



### Invitation by the Guru

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 1997, I received a surprise call on my mobile phone, quite out of the blue, so to speak. I was coming home in the train from work around 6.30pm and my phone rang. It was Mia Rucker from the Gurukula Department in Shree Muktananda Ashram, South Fallsburg. She told me that Gurumayi had asked, “*See if Anatole can come for the summer.*” Needless to say this request threw me for six! I spoke to Mia all the way to the Ashram as she explained the logistics of visiting the ashram. At this point of time in my worldly sadhana, initiated by the Guru within me back in November 1996, this invitation meant letting go of everything I was doing and was involved in at that point in time. I was at the peak of a huge wave of work that was all rolling in to me. I was Creative Director to advertising agencies developing media campaigns and I was Managing Director of my own company which was developing new environmental technology products for the world market. But I knew the Guru had created all my work and so there was no decision about putting it all on hold and going to see my Guru if that was what she wanted. I had learnt well that *detachment and flexibility rule* in all spiritual practices!

The fascinating thing about this invitation from the Guru was that if I had been asked to come a few months earlier there would have been no way, financially, I could have considered it, but in less than three months, my financial position had dramatically changed to be able to accommodate my Guru’s request. Again, I realised I was definitely not doing the planning!

The other thing was that over the last few years I had developed an attitude of great respect for the energy of money. I honoured its presence in my life. I had also developed a largely detached attitude as to whether I had it or didn’t.

Throughout my life I had never let the lack of money get in the way of what I felt I had to do in any given situation, especially when I was clearly in touch with following my inner direction. I believe you need to first discover and pursue what you love to do from the inner guidance of your heart and then life will supply the abundance of the universe to bring it to fruition. Often people want an external response before pursuing an internal guidance. I feel it is the other way around. If you follow the inner guidance of the intelligence of your heart, then in my experience, the external support flows in response.

### A Vision of Another Life-time

The following morning, after receiving the news of this invitation from Gurumayi to come to Shree Muktananda Ashram, I spontaneously awoke around 3.30am and was drawn down to the Meditation Hall. During my meditation I had this realisation that I have always had this deep-seated belief in the supreme significance of that moment when the Guru, the spiritual master sends for you.



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The next day one of my great ashram buddies shared, (a little tongue in cheek) a different perspective of my recent news, one I hadn't really considered. Namely, he felt intrigued that there I was riding home in a train from the city, when out of the blue a very beautiful lady called me up on my mobile phone from half way around the world to let me know my beloved Guru had asked me to come and visit her ashram. When I thought about it in this light I realised not too many moments in my history could top that!

On Wednesday morning I was chanting the Guru Gita with Gurumayi, who was chanting on the CD, when during verse 52 I suddenly felt the words of Gurumayi start flowing into me from the top of my head. It was like the sound of her chanting was simply flowing into my heart, entering from the top of my head.

This sensation continued through the rest of the Guru Gita. It was especially powerful during verse 120. Tears of joy would keep welling up from within me as the thought of the Guru's message passed in and out of my mind.

Towards the end of the Guru Gita, during the "Wave Lights to the Guru" section, the thought of arriving at Shree Muktananda Ashram in New York state crossed my mind. Suddenly I had a vision of myself entering through this huge gateway or entrance, when Gurumayi came rushing out to greet me with so much joy, love and warmth. I suddenly realised it wasn't Gurumayi in this current physical form. I realised the vision was of a previous lifetime. In this previous life, Gurumayi was my older brother and I was her devoted loving sister. There was so much love between us. This always grew even stronger in our absence from each other. Whenever we were brought together our greetings were always filled with exuberant joy and love. At this point in the chant, I became quite overwhelmed!

### **The Master's Call**

Over the next few days I contemplated the significance of the Guru's message. It started to trigger the recognition of a very deep-seated longing whose strength I hadn't even been fully aware of. This longing revolved around the acknowledgment that this command was a very significant milestone in my present sadhana. All this seemed to come to the surface and I realised it had existed for a very long time within me.

