

The following is an extract from Sri Abhayda's book "Anandamayi" first published by Yogeshda and Kamalakanta, and printed by Diamond Trust in 1928.

"Ruma Devi Speaks:

(Ruma Devi is an extra-ordinary Sadhika. She has a life of purity through renunciation and service. She belongs to a place near Kailash. She obtained her Diksha from Shri Shri Ma Sarada Devi, wife of Shri Ramkrishna Paramahansa. From these pieces of information collected from her it could be well understood in this article what her life had become in association with Ma Anandamayee.)

After arriving at Chaudas Ashram I heard that Ma Anandamayee will be reaching here on her intended pilgrimage to Kailash. Then onwards my mind was very much excited to meet Ma. I have to go to Almora in connection with some ashram affairs and I was on my way. Khela (a village) comes on the way. Before reaching Khela I have heard that Ma will be arriving at Khela from Dharchula that very day. Incidentally, I arrived one hour before her at the same shop where Ma was supposed to stay. To meet Ma I was heading my way. Ma was on her way. Bholanath(Ma's husband) was there with her, Bhajji was there and many more. I saw Ma and paid my obeisance. Ma asked my name and after knowing about me behaved like that of a close acquaintance.

I liked her very much at the first instance of Darshan. Joy was streaming inside me. I told Ma, “ I am feeling the same awakening of bliss inside me which I felt inside whenever I was in presence of my Guru Sri Ma(Sri Ma Sarada).” I thought not to leave Ma’s company. But they are on way to Kailash and I am on my way to Almora.

I asked for Ma’s permission to be in her company for few days. Ma granted her permission gladly. By the way, Ma told me, “The way self image gets reflected clearly after the mirror is cleansed likewise the self becomes distinctly evident when the Chita (inner mental disposition) is purified. Try to attain that purified state of mind. That what is necessary.”

Next morning after offering my pranam to Ma I started on my way to Almora. While on my way it happened to me that both my body and mind have become very much pure and free from any blemishes. In my mind I felt a surge of great happiness.

After staying for five days at Almora I went back to Chaudas Ashram. I was feeling very lonesome in the ashram. I was counting the days of Ma’s return staying at the house of one of my relatives two miles away. At last Ma came back. I also accompanied Ma after she granted permission.

During the journey I had a strong conviction about Ma that she is the Bhagavati (the presiding goddess) herself. Although she came assuming the human body, in fact, she is no human being. The more I am having the

association of Ma the more I am convinced that if I be able to be in Ma's company I shall attain more happiness.

We were proceeding towards Almora. We had to stay at Dharchula for four to five days due to illness of Bhaiji. During that period Nama Chanting had been continuing inside me and felt a quick throbbing of my heart to have real darshan of her.

We reached Almora. Bhaiji was unwell. Everybody was very busy. He left the body thereafter. We reached Dehradun ashram from Almora. I was physically unwell after reaching Dehradun ashram. Here I was experiencing the same heart throb. I had been feeling the intoxication of happiness in spite of my illness. After resting for a week I was gradually getting well. Along with my recovery my mind had been inclining towards meditation. Consequently it seemed that the mind became eager for self revelation. When the mind was about to sink into deep meditation I used to call Ma-Ma and tears ran down my chest. While I sat for meditation on Ma's form I noticed the disappearance of that form and at times the form of Ramchandra, at another instance the form of Shri Krishna had filled my heart. My mind would sink deep into Bhava Samadhi but I was not unaware of the outside world. Somebody would prompt from inside me, "Witness all the forms.", and the forms one after another would surface before my (mind's) eye.

At times it seemed that the Kundalini was ascending gradually. It would seem during a meditative state that a girl had been performing Arati on my head with a flower.

Sometimes while in meditation my body would swing from right to left. It seemed someone was suggesting from inside, "Enjoy the bliss of Satchidananda in great measure."

Sometimes it seemed that a shadow fell on my head - a feeling persisted that I have no mind, no body and I am the bliss itself. When getting out of the meditative state I would run to Ma like a mad person. When I offered my pranam at Ma's feet it seemed that somebody had pressed my head down at Ma's feet. I did not want to get up. I would feel the natural state of Moun

At times I would feel that there was no difference between my body and that of Ma. I would feel a sense of intoxication in my body. The body would go out of control and temporarily all the bodily activities had stopped. At times I would visualize sequential appearance of images of Ma, Rama and Krishna and someone from inside saying, " See ,see and witness." It seemed that somebody pointing at Anandamayee Ma had been saying, " She is Rama, Krishna, Brahma, Vishnu and Maheswar. She alone will liberate you."

At times I had been visualizing Ma was sitting inside me and there was a writing above, "Atma,Atma,Atma." Someone was saying," She is the Atma."

One day sitting in the hall I had been contemplating on God and gradually my body got fatigued and I lay down. After sometime I had a vision of Krishna. All through the

day I spent as if intoxicated. At dusk I felt as if Ma put her hand on my head. While calling Ma, Ma I wanted to catch hold of her hand I saw there was nobody around.

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After some days while on my way to Narmada(Gujrat) via Haridwar with Ma I saw the Yamuna (river) from the train in Delhi and my mind became so much engrossed in Krishna Bhava that for a long time I saw Ma had been standing assuming the form of Krishna. After visualizing this I could recognize, "It is Ma herself." My body became motionless. For a long time I lay down with my eyes closed.

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In Baroda I was lying down in the day time. It seemed everybody was enquiring, "Where is Ma? Where is Ma?" I felt as if Ma came and was holding me in an embrace. This is no dream.

One day in Dehradun while sitting alone in Ma's room I saw Ma was calling me by signaling with her hand. One day it was as if Ma was lying down embracing me.

Whenever I was with Ma it appeared to me that Ma's face was that of Krishna and the body was that of Devi.

