

Antar Vahini

A Journey to Inner-Self

EDITION 9

SHIVANANDAM: AWAKENING THE SHIVA WITHIN



Awaken your Soul - A message from Babaji Shivananda

जीवन एक परमअवसर है!

क्योंकि इसमें परमात्मा को पाया जा सकता है!!

Bole Baba || Jai Vishwa!



Life is a **Supreme Opportunity**,

because **Supreme Being** can be found in it.

Bole Baba || Jai Vishwa!



Daily Chants:

@ 19.00 IST -> Soulful Mantra
Chanting from across the globe

For Enquiries: +1 (732)675-0472



Adi Kailash Yatra:

When: 23rd – 31st May'23

Reached optimum Capacity |
Booking Closed



Shrikhand Mahadev Yatra:

When: June / July'23

On Invitation only

Sadhana and Events

Sadhana is a disciplined practice that helps connect one to the Higher Self.

Here is an excerpt from Babaji's Satsang:

God and Guru are your True friend.

But you are your True Self!



We feel sorry when we do something wrong. Sometimes it may be others mistake, but we say sorry to make the other person happy. We always show our love to others but not to ourselves.

The whole day we are at work and think we are doing morning, afternoon, and evening pooja, we do lots of Seva etc. We think God is happy. But we are still searching for something. Lakhs of people serve but still don't know who they are. They run to a Guru; Guru says you are GOD. Nothing unique!

People do so much spiritual reading, chanting, attend Satsangs etc but still so confused and run here and there. If

we don't live Gita, then what's the point of Gita. Yes, form is important but there are many ways to make yourself happy. Do that!

Spend 10 mins for yourself, with yourself!

As simple as Shri Babaji, yet most powerful...

You can't be like a machine living for others. Spend time for yourself for 10 mins - this time is yours: no meditation, pooja, music, etc. Just be and don't do anything. All thoughts will start to reduce, and it will help with your meditation and focus. After 10-15 mins of sitting, you will see how much positive energy you experience.

Our body and mind need US. We need love, love thyself!

Make yourself Happy and one day the 24 hours will be yours!

<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">1</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">THE VIRTUAL YATRA</p> <p style="font-size: 10px;">Spiritual awakening through a pilgrimage to places of spiritual significance or a Devotional Celebration</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">2</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">EXPERIENCE THE TRUTH</p> <p style="font-size: 10px;">The truth of an inward Journey of the Master or the Truth of the soul felt experiences of devotees comes to you...</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">3</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">A JOURNEY WITH HIM</p> <p style="font-size: 10px;">Each devotee’s experience is as unique as HIM or HER, as we travel together on this journey to “Oneself”</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">FROM THE ASHRAM</p> <p style="font-size: 10px;">Updates from the space that exhorts one and all to become leaders of Inner Transformation – an adventurous Journey inward !</p>
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The Virtual Yatra

Durga Praanaprathista (7th – 14th Feb 2023)

The Durga Ma’s Praanaprathista was a momentous milestone in Babaji’s mission for the world. In his infinite love for the Divine Mother, the mother herself couldn’t resist her presence for Babaji and his devotee’s sake. The Praanaprathista was a celebration of the mother’s grace with divine chants, hawan’s, pooja’s, processions, Aarti’s, entertainment for the divine, all through the 7 days. There was Joy, love, and peace in the air and in every being’s heart.

Day and Night were forgotten, and the only urge was to be present there, live the moment and soak up in the divine energy! The Mother’s presence was felt stronger as each day progressed, culminating in her gracing one and all with her physical presence through Divine, Shri Babaji Shivananda. One can imagine the magnitude of this through the 3 divine milestones, The Praanaprathista, The Shiva Parvathi Kalyaanam (celestial wedding) and the 48-day Devi Abhishekam and pooja’s that concluded during the Chaitra Navaratri.



Summons of the Mother: A pilgrimage and a blessing of many Life Times...

