

SRI TATHATA
In France

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August 2-15 at the “Jardin de Safran” in Varaire (Lot)
and
September 7 2008 in Paris

This year, the second in a row, Maitreyi Amma and The Namaskaram association have taken great pride in hosting Sri Tathata and his party of several most intimate Indian disciples in the premises of the centre “ Le jardin de safran” situated near the little town of Varaire in the south western part of France, the “Lot” region to be more precise.

Sri Tathata favoured us with unprecedented teachings and bestowed the hundreds of participants that remained across the duration of his sojourn times of intense sharing and divine communion.

This year many newcomers had the opportunity to meet Sri Tathata for the very first time during a programme tailored for the public participants. This programme highlighted a number of rejoicing events such as singing and dancing entertainments by local professional artists. A Vedic marriage ritual was also performed. Following the public programme were days of practice reserved to each grade of initiates.

The SHANTI YATRA August 2-4

For his second coming into Europe, Sri Tathata wanted to inaugurate his stay with a pilgrimage dedicated to peace: the Shanti Yatra.

This was meant for all to be granted a fresh opportunity to tune in to the Divine in coming close to nature; also by offering the Divine a walk, to invite the energy of Dharma and Peace to descend upon all participants and over humanity as a whole.

From August 2 to 4, several hundred pilgrims walked in the steps of Sri Tathata between the towns of Rocamadour and Varaire.

Rocamadour was chosen as the Pilgrimage starting point due to its quality as a millenary holy place devoted to the Virgin.

Greeted by the priests of Rocamadour by the cross of Jerusalem¹, the pilgrims then followed Sri Tathata for a silent prayer at the feet of the Black virgin and then after proceeding to the heart of the basilica they asked for the blessings of Christ.

¹ Cross of Jerusalem: this cross contains a fragment from the Cross of the Golgotha. This fragment was brought back to the west by pilgrims.

While Sri Tathata bowed to Christ in the basilica, many were moved by the intensity of the moment and found themselves merging in a deep communion with all the spiritual traditions as well as in the mystery that surrounds the Divine Beings who regularly come among men to reopen the gates to the Divine Light.

In the course of three days, on the path of Saint Jacques, some times walking ahead, some other time walking in the midst of the pilgrims or by the side of those who closed the walk, Sri Tathata took care to be present with everyone.

On several occasions, he made a stop at the heart of a protective nature. Simply seated on the plain earth he gave his teachings then meditated with all, offering everyone the taste of the nectar of Divine Presence. At the favour of these blessed moments, many were able to feel their oneness with Nature and the whole cosmos.

With the rhythm of the sacred chants, the walk grew into a joyful prayer. As Sri Tathata had mentioned it, many pilgrims felt they were transported back in the times and places where the Buddha or Christ had made their way from one village to another followed by crowds who had been moved by their wisdom and their love.

On the last day, representatives of various confessions and spiritual trends (Buddhist, Christian Orthodox, Sufi and catholic) joined the Shanti Yatra to walk by Sri Tathata's side.

Pilgrims are keeping the memory of three days filled with an exceptional grace.

SRI TATHATA'S TALK DURING THE CLOSING
CEREMONY OF THE SHANTI YATRA

Afternoon of August 4.

On the afternoon of August 4, after each representative had an opportunity to speak, Sri Tathata talked to us in the following words.

“Sri Tathata offers his salutations to the representatives of the various spiritual trends who are here gathered for the closing ceremony of the three days Shanti Yatra , a pilgrimage for peace.

Time has now come to let this new energy, this new spirit of peace for humanity, come into us.

All the great Masters of the past have already done their best to raise humanity's consciousness and to bring her to a dimension of peace, harmony and love. The Buddha took incarnation for that purpose, so did Christ and many others likewise. As a matter of fact every single Master said the same thing from one time to another; each in their own time addressed groups of people who were much different, this accounting that they propounded the same things in different ways. The teaching of the great Masters who came to elevate humanity to a higher level of consciousness crosses history like a big river, and we must be grateful to every one of them. Even though we are coming from different places and belong to different schools of thought, now the time has come to be united, and the very fact that we are gathered here today shows that the time has come to work together for the accomplishment of the eternal goal of human life.

