

To Sitaram & Sarah Labade  
a girl !!!  
born Wednesday evening - 23<sup>rd</sup> October.  
Our love & best wishes.  
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# AUSTRALIAN Sahaja Newsletter



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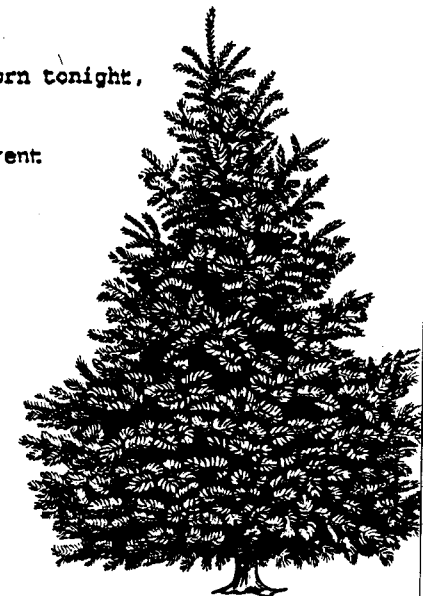
Forget you life. Say God is Great. Get up.  
You think you know what time it is. Its time to pray.  
You've carved so many little figurines, too many.  
Don't knock on any random door like a beggar.  
Reach your long hand out to another door,  
beyond where  
you go on the street, the street  
where everyone says, "How are you?"  
and no one says HOW AREN'T YOU?

Tomorrow you'll see what you've broken and torn tonight,  
thrashing in the dark. Inside you  
there's an artist you don't know about.  
He's not interested in how things look different  
in moonlight.

If you are here unfaithfully with us,  
you're causing terrible damage.  
If you've opened your loving to God's love,  
you're helping people you don't know  
and have never seen.

Is what I say true? Say YES quickly.  
if you know, if you've known it  
from before the beginning of the universe.

-Rumi, OPEN SECRET, p. 69



The essential Rumi - translations by Coleman Barks - Harper San Francisco

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There are people in Sahaja Yoga, I have seen who are very ambitious. And they start saying that Mother we want to be God realised, I want to do this and do that. There is no office going on here that you give somebody promotion, you have to grow yourself. Then they start proclaiming I am this and that. We call them 'Mahayogis'. Some of them had started saying that, they have reached very high position and they ended up in the lunatic asylum. All such suggestions if people give you then you should shun such people. But there are also other people who join such a bombastic fellow. So, you must remember that this last judgement is working and all the time there is a big sieving out, a very big arrangement of choices. Those who are subtle, start getting subtler and subtler and subtler. But those who are frivolous, gross, idiotic, stupid, they start frittering away. So this last sieving starts very fast, working out where we realise, where are we?

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Shri Mataji Kirmala Devi, Easter Puja Talk Calcutta  
April 1995



Wifcox

From: Mark Mays <sahajnet@halcyon.com>  
Subject: New York Public Program & Shri Krishna Puja Weekend Seminar

Well, I wish I could better remember the really important stuff and express it in a more eloquent style, but I guess you will have to get that from the audio or video tapes when they come out. What follows is the best I could provide from my pitiful memory (still waiting for that section of growth when the memory starts to improve!) and is actually an email I copied to myself, that I sent to a yogi friend in Taiwan. I was going to edit it down a little, but decided to leave it mostly intact. It kind of had this "flavor" of something you'd say to a friend to it, that seemed to read kind of nice, but is a little more personal than what I'd normally post. Anyway, hope you enjoy it.

