

Ananda Vārtā

A quarterly journal dealing mainly with the divine life and
teaching of Shree Shree Ma Anandamayee and with other
religio-philosophical topics

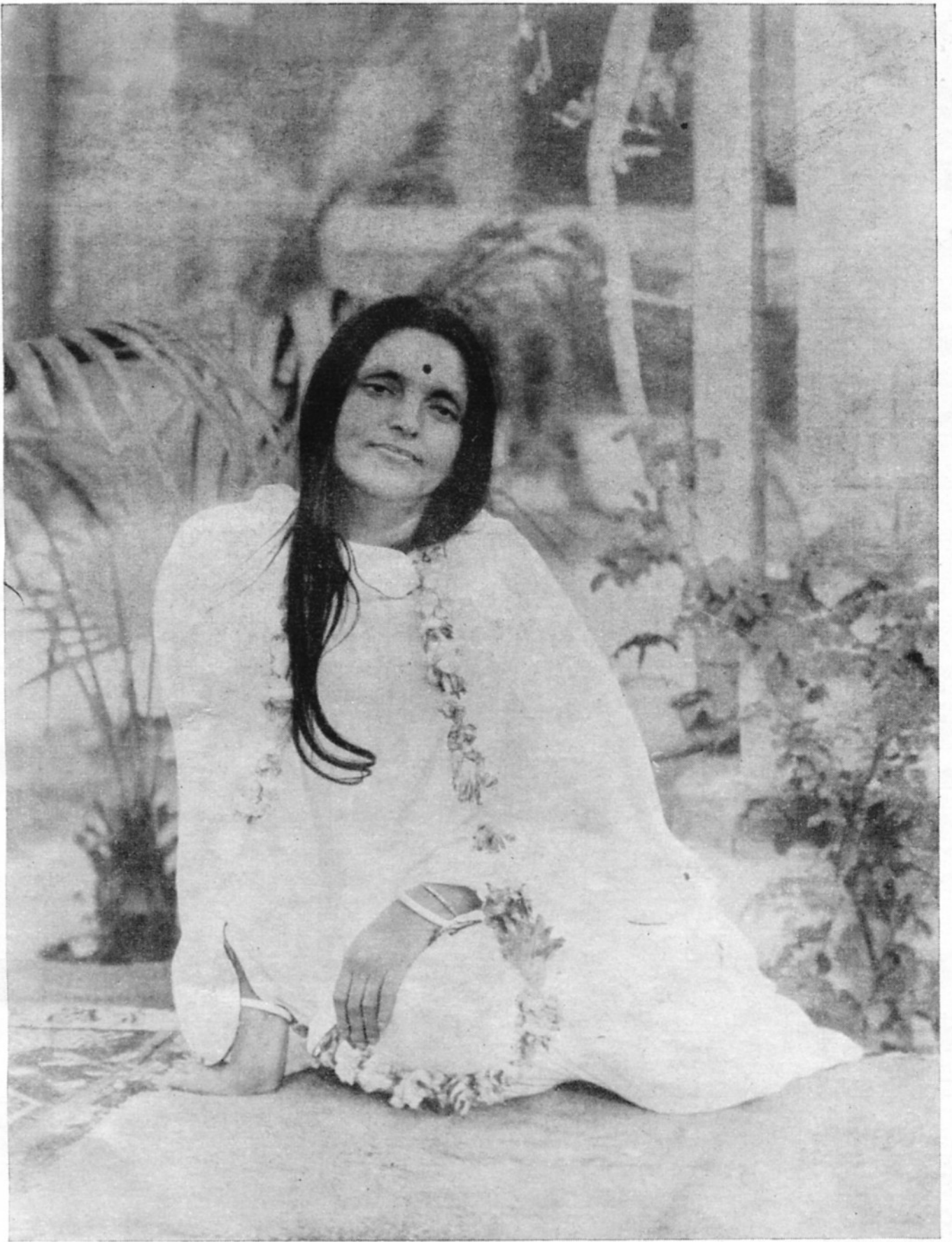


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—An unpublished photo of Mataji.

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*The Self, self contained,
calling to Itself for its own Revelation—
this is happiness.*

MATRI VANI

The awakening of the sense of want is to be welcomed. It opens up the way and makes the unfit fit to tread the path. In the guise of want and emptiness Thou indeed art present. Lord, I take refuge in Thee, I take refuge in Thee!

