

Sahaja Yoga

27th September, 2002



Australian Newsletter

Jai Shri Mataji!

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Publication deadline for contributions
is midnight each Tuesday

Babamama describes the following scene which occurred before the Ganapatipule seminar, after a mix-up between the working committees...

"This infuriated me, and without observing the protocol one has to observe while entering Shri Mataji's room. I entered the room with anger and annoyance and I told Her that all the Sahaja Yogis were useless and that we could never organise them, as I felt totally let down.

"To this She answered that Sahaja Yogis were not going to fall from heaven and that we had to work with this disorganised lot. She further said that Sahaj is not meant for organisation. She said that She did not have any paid staff, did not have any personal assistant, and what people were doing was because of their devotion, and devotion has to flow from the heart which cannot be organised.

"Even today, though there are millions of Sahaja Yogis there is not a single a single paid staff looking after the various activities which Shri Mataji is carrying out. Even today I would not say that Sahaja Yoga is an organisation but is a growing process of human beings' ascent and salvation. Such a collective of enlightened Sahaja Yogis will transform the whole of humanity."

Babamama
from *My Memoirs*



STATE NEWS

News from NSW

Australians remain behind in Cabella

There are about seven Australians who remained after the Ganesha Puja. Many had a range of plans - from travel, sightseeing, and some intending to return immediately.

Now most are remaining in Centrase with a view to flying with Shri Mataji to Frankfurt when she departs Cabella this Thursday.

During the ensuing period the ladies prepared a traditional Australian meal for Shri Mataji involving the men and a Barbeque, and a baked Pavlova and 'traditional' other dishes. Many have also been helping out around the kitchen and Castle, so as you can imagine all other plans were quickly shelved as they grabbed the opportunity of a lifetime.

*Chris Kyriacou
Sydney*

Bus trip to Canberra

I have booked a 25-seat bus for anyone wishing to go to Canberra for the program and puja. The bus will leave on Saturday morning 12th October and return Sunday afternoon the 13th. Cost is \$50 per adult and \$25 per child.

Please RSVP to me as soon as possible on 9706 4911 or email tonycarbone62@optusnet.com.au

Tony Carbone

Sahaja Writers' Group

A meeting of the Sahaja Writers will be held at

Ashfield Ashram

Sunday 29th Sept at 2pm

Bring work to read. Also we'll be discussing publication and general matters.

*Contact Lyndon DeValle 9326 3858
or Brian Bell 9747 0310*

News from South Australia

National Diwali Puja 2002 to be held at Macclesfield in the Adelaide Hills from 1st - 3rd November 2002

The Adelaide collective invite all yogis to worship Shri Mataji and share in Diwali Celebrations in the picturesque Adelaide Hills.

We have been collectively preparing for the weekend and in the next couple of weeks will start posterizing, letterboxing for the Public Program. We extend a warm welcome and guarantee a wonderful weekend which we hope to share with many of our interstate brothers & sisters.

Jai Shri Mataji

*Maria Sandery
Adelaide*

GENERAL INTEREST

Middle Americans yearn for a spiritual sea change

Those who love the United States and those who hate it have some points of agreement, writes Richard Eckersley.

There are those who say that terrorists are driven by a hatred of America (and modernity generally) and all it stands for: its lifestyle, its values – and its success. Jonathan Rauch, writing in *Atlantic Online*, says the terrorists, like radical environmentalists and anti-globalists, are driven by a horror of the open society, with its "uncontrolled political and social change", "spontaneous creativity", "freedom from the tyrannies of overlords" and "freedom to build and inhabit a fluid, creative culture".

There is another perspective, which in some sense straddles these two viewpoints. It concerns the evidence that Americans have deep concerns about their society and lifestyle. One exit poll conducted at the latest American presidential election found that a majority of voters said the most important issue influencing their vote was not jobs, education or taxes, but moral and ethical values.

In a wide-ranging 1999 survey of Americans' views on the past and next century, the Pew Research Centre found that despite a prevailing mood of economic and technological triumphalism, Americans expressed misgivings about the moral climate, "with people from all walks of life looking sceptically on the ways in which the country has changed both culturally and spiritually". Only a minority (44 per cent) said life in America had become better since the '50s.