Covered by Shireesha Duvvuru, Australia

With blessings of the Mother and Bhagawan Shri Babaji Shivananda, an opportunity of many lifetimes unfolded. There was a strong calling and an urge to welcome the Mother in all grandeur. The first and last I saw her in person was in 2017, the urge to see her only got stronger and stronger as days passed and getting closer to the Praana Prathista. The excitement to meet my Bhagawan, that supreme Brahman, took over and all I could focus on was to handover my commitments before travelling so I could soak myself in thy presence and festivities.

Landing on 5th Feb, reaching my Baba's home was home coming. To meet my family of like-minded is always a True Joy. To witness and be a part of getting the Mother ready for the big festivity, as the very first activity, as I entered was a wonderful start to my 2 week pilgrimage. To catch the first sight of Durga Ma after she was polished and put together, only had me thinking how blessed I was to be there. To have the opportunity to go into Durga Ma's temple, decked in white marble and red curtains, was already energy boosting. All that was ringing on my mind was "I just can't wait to see the Mother seated in her beautiful abode" and certainly must have been the thought of each one assembled there.

The 5th to 7th Feb was exciting as several devotees, family and friends started to arrive. Many of them out of country and some meeting Babaji for the very first time. Also, amongst this midst, was the family that brought Mother to Life despite the many challenges, difficulties, and tests. A true blessing and an honour to be in the presence of one and all.

On the 5th, an invitation was placed at the Chamunda Devi temple, welcoming her for the Praana Prathista. And so was the invitation to many other deities in Himachal in the previous few days. Prayers were made at the Indru Nag Temple to keep the natural forces (particularly heavy downpours) at check while the Mother is readied to be invoked.



On the 6th and 7th, The pandals (decorative temporary structures) were getting erected to venerate the Goddess. The skilled workers worked through day and night to transform the place with the best shades of beautiful flowy material, the most exquisite chandeliers, bright lights, and elegant flower decorations. Un-disturbed by any of what was happening on the ground, they had absolute focus on getting the Mothers abode ready in time. We took a walk

along with Babaji to see how our Ashram land was being transformed into a large dining area to host the many thousands in the lead up to the festivities. It was truly fascinating to see it all come to life like the way Babaji and the Mother would have loved it.

On the 7th morning, it was eventful with Mandir clean up, bathing and polishing of all the idols to prepare them for the subsequent days. Hours and hours were spent through the day in grooming them to perfection one could. As we did our work, we sang and swayed to Sankeertans, felt the Joy in the air and Peace within our hearts. Above all, there was the Master to crack us up, inspect our work and lovingly guide us through what needed to be done. The kids, guided by Babaji and others, made the Haven Kund's ready. For most of these kids, bred outside home country, it was first time working with Soil and cow dung. Nevertheless, they joyfully worked on it together!



On the 8th, the poojas, haven's and festivity were to begin in the evening. There was plenty in action this morning, the Nadaswaram players, photo, and video graphers, a big contingent of priests, all from the south, had arrived. Gump's of Flowers made their way from Delhi.

Busses were hired so each one could go along and bring the Jyoth (Sacred Lamp) from Jwaalamukhi Temple as an invocation of the mother. **No ghee, no oil, no wick, no fire, no smoke, no heat, no gas, yet the flame has been burning for centuries in this Shakti Peet.**

To the accompaniment of the Nadaswaram artists, Babaji, family and devotees made their way to this wonderous temple. The Offerings were made by Babaji, the Aarti performed, and the lamp lit which was eventually to be brought back home.



Must

say, it was a **sight to watch** the Nadaswaram players welcome Shri Babaji Shivananda and Jwaalamukhi Ma (Jyoth) back home. It was tears of happiness experienced to see the lamp being taken into the Mother's Mandir (abode) and **the first Aarti performed**. It is the beginning of a renewed and exciting journey ahead, a momentous occasion for Babaji and



for everyone with him. The time has arrived and only time can reveal everything on this mission to us. So much excitement in store!