Nigel Powell came to Seattle to do an interview at Microsoft so he stayed over the following weekend for the public program in Vancouver. It was my job to transport food from the Kumar's to Shri Mataji's hotel room about four miles away. Nigel and I pretty much laughed our way from one side of Vancouver to the other. It was really great. I was in such a good mood I just couldn't believe it. And Friday night we arrived at the airport just before Mother arrived and didn't have time to buy any flowers. Somehow Nigel came up with one and insisted I give it to Shri Mataji. I just said, 'Thank you for all the blessings Shri Mataji.' She just smiled. I was really glad that I was able to thank her in person one more time. She has really treated me very sweetly since coming to Sahaja Yoga. I remember the last time, which was the first time I was able to say something directly to Shri Mataji, was at the Vancouver airport two years ago. I thanked her for giving me my self-realization. She smiled and with a laughing tone of voice said, 'Be sure to tell the world about it.' I didn't think much of it until after I started doing the SahajNet email and working on the SY Web page. She knew it all along! Two years ago!

The weekend in Vancouver weekend before last was probably one of the deepest experiences I had since being in Sahaja Yoga. My attention was in the present almost the whole weekend and partly through witnessing and partly through some discussions with Nigel, it all of a sudden hit me what it meant to be a Sahaj Yogi and also gained a better understanding on how Mother works things out. Spent the whole weekend being totally collective, being with yogis, having fun, gaining a better understanding of myself (not always a pretty sight either) and Sahaja Yoga. Wow! It was absolutely incredible.

The N.American Puja was also quite good. We arrived in Newark, NJ about 10am and got to the camp about 1pm. Played some basketball with Jeff and Steve, then we took naps and left for NY city about 5pm. Jeff took us on a nice little driving tour then we parked and ate at a place called the PIZZA JOINT. Great food! The public program in NY was about 400-500 people (Vancouver was about 100 less than last year at about 300-400). Dave Dunphy gave the introductory talk. Shri Mataji was straight to the point with the New Yorkers. She said they come every year but never stick around. She must have told them at least 5 times, 5 different ways how important it was for them to stick on and learn how to go deeper in their meditation and development. She did this all in a very light and

humorous way. When She went through the self-realization She was telling everyone not to feel guilty like always, but then She said if they were guilty they should be in jail not at the meeting hall! It was pretty hilarious.

Nigel and I had been talking about going out for cheesecake at one of these NY deli's after the program. I had been telling him how good authentic NY cheesecake is since we were in Vancouver. Well, by the time we wound up going to the deli there were about 50 or 60 yogis and we very spontaneously, without even trying wound up in two different delis about 2 blocks apart. It was great! Afterwards we all seemed to come out at the same time and connect up together again. Amazing! Jeff was joking and bargaining with the street vendors over buying T-shirts and ties. Lots of yuks and grins. Then I noticed one of these vendors was staring at my badge of Shri Mataji and I could see the sparkle in his eyes. I asked him if he had noticed the posters around town and he said yes with a very big smile. I think he got his realization without even knowing it!

The next day I spent lots of time visiting with yogis and then sometime after noon or so I started helping Al with the sound system for the stage. Then I went and helped with the registration. They sent me on some chase for some supplies and I couldn't find anything open in these nearby rural towns on a Saturday night. Finally got back about 8pm, rested then went to dinner about 9pm. Then just a little before ten, the power went out. We finished dinner by candle light and headed over to the entertainment hall set there waiting for Shri Mataji singing bhajans in the candle light, then the lights came back on. Shortly after, just before 11pm, we were told Shri Mataji said we should all go to bed and rest up for the puja the next day and we would do the entertainment program after the puja. Sound familiar?

We had another Shri Krishna Puja. The main theme seemed to be collectivity. She talked about how Shri Krishna was very collective and gave many examples. She then kind of scolded a little about our lack of collectivity, and how important collectivity is for our growth as yogis as well as being able to effectively spread Sahaja Yoga. Remembering the content of these puja talks seems to be getting more difficult instead of easier. I guess it makes listening to the talks later that much more worthwhile.

The evening entertainment program after puja was the best I have seen put on by the American yogi(ni)s. It had only been two years since I had seen most of these musicians and dancers perform and I am quite astonished (although I really shouldn't be) at the level at which they are performing now. Not that anyone was lacking before, it's just that everyone watching and listening was all commenting on the excellent quality of the performances. What a joy to experience.

Kind Regards From Your Brother Mark

