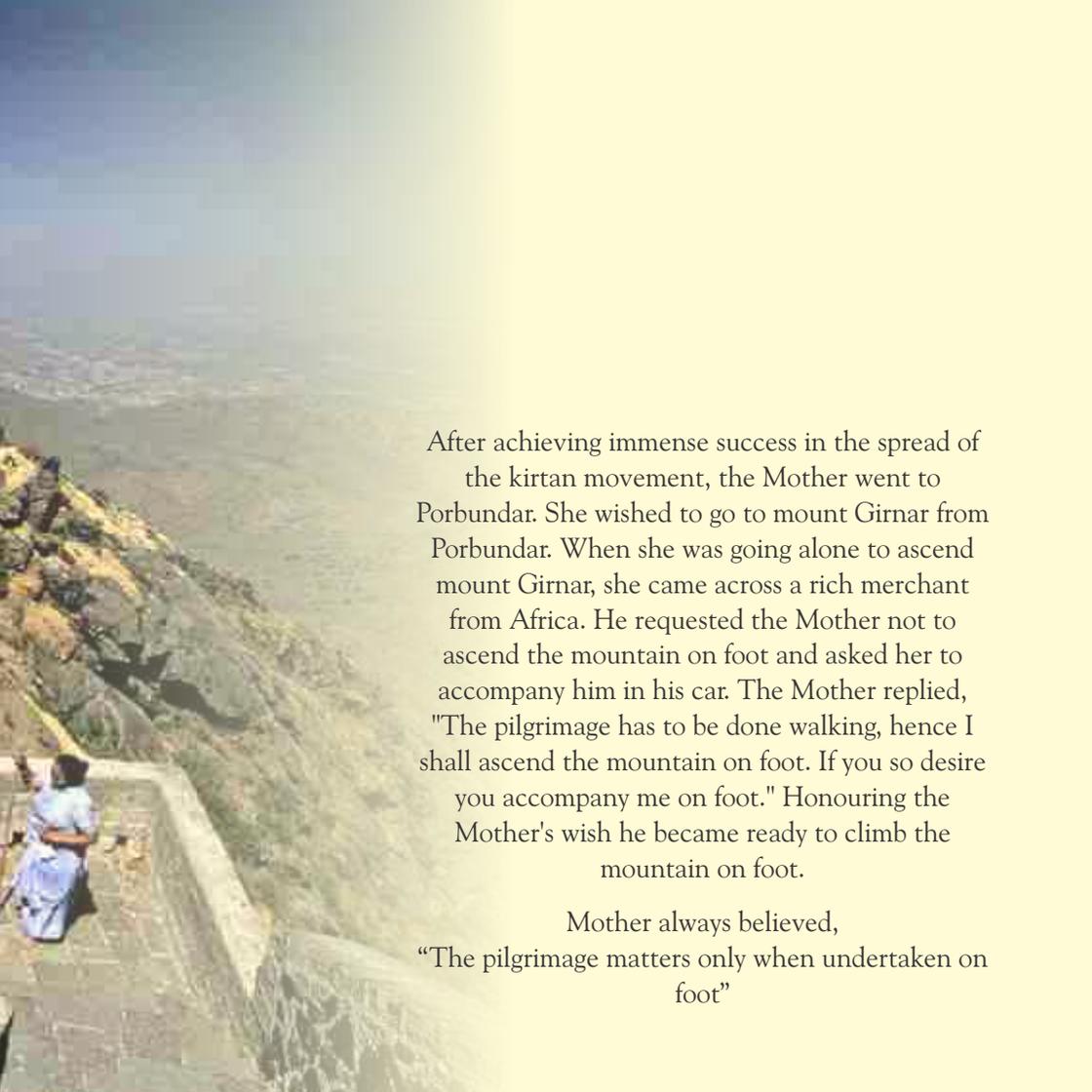
The power of holy 'chantings' draws more devotees



After returning from Dwarka, the Mother arrived at Rajkot. Being attracted by her devotional songs, people flocked in large numbers to listen to her. Even those who were non-believers, were drawn to the gathering out of sheer curiosity and began to feel a sense of peace and tranquillity of the mind during 'kirtan' and they started participating in the singing. The Mother, by her sermons and through her devotional songs, led many people to pious lives, transformed their lives and turned them to 'Krishna'!

Maa in alignment with nature !





After achieving immense success in the spread of the kirtan movement, the Mother went to Porbundar. She wished to go to mount Girnar from Porbundar. When she was going alone to ascend mount Girnar, she came across a rich merchant from Africa. He requested the Mother not to ascend the mountain on foot and asked her to accompany him in his car. The Mother replied, "The pilgrimage has to be done walking, hence I shall ascend the mountain on foot. If you so desire you accompany me on foot." Honouring the Mother's wish he became ready to climb the mountain on foot.

Mother always believed,
"The pilgrimage matters only when undertaken on
foot"

Maa travelled far and wide but her soul always stayed in 'Virindavan'

On her way to Bombay, as a sanyasini, once the Mother stopped at Anand.

In Anand, she met a shopkeeper who had originated from Mathura.

Detecting the accent of the Mother, he realised that she ought to be from Mathura and asked, 'Mother, from where do you come?' The Mother replied that she was from Mathura. He was very happy to know this and decided to serve the mother in every possible way. In the meantime, his daughter recognised the Mother as having seen her as a bride in rich clothes and precious ornaments and recollected having been to her home and family. She was surprised to see her in this role as a sanyasini, and so weak in her body. The Mother also did not wish to be associated with her opulent past, and proceeded to Cambay.