* * *

The empire of the mind is enclosed by the body. Even though you may desire to turn the mind inward, will it voluntarily renounce its empire? To divide, to wander backwards and forwards again and again constitutes its natural movement. But your sole duty is to realize: Thou alone art within and without, in want and emptiness, in fact in all circumstances whatever. In order to destroy the undesirable (*anishṭa*) one must focus one's mind on the invocation of the Beloved, the one desired (*Iṣṭa*).

* * *

Your whole life you have spent in acquiring knowledge from mercenary motives, and in similar pursuits. With all

your strength you are serving worldly aims. Learn also to do a little service for the love of God, so that your thought may dwell on His Lotus-feet.

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Spiritual affinity is undoubtedly stronger than blood relationship. The happiness it gives is very special. By the atmosphere created by your meditation, your spiritual endeavour, the place ought to become so wonderful that even people coming from outside will be able to notice it. Ashram life must be made worthy of its object. This surely is as it should be ! And then your eyes, your face, your whole countenance will radiate peace and tranquillity.

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The faithful devotee, the ardent lover of God, the ascetic, the great yogi—all are pilgrims on the path to the Supreme : The revelation of their forgotten SELF, of His touch, their common goal.

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Unless one penetrates to a certain depth, it is but natural for the mind to be fickle and distracted. Those who are absorbed in divine aspiration, must they not constantly abide in His Presence so as to discover pure love ? Let not one precious moment be wasted !

Conversations with Śri Śri Anandamayī Ma

PROFESSOR B. GANGULI

(Translated by Atmananda)

(14)

Ranchi Ashram, 23/10/1962.

Question : If someone cannot enter even by breaking the door and is equally unable to throw himself down in front of the door in self-abandonment, will the Mother Herself open the door and come out to him ?

Mataji : She does indeed come.

Question : If this is so, then have those who cannot succeed either by self-reliance nor by self-surrender no cause for despair ?

Mataji : They have not. One must be desperate after Him. The agony of having failed to find Him, the despair over the fact that He has not been realized, will take one there.

Question : Have we come to the Mother or has She come to us ?

Mataji : (Pointing towards the image of *Kālī*) : The Mother comes to you—and yet again also attracts you to Herself. Where coming and going is, there is duality. But a state exists which is beyond coming and going.

Question : Nowadays everyone feels deeply concerned; for, although it is true that we have escaped the major disaster due to evil planetary influences that had been foretold

for this year (1962), how are we to be saved from atom bombs ?

Mataji : This time He has come in the guise of the atom bomb. Take refuge in the ONE. Due to the world-wide fear of a major disaster in 1962, prayers and the invocation of God's name were offered in many, many places. This was very beneficent.

Question : The following is not a question but an appeal to you: When at every step of one's life one compromises, speaking untruths and committing unlawful actions, how can man's own *dharma* remain intact ? In society and in our country we have fallen prey to such conditions that everyone living in the world is forced, even against his wish and inclination, to compromise all along, although he knows that his character does not remain unimpaired. Every single person is today suffering in this way.

Mataji : Such suffering should persist. Where there is suffering, Truth Itself will come to save Truth.

Question : I am not speaking for the individual only, but also for the entire community.

Mataji : If the suffering is universal, its result will likewise be accordingly.

26/10/1962.

Question : If one does not count every penny one cannot live. On the other hand, unless one is completely uncalculating, one's heart is not preserved. Thus, in order to keep alive one has to become heartless, or if one wants to save one's heart one cannot live.

Mataji : Will you do one thing, Baba: Leave all calculation alone ! Turn your steps towards the ONE. If it should be necessary to do accounting, someone else will come and see to it. Who keeps all the accounts of Mother Kali ?

Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Ranchi, 29/10/62.

Question : Seven years ago this Aurobindo Study Circle was born in the presence of Anandamayi Ma. Now in its 8th year, Mataji has come to invest it with the sacred thread. Is it not so ?

Mataji : This body is father's little daughter. What is she to say ? Why the 8th year ? Why should there be separation from Him with Whom one has ever been before birth and will be after birth for evermore ? What does 'then' and 'now' mean ?

Ranchi Ashram, 29/10/1962.

Question : Should one attempt self-extinction, effacement of oneself ? Or destroy the sense of I ? Or give the power of attorney over one's immature self to the Mother ?

Mataji : If the sense of giving remains, effacement has not taken place. Effacement occurs of itself. Obliteration is not of oneself, but of one's desires, of one's ego. So long as one dwells in the empire of the mind, extinction has not occurred and cannot occur. The mind has to be employed in order to discriminate. For the awakening of goodwill an effort can be made. But effacement occurs when the mind has been transcended. However, the mind has countless levels. Having reached a certain level, there is a semblance of Self-awakening. On the other hand, the mind is also He.

