

ANANDA VARTA



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

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Truth itself will assist in every way him who has gone forth in Search of Truth.

Sri Sri Ma Anandamayi

There is no sinborn out of any deed, word or thought which is not destroyed by the power of Nama.

Shree Shree Sitaramdas Onkarnath

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Yes, if you can observe silence and be in harmony with everyone all round, it will be excellent. Try to remain without the help of signs and gestures as long as possible.

Sri Sri Ma Anandamayi

Nama is the best Bhakti (devotion) Nama is the best ending Nama is the best Japa, Nama is the best Prayer.

Sri Sri Sitaramdas Onkarnath

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MATRI-VANI

He who is your Guru is the Guru of the whole world and the One who is the Guru of the whole world is your Guru. Strictly avoid the company of those who awaken doubt in your own Guru.



In times of adversity and distress as well as in times of well-being and good fortune try to seek refuge in the One alone. Keep in mind that whatever He, the all-beneficent, the Fountain of Goodness, does, is wholly for the best.



It is man's duty to try and cultivate faith and devotion. Blows are characteristic of life in the world; thus man is taught to understand what the world is, and then detachment from pleasure and enjoyment ensues.



God is the support of the helpless. Time cannot pass in one way only. Abide in patience. Just as when having tumbled down, one rises up again by supporting oneself on the very ground to which one has fallen, even so never remain without Him. Pray to your Ista for His revelation.

When asking for worldly goods, happiness and comforts, one will be disappointed time and again; this only creates distrust in one's Ista and in God. But to pray to God for His own sake and to the Ista

for His revelation, leads to peace and faith.



He who would find Immortality must at every moment try to look upon all things as manifestations of the Supreme Being. The search after Truth is indeed man's duty, so that he may attain to THAT which is immortal.



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 undersirable (anista) one must focus one's mind on the invocation of the Beloved, the one desired (Ista)



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.



Sri Sri Ma Anandamayi

Vol-VI

Translated by U. Tara Kini

May 8, Sunday

There was no news today. My mind was filled with anxiety about what Ma was doing, where she would go, what she would do and many other such doubts.

We had to reach Dhaka before Ma's birthday; this was Ma's order. Therefore we could not tarry much longer here. The festivities had begun on May 2 and were supposed to go on for eighteen days. On the last day, after the worship is performed on the Krishna Chaturthi morning, the sanctum sanctorum of Sri Kali Ma's temple is opened. The public is allowed to enter for *darshan*. After sunset the temple is closed to the public, cleaned and oblations and worship offered to the idol. This arrangement had been initiated by Ma. At three a.m., the hour of Ma's birth, worship commences. At the end of the *puja a yajna* (sacrificial fire) is performed at dawn. The *tithi puja* is also performed on the next day followed by *Kali puja* and then the sanctum sanctorum is closed - this has been the schedule.

This evening I received a letter from Yogesh Dada which he had written the day after we left. The letter said, "Didi, on the night after you left, Bholanath called for you. The next morning again he enquired about you and finally Ma told him, 'I have sent Khukuni to some place.' Ma then asked Ma for Didima, 'where is your mother?' Ma replied, 'I have sent her also to same place. For your welfare.' That night when Bholanath asked for avataru, Ma said, 'Ma received a letter from his home asking him to come. I have sent him away. Did I not do well?' In reply Bholanath said, 'You did well.' "

In the letter he also wrote, "Now Bholanath calls out to Ma as 'Ma, Ma!' all the time. As soon as Ma went and lay down in his room he said, 'Where is Ma ? I am calling Her again and again, but Ma has not come.' When Ma stood before him he called out, 'Ma, Ma!' Ma responded

and seeing her one would feel there was no illness at all.”

This evening the news of Bholanath's death was broken to Didima. We consoled her as best as we could. In spite of the unbearable grief in my own heart I am consoing her. I keep thinking of the enormous blow that has been dealt to Didima in her old age. There is no solution. The decree of destiny to be endured with bowed heads.

May 9, Monday

This morning we received a reply to our telegram. Ma is well. She has shown no change in her behaviour. We have to go as per Ma's orders. We are leaving for Calcutta today by the six p.m. train.

May 10, Tuesday

We reached Calcutta at eight a.m. today. We first went to Shachi Dada's house to drop his sister. To got delayed due to our telling them about Ma and Bholanath. We then took Didima to her house. It is *ekadashi* (the eleventh day of the lunar calendar) today. After partaking of some refreshments at Didima's house we set out at one thirty p.m., visited a couple of houses and then reached Birla's Shiva temple. After sunset Ramratan Babu, Gopinath Babu, Shachi Babu, Jotish Babu and family came to meet us. We conversed till eleven p.m. Shachi Babu told us that Naresh Babu had written from Dehradun to say that after Bholanath's death, his body had been taken to Haridwar and given '*salil samadhi*'. Ma is keeping well and shows no change in her behaviour. There were no further details about Ma.

Jotish Dada narrated an incident. A few days ago his youngest daughter Butu had a dream in which she saw herself in a Kali temple. To the right of the deity she saw Sri Sri Anandamayi kneeling. The priest gave Butu flowers for Kali *puja*. Then she recited the *santra* and offered the flowers at the feet of the deity she observed that the flowers went and fell at the feet of Anandamayi Ma. This roused a doubt in Butu's mind. She thought to herself, "I offer flowers at Kali Ma's feet but they fall at

Anandamayi's feet. How is his happening?" Then she recited the *mantra* carefully again, and devoutly offered the flowers at Kali Ma's feet, praying that she should certainly accept the offering this time. But she saw that once more the floral offering fell at Anandamayi Ma's feet. Her doubts are now cleared. Immediately after this she woke up.

Shachi Babu came at night and said, "Naresh has written from Dehradun to his brother Rupesh. The letter gives the information that Bholanath's body was taken to Haridwar and given *salil samadhi*. There is no change in Ma's behaviour." There was no other news.

I remembered that in Haridwar, during *Kumbha Mela*, around midnight, when everyone was sleep. I was seated near Ma when she suddenly said, "Call Bholanath". I called him and stood outside the room as Ma talked to him. But from the very next day Bholanath started calling us all, "You will not have me here much longer. Just see what I shall do on the sing *sankranti* day." I guessed that Ma had said something to this effect, the night before Shankarananda Swami told Ma. "Baba (Bholanath) is saying all sorts of things." Ma replied, "He hardly does so with his own will. Last night we had a conversation on these lines." Whatever Bholanath may have said, he was certainly unable to do anything.

Later, during Bholanath's illness, Ma was seated in her room in the Dehradun *ashram*. Phani Babu, Bhupati Dada and we were all seated near her. When the conversation turned towards Bholanath Ma said, "When it is said that without the appearance of such and such there will occur a bad event as you people call it, sometimes Bholanath does not pay attention to it; he ignores what is said and behaves as he feels like doing. Just see, during the Kumbha in Haridwar he was called at midnight and told to do something. He only replied, 'Let us see'. But he did nothing. When I gave him the instruction I knew that he would not follow it, yet the instruction was given. For I observe that though an instruction cannot be followed, an internal *kriya* occurs within the body. It is like stamping an impression, what else? And do you know how it is?"