While it was action packed at the temple, there was enough bustle at the Home of Babaji where the proceedings were going to happen. The pandits arrived to set things needed for the Pooja that evening. Whilst working with the pandits, the compassionate lord made sure to check on those who couldn't join the Jwaalamukhi temple darshan and join him over a video call. What a Master and how grateful could one be to be in his divine fold and Love.

The excitement for the start of the evening pooja had already set in. The sacred Havan Kunds were lit and Havan performed to sanctify the place. **The evening kicked off with the sacred Maha Ganapathi and Vaastu pooja.**

The **Shobha yatra**, a procession of the deity (Devi Ma), accompanied by musicians and dancing, was taken along the streets around the Mandir.



The evening concluded with tying of the rakshabandhana (tying of the sacred thread on everyone) and the Maha Mangala Aarti.



9th Feb, Thursday morning, started at 4.30 am with morning ablutions, cleaning of the Mandirs and space where haven's were to happen. As devotees started to fill up the space, the Gods and Goddesses were entertained by the Nadaswaram artists. As the priests made their morning preparations, Babaji arrived to get the pooja's and haven's started.

The morning saw the **Kalash Sthapana** (a pot filled with water and adorned with a decorated coconut representing Mother Goddess) being performed.



The **Bimba shudhi and Maha Ganapati Navagraha haven** was also performed this morning.

The **first Kalash and Devi Abhishekam** was performed. As Babaji and family performed the Devi Abhishekam, devotees gathered also had their opportunity to perform the Abhishekam to the beautiful Devi Ma for the first time.

The morning concluded with the Maha Aarthi followed by the Maha prasad. **The surging energy could be felt by one and all.** The powerful rush of emotions was natural and there was no reason for the shedding of tears! The Master and the Goddess were working their magic on us for sure!



By now, the flow of the day was understood. The sumptuous afternoon meal, post lunch clean-up of the space in preparation for the evening session, some rest and back to evening pooja was on cards. The evening saw an enjoyable Bhajan session by the Kalyani brothers post which the Maha Ganapati puja, Veda chanting, Nitya Havan, Kalash puja, and Aarti was performed.

Prior to the Aarti, as part of the shodaupachara Pooja, the Nadaswaram players cranked up their best to please the lord as the raaga was called by the priests. It was a treat to the ears, and this was now a part of the morning and evening Pooja's prior to Aarti. It was followed by the Himalayan artists at work, which was as pleasing to the ears and the dak players took us to yet another world. What a wonderful evening it was, each one played their part in appeasing the Goddess.



10th Feb, Friday, was Kangra day, a significant day for Babaji and for us devotees. Swami first made his presence on this day @ 7.15 pm and hence were set to perform a Paada Pooja for Babaji.

The Flower decorators overnight had adorned the whole place with very special flower decorations and Garlands.

The morning as usual was a 4.30 am start with cleaning all the areas to begin the day with Maha Ganapati puja, Devi Abhishekam, Kalash puja, Chandi haven and Kanya Puja.



On this day, each one present got to perform the abhishekam to both the mother and the Kalash. There was calmness and stillness while performing the abhishekam today as compared to the previous day.

Each day had a different Chakra Rangoli drawn by the Priest based on the Pooja and Havan that was to be done. The ladies worked together in devotion to get the offerings ready for the much-awaited Chandi haven.



The **Chandi haven** is performed to receive the blessings of Goddess Chandi Devi and to eliminate all obstacles. The chandi haven was beautifully performed with offerings into the haven at the conclusion of each chapter of Devi Parayanam. **The pundit's chants, accompanied by high energy Nadaswaram, Dak & Himachali artists at the time of making the offering to the Goddess, did something unexplainable!**

While the Chandi Havan was happening, the **Kanya pooja** was performed to little kids from the neighbouring vicinity. As innocent they could be, it was a treat watching them enjoy all the offerings.



The morning wound up as the Nadaswaram, Dak and Himachali artists presented their superlative skills to delight the Goddess and enthrall the audience. Each time