In Cambay, Mother began to spread the divine grace through holy chanting and singing in praise of God !

When she was engaged in this intensive work of spreading the path of kirtan and chanting of the holy name, she was overwhelmed by the frenzy of love for Krishna. Whenever she missed 'Vrindaban', she would leave her devotees and retreated to a solitary place in the forest. For the whole night she would meditate, resting on the branch of a tree. In her intense ecstasy of love, sometimes she would weep and sometimes she would sing aloud, as she had the realization of physically meeting Radha and Krishna in Vrindaban and in Mathura.

Love lorn Shyama Maa dancing to the eternal bliss





Maa could assume dual form

Since the Western thought has influenced the Indian civilization, a curious change has come in our country. The young Hindus remain ignorant of the great scriptures. They have lost their original realistic religious instinct and have acquired the intelligence that doubts and looks with suspicion towards the eternal principles. In ancient times, the sages had power to assume dual forms. The power of religion and penance made it so possible. In the present world, penance has disappeared, but even today, if someone cares to practise the dictates of the scriptures and does the penance accordingly, he could attain all the miraculous powers. It's very concrete proof was once given by the Mother, by appearing in two separate forms at the same time.

Only way out is 'In'



A glowing face : reflection of the inner bliss



Empowered to absorb the miseries of others

One divine miracle happened in *Kanjivaran* after they reached there from Pondicherry.

As soon as they reached Kanjivaran, the mother looked as if she were an old dame of seventy. Her white body was full of wrinkles both on the hands and feet. Even her skin had darkened. All the devotees wondered what had happened to the mother. Why had her form changed? No one could comprehend it.

After three days in Kanjivaran the party put up at a merchant's house in Bangalore. It was very cold there and it was constantly raining. Mother decided to have a bath. Everyone was surprised seeing the form of the mother that changed as she emerged in public after her bath. Her form as an old woman had been completely changed. She now appeared so young, robust and overflowing with endless energy.

Her form was so enchanting that she appeared to be Radhaji. Assuming that divine form the mother sat for meditation of Krishna. Then she was possessed by the frenzy of love. It was a sight worth seeing. Like this chanting in the blissful state of love, the mother with the devotees started her onward journey to Madura from Bangalore.

The power of premonition

Hirabhai and other devotees took the Mother to Panchgani for pilgrimage to this temple. The merchant with whom they had stayed said, "It has been raining since noon a week ago at this place and it will continue till the evening. So how will you go to the temple?" The Mother replied "We shall not allow rain to fall today." It so happened that it did not rain that day. All of them went to the temple in great joy. After the visit to the temple, all returned at the residence and rested for the night. Next day everyone thought of staying there for a day or two more, but the Mother said, "Let us return to Bombay soon, we shall soon receive some news from Calcutta." The disciples tried to stop the Mother from going but she would not stay. The whole party returned to Bombay, there they found a telegram for the Mother. There was the message in it that the Mother's ardent devotee, Laxmibai's husband had died of heart-failure.

All were surprised to learn that he died of heart-failure at quarter to nine and in Panchagni Mother had uttered at about 9 o'clock that the news would come from Calcutta. Everyone was impressed by the divine powers of the Mother.

Simplicity adorned by the divine



Mother with devotees

Protection from disease



Divine miracle

Veena, Basmukhalal's daughter in Surat was thirteen. She fell ill on the fifth day of the bright half of Kartik of the Vikram era 2020, she became seriously ill. They tried very hard to cure her, many doctors were consulted but to no avail. After E.C.G. examination it was diagnosed that her heart had expanded, it was three times its normal size. Doctors were afraid that she would not live to see the next morning. The girl was breathing very hard, she could not drink even a spoonful of water. Everyone lost hope of her recovery. At that time some disciples called the Mother and prayed to her to save the life of the child.

