



The Cross and The Lotus Journal

Winter Edition

December 2001, Vol. 2 No. 4

Dear Friends,

Since my coming out of silence a shock wave has gone around this world with the terrorists' actions of September 11. I was inwardly shown that my year of silence has to do with the establishment of dharma, righteousness in the world. This world is made up of individuals, each one of us making decisions on a daily basis. The power of those decisions creates world consciousness. Each one of us is responsible for his thoughts, words and actions. Many of us do not recognize the power we hold when we make decisions. When we wake up to the fact that we exercise power in what we do, then we more carefully choose what to focus our minds upon, the actions and words we set into motion. It matters what we do! Each one of us, all of the time. For it is constant creation that is set into motion each moment we live.

This shock wave going out over the world awakens us to the fragile power of man, but the unlimited power of God. Individuals around the world responded in prayer and a deepened silence. The first response was reaching out for the all powerful Presence of the Divine. It came to me as a humorous thought that groups did not respond to the destruction of the world trade center by running to their own bank buildings and bankers, hugging them and saying, "Thank God you are still here." Rather the spontaneous reaction was a call to prayer and candlelight vigils. God's power alone sustains each and every moment of our lives. But in everyday life that fact is often lost. In times of crisis our first reaction is to seek out comfort, and the power to overcome, which comes through God communion.

With the eruption of darkness, the Light becomes brighter through our soul's call. The stronger the darkness, the more we have to draw on the Light if we are to survive. It was shown to me, during my silence, how greatly we can grow spiritually while on this physical plane. Due to the difficult tests we face here, we learn to draw deeply on the Divine power and Light within. This material world demands we grow in that Light in a way the astral and causal worlds do not. This accelerated spiritual growth is the advantage we accrue for the harsh realities faced here.

Times such as these also point out the need for our adherence to our dharma. We may feel these events are far

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Mother Hamilton

The Divine Love of God

A Talk Given by Mother Hamilton
on November 30, 1960

[Continued From Last Issue]

I'd like to read you a little out of a letter that I received. I'll skip over certain parts of it that are personal. Here's a man that had great trouble. He said,

My dear mother has had a relapse. I think I fail somewhere when I send my love vibrations to my mother. My heart is in them, also my conviction. Is there a way when I can taste the power of my prayers, or is it that they will be effective only after I have reached a high level of spiritual consciousness?

The path is like the air I breathe. I cannot do without it. I gasp for divine love. I have moments when I want God as dearly as I used to want my mother when I was a little child and had lost my way from her. At these moments it is very painful to feel so far and know it is so close, yet unattainable, for it is not revealed.

You understand my feelings, and I ask you to please help me. I do twenty-eight Kriyas in the morning and also at night before retiring. I feel elevated after these

(Continued on page 2)

meditations, yet not fulfilled. I feel a want, a thirst for divine love that I want to share with all and everyone. There is no selfishness in my intentions. I think that I press time and should be grateful just to be on the path, as only a few are in the world. No, I want to be already ahead, forging forward to reach this Realization. Already almost five years have passed since I had my first and important spiritual manifestation, which led me to SRF.

I want more than lessons. I want a guru as Lahiri Mahasaya had Babaji, as Sri Yukteswar had Lahiri Mahasaya. Also Master had his master, as you also had Master. Why is God keeping away from me? Or am I hiding from Him? Someone must tell me which is which. I want to know. Every minute, hour, days pass, I realize the importance of being aware that now is the time for me to work. This life must be used to go as far as possible ahead. I try to remember to live in balance, as Master said it must be – not too material, not too spiritual, but by fear of not being spiritual enough.

I think about God all day, every time I can, waiting for Him to respond. Sometimes I think that masters, saints, sages, were more precise in their ways of conceiving God. I may fail right there on this point. Then this would explain my seeming lack of spiritual security.

I cannot be content with blind belief that my prayers are doing something good. I want to realize it. I want to do God's will alone, but I want to know that I am doing it.

