

MA ANANDAMAYEE AMRIT VARTA

A quarterly journal dealing mainly
with the divine life and sayings of
Sri Anandamayi Ma

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Sri Ma in the campus of the Ashram in Pune with the calf eagerly looking at Ma.

MATRI-VANI

No matter to what caste, class and religion anyone may belong, he should always speak the truth and engage in his particular japa, meditation, worship and remembrance of God. Each one should start along the lines taught by his own religion. Study scriptures, seek satsang, sing the names and praises of God. Every service has to be done as service of God.

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One who serves God can never be helpless. The more ardently one seeks communion by engaging in japa, His service and contemplation, the fuller will be his revelation.

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He who has given you what you possess in this world—wealth, distinction, youth, appeal to Him for His own sake.

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You cannot ? Why ? you will have to do. Verily, man can do all things. Who can say what He will give to whom and through what ? Everything is His, entirely His. What did you bring with you at birth ? Were you not empty handed? And all you have acquired, is it yours, really ?

All is His and whatever happens is His will. Endeavour to maintain this. Saying : "It is mine", you grasp at everything — this is the way to count sorrow. Call out to Him, because all is His. To yearn thus for Him is real prayer.

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As long as one is able to hold on to anything, one must hold on to the One. It is imperative to become entirely single-minded, and one's duty to remain concentrated exclusively on the One. By adhering to one name, one contemplation, one thought, one pointedness will be achieved.

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Q. If you have no mission to fulfil or message to give, why do you tell us to worship god?"

Ma. If you do not ask, then I have nothing to say; but if you ask, and if it is my *kheyala* then certainly I shall tell you about the better way of life (*shreyas*)

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It is by seeking to know oneself that the Great Mother of all may be found.

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Do you want deliverance from the bonds of the world? Then, weeping profusely, you will have to cry out from the bottom of your heart : " Deliver me, Great Mother of the world, deliver me !" To obtain Her grace you will have to shed tears much more abundantly than when you desire things of the world. When by the flood of your tears the inner and the outer have fused into one, you will find Her, whom you sought with such anguish, nearer than the nearest, the very breath of life, the very core of every heart.

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I never say — " I will do this, I will not do that," It is you who make me carry out whatever work lies in your power to induce me to perform.

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In God is everyone and everything. Where is God not ? This is why Ma is also ever near, though the body does not go everywhere.



IMPRESSIONS OF ANANDAMAYI MA

[Three]

—Richard Lannoy

This was a place of absolutely strict asceticism, no two way about it and, interestingly, there was never any question of it being anything other than just that. It was an irreducibly chaste regime and this simplicity gave the institution freshness and lightness of tone. At that time there were only two non-Indian residents in all Anandamayi Ma's ashrams. A year before I arrived, the celebrated anthropologist of the Ituri pygmies, Collin Turnbull had spent a while imbibing Mataji's compelling ways. She had filled exactly that emptiness I had felt in the western world, and through her I learned how to lead a whole life, how to carry the spirit into the every-day world, how to lead an every-day life that is at the same time a dedicated life and intensely spiritual.

In her ashram I felt the bond of brotherhood which will eventually unite the world and to the mutual love and consideration which pervaded all those gathered around Mataji. I found a way of life which is yet but a dream among the majority of the people of the western world. There was no question of rich and poor, good or bad, high or low, there was perfect brotherhood among all. I think that perhaps the greatest things I learned were a love for Truth and a love for all my fellow beings. Truth can be a hard master, but there are none better, for that is one of the ways in which the spirit is revealed. Those around Mataji could not help but be impregnated with this wonderful ideal and at the same time feel all the petty differences and distinctions which normally surround us disappearing. Here was life as it should be held, life for the One Self, for the little individual self, a life in which all of us could join equally, no matter how feeble and weak we were.

Foliage and flowers in the Varanasi ashram were of monastic-nature. Here was barely more than hinted at in the immediate field of vision; beyond stretched a hazy waste of water and distant fields. Soon after I first met Anandamayi Ma (that sounds so social, it was more a silent encounter!) I spent a number of days in close proximity to her at her ashram in Vindhyachal. Here I was able to see her in the depths of the Indian countryside and to gauge how deep was her relation to all living things. Vindhyachal, at some distance from Varanasi, huddles at the foot of a sacred hill on the edge of a rocky wilderness clad with jungles overlooking the Gangetic plain. It is a hallowed spot sacred to Tantrics, with remains of great