This longing had also been intensified by my resolve over the last 6 years, since meeting Gurumayi in 1991, to focus on the sadhana of selfless service, knowing that when it was appropriate, however long it took, the Guru would "call" for me. The important aspect was its initiation from the Guru. I simply maintained a detached self effort. It seemed important that it was not my desire to be with her or to be in her physical presence but that my constant focus was to endeavour to connect with the inner Guru, within my heart.



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Interestingly, my financial circumstances and commitments at the time, which I had chosen, had enforced this path in any case on a basic, down-to-earth practical level. This deep longing had actually originated in my late teens after I discovered the existence, and subsequent possibility of meeting a Spiritual Master. I read how it was always when the disciple was ready and not a moment sooner. I inwardly knew this “meeting” would be at the Master’s discretion and will. Hence I had developed this longing for this sacred moment, initiated by the Master.

Although I had had very powerful experiences in many private meetings with Gurumayi during her visits in Australia during 1991 and 1997, this “call” initiated directly from the Guru was altogether different and something that was very special for me.

I also remembered how during the previous four years before going back to live in the Sydney Ashram I felt I should always do my Sadhana with the attitude of simply pleasing the Guru. I felt by offering my efforts in this way it would draw me closer to the true inner Guru which exists inside me. In fact, during my moments of anguish, due to financial pressures or the constant demands of the community service project I was involved with, I would imagine (or maybe fantasise would be closer the truth) a beautiful scenario where the Guru would become aware of my efforts and would most lovingly, in recognition of my service, whisk me away. It gave me great heart and inspiration at the mere thought, unlikely as it may have seemed at the time. Going to visit Gurumayi felt like a *deja vu* of my previous life experience - it felt so familiar and similar, though of course the magnitude of its significance, in this life-time was exceedingly more auspicious and great because of Gurumayi's now most elevated status as the Guru! My gratitude was growing and my excitement was welling up from the tips of my toes to the top of my head. Tears of joy kept coming up at the mere thought of our appointed meeting, greeting and reunion of love.

Over the coming weekend, I started to become a little confused as to the exact date to go; all the practicalities; my work commitments; the arrangements; my projects etc, etc. I decided to share the dilemma with a few close friends and then I decided to let go of the whole matter to the Guru. It was her call! I realised my visit was at her beck and call – it was her *sankalpa* and all would be taken care of if I completely surrendered.

The following mantra for my visit became embedded in my mind:

**“The Master’s Call”**

*“I am going to the bosom of my Guru.*

*I am going to be with my beloved Guru Mother.*

*I surrender completely to her will and*

*allow her love to carry me to her arms,*

*to my Shree Guru with all my heart.”*

It took two months to put the reigns on my business and organise everything to be able to leave with a sense of completion.



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#### **"Good God - I am That"**

I wanted to take a gift to Gurumayi of the book, "Good God - I am That!" (\*) I had been working on this book for nearly four years and was finally happy with it. It was a compilation of meditations and insights over the last 26 years. I had found a printer who was able to produce very small runs, namely three in full colour. It was expensive, but exactly what I wanted to produce. I decided to go for it and put in an extra huge effort to complete the book.

It was quite a fascinating experience getting the three copies of the book done in time for my visit to Shree Muktananda Ashram. I was literally handed them at the airport as they were personally delivered, minutes before my plane was about to leave. The amazing thing was that the printers had gone to absolutely *extraordinary efforts* to enable me to take the book with me to Shree Muktananda Ashram so I would be able to present it to Gurumayi. Even in those last minutes I discovered I didn't have my cheque book with me and I suddenly had to explain to them I couldn't give them a cheque as promised. They had only known me for less than three weeks and here I was leaving the country with the books they were personally delivering to the airport by car!

It was an amazing act of trust and support as I headed off to the USA.

(\*) Revised and now called "Soft diamond Light – Only Love Matters".