How many disciples are there as difficult as I am? Really, if I did not have you now I would feel lost. I thirst for Truth. The more I sense it, the more I want it. In writing this letter, the desire for God is re-awakened, and right now it hurts. I tell you all as I feel in hope that my thirst be quenched. Master and Papa knew how you felt. They did something. If I must change to rate such a grant, let a change in me be the refreshing one. Please do not be angry with me. I already apologize if I have been impertinent. I did not mean to be.

Divinely remembering and loving you.

This man is a Frenchman. That's why his letter is worded a little backwards sometimes. But did you ever hear such longing from the soul for God? This is the kind of longing we should have, truly. And you know, we should do it while we're young. And we should do it like Dr. Carver – early. Early in life and early in the morning. Because only through doing this will we one day find peace and contentment and the bliss to which we are entitled within our own souls.

There is a story told in India about six young men who one day went down to a water tank. And with them they had a little child of one or two years old. For awhile the child played happily and everything was at peace. But all of a sudden, the child started crying for its mother. And it cried and it cried and it cried. Every single one of the six young

men tried to do something to quiet the child, but it would have none of them. They brought it toys; they brought it something to eat; they brought it something to drink, and it would have none of them.

It turned everything away and just cried only louder for the mother. So finally one of the young men volunteered to walk all the way back to the village with the child so that it could be with its mother again.

The guru is like the mother, in a sense, or the guru, rather I should say is like the young man, in a sense, taking the child to its mother. But if the guru is not present, then the Mother herself comes to the one who has this great longing within the heart. The trouble is we give up too soon. We don't cry long enough nor hard enough. And we always go back to thinking of ourselves – how I am suffering, how I am this, how I need that, how I want this. We never stick with the thought of God, who is the creator of our being and everything in this universe.

If we have God, if we do what the Christ said, to seek first the kingdom of heaven within ourselves, then every single thing will come to us as it is promised there. We will be given wisdom as we need it. You know, it is as though there are little piles of wisdom all the way behind us. And when we are in tune with God, He keeps pushing these little piles up all the time. And if we are empty receptacles, He pushes these piles into our mind and the wisdom comes forth. And there is never any lack of supply in any sense of the word.

All of the powers that you need are given to you when you need them-- and the most wonderful powers. But you see, as it also says in the Bible, God manifests in each one in a different way because everyone has his own destiny to fulfill. Some have the power of healing; some have the power of prophecy; some have the power of love, of drawing in that way; some have the power of wisdom.

Each one comes to give God in a different way to those who are ready to receive Him. Not any one master's path is the same as any other's. And usually each one teaches his disciples the path which he himself has followed. And then from what is taught, each one will take his own path. This is a wonderful thing, because the greatest thing that can be done for any individual is to develop the Truth within him, to help him to fulfill his own destiny. His own destiny.

I will never forget one time when they were trying to install the system which they now have in all of the centers and churches of SRF of quoting and reading Master's exact words. And this was not the way he taught his ministers to do. He said that first you should go inside and meditate and find out what God wants you to talk about. Then do a little reading and tell a few stories, because people like that, and then let the Spirit within you speak. But instead of this, here was this parrot-like reading. And it came to his attention one day, and he became absolutely furious. He said, "I never

want this done in any of my churches or centers. I came not to give you Yogananda-realization, but to give you Self-Realization.” And this is the greatest thing that anybody can be given—Self-Realization.

And it is through the love of God, through the love of the guru, that you are lifted up and taught how to become the greatest of what you can be. But you yourself must make the effort. How many come every week to the teacher and listen to the words which God speaks through such a one, and how many go home and make the effort to meditate, to put the things which are told them into practice? And yet because they don’t, then they are constantly in trouble, and they are constantly bemoaning this fact. It is true.

All of the great teachers come but for one purpose, and that is to help us to God. God’s love is so great, it says in the Bible, that He gave His only Begotten Son that man might be lifted up, he might be healed, he might be saved. And the only Begotten Son is the Mystic Christ within each single man. He gives that only Begotten Son in each one of us to lift us up, if we will only go within and discover him.

We must all become masters one day, all of us. But as the Vedanta swami said one day, “If you don’t make it this time, there’s always another bus comes along.” But you know, I’d like to catch the bus on time. I want to make it this time. I want to put enough effort in, no matter what the cost, so that I can see God face to face, that I can have this bliss constantly within my own being that I can give it to all with whom I come in contact, that He can use me, that I can be empty of myself and He can use me to lift all to Himself.