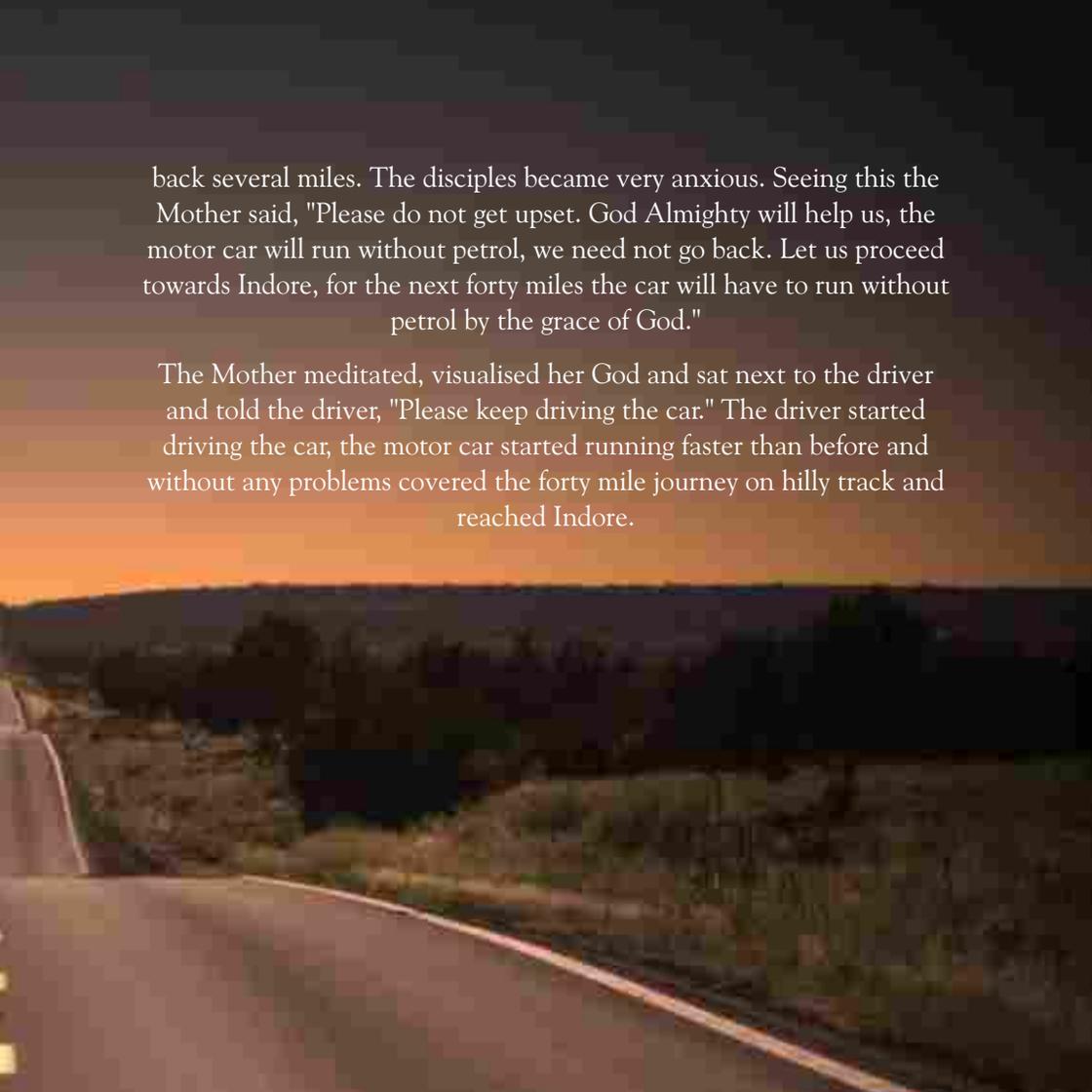
The Mother said, "Please stop all the medicines now, I take upon myself all her disease. God would save her, she will not die. So saying the Mother herself made her drink the divine water which was offered to God. After taking that water her condition began to improve without medicine. With the grace of the Mother, the girl fully recovered. Doctors even had lost hope for her and had instructed that she should not move even an inch. The girl started moving everywhere within four days. In the neighbour's house, the Mother was chanting the holy name. The girl went walking and offered her salutations to the Mother. After some time the girl recovered completely and attended to all domestic work. Doctors were surprised to see her so fit and healthy.

The Mother had said that she would transfer the girl's disease on herself. It came to pass that from that day the Mother became a little unwell. She started having pains in every part of the body. She recovered from this after many weeks.

The Fuel-less Motor Car In Motion

Once it so happened that some disciples from Surat took the Mother on a journey to Indore. The driver said on the way that there was no petrol in the car. The garage was miles away from that spot and there was a hilly track in front for forty-miles. There was not a single shop within those forty miles. After covering the forty miles of rocky ascent, petrol could be available in Indore or they would have to retract their steps for several miles before they could get petrol. However, without petrol it was not possible to go





back several miles. The disciples became very anxious. Seeing this the Mother said, "Please do not get upset. God Almighty will help us, the motor car will run without petrol, we need not go back. Let us proceed towards Indore, for the next forty miles the car will have to run without petrol by the grace of God."

The Mother meditated, visualised her God and sat next to the driver and told the driver, "Please keep driving the car." The driver started driving the car, the motor car started running faster than before and without any problems covered the forty mile journey on hilly track and reached Indore.

Narrow Escape In An Aeroplane

The mother had put up at a bungalow of one of the disciples. The eleven day festival was in progress. On the fourth day of the brighter half of Fagun, the mother sat in meditation locking herself in a room. She emerged out of the room on the first day of the darker half of Fagun. So many disciples had gathered a day earlier, for the 'darshan' of the mother as she come out. Many disciples had come from a long distance. Many disciples had come on the eleventh day early in the morning and a large crowd had gathered but the mother did not come out. The whole congregation sat there in anticipation that she might come out during the night. But when she didn't come out even during the night, many of her disciples including Hirabhai became very anxious.

People sat there for the whole day and the whole night. The mother opened the door on the next day in the morning at 8 'o'clock. All those assembled had mother's darshan with full faith. The mother's host in Bengal had gone to Ranchi by air, and had arrived only half an hour before the mother opened the door. He also had mother's 'darshan' with deep faith in her divinity. The mother asked him, "What sort of problems did you have to undergo at 5 pm, last evening?" Upon hearing this he was awe-struck. He said, "Yesterday afternoon at 5 pm our aeroplane had a mishap and had to land in a small village. We prayed to

In Grace along with devotees

you and were miraculously saved. None of us was hurt.

All the people who had gathered to have a darshan of the mother were surprised and anxious because she had opened the door of her room a day later. Now, they could understand the reason for the delay on the part of the mother. During her meditation, she came to know that one of her disciples who was airborne at the time, was in grave danger. His plane had developed some trouble and was about to break down. For this reason, she delayed and meditated and prayed for the safety of his disciple for an extra day.



