

PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION

BY YOGACHARYA DAVID HICKENBOTTOM

Twenty years have passed since the Mahasamadhi of Mother Hamilton. Mother once said that at the time a great spiritual master leaves the body a spiritual ambience goes out all over the world. Mother's spiritual influence and presence continues to be a living force in the world that has been keenly felt by aspirants everywhere.

One of the great privileges I have as guru and teacher is sharing in so many aspirants' spiritual journeys. In this work over the past twenty years, I have seen Mother transform the lives of devotees in countless ways. It is clear when someone has truly been lifted into spiritual realms, versus a subconscious dream or an active imagination. These spiritual experiences are life changing, uplifting, clarifying, and resolve many past hurts and traumas. Knowing how Mother has come into someone's life and then seeing the transformative result is thrilling.

One such devotee was struggling with a terrifying memory from long ago that continued to petrify her. During such an experience of terror Mother came into the mind of the devotee, not just as a thought or a reassuring figure, but as a powerful spiritual presence filled with light and strength. With some spoken words of assurance Mother's presence soothed the devotee's mind and helped lift her beyond the terror into realms of peace and bliss. The terror has never returned.

Another devotee was struggling with a problem that seemed to have no solution; the mind kept going around and around the problem but could not settle upon a solution. During meditation Mother's voice spoke to the mind of the devotee with exact instructions of how to get out of the trouble, resolving all doubt. The devotee did as he was instructed and everything turned out perfectly.

And still another devotee was lifted into a high spiritual experience in which she saw Mother as a radiant Being filled with transcendent Light. The devotee was filled with bliss and felt Mother transforming her whole being, purified in Mother's presence.

Memories of Mother

Mother has also made her presence known in many different ways: devotees feeling Mother as if she were right next to them; the smell of her perfume filling the space; an instantaneous vision of Mother's face, her smile or her eyes that quickened the spirit. There are the countless times in listening to Mother's talks or reading her words that devotees feel that Mother is talking directly to him or her and getting exactly what that one needs in that moment.

This volume of *Memories of Mother* is an updated version of what was printed at her 10th anniversary. I envisioned this second edition to have examples from devotees of Mother's ongoing influence. I have been very pleased with the contributions devotees have submitted; I also know for every incident written there are many hundreds not written. In this wonderful volume we have a great variety of expression and experiences that are representative of the Mother's vast nature.

This life is a battleground, so a devotee's life will be filled with wins and losses, ground gained and lost, times of feeling perfectly attuned to the guru and other times of great difficulty and even estrangement. This is the working out of ignorance for the aspirant. When Yoganandaji first met Sri Yukteswar they soon argued about Master returning to his family and school, Master leaving Sri Yukteswar without resolution. Mother had a feeling of separation from Master that just seemed to happen and was in stark contrast to the many years she felt so attuned to him; it was to last the next few years.

One must face oneself, and that will include seeing the ego reflected in the guru and having doubt. The devotee works to free himself from the clutches of the ego until he sees the transcendent Self standing above the fray and ultimately animating all creation. In this transcendent realization the devotee comes to see in the form of one's own Guru as Spirit's shining perfection.

This richness of spiritual life engages the whole self and is reflected in these writings. I know you will find these writings interesting, varied, uplifting and my prayer is that it will bring you into close attunement with Mother. She was definitely a preeminent spiritual personality of the 20th century and I know that she will continue to change the lives of many, many devotees far into the future. In reading these pages may

Preface

your life be blessed with her transformative touch and lifted into the kingdom of heaven.

Ever in God and Gurus,
Yogacharya David R. Hickenbottom
December, 2010

I will tell you something, and I don't know who among you will believe it, but nevertheless I speak of the truth of God from within myself and there were many witnesses. Having done everything I could to save my Master's teachings and without avail, I had no alternative but to surrender myself to God as ransom and pay the full price in order that I might myself learn the truth which I am teaching you.

No matter how hard I had fought, and believe me I fought, and Father with me, fought like a tigress trying to protect her cubs, in every way that we knew how we got exactly nowhere with it. I came to know finally that if every book in this world were destroyed, if the Bible was destroyed, if all of my Master's teachings were destroyed, as they have been (how he has been crucified in this sense), **still the Seed of Spirit which he planted in my own soul could never die!** And it was that which lived and could come forth and express itself from my own being and nobody could deny it because I had not read about it someplace, no one had told me in that sense. He had planted these seeds and I went the path in complete and full surrender. I paid the full price, and so I spoke from the book of my own life, and it was the truth.

MOTHER HAMILTON (March 9, 1965)