There was a story once told about a very little boy. He was only four years old. And yet this child was a child of destiny. He had great things in store for him. And even at this tender age, it was said that he would be one of the greatest masters of art that ever was. And as the years went on and he reached the age of twenty-one, this prediction came true. And he was a master of music, of painting, of literature, of the drama. And all people went to hear him, to listen to him and to praise him. But something within himself kept him from accepting this thing. It was as though something within himself was still wanting.

He came with these three great destinies within himself, you might say, and still there was a fourth which was still unfulfilled. Well, after he had become proficient in all of the arts, he decided that he wanted to become a material scientist. So he studied, and he took great honors in this particular field. And many people came to him for learning and for help. And he did this until he was about thirty-five.

And then when he was thirty-six, he decided that he wanted to become a philosopher and study philosophy. So he did this and perfected himself in this field. And he taught many people, and he wrote many books until even his books were used as textbooks for many to study from all over the

world. People came to him with great acclaim. And he was known as one of the most famous men in all the world. Yet, he was not happy; he was not content. Something was lacking. All of these honors which had been heaped upon him were like ashes in his mouth.

So he had heard about the teachings of the East, and he decided to go there, because he was an American. So he went to India, and he visited all of the temples. He went to the libraries, to the schools, and constantly he searched for someone who could give him the key to becoming a master. But he found no one. He still didn’t find the answer. And finally he became so discouraged that he thought that, “What is the use of all of this? I will just indulge in all of the things of the senses. I have tried very hard to attain my goal, and I have not been able to attain it.”

So he started in indulging in all the vices that are known to man. And he became so degraded that the people on the street who met him on the street would shy away from him. And finally the day came when he was just clothed in rags. He hadn’t had anything to eat. And his plight was so desperate that he contemplated suicide. And he went down to the river, thinking that he would throw himself in.

And as he stood there, thinking about this last act of his life, he happened to glance over under a tree. And he saw an old man sitting under there. And he saw a group of young people standing before him. They were all laughing and talking and chatting. And finally, first one couple and then another would segregate themselves from the group and would go on laughing.

Finally he stopped one of these youths, and he said to him, “Who is the old man?”

“Oh, I don’t know. He’s supposed to be a man full of wisdom. But,” he said, “I don’t get anything out of his discourse. It sounds like child’s play.”

Well, finally all of them had left the old man. And this young man decided that he would go over there and speak to him. So he went over there. And he said, “Old man, I hear that you are a man of great wisdom.” He said, “I have had many experiences in my life, but,” he said, “I have not been able to find that which I seek. I wanted to become a master. Instead,” he said, “I’ve accumulated all of the vices known to man.”

And the old man looked at him, and he said, “My son, vice is but virtue inverted.” He said, “I will turn the cup of your vice upside down and fill it with the living waters of God.”

He said, “Can you tell me how to become a master?”

He said, “Yes, I can, my son. It is very simple.”

Well, with this little, tiny ray of hope, the man’s whole outlook changed. And he said, “Well, tell me. What must I do?”

He said, "Well, I'll tell you. I will send you to a shopkeeper, and he will give you enough supplies to last you for twelve times twelve days." And he said, "You will go into the forest, and you will practice being kind to all of nature, to all of the birds and the animals and the insects, and all of the inanimate objects."

So the man didn't question this. He went to the shopkeeper and got his supplies and went into the forest. And he practiced this kindness. And as he practiced being kind to all of the things of nature, he felt a great love expanding in his heart for all of these creatures of God and all living things.

And at the end of twelve times twelve days, he came back to the feet of the master. And he said, "I have fulfilled that which you told me to do. But still I am not a master. What else must I do?"

He said, "Now you must go into the world of man and stay there for twelve times twelve days. And you must practice being kind and loving [to] every single one of the people whom you meet." He said, "This will be much more difficult because you have fallen very low. And many will heap insults on your head. You are still clothed in rags. No one will want to accept your love and your service, nor listen to your wisdom. But you must do this."

