

ĀNANDA VĀRTĀ

*A quarterly presenting the divine life and teaching of
SRI ANANDAMAYI MA and various aspects of
Universal Dharma*

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ĀNANDA VĀRTĀ welcomes contributions on the life and teachings of Ma and reflections and personal experiences of Ma's devotees and admirers. Articles on religious and philosophical subjects as well as on lives of saints and sages of all countries and all times are also invited. Articles should as far as practicable be typed with double spacing and on one side of the page.

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FOREIGN—	<i>Sea Mail</i>	<i>Air Mail</i>
America	\$ 4.00	\$ 8.00
Other Countries	£ 2.00	£ 3.50

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*The Eternal, the Ātman—
Itself pilgrim and path of Immortality
Self contained—THAT is all in One.*

Vol. XXVIII ● JANUARY, 1981 ● No. 1

CONTENTS

1. In Memoriam—Sri Gurupriya Ananda Giri	i
2. In Memoriam—Swami Bhagavatananda Giri	vii
3. Sri Sri Ma's Utterances ...	1—4
4. Recording Sri Sri Ma's Songs and Speech—A. K. Dutta Gupta ...	5—18
5. Mātri Satsang— Swami Bhagavatananda Giri ...	19—26
6. The Divine Beloved—Dr. Prem Lal Shifa	27
7. Our Didi—Anil Ganguli ...	28—41
8. The End of an Epoch with Didi Gurupriya—R. K. Banerjee ...	42—50
9. Sri Chaitanya—A Legend and a Symbol His Relevance Today—Dr. Sudhansu Mohan Banerjee, M.A. LL.B., Ph.D., IAAS, (Retd.)	51—63
10. Revelation—Renu Srivastava ...	64—67
11. Matri Lila ...	68—80
12. Yearly Index ...	81—82

“Difficult to understand, nevertheless it is true that by giving away our food we gain more strength : by giving away clothes we gain more beauty ; by founding centres of purity and truth, we gather rich treasures.”