A 1999 Gallup poll found that 49 per cent of Americans believed there was a moral crisis in the US, while another 41 per cent believed there were major moral problems. Only 23 per cent admitted to being optimistic about future moral and ethical standards in the US, while 43 per cent were pessimistic.

These results support those of another survey, conducted in 1998 by *The Washington Post*, Harvard University and the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. The survey found that 76 per cent of Americans thought the country was "pretty seriously off on the wrong track" when it came to values and moral beliefs. More than half (55 per cent) believed "people and groups that hold values similar to yours" were losing influence in American life in general.

While the moral qualms appear to have existed for some time, they may have intensified and clearly reflect the characteristics of the modern American way of life.

A 1995 study, *Yearning for Balance*, conducted for the Merk Family Fund, says Americans share a deep and abiding concern about the core values driving their society. They believe that materialism, greed and excess characterise the way they live and underlie many of their worst social ills.

The report notes that focus group participants agreed firmly that there was a tension between their own priorities and those of society. "The frenzied, excessive quality of American life today has left people yearning for balance in their lives and in their society. They feel that an essential side of life centred on family, friends and community has been pushed aside by the dominant ethic of 'more, more, more', and they are looking for ways to restore some equilibrium."

It comes as no surprise, then, that the "ecological footprint" of each North American - a measure of their consumption pressure on the Earth's resources - is about twice that of Western Europeans and more than six times that of people in low-income countries, according to the World Wide Fund for Nature. If ever there was a nation that does not need to consume more, for its own sake and for the sake of the rest of the world, it is the US - except, of course, in terms of the modern global economic system.

We have heard a good deal recently about the heroic role of the American consumer in propping up the global economy, and concerns that the terrorist attacks will undermine consumer confidence and tip the American and global economies into recession. Despite the social and environmental costs, American leaders have told the world the American lifestyle is not open to negotiation - apparently not even with their own citizens.

At this level of analysis, then, we can find at least some common ground between the American people and those who "hate" America. President George Bush has said that Americans are reassessing their priorities in life in the wake of the attacks. If September 11 proves to be a tipping point in the American way of life in this sense, then it will indeed be one good to come of the tragedy, as Bush remarked.

As we begin to plan the peace after the war, America - and the rest of the West - will have to think hard about these fundamental issues of lifestyles and values if that peace is to endure.

Richard Eckersley is a fellow researching progress and wellbeing at the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health at the Australian National University.

(Sydney Morning Herald article published late last year)

Prayer to Shri Ganesha

We are made of innocence and light
And Mother Earth, the One Thread binding all;
Shri Ganesha Gauri, Sacred flow
Of Mother Kundalini in us all;
Ganesha first, Her child, the whole Creation
Unsullied in His purity forever.

The thread of Love holds everything in place,
Continuing creation as we grow
Like saplings, tender, sweet, potential bursting
Forth, desiring strongly, needing Mother's
Protection from the wind and sun and snow,
And boots of careless heave people treading
Sightless on the small, new wondrous Life.

She makes us all so different, all the colours,
Dancing vibrant hues all forms and sizes,
Marvellous, brilliant, dazzling, ever-changing ,
Glorious, kaleidoscopic, powerful;
Growing into the blueprint of Virata—
One Pattern, One Form, Wholeness.

She does it all for Him; He watches us.
She spreads us all before Him, God Almighty,
Shiva, Lord of All, our Holy Father.
All to worship Him, for His enjoyment.

Our perfect love of life, that we've been given,
Our pure joy in loving one another,
Is how we worship Him for His enjoyment.
And this is the holy union, His enjoyment
Of our perfect joy in Her gift of Life.
And this is our Holy Mother's satisfaction
In Her Creation of Her child for Him.

We ask "Shri Ganesha, make us worthy
Of being in Your attention so we may
Be brought at last by Mother Mahalakshmi
To the Lotus Feet of Lord Shiva for His joy
And for Her complete satisfaction in us.
Oh! please make us real Sahaja yogis."

Katie Cartmel
Australia

(written two days after Ganesha Puja)