So the man went out into the world, and he practiced what the master told him. And he gave love and service to everyone whom he met. And gradually as he kept trying, no matter what treatment he got, he gained back his self respect. Finally, he got a job. He was able to have better clothes. He was able to put food in his mouth. And gradually his service to people bore results, and he started getting love from them in return.

At the end of the allotted period, he went back to the feet of the master. And he said, "I have gone and done what you've told me. I have learned wonderful lessons, but still I have not found out how to be a master."

He said, "Well, my son, the greatest test is still to come--the third and the last one. Now, for twelve times twelve days, I want you to practice being kind to yourself."

He said, "Well, that's a funny kind of a thing to give me to do." He said, "Everybody is kind to themselves. Everybody is good to themselves."

He said, "No, my son. If you will stop to think of it, everyone is very cruel to themselves. They punish themselves. If you would be kind to yourself," he said, "then you must give love, truthfulness, honesty, sincerity, generosity, kindness, patience, humility, good temper, guilelessness. All of these things you must practice -- courtesy." He said, "These are the twelve virtues." He said, "Because if you practice giving love, then you will get love. But," he said, "instead, many times we give hate. So we are very unkind to ourselves because we receive what we give out. If we are honest, if we are sincere, then people are honest and sincere with us. They

respect us. If we give patience and love and kindness," he said, "then all of these things gradually come to us. Because if you become master of one of these things, then you become master of all of them." He said, "Out of all of these virtues, my son, which one would you choose?"

He said, "I think I would choose kindness because of all of the people I have met in many a long year, you are the first one who has been truly kind to me, who has shown me what divine love truly is."

So the master said to him, "You try this, my son. You try being kind to yourself. Stop punishing yourself by all of the things that you fail to do or that you do that are unkind to yourself. And," he said, "at the end of twelve times twelve days, I shall come and sit at your feet and learn of the things which you learned in the West and were master of."

And so it came to pass that at the end of twelve times twelve days, the master of the East came to sit at the feet of the master of the West and learn from him those things which he lacked. Because, you see, no one person has all of the virtues until he has become a master. No one person has all things. But the master learns from the disciple, and the disciple learns from the master. And as these two masters came together, the East and the West met to exchange the things which life and love make worthwhile.

I think this is a wonderful story. And it is the true key to self mastery because if we will practice these things which we are taught, which the Bible is full of, which our lessons are full of, then we will find the key to eternal life -- of love, of happiness, of joy. But we will never find it until we make the effort first. Because the instruction is very specific -- that ye shall love others as the Christ has loved you, that ye shall seek first the kingdom of heaven and only then will all these things be added unto you, not before, only then.

So trust in God. Love Him. Have faith in Him. Know that He is your Father, that He will take care of you under all circumstances, under all conditions, and that truly He knows every single little need before you yourself know it, because He is within you in the heaven of your own being.

First Person Singular

by Larry Koler

Going to God is going from speaking in the third person to speaking in the first person: When we first turn to God, He is far away and within we think of "Him." Then, as we develop devotion and familiarity we pray to "You." Later we gain the intimacy of the married state with God and say "We." The Christ was able, with authority, to say both "Before Abraham was, I am" and "I and my Father are One."* This last is the cherished state of our final attainment. First, we speak *of* God, then *to* Him and finally, we speak *as* Him.

* John 8:58 and John 10:30, respectively



Meeting Mother

by Phyllis Victory

Some moments stand out in your life more than others, even though at the time they feel quite natural and hauntingly familiar. I had recently moved to Canada, it was 1972 or 73 and I was looking for an answer to this burning question that raged deep inside myself; by the time the question reached my mind, it translated into a mission statement that read: "I want to know the TRUTH!"

The first inkling that I had, that the answer was about to come, was in a conversation with a friend who was a member of the SRF in California. One day she said to me "I met this woman..." and an electric current passed through me. I knew my search was over. Funny how those things happen....