Realization By The Grace of the Guru

जो सेवै गुरु पद कमल, श्रद्धा सों निष्काम ।
गुरु करुणा सों मिलत हैं, "अग्न" सियावर राम ॥

In Calcutta at the time when the chanting movement was spreading in the whole city and every one was attracted towards the mother, many people had become the mother's disciples. It was impossible to count them. Amongst them there was a lady called Rukminibai. She demonstrated a special type of devotion for the guru. When she first met the mother she had the feeling that she had intimate relations with her in her previous births. Due to mother's association, love and devotion for God kindled in her heart and she became free from worldly desires. Rukminibai contemplated at night that she would take the mother as her guru. Next day the mother asked her, as soon as she saw her, "What were you thinking about at night?" Rukminibai innocently replied, "I wasn't thinking of anything", but the mother exclaimed, "Oh No ! how can a woman become a guru ?"

With her spiritual mentor 'Devraha Baba'



sustainability seamless synergies

Shyama Maa's Discourses



It is for sure that God will not forget us though we forget God.



In devotion, all are equal. No one is inferior or superior. Men, women, children, the rich and the poor, the old and the young, all are equal in the path of devotion.



The non-dualism of the path of devotion is very strange. It is not a theory but it can be experienced in practice that God and His devotees are absolutely one.



The essence of the teaching is the chanting of the holy name of God. Chanting of Lord's name opens the supreme path of Self-realization.



All essential yearnings are fulfilled by chanting the holy name, so also unwanted desires are conquered.



At the time of death it is impossible to think of God, but one who forms the habit of taking God's name incessantly everyday doesn't miss the opportunity even during the last breath



Four things are essential for Sadhana [spiritual practice]. The remembrance of holy name, singing the divine praise, and adore the places of pilgrimage. Follow them intensely and everything will be realised.



It is essential to seek a saint and be in his company always. The aspirants should avoid the company of wicked persons. That company spoils the mind. It creates evil desires and devilish temperament.





Mother with her “kirtan’ group



Those who are attached to the fickle bond of worldly pleasures shall have to suffer the miseries of birth and death. So believing, be detached, worship the divine at all times and chant his holy name.



Leave everything to the divine. He protects us once we absolutely surrender.



Intense longing is the basis of God's is realisation.... When the aspirant is steady in his Sadhana [practice], at that stage God tests his devotion. When the devotee passes successfully through the test, God appears in a human form and blesses the devotee.



Be merciful to all the living creatures in the world.



The devotee should be humble, gentle and generous. Generosity is the principal attribute on the path to the divine.



Be firm, synergise your mind, have intense longing for God. If you walk one step towards God, He will take a hundred steps towards you. Therefore, follow the yoga of devotion enthusiastically. You will surely realise God one day.

Her teachings elucidate the simple tried and true path of bhakti (devotion) of God.

HARE RAM HARE RAM RAM RAM HARE HARE
HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISHNA KRISHNA KRISHNA HARE HARE

Some devotional bhajans composed by Maa Shyama

I

Mohan! [Krishna] Tell me, what have you done to me?

I lost my sanity in your love.

You are residing in my heart.

Why is it that you have to be searched everywhere?

Why do you give me this pain?

My heart is fluttering without you.

I have absorbed you within me.

Yet, I am looking for you.

What a game you are playing with me.

You blessed me with emotion of love.

"Shyama" [Mataji speaks of herself] is mad in your love.

Oh Syam [Krishna], Listen to my request.

You rest peacefully in a bed of roses—

I spend the sleepless nights being miserable and lonely.

If I do not tell you, whom else shall I complain to?

I have lost myself in love to you.

Now appear before me,

Let me gulp the nectar from your fascinating eyes.

"Shyama" [Mataji] absolutely surrenders to you; her body, mind and soul.

II

"Shyama" [Krishna] is one with "Shyama" [Mataji]. Shyama is her intimate lover. One who is in deep devotion, gets his love divine!

I am living under your shelter,
You have accepted me,
I have surrendered to thee.

I am a tiny cuckoo,
You are the branch;

I am a garden of flowers,
You are the gardener;

I am a budding flower,
You are the Spring;

I am surrendering to you,
With my body, mind, and soul.

My Lord! You have my love so intense.
Transmitting a ray of life and love to my soul!

You have put me on the right path.
I am full of vices and short comings,

You are my protector,
You are my leader,
You are my master.

"Shyama" is your companion.
You are her helper

I drink [the] nectar [which] You are offering, my Lord!

III

How is lover [viyogi] inferior to yogi? Yogi? his body with ash,

Lover's heart has become ash, being burnt in pangs of love.

Lover clothes the body and mind with garments of love. Yogi tries hard to be
in samadhi,

Lover's every move is in deep samadhi. Yogi lives in a hut;

Lover's heart is a holy hut—a temple for the Divine. Yogi undergoes physical
pains;

Lover endures mental pains [of longing]. Yogi chants mantra.

Lover's entire consciousness is merged in the love. Yogi wishes to see the
eternal light;

Lover hankers after eternal union. Syama [Mataji] has no relative.

Shyama [the dark-blue-hued Krishna] is her only resort. If you shows any
mercy O Syama! do not delay in coming to me.

Please Respond!



IV

"Shyama" [Krishna] is one with "Shyama"
[Mataji]. Shyama is her intimate lover.
One who is in deep devotion, gets his love
divine!

I am living under your shelter
You have accepted me,
I have surrendered to thee.

I am a tiny cuckoo,
You are the branch;
I am a flower garden,
You are the gardener;
I am a budding flower,
You are the Spring;

I am surrendering to you,
My body, mind, and soul.
My Lord! You have made ablaze my love,
transmitting a ray of life and love to my
soul!

You have put me on the right path!
I am full of vices and defects,
You are my protector,
You are my leader,
You are my master.