The representatives of various spiritual traditions who are present here have said quite right things about peace. For instance they said that peace, Shanti, dwells in us, that it also is linked to sound and likewise that it has its essence in Dharma and still more, that action and work play a major role in the spreading of peace; all of this is right.

It is quite right to say that peace is found first inside of us, but the question is “how can we find this inner peace”?

To move towards peace one must have love, a pure heart, and an egoless spirit of service for humanity.

To fulfil the will of the Divine father, let us get together as one, let us proceed with a single goal, a single spirit. Let us work together for peace in a great current of Dharma.

Let us unite our minds and with high conscience, let us pray the divine, let us pray Him to have Him pour down his Grace upon us and upon humanity, to accomplish the reign of peace.

May all created beings join together, may all nations come together in the same great current of Dharma.

May humanity thus fulfil her true goal and may we all fulfil the true goal of our birth.”

TEACHING PROGRAMME

From August 5 to 8, Sri Tathata offered a teaching programme to the public present. He went on explaining how Dharma fit in the major periods that mark out human and family life: children's and teens' education, marriage, the end of life. Then he introduced the 2009 Mahayaga².

Sri Tathata also honoured of his blessings the two books that were published purposefully for the occasion of his visit, namely “The Dawn of Dharma, a message to the world expanded with an autobiographical narrative” and the integral print of his “Dharma Sutras”.

Sri Tathata entering the marquee.

² Mahayaga : a grand offering ritual. A mahayaga is undertaken by the great Sage of the moment when humanity reaches a crucial time of its existence

The Vedic marriage that was blessed by Sri Tathata

On August 7, all participants had the opportunity to attend the marriage of a young couple fully committed to Sri Tathata's Dharma. This wedding was celebrated according to the Vedic tradition.

After an extended preparation with prayers and tapas (ascetic discipline) both husband and wife were shining with splendour. Clad in accordance with the tradition, the bride wearing a sari adorned with jewelry from Kerala and the groom a longhi and a shawl, they personified Shiva and Shakti to the eyes of the dazzled onlookers. The solemnity of the ceremony was greatly enhanced by magnificent vedic hymns while the performance kept nonetheless to a graceful simplicity.

Both spouses' relatives managed to respond to the invitation in spite of some of their members having to come from abroad (Spain and the UK). Because the wedding was wrought in cosmic symbolism, it touched everyone's heart which had the result of gathering all into one big family.

The wedding highlighted in quite a marvellous way the teachings that Sri Tathata had freshly given on the subject of the major periods of personal and family life and how to live those in full awareness connected to the Divine.

Topping the wedding off an Indian artist performed dancing excerpts from Radha and Lord Krishna's life.

WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

On the afternoons of August 5,6,7, 8 and 11 the participants were offered a number of workshops and conferences: yoga, tai-chi, yoga of the voice, conferences on the vegetarian diet, vedic astrology, do-it-yourself mandalas and artist books.

Both workshops and conferences were heavily attended which proved one more time an unabated interest for a lifestyle that promotes all aspects of creativity and well-being.

THE DAYS OF INITIATION AND PRACTICE

On August 9 and 10 over 250 persons received a benediction or an initiation.

The days that followed until August 14 were reserved to spiritual practice. Sri Tathata gave precious instructions about Saddhana (practice).

Everyday in the late afternoon a public teaching was taking place, then following it Sri Tathata would hearten the assistance to celebrate the divine in songs and to meet each other soul to soul in dancing.

