



Shri Mataji Nirmal Devi – 21st March 1923

Who was Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi? A mother, a guru, a gracious figure of innate divinity. She allowed all who came before her to receive the powerfully transformative experience of *self-realization*: all races, castes, creeds, levels of education, were able to benefit from this. Many felt astonishing improvements to their health on meeting her, and could feel waves of cooling vibrations from her photograph. For Shri Mataji all were the children of God and deserving of compassion. From the humble driver of a bullock cart to proud owner of vast steel plant, each person was a unique and significant human being to be loved and cherished.

She delighted in little children, but could talk knowledgeably with scientists, doctors and scholars on almost any subject. As a major patron of the arts, she promoted all forms of creativity. She founded a theatre group, musical and dance academies, an international school in Dehra Dun, a hospital and an orphanage. She traveled the continents of the globe for over four decades in order to reach seekers of truth, establishing Sahaja Yoga centers in over 100 countries. People flocked to hear her lectures in

Europe, India, America and Australia. In Italy where she resided for part of each year, people called her *il Grande Madre, the Great Mother*.



Shri Mataji was a humane, and deeply compassionate personality who charmed people's hearts with her laughter, and dazzled their minds with the depth of her spiritual knowledge. In a world driven by avarice and greed she was a benefactor to mankind who provided awakening to higher states of consciousness free-of-charge. Today her legacy can be seen in the tens of thousands of devotees, whose material, emotional and spiritual well-being has been improved beyond measure by her loving touch.

As the founder of the world-wide-movement of Sahaja Yoga she is worshiped as an incarnation of the primordial Mother goddess, *Adi Shakti*. Her vision was to bring about a unified and ennobled human culture, in which spiritual values guided actions.

To sit in a room and talk to Shri Mataji was to experience something serene, timeless and holy. Her charm and care, put everyone at ease. Yet to watch her from the back of a vast auditorium as she spoke with immense spiritual authority and gave the experience of self realization was also to encounter a magnetic and compelling sat guru of the highest order. A divine figure of inordinate power. So who really was Shri Mataji? In one word: *love*.

Ultimately Shri Mataji was love, pure and unstinting. Love walking the earth, changing and healing lives. Love always purposeful and magnanimous, that would go to any length, suffer any sacrifice, to reach those who hungered and thirsted for truth.