"Syama" is your companion.
You are her helper
I drink [the] nectar [which] You are
offering, my Lord!


V

I have come for worship.
Your devotee has come for worship.
I have opened the doors of the heart.
I have brought all necessary articles of
faith.

"Chandan" [incense] from the moon,
Flowers from the night,
Shine from the stars,
Smile from the flowers,
Coolness from the breeze.

I have brought the light in the lamp of
the heart.
With all these I offer the garland of my
hands.

Oh, Master of my soul!
Our Love is old; I have loved you for
many births. You are the ocean, I am
the wave,
and ever reside in your heart.

I shall become [a] second Meera [a
great medieval saint] I have taken this
birth to love you, as Meera did "Syama"
offering, everything to the Lord, the
master of the Universe!

VI

Hear my story. It is my love-story.
Look! Whom I have loved!
In my dream came that son of King
Nanda [the child Krishna]
with his cowherd friends.
His eyes of Lotus, His honey talk, His
light footsteps,
I kissed his feet, I embraced him to my
bosom,
I gave him my love, He rewarded me
with his caresses.
I sang a song, He hugged me.
I became shameless in his love.
My "SHYAMA" did come.
Syama [Mataji] reached her goal,
She realised him,
Her bonds of life and death have now
vanished.



VII

Where do you hide, O Kanhaiya !
Appear before me, O Kanhaiya!
You are famous throughout the world,
You are the Lord of the poor,
I feel uneasy without you.
Appear before me, O Kanhaiya !
Your enchanting form has even been
engraved in my mind.
You are the light of "Shyama's" eyes!
Appear before me! O Kanhaiya!

VIII

Forgetting you,
the people of the world have become
miserable.
They have passed through many
hardships, obstacles, difficulties.
They have forgotten your teaching.
Forgetting you,
they have lapsed into senuous pleasures,
they have lost their soul.
Forgetting you,
they have been the victim of lust and
anger.
They are suffering under the burden
of their sins.
"Shyama" has surrendered to you,
My Lord ! She is living by your grace !

IX

How can I trust him,
who does not enter into the Love-lane ?
How does he know about love,
who hasn't fallen in love ?
He knows Veda, but there is no
purity of heart.
He might be learned, but he
divides the people,
How does he know the love of God ?
The world is a mad play.
All are blind to see the reality.
How can they know about the elephant,
if they haven't seen one ?
How can they know of heart-aches,
if they haven't experienced them ?
"Shyama" is in love of Krishna,
How can the world know it ?

X

Know this for certain :
What is mine and what is thine,
Nothing belongs to you,
Nothing can go with you.
Know this for certain,
Life will ooze away.
As water drips away,
a stars disappear in the twinkling.
Know this for certain;
all your possessions will stay here.
Even the kings and their courtiers

had to go.

Know this for certain:
all worldly pleasures are transitory.

XI

छिपे हो कहाँ जाके प्यारे कन्हैया।
दिखा जाओ दर्शन हमारे कन्हैया॥
बहुत नाम विख्यात है इस जहाँ में।
कि दीनों के हो तुम सहारे कन्हैया॥
विरह में तुम्हारे न हो चैन दिल को।
दुबारा दो दर्शन दुलारे कन्हैया॥
तुम्हारा वही रूप मन में बसा है।

ओ “ष्यामा” के नैनों के तारे कन्हैया॥
बड़े दुःख पायो प्रभू तुमको बिसर के।
रंग है अनोखे जो देखे जगत के॥

भूले तेरे उपदेश को हम सब जग वासी।
चेला अनमोल खोया, बन के बिलासी॥

कर्मों की बीन बजे पापों के मार से। रंग है अनोखे ...

भटके राही बन के दिवाने।

कर्म गती को नहीं पहचाने॥

प्यासे हैं हम तेरी अमृतधार के। रंग है अनोखे ...

राग द्वेष और क्रोध के मारे।

अपनी दुनियाँ आप बिगाड़े॥

जीती है “ष्यामा” प्रभु तेरे अधार। रंग है अनोखे

XII

जो प्रेम गली में आवे नहीं, प्रियतम का ठिकाना क्या
जाने।

जिसने कभी प्रीति लगायी नहीं, वह प्रीति लगाना
क्या जाने॥

जे वेद पढ़े और भेद करे, पर मन में न आई
निर्मलता।

वह चाहे जितना ज्ञान करे, भगवान को पाना क्या
जाने॥

यह दुनियाँ गोरखधंधा है, सब जग माया में अंधा है।
जिस अंधे ने हाथी को देखा नहीं, वह रूप बताना
क्या जाने॥