AUGUST 15'S CELEBRATIONS

August 15 is a celebration day both in India and in the Catholic countries: in India it is known as Independence Day but it is also the commemoration day of Sri Aurobindo's birth (it was on his 75 birthday that India's independence was proclaimed^o). In Catholic oriented countries it is known as Virgin Mary's Assumption day. Early in the morning of this 15 of August the Indian flag was raised while the Indian national anthem was sung. Sri Tathata extolled the notion of true freedom, a theme he resumed in his evening discourse.

The attendants then paid homage to Virgin Mary whose statue has found a natural shelter under the canopy of the numerous green oak trees at the "jardin de safran". Every night of Sri Tathata's stay a candle was kindled and burnt at her feet.

THE ARCHANA TO THE DIVINE MOTHER

Following these preliminary celebrations a magnificent two-hour ritual was held in the huge marquee. The one thousand and eight names (1008) of the Divine Mother were recited, accompanied for each utterance of the holy name by the offering gesture of the participants all performing as a single body. This opened up everyone to a new consciousness.

SRI TATHATA BESTOWS HIS DARSHAN ON ALL

This darshan has been a time of grace: approaching Him, receiving on our head and shoulders multicoloured rose petals that came down dancing around us wrapping everyone in a garment of light.....

Eyes filled with wonder, with tears of joy, hands reaching out.....Songs, smiling faces, sweet embraces.....a feeling of communion and love.... a foretaste of eternity.

“A DIVINE EXISTENCE”
MAITREYI AMMA’S LIFE
HIGHLIGHTED IN A DANCE PERFORMANCE

On the afternoon of August 15 an original performance was awaiting the participants: striking parts of Maitreyi Amma’s life were featured in a dance.

The coming on earth of a Master is always an extraordinary event. On stage a human life was unravelling through all the ordeals which managed to be transcended every moment by virtue of the intensity that connected her to the divine plane.

Then the magic of the moment when a star meets another star!
Soon after the new dharma was making its entry to France...

Maitreyi Amma is rediscovering moments of her terrestrial life with Sri Tathata rejoiced looks.

GOOD BYE, SEE YOU TOMORROW.....

Every evening last year, Sri Tathata used to part with “ au revoir, à demain” (good bye, see you tomorrow), these few words coloured by just a tiny bit of accent...Our impression was that he would not leave us.

This year, as we met him again, many felt that he had never really gone away from them but all was a continuum. The days in his presence flew by like an instant, quite another life opened up..... Sri Tathata brought us to a new art of living. His spontaneity, the joy he manifested from getting back to his children in France provided a sense of proximity and simplicity. For all this resulted in a feeling of affection and sweet happiness. Everyday this love was sung in the badjans; the lyrics went like this:

*“Tathata lumière, Tathata douceur
Tathata prière, Tathata bonheur
Mon coeur te cherchait, mon âme t’appelait
Merci à la vie, je t’ai retrouvé... »*

*« Tathata light, Tathata sweetness,
Tathata prayer, Tathata happiness
My heart was looking for you
My soul was calling you
Thanks to you life, I found you again...”*

PARIS : SEPTEMBER 7 2008

After the Varaire programme, Sri Tathata went to Italy and Germany. Before going back to India he gave a teaching and a darshan in Paris for the first time.

An exceptional reception awaited Sri Tathata: Over 800

persons, many of whom had never met him, had come to the appointment. The hall was filled up.

For this last French event Maitreyi Amma and The Namaskaram Association meant to express their thanks for his coming and all he had offered during his presence here.

Then, for over two hours, Sri Tathata explained the steps that all human beings take on earth from the animal stage to the divine state. He also mentioned the role that all great prophets played in showing the way of the dharma, to accomplish the deep meaning of one's life, as he himself is doing today.

Then he exposed the subtle meaning of the Mahayaga that he was to conduct in February 2009.

That was a very intense morning which found a glorious ending with Sri Tathata's darshan. The badjans sang the glory of the divine and a stream of joy and grace was flowing in everyone's heart.

Sri Tathata is praying

Sri Tathata is offering