

that prove the rule? Sure there are exceptions to this - but are they not really the exceptions or no return and on people who quite frankly are not worth the effort. It is us that we are frittering away our time and effort in areas of little value in a particular area or with a particular person, when common sense tells us that we have tended to persist almost indefinitely in particular places and people. In the past we have devoted to programs and in particular to the amount of time and effort we devote to programs and in particular We have to be more realistic in our attitudes to things like ashrams and be more realistic in how we view our own commitment to things Sahaja. If this is so, then, it has interesting consequences. It means we have to waste a factor a kind of natural selection - only we do the selecting - we choose to be or not to be! And those who can't make it, will give way to new ones who will.

Here is a theory, but time and experience is lending weight to it. It is this... Just as there seems to be a ratio of about 10 Sahaja Yogis per million of the earth's population, so it may be also true within Sahaja Yoga itself. So, just as not every person in this world is going to accept the concept of Sahaja Yoga, so too, not every Sahaja Yogi will be able to imbibe Shri Mataji's teachings and apply it to their lives and those around them. There is of necessity a wastage factor a kind of natural selection - only we do the selecting - we choose to be or not to be! And those who can't make it, will give way to new ones who will.

There are many cases of people coming to Sahaja Yoga (some of them many years ago) and not changing or really showing any signs of commitment. Yet they claim to be Sahaja Yogis... There are others who quite blatantly (even if unconsciously) use Sahaja Yoga as a refuge - a form of cheap living, a kind of club that insulates them from the trauma of the outside world. And of course there are many others who by their attitudes, example and untiring energy are obviously the epitome of what Shri Mataji had hoped for in her great experiment started in 1970. So why the difference?

If there is a magical number which we had to reach then all the signs are there that we have probably reached it! Now, our job is to consolidate what we've got and to "mop up the stragglers". This is not to say that the stragglers may constitute many tens of thousands of new Sahaja Yogis: but it does suggest that the urgency to reach our numerical goal may have slackened. If this is so it has far reaching implications for our approach to the spread of Sahaja Yoga and our attitudes to each other and the world at large.

1993 may well herald that magical number; there is a feeling around that Shri Mataji is drawing back from her "hands on" approach and is from now on, intending to stand aside from the main stream activities of the world wide Sahaja collective, and concentrate on "matters of state"... It is as if she is saying to us "I'm up here steering the ship -- if there is something wrong with the plumbing then its up to the crew to fix it!"

For quite some time there has been a suggestion going around that the number of souls needed for Sahaja Yoga to succeed was, in terms of the worlds population, surprisingly small.

IS MY NUMBER UP

Sahaja Newsletter

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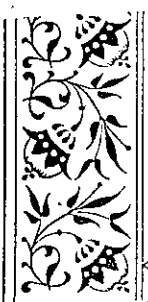
JANUARY 22ND '93



BIRTHDAY PUJA CELEBRATIONS - MARCH 1993

PROGRAMME

- Sat** March 20 - Felicitation at Siri Fort
Chief Guest - Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma
Music - Smt Asha Bhonsale
Release of Dr Rai's book
good press coverage/lots of doctors to be present
- Sun** March 21 - Maha Puja at 12 midday - on a very large/grand scale
Medical Seminar - evening
- Mon** March 22 - Public Programme - evening - RamLila ground
- Tue** March 23, 24, 25 - Sangeet Samelan - two sessions daily - 9-12am / 7-10pm.
Outdoor ground - pendal
Open to public - full advertising - free of charge
morning 2 artists/evening 2 artists
main artists can be preceded by Sahaja artists - experts!
& children's performances



4
3

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Since February 1991 I have been working at the Cairns State High School. I work mainly in the Junior School so I was very surprised when one of the Deputy Principals asked me to go to the 1993 Year 12 Leadership Camp.

I found out that all the teachers attending needed to assist or offer some kind of activity, e.g. Trustgames, Bushwalking, Rowing. I asked if I could offer Sahaja Yoga Meditation and was surprised how the teacher in charge of the camp and the Senior Mistress were happy for this to happen without asking me exactly what it was all about. To make sure there would not be a problem Martin and I put together a written program which I presented in a pink folder together with Mother's photo, handouts for the people new to Sahaja Yoga and the article of Sir C.P. Shrivastava from "Gentlemen" Magazine.