जिस दिल में न पैदा दर्द हुआ, वह पीर पराई क्या
समझे।

“श्यामा” है दिवानी मोहन की, संसार—दिवाना क्या
जाने॥

XIII

क्या है अपना क्या पराया, यह जरा पहचान लो।

साथ में साथी न कोई जायेगा, सच मान लो॥

जैसे पानी अंजली का, घटता रहता बूँद बूँद।

वैसे ही घटती है आयु, मन में यह तुम धार लो॥

देखते ही देखते छिपते हैं तारे जिस तरह।

उस तरह जीवन छिपेगा, यह सही कर जान लो॥

तन के सुख के साज सब वैभव यहीं रह जायेंगे।

मिट गये राजे महाराजे इसका भी अनुमान लो॥

जैसा होगा, खोज करपाना है अब भगवान् को।

“श्यामा” मोहन से मिलेंगे, आज यह दृढ़ ठान लो॥



Addendum

Wherever she went, this beautiful lady, through her devotional singing & playing Harmonium & Mridung and her mere presence inspired a deep faith in the all loving, all graceful God. During Maa's lifetime, her day begun at 4 am and carried on till midnight, she loved to attend to various jobs around the ashram even the most "lowly", she herself loved to perform the worship (pujas) in the temples and never tired of being an instrument of work for her beloved Lord Krishna, always chanting His names in the midst of activities. When she was not bodily involved in work, she spent her time meditating, doing penance, and chanting or singing the Name of Krishna. Maa's grand daughter Ms Radha Rani from the family of Smt Sashi Prabha (Maa's daughter) dedicated many years of her life in service with Maa and travelled extensively with Maa to her many establishments across the world. Later on Radha Rani was happily married to a bright boy of a renowned family of Kasmiri Pandits settled in Delhi.

Shyama Maa has many illustrious disciples who have performed great austerities and devotional practices under Maa's guidance. Maa left for her heavenly abode in the year 1999 and her two surviving daughters Smt Shashi Prabha Sharma called "Shashi" and Smt Sarla Devi called "Sarla" had undertaken to carry on with the great work started by Maa. Both Shashi and Sarla were also born in the holy city of Mathura in the year 1929 and 1939. Shashi spent most of her time at Vrindavan and Mathura at the Radha Sant Niwas in praying and doing meditation and later on passed away in the year 2008/09 at Vrindavan. Sarla despite their family commitments spent quite a considerable amount of time with Shyama Maa and also travelled extensively with Maa on her spiritual journeys. Sarla Devi passed away in the year 2014 leaving Maa's legacy for the devotees and trustees to look after. Maa's grand children also played a major role in managing and organising Maa's ashrams across the World, they are still actively

involved along with the devotees and trustees of Maa's trust and charities.

Maa's legacy did not stop after her demise. Her very staunch devotee Jayesh bhai, Devyani Ben, Sharda Ben along with Sarla went on and established the very first Srinathji's Haveili in London in 2009 and also a care home for old people particularly Hindus in Maa's name called Bhakti Shyama Care Home.

These and other noble souls, who have themselves undertaken severe austerities and devotional practices, are now helping the mission of Shyama Maa in spreading love for the whole world.

A visionary, during her lifetime itself, she made sure that the work done by her towards spreading the word of God and upliftment of the poor is carried on. She selected the devotees capable of carrying forward her objectives and various institutions were established by her successfully forever. As on date the establishments of Maa are being successfully run by her devotees and trustees.

Memoirs of the Devotees

A journey towards unbounded spaces

From the first day I set my foot in the Balham Temple some 35 years ago, I felt it had the spiritual warmth and simplicity. And as I approached and bowed at the Radha Krishna shrine I felt the peace. I then walked further to the Shivaji shrine, it was raining. I saw the leak in the corrugated sheet roof and felt very uncomfortable

Having seen this roof leaking I was inquiring who was in charge as we were developing the property in the same place, my thought was to send our workman and get the leak fixed .

I then saw for the first time Mataji. I could instantly see the devotion and Mataji's thought was that she wanted to change the roof and create a brick Dome.

Though that is common in India, it was not a easy task in England. She persuaded me and I got the required permissions and started the work. I had no idea where the money was to come

from. I had the faith and with what ever she could manage the work was completed .

My mother always taught us that we had to focus on what ever we do but if we did anything wrong God will not be happy and would punish us till we change and be good. Always when you see a temple, get the blessings as that will protect you from evil. As you grow up, it becomes a habit .

Mataji always knew that she could count on me, I learnt a lot about Mataji, she lived on Fruits, nuts and milk, she slept on a wooden bed simply made of four timber post with a plank less than three feet and a few rugs as mattress. Every thing in her life she did was for the Devotees of god, to have a place to worship and build their spiritual being. What ever she received as donations, she spent it in up keeping of the temples that she made functional. She did not count the money nor did she worry about the

lack of money. In her heart she knew she will have enough.

In our life we work hard for our family and believe if we work hard and have blessings from God we will fulfil our families needs.

Matajis life was full of concerns how she could continue to keep all her temples and hostels functional. She had lots of support from her devotees and had created a vast estate which she had always talked of. For each area lot of funds were required, she had the vision and focus and trusted that her family and devotees would accomplish her wishes.

The Leicester Temple was founded by Mataji. She however lost her possession as a priest who managed the temple took it over from her. I worked with Mataji and with the Lawyer from London, and devotees, and finally through the court we had the possession of the temple. I was so proud to walk with Mataji when we took possession. As soon as that took place, instantly then Mataji had a plan and we needed to start and complete the

work she planned. What was most amazing was that, I like her faith, there was no workman in Leicester or even upto 200 miles from our area of work. On the day I had to start work I was in Leicester with Mataji who trusted me and asked me to start the work. I was so surprised when Chandubhai Tank from Leicester who studied with me and both of us graduated to be awarded our degree in Civil Engineering, had a team of workman in Leicester and he came to pray at the temple on that day at the time I was with Mataji. When he saw me he hugged me with happiness and as I found out he also had a building company, my worries were over. We at that time had no spare funds but funds appeared and work was completed. My life is full of such surprises and I knew Mataji's blessing will always put me at the right place at the right time and with the strength of that thought always allowed me to take the bigger risks ,things will always be difficult but in the end I will accomplish what I started.