Gautama, the Buddha



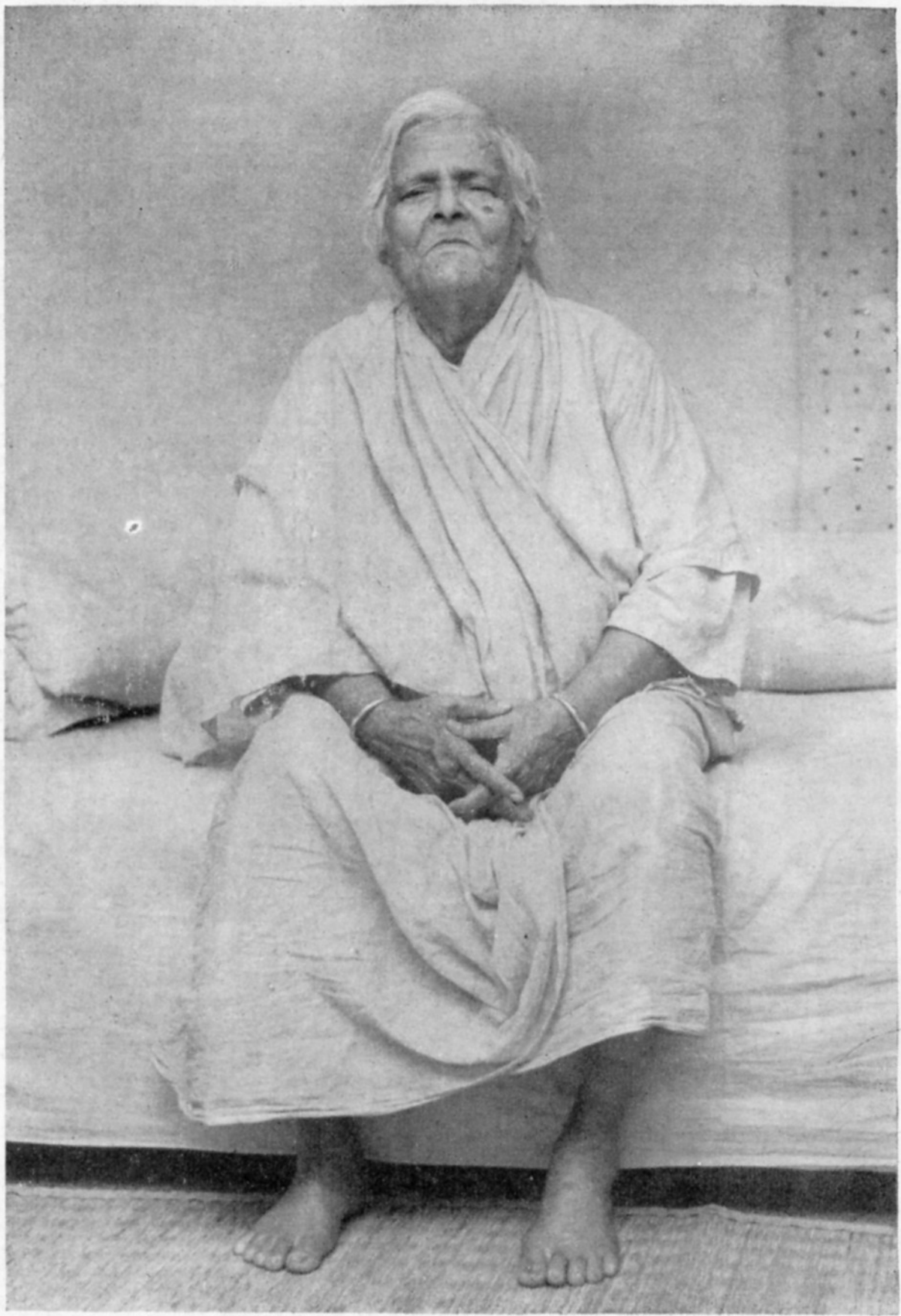
“The impression of ‘I am Brahman’, created by uninterrupted reflection, destroys ignorance and its distractions, as medicine destroys disease.”

Adi Sankaracharya



*All that is not One must ever
Suffer with the Wound of Absence ;
And whoever in Love's City
Enters, finds but Room for One,
And but in Oneness Union.*

—Jami



In Memoriam

Sri Gurupriya Ananda Giri

(February 14th, 1899—September 16th, 1980)

On Sept. 16th at 8-53 a.m., Sri Gurupriya Devi, the deeply beloved and revered Didi (elder sister) of all devotees of Sri Ma left her ailing body at the age of 81 years and 7 months, in our Ashram at the *Mukti Kshetra*, Varanasi.

Mataji afterwards remarked :

“Didi had completed the work for which she had come, so she has left.” What was this work ? To serve Mataji, to carry out Ma’s *kheyāla*. The following utterances of Sri Ma in different contexts express perhaps most drastically what Didi really was and remains for all times :

Mahavira (Hanuman) said : “He and I are one ; yet He is the Whole and I am a part of Him ; He is the Master, I am His servant.” (“Words of Sri Anandamayī Ma”, P. 148.)
and :

“The Master and the servant, though separate embodiments, are essentially one. Just as there can be no servant without master, so also the master is dependent on the servant. Thus there is an eternal relationship between the two, so much so that the one cannot exist without the other. The Master is the sole object of the servant’s self-dedication. On the other hand the master relies entirely upon the servant for service. He Himself, when appearing in division becomes the servant ; in other words, the servant is but a partial manifestation of the Master..... Real servants were Hanuman, Garuda etc. who identified themselves so wholly with their masters that they had no independent existence” (“Sad Vani”, No. 10)

Many men and women have been and are deeply devoted to Mataji. But Didi was entirely unique. Her self-dedication was spontaneous and total. From the day she set her eyes on Ma for the first time to her last breath she lived only for Ma. She had