So, by the time I actually met Mother face to face I was already resonating with a quickening that was electrical; something both exciting and terrifying at the same time. It was in this state that I followed my friends up the stairs to her apartment in the dusk of that fateful day. We were seated comfortably in chairs and served something to drink. I looked around at the many elephants she had and then I noticed that it was hard to take my eyes off of the painting of the man in orange robes that she had hanging on the wall. (I later came to know that this God man was her beloved teacher, Paramhansa Yogananda) And then she began to talk. She talked about things that I had no knowledge of; words that were foreign to me and of Saints and India. I sat in my chair, hoping mostly to remain anonymous, so that she would not suspect that I had no clue of what she was saying and yet I was being magically drawn in. And then, before my very eyes, she turned into a huge ball of soft, radiant white light. I felt that she and I were one in that light; my fear left and I was becoming absorbed into it. I don't know how long it lasted, but when we finally got up to go, she unceremoniously returned to her human form and we all said our good-byes, and left. (never to be the same...)

I knew then that my search WAS over. She was then, and is now, my beloved Guru.

I am a Child

I am a child
An infant lying in a beam of light
(I see rainbows)
I was placed here by my Mother.

I am a child
Struggling on my tummy
Straining every muscle
(to learn)
to crawl to my Mother.

I am a child
Learning to walk
(Falling on my face)
to follow my Mother.

I am a child wanting to talk
How many ways can I say
"I need you"
to my Mother?

I am a child needing to Be
Myself in the world
but when I am lost,
I still call out to my Mother.

I am a child learning to be a mother
Can I grow in love and patience
So that I can Be my Mother?

by Susi Modisher

[The above poem (dedicated to Mother) and the writing on the right were late contributions to the book *Memories of Mother*.]



Peter Schultz, architect (see next page)

September 8, 2001

David Breaks His Silence

Dedication of Babaji Grotto

On September 8, we were all treated to the extraordinary experience of being with Yogacharya David Hickenbottom when he broke his silence at Diamond Hall at Cloud Mountain Retreat Center, where David has spent this last year during his seclusion and silence. It was a very holy occasion. The first sounds that issued from David's lips were: "Om... Om... Om..." – which he sang in a nice baritone. After that he sang Papa's mantra: "Om Sri Ram Jai Ram Jai Jai Ram" for a couple of times. David then gave a short talk after which he led us in a round of group chanting of the mantra. There was a powerful, spiritual feeling in the room during all of this.

After chanting and circumambulating within Diamond Hall, David lead us all up to the new Babaji Grotto, to attend a dedication ceremony for the installation of a statue (called a murti, in India) of the great Mahavatar, Babaji. This ceremony took place at the grotto (just below Mist Haven meditation hall) that was developed over the preceding months by David, Peter Schultz, Larry Koler and David Branscomb (the owner of Cloud Mountain Retreat Center).

David spoke for a few minutes on what inspired him to take up the task of donating this temple to Cloud Mountain.



David meditating before breaking his silence

He spoke of the great service and contribution that David Branscomb has made to society by creating Cloud Mountain Retreat Center and how grateful he was for the warm and loving support he received from David B. and the staff of the retreat center. Then, David spoke of the great inspiration that he had felt from Babaji during his year of silence. The grotto seemed a fitting place for the remembrance of this great year in God.

David speaking to devotees before the installation of the Babaji statue

Babaji's Temple



away, or outside our sphere of influence. But we would not be here, at this time, if we were not connected to these events in some way. The very purpose of terrorist acts is to induce fear. When we act in faith of God, free of fear, we have defeated the terrorists and taken away their most powerful weapon. Complete faith in the Divine gives us that freedom from fear and a peace unequalled in the world. In that freedom, we act according to the highest Light within us. When aspirants around the world act according to that Light, then we will create a world of harmony, tolerance and justice.

We hear others saying they are doing the will of God in performing these actions of terror. It brings to mind the question: how may we know when we are doing the will of God versus when are we responding to the ego? The goal of our path is clearly marked out by God-tuned masters as the attainment of God-Consciousness. The great masters have spoken of those qualities of body, mind and soul that denote a God-tuned state. Those qualities are embodied in a universal vision, seeing all as manifestations of the Divine. With that universal vision come love and compassion for all. Compassion results in service to all. Adherence to Truth and the desire to see the upliftment of all humanity is evidence of a realized state.