While Mataji was in serious condition in

hospital in India, I had to take my return flight from Gujrat through Delhi only because I could not get connecting flight from Bombay to London. I ended up in Delhi and due to Fog and flight delay, I spent a night in Delhi, I rang Raj and he said Mataji was in ICU and nobody was allowed to see her. But as things turned out she did come out of ICU and in that short period I saw her. She asked rest of the family to leave and spoke to me, what she said to me has changed my life. She gave me the blessings and she told me she is not going to survive but I should not worry and focus on keeping things going as her spirit is with me.

To date what I have achieved, buying the property next to temple just to keep the rear means of escape open. Later the merging of ground floor to have the Shreenathji temple, the development of the Care Home behind the Temple boundary for Hindus. That has given me great pleasure to fulfill my mother and Mataji's dreams. My learning from Mataji is that to do good for others gives a bigger

happiness. I could not have done any of my very forward thinking developments without the strength Mataji gave me and the faith that my mother built in me .

From the first time I saw Mataji I knew I had some connection with her may be because of my mother who was known in our community for her strong Faith in God and as time progressed, Mataji left it to me to carry out her wishes. Even though she had trusted devotees she saw me as her son and then after Mataji her daughter Sarladevi always gave me the same respect and now after Sarladevi, the rest of family has always looked upon at us as their family.

I am so happy now, that my both son's have the same feeling for Mataji's temples as me and my wife Devyani whose whole energy is devoted to temple and sister Nalini as trustees of U.K. temples keeps improving and carry on the work Mataji started in London and Leicester

Jayesh M Patel

London based staunch devotee of Shyama Maa

Mother with devotees



स्मृति पत्र

प्रातःस्मरणीय परमपूजनीय वैकुण्ठवासी श्रद्धेय श्यामा माँ जी की कुछ दिव्य स्मृतियाँ मेरे बाल-काल की अपनी माँ स्वर्गीय रानी इंदिरा कुमारी जी की भाँति मेरे मानस पटल पर आज भी विद्यमान हैं। मैं उनको अपनी स्मृतियों के माध्यम से आज अपनी इस लेखनी मे प्रस्तुत कर रहा हूँ। मुझे ध्यान है, लगभग ३० वर्ष पूर्व मैं अपनी माँ के साथ अनेको बार माँ के आश्रम में दिव्य दर्शन को जाया करता था। उनकी ब्रज के प्रति, राधा कृष्ण के प्रति, आध्यात्म के प्रति व धार्मिक ग्रंथों के प्रति अगाध श्रद्धा थी व उनमे ज्ञान का भंडार था। मैं तो उस वक़्त ज़्यादा आध्यात्म के बारे में निपुण नहीं था लेकिन मुझे स्मरण है मेरी माँ श्यामा माँ के श्री मुख से निकले आध्यात्मिक ज्ञान को ग्रहण कर रही थी और वो ही नहीं, वहाँ जितने भी श्रद्धालु भक्तजन उपस्थित थे, वे सभी उस ज्ञान के समुद्र में गोते लगा रहे थे। मुझे ध्यान है कि महान संत देवराहा बाबा का एकमात्र मथुरा-वृंदावन में स्थल था जहाँ बाबा स्वयं जाकर माँ द्वारा निर्मित मचान रूपी कुटिया में विराजमान होते थे। यूँ तो अनेक रमणीक व धार्मिक स्थल वृंदावन में थे लेकिन बाबा को माँ का स्थान ही सबसे प्रिय था। यहाँ मैं एक अपनी स्मृति साझा करना चाहता हूँ। बाबा ने अन्न का त्याग कर रखा था जबकि वृंदावन में अनेक ऐसे स्थल थे जहाँ शुद्ध एवं पवित्र प्रसाद रूपी भोजन उपलब्ध था। लेकिन वे गायों का शुद्ध दूध, दही, मक्खन व अन्य खाद्य पदार्थ सिर्फ माँ के ही आश्रम में ग्रहण करते थे। माँ के आश्रम में सांस्कृतिक एवं धार्मिक सत्संग मधुर वाणी में किया जाता था, जिसका उल्लेख मैं आज शब्दों में बयान नहीं कर सकता।

माँ का वात्सल्य स्वरूप व्यक्तित्व भक्तों को आकर्षित करता था। वो बृजवासियों में, हर पुरुष में कृष्णा के, व महिलाओं में राधा जी का, आलौकिक दर्शन करती थी।

आज मेरी माँ भी देवलोकवासी हैं और श्यामा माँ भी वैकुण्ठवासी हैं। लेकिन उनकी तमाम मधुर स्मृतियाँ आज भी बृजवासियों को ज्ञान ज्योति से आनंदित एवं सुगंधित कर रही हैं। मुझे प्रसन्नता है कि उनके परिजन आज भी उनकी दिव्यज्ञान ज्योति की मशाल देश-विदेश में प्रज्वलित कर रहे हैं। मैं सम्पूर्ण परिवार को अपनी व अपने परिवार की ओर से उज्वल भविष्य की शुभकामनायें प्रस्तुत करता हूँ।

दृग्ज्योतिर्गुणः

माँ के भक्त एवं मथूरा के विख्यात सार्वजनिक प्रतिनिधि

In Aligement with the epicentre
My Experience with Mataji

It was through my mum that I was made aware of a mystical and pious being known affectionately as Mataji, and who we would visit at the Balham temple.

Though my time spent in her presence was short, she had left a gentle impact on me. Inexplicably after her passing and having her image in our prayer rooms, I find deep comfort and solace just from looking at her picture and don't feel a loss but rather her presence is still close by me. And to this day when visiting the temple, I feel the same peaceful energy as when she was alive.

