

Brahmachari Kamalakantada

Kamalakantada joined Ma's close adherents in the early days at Shahbagh and was promptly spotted by Ma as an ideal Brahmachari for his blind obedience and faith for Ma's principles. In particular he attached himself to Baba Bholanath as his ideal and was chosen by Ma to follow Bholanath alone to Tarapith and admisister to his needs when Pitaji proceeded to Tarapith for his Sadhan and subesequent siddhi.

Kamalakantada was later chosen to be an ideal person to look after sacred yagna fires at Shahbagh, Ramna, Kashi Kalyanvan and Kankhal where he lived in the Havan room built specially for the ashram to house the sacred ever-burning flame.

Later when he became too old, he was moved to the Sadhu Kutir at Kankhal.

Kamalakantada had a special attraction for Tarapith, being connected with Ma's and Baba Bholanath's leela there from the start. So it was inevitable that he took upon himself the task of founding an ashram at Tarapith in the face of almost insurmountable difficulties, aided by small amounts of money from Swami Prabhananda and Morarji Bhai Thacker, who helped Kamalakantada in starting the nucleus of Tarapith Ashram. Ma gave him special power as Brahmachari and would not enter into Tarapith Temple without the Brahmachari preceding her. Nor, as the writer has seen with his own eyes, would she enter into a devotee's newly built premises near Vrindaban ashram without Kamalakantada preceding her to purify the abode.

Kamalakantada was also entrusted with preparing and issuing Panchyagabya to new devotees before diksha or after their returning from abroad to ashram premises and many are the amusing stories connected with Kamalakantada's preparations for those devotees when he used to forget in his absentmindedness the sweeter ingredients of panchagabya when preparing the formula to wash away all sins!

Kamalakantada took very little part in the Ashram affairs at Kankhal, specially after Ma's Mahaprayana, and when he felt his time was near, he did not hesitate to leave for Kashi accompanied by a sin-

gle Brahmachari on the 16th of March 1987.

He passed away in Kashi Mukta Khetra under the will of Ma in February, 1988 after a whole life of brahmacharya dedicated to Ma's service and has surely now been gathered into her bosom as one of her favourite brahmachari sons.