It is a holdover of the age of darkness, the Kali Yuga that makes one think only one religion is right. It is fear that drives anger and hatred. It is lack of faith in God as the supreme power that makes for desperation. God-experience will make the heart soft and tender towards all, and purity of mind will allow for equal vision of seeing God in all. Doing the will of God will make one the embodiment of these virtues. During times such as these, each of us is called upon to live courageously and with integrity. Let your battle cry be for the victorious Light of the Infinite! Live your life as a sincere sadhaka, going deeply into the heart and mind of God. Give abundantly of those spiritual treasures you uncover within to all whom you meet. You are sons and daughters of the Infinite, and should live accordingly.



Statue of Babaji during installation ceremony

This time of year has many reminders of our spiritual calling. Ramadan is the call to the world of Islam for prayer and fasting, celebrating the revelation of scriptural truths to all humanity. The Christian world celebrates the birth of the God-man, the Light of the world. And for Jews, Hannukah marks consecration of life to God and the bringing of Light into the world. All the world celebrates the coming of Light in various ways. When each of us respects and appreciates what different cultures and religions bring to that celebration, peace cannot be far from us.

In our own recent history we had the birth of a savior. Mother Hamilton was destined to become a Light unto this world. She played a part in bringing home to many of us the clear vision that we were meant to attain God-Consciousness. She was born on Christmas day, a signal of her kinship with the universal Christ-Consciousness. She was a living example of one who attained the ultimate in that perfect state, yet she lived, laughed and played with us as a human being. She demonstrated that attaining that supreme consciousness was possible for all and that it did not subtract from life, but was the key to a full and truly complete life, lived in God.

My friends, whether you celebrate the coming of the Light of the world through religious observances or in the privacy of your heart and soul, join with me in prayerful silence. See that Light being born within the hearts of all and manifesting as love for all. May you receive the blessings of God and his great ones with peace in your heart and a calm determination to live according to your highest Light within.

David

Wedding Announcement: Yogacharya David Hickenbottom and Carla Gold will be married on December 15, 2001 at 1:30 p.m. at the Unity Chapel in Seattle.

Calendar of Events

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| December 10 | Hanukkah |
| December 15 | David & Carla's Wedding Day |
| December 21 | Winter Solstice (11:19 a.m. PST) |
| December 25 | Christmas / Mother's Birthday |
| December 27 | Papa's Sannyas Day |
| January 5 | Master's Birthday |
| January 31 | Mother's Mahasamadhi |
| February 19 | Mother Krishnabai's Mahasamadhi |
| March 7 | Master's Mahasamadhi |
| March 9 | Sri Yukteswar's Mahasamadhi |
| March 20 | Spring Equinox (11:16 a.m. PST) |

Mother's Truth Series CDs: Three New CDs are available: "The Religion of Truth," "The Windows of Your Soul" and "The Great Promise." Contact L. Koler to acquire.

Journal Editor: Rev. Larry Koler

Jesus Christ is the son of Man and the son of God. He came to demonstrate what we all may be. In his story, we see a reflection of our own awakening. Narrow, sectarian views are but a passing phase in human history. The universality of the Christ story is for all mankind and defies limitations. Look deeply into the birth of the son of Man, who came to manifest himself as the son of God. You will see yourself in that story; the very best and the very highest of who and what you truly are. Shake off the clothes of ignorance, and let your robes be of the shining Light and splendor of your universal Christ Self.

Yogacharya David Hickenbottom

Oh Christ—Thou Rarest Flower of Hearts.

O Thou Great Lover of error-torn brothers – an unseen monument of the mightiest miracle of love was established in each heart when the magic wand of Thy Voice uttered:
"Forgive them, for they know not what they do."

O shepherd of Souls, wandering hearts are of themselves seeking the one fold of divine devotion. We have heard the ever-calling music of Thy infinite kindness. Our one desire is to be at home with Thee, to receive the Cosmic Father with joyous, open eyes of wisdom, and to know that we are all sons of our own One God.

Paramhansa Yogananda

The Crisis through which the world is passing is absolutely a needed factor in its evolution to the sublime destiny that awaits it. There is absolutely no reason for striking a note of despair or frustration. The world is safe in the hands of God who is leading it on to its goal.

Swami Ramdas

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