Ms Rushmee Ghoorah
She is an Interior Designer and Decorator in London and Mauritius
and a devotee of Shyama maa

Mataji is my spiritual mother

On first taking darshan in her room above the Temple, with Santa, through an interpreter, Mataji pointed to depictions of LORD KRISHNA'S life on the wall hanging. She said that those paintings could just as easily have been of Mohammed.

I was very surprised. Astonished even. In her own 'Hindu Radha Krishna Temple ' this Indian Saint was telling me that she did not distinguish people on the basis of colour, culture or creed.

This was different and interesting.

Always welcoming, never critical, Mataji made me feel that LORD KRISHNA'S home in Balham was 'home within home'. Her love and support were instrumental in opening the doors of India and that which is India within each one of us.

I am running out have run out of words.

Shashikant
Originally Known as Mr Michel Bouvier, now Shashikant name given by Shyama maa

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परम पूज्य श्यामा माँ के प्रथम दर्शन का सौभाग्य मुझे राधा अष्टमी के पावन दिवस पर अगस्त 1987 में उनके लंदन आश्रम में प्राप्त हुआ। माँ से मेरा मिलना लगता है उनके ही गुरु परम पूज्य देवराहा बाबा द्वारा सुनिश्चित किया गया था। बात इस प्रकार है कि उस वर्ष लंदन जाने से पूर्व मेरी माता जी मुझे वृन्दावन बिहारी जी के दर्शन के लिए ले गईं। वहीं वृन्दावन में हमें पता चला कि उस समय देवराहा बाबा भी यमुना जी के परली तरफ मचान बनाकर वृन्दावन वास कर रहे थे। यह जानकर हम सब उनके दर्शन के लिए चल पड़े। देवराहा बाबा यमुना जी में स्नान कर हमारे सामने मचान पर जाकर विराजमान हो गए। मेरी माता जी ने उनसे निवेदन किया कि मेरा बेटा पहली बार विदेश जा रहा है इसे आर्शीवाद दीजिए। देवराहा बाबा ने तुरंत दोनों हाथ आर्शीवाद की मुद्रा में बढ़ाते हुए कहा कि मेरा आर्शीवाद इसके साथ है। बस फिर क्या था। उनका आर्शीवाद मेरे साथ पूरी सजगता से चल पड़ा था। इसका अनुभव मुझे लंदन पहुंचते ही हुआ जब लंदन में मेरी मित्र जूलियट जिसके घर मुझे रहना था, मुझे उसके घर के पास की स्थानीय मार्केट दिखाने ले गईं। मार्केट के सामने ही श्यामा माँ का राधा कृष्ण मंदिर व आश्रम देख उसने मुझसे पूछा कि क्या इस मंदिर में मेरी रूचि है। मैंने तुरंत हामी भर दी और वो मुझे मंदिर के बाहर छोड़कर चली गईं। संध्या का समय था जैसे ही मैं मंदिर के मेन गेट पर पहुंचा, वहाँ एक साध्वी ने मेरा स्वागत करते हुए मंदिर में प्रवेश कराया और श्यामा माँ के विषय में जानकारी दी। माँ से मिलने को मेरी उत्सुकता बढ़ गई व मंदिर में दर्शन के पश्चात मैं माँ के सांयकालीन आरती में आगमन की प्रतीक्षा के लिए रुक गया। कुछ समय पश्चात माँ प्रथमतः ल से मंदिर में पधारी व आरती प्रारम्भ हुई। आरती के पश्चात सब जयकारों के बीच देवराहा बाबा की जय हो भी बोला गया। इसके पश्चात माँ से मेरा परिचय हुआ। प्रथम परिचय में ही माँ का और मेरा ऐसा रिश्ता बन गया जैसे हम एक दूसरे से चिरपरिचित हैं। माँ का स्नेह पाकर मैं सब चिन्तामुक्त हो गया और भूल गया कि भारत से दूर विदेश में हूँ। मैंने माँ से पूछा कि यहाँ देवराहा बाबा की जयकार से मैं आश्चर्यचकित हूँ क्योंकि दो दिन पहले ही मैं वृन्दावन में उनका आर्शीवाद लेकर आया हूँ। यह सुनकर माँ का हृदय प्रसन्न हो गया और मंदिर में देवराहा बाबा के चित्र की ओर इशारा करते हुए कहा कि वो मेरे गुरु हैं और अगर तूने उनसे कहा होता कि तू लंदन जा रहा है तो मेरे लिए गॉट भरकर प्रसाद भेजते। मैंने गदगद भाव से देवराहा बाबा व माँ को नतमस्तक हो प्रणाम किया और साक्षात् उनकी कृपा का अनुभव किया। धन्य हैं बाबा, धन्य हैं माँ और दोनों का अनुग्रह पाकर मैं भी धन्य हो गया। बस फिर क्या था! माँ के आदेश से मैं नित्यप्रति सांयकाल की आरती में भाग लेकर माँ का सानिध्य प्राप्त करता व रात्रि भोजन प्रसाद ग्रहण कर हीं वहाँ से जाता। ऐसा सुदंर संयोग सात सप्ताह तक निरंतर चलता रहा। उसके पश्चात भारत लौटने पर माँ का प्यार व सानिध्य उनके शरीर छोड़कर ब्रह्मलीन होने तक मुझे और मेरे परिवार व बन्धु जनों को सतत प्राप्त होता रहा। उनकी कृपा निरंतर बनी रहे यही उनके चरणों में प्रार्थना है।

!! जय श्री कृष्णा !!

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Facets of Divinity



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