I made an appointment to see the Principal and we spoke for more than 20 minutes about Sahaja Yoga. This man is very proud of his school with more than 1000 students and is also very conservative and a Christian. Of course I don't remember a thing I said, but he told me that he thought it would be a worthwhile activity and he would discuss it with his deputies.

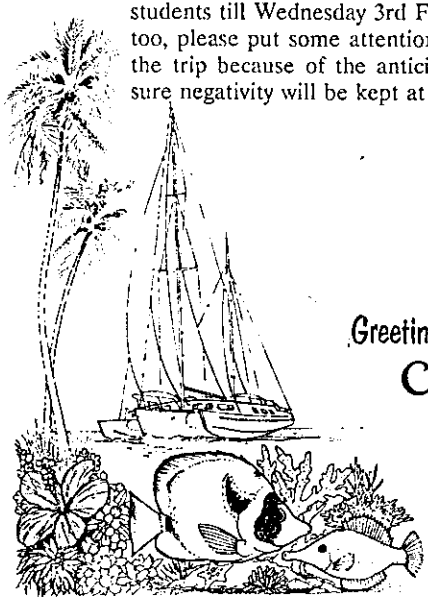
A week later the teacher in charge of the camp handed me back the folder and was very positive. He just hoped it would not be too passive and the Principal had told him that he was happy for the program to go ahead although he was a bit worried, because "Josina can be very persuasive!"

So Sunday 31 January I will be off with a group of teachers and approximately 130 students till Wednesday 3rd February. I just wished other Sahaja Yogis could be there too, please put some attention on this happy event. Many teachers declined to go on the trip because of the anticipated used of drugs and alcohol. With your help I am sure negativity will be kept at bay and it will be a great experience.

Love from all your
brothers and sisters
up here in Cairns

Jai Shri Mataji
Your sister Josina

Greetings from
CAIRNS



Shri Mataji has suggested that we form some sort of video or film production team to make 'Sahaja' or 'dharmaic' programs. These can range from drama, introductory programs, music clips or different seeking subjects such as the unconscious, the existence of God etc.

To this end there will be a bit of a brain storm at Burwood next Friday night when we can discuss the direction this should take and any ideas anyone has. We are actually looking for a small group of people interested in learning production skills from research, filming, voice over, editing and sound.

NEWS FROM THE VIDEO FRONT

S.T. 493

SUBJECT: INDIA 1992
(Richard - Vancouver - 10/1/93)

Thanks to Calin for starting things rolling by writing so much and so eloquently about the India Tour. Lett me add some more words to his report, memories and experiences:

Simply, it was unusual tour -- gentle, warm and, I think, enduring as the vibrations seem to sustain here at home.

For me there were two messages that came through above all else. They came both through Shri Mataji's words and from the events of our travels and experiences in India:

- 1) It's up to us, and
- 2) We must love each other.

Shri Mataji did not join us until December 17 and we did not see Her until the 22nd. This was more than three weeks into the tour. We had public programs without our Mother's physical presence; havans, music evenings and a puja where Shri Mataji could truly be felt, but Her voice not heard, Her presence not seen.

Steven Taylor aptly used the the metaphor of the mother bird pushing her young from the nest. "Now you can fly. Now you must fly on your own." As he told this to Shri Mataji during an evening in Ganapatipule, She laughed and shook Her finger in areement. It's up to us. The powers to spread Sahaja Yoga in depth and breadth are within us. The power to fly with the freedom and grace of birds is also within us.

The second message came in Shri Mataji's words at the Mahalakshmi Puja at Kalwe. "If I could h d Myself, I would have," She said. But you were needed to love each other. "Every Sahaja Yogi is a gem.... Love each other. That is today's message."

These words spoken from the steps of the swayambu temple at Makund Steel consolidated so much that had happened in the previous weeks. "Love each other." Without being told so much, the Sahaja Yogis looked after each other with such a grace and generosity. The utopia of our Sahaj Society shone wih each meal served by our sisters, with each gentle morning wake-up call, with each bus conversation or warm smile across a crowded pendal.

On one occasion Gregoire held a microphone to his mouth. He wanted to make an announcement. Not everyone was paying attention. He was not being heard. "Because," he said, not out of frustration but out of love, "because we care individual so much, I will not say what I have to say until every one is listening." People listened.

On another occasion Nick, our gracious and diplomatic tour leader, spoke of a past tour he had been on. During a long evening of music one of the Sahaja Yogis fell to sleep on the floor of the pendal. One of the Indian yogis took a shawl from his own shoulders on that cold evening. He covered his brother and comforted him in his sleep.

Perhaps these are the two great metaphors of this tour of India: mother bird gently pushing her children into flight; brother caring for bother in the cold of evening.

There were many other events during our five weeks in India:

***In Delhi all our needs were looked after by the Sahaja Yogis. Omelettes, corn flakes and french toast were served because that is what was felt would make us happy and feel at home. Their flashlights lead us to our sleeping quarters, mosquito coils were produced at the first signs of bites. Whatever they felt we needed they made an effort to supply.

***The public programs featured energetic bhajans -- most notably in Noida near Delhi. Often there was also dancing, buoyant with vibrations. At one such program in Hariyana a newly-realized Indian was heard to say in praise of the evening, "These people are liars. They are not foreigners. I can tell by the way they sing."

***Our time in the north was highlighted by three events: bathing in the Yamuna River (the right side), bathing in the Holy Ganga (the left side) and meditating in the Himalayas near Musoorie, a hill station above Dehra Dun. This place, this plateau of a ruined garden among the peaks was a "Shangra-La." Nothing else in our western vocabulary can describe such a fabled and timeless locale. We were there in late afternoon and twilight, with the shifting rays of the sun painting colours across the slopes. In meditation I felt enormous, sitting on a carpet of so many Himalayan peaks, my head in a silent stratosphere.

***In the north also, in a small Hariyana village we had an afternoon program. It was not well attended because the news had been spread that Shri Mataji would not be there. But afterwards there was a special treat. A short distance down the road was a hillock in a field with a banyan tree growing from it. Shri Mataji had pointed out this spot to the local Sahaja Yogis about a year before. She had stressed the importance of the site. Indeed, the villagers also have revered the nondescript location for years. Recently, the Sahaja Yogis have been able to purchase the hill from the farmer but, faced with opposition from the village, have been unable to excavate as Shri Mataji had requested. The people fear that they will lose something if the hill is dug up. This fear has only now been calmed. We should hear of the hill's secret in the coming months. We already know its vibrations.

***In Dehra Dun we camped on the edge of one of the community's military cantonments. Unknown to us, a violence was storming the country. In Delhi, Bombay, Jaipur, Bhopal, Calcutta and a dozen other cities over 1100 people were killed in fundamentalist and police clashes sparked by the destruction of the 450 year old mosque built upon the site of Shri Rama's birth at Ayodhya. Uncertain of the situation around us, we stayed in Dehra Dun some extra days, allowing for our trip to the Mussoorie hill station. When we did leave it was with military escort. Imagine the usual convoy of seven or eight Sahaj buses but now accompanied by an army truck with seven or eight armed soldiers. They escorted us all the way from Dehra Dun to the capital -- our tour to Jaipur, Ahmadabad and Mount Abu was cancelled. It was on this journey that the starkest, most surreal image of India could be seen. In two Muslim towns the streets were completely empty. Curfew was imposed, shops closed. With only a few people on rooftops or walled yards, the streets were left to the armed police. It was like a movie set, awaiting actors and extras. I was told that the police wanted us to detour widely around the curfewed areas, putting several hours on our already long journey. Our escort truck, travelling behind the first bus, came to the front. The soldiers shouldered their guns. The police quickly waved us through the main road. Shri Mataji sent us on with Godspeed.

***Our travels continued from Delhi to Bombay (Washi) with the gentle rocking of the Indian Western Railway. From there, after the announcement of many marriages, musical evenings, a movie and a play, we journeyed by night to Ganapatipule. It was there that we first saw Shri Mataji. She had been with us in Washi, but in Ganapatipule She spoke to us for the first time. "I was very much impressed," She started. The applause that interrupted Her was sustained and loud, as if startled by the familiarity of Her voice and the long absence of Her smile. "I was very much impressed by the expression of your love," She continued. "...Sahaja Yoga is just God's Love."

***Shri Mataji changed many of the plans at Ganapatipule. What had been arranged as seminar talks became music programs. What would have been music became Indian games on the beach.

***At Christmas Puja, Shri Mataji spoke of the meek inheriting the earth. So it is in Sahaja Yoga, She said. In the west 'meek' means 'weak.' This is because aggression is so much admired. This must be a genetic defect. Lord Jesus was confident. He drove the sellers from the temple, She said with some reference to the unauthorized omelette and souvenir merchants at our camp gate. It was with confidence that He spoke to the priests when He was only twelve. The west doesn't accept the Immaculate Conception, but in India it is accepted that all incarnations must be pure in birth. She also said that Lord Jesus brings blessings to all the chakras and spoke at length about Paul (he call Mary 'just a woman') and of apostle Thomas.

***After Ganapatipule and the celebration of the marriages which gives so many yogis and yoginis new life and foundation and brings blessings and strength to those already married, we journeyed back to the Bombay area -- Makund Steel at Kalwe.

It is tempting to come back home and 'get back into the swing of things' -- work, family, meetings, western life. So much to do.

The truth is that India, the tour, red-dust feet walking slowly on the Ganapatipule beach IS the swing of things. The pace, the love for each other, each Sahaja Yogi a gem, and the flying with the confidence of unnetted birds is the strength, the vibration to be sustained.

Together in our Mother's Love,
Jai Shri Mataji!

Richard.

Above all,
Blessed are you who recognise the Lord in all
whom you meet: the light of truth shines in your
life for you have found true wisdom.

HELP MAKE BURWOOD BEAUTIFUL.

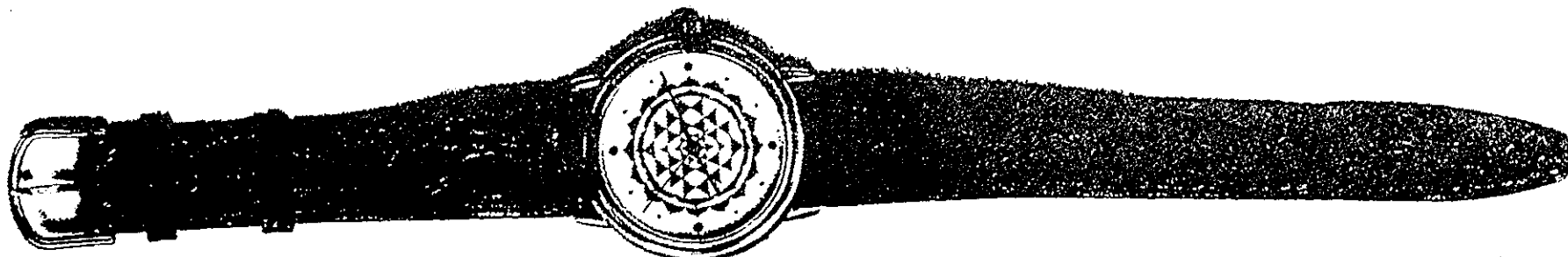
Garden working bee at Burwood on Sunday 31/1/93. B.Y.O. tools (gardening tools) barbecue lunch. Start 8.30am for more details see RON BULLIVANT or Phone 799-2117.

SWIM * EAT * SING*

You are all cordially invited to Northmead Ashram on Saturday afternoon, 32rd January, to enjoy a swim in the pool, a barbeque dinner, and evening bhajans. Please bring your sing books, and help make this a vibration filled occasion. We suggest you PARK your CAR in Madeline Ave., as Caprera Rd. is narrow, and very busy.

SAHAJA YOGA WATCH.

Christina Mathys in Switzerland is taking orders for watches. They are very hansom watches with Shri Chakra on the face giving us nice vibrations, if one should ever want to know what time it is. The watches are gold plated, and water resistant. The strap is brown leather "crocodile look". The ladies watch is the same only smaller. The cost Swiss Framcs 60 in Austria S 500...whether it is a ladies or a mans' watch- it's the same price. APPROX. \$50 Australian. Place your orders directly with Christina Mathys: Her fax number is 022 - 783 00 17 (Switzerland area code is 41)



Actual size of men's watch. Ladies approx 2.5cm diameter. Both gold plated/Brown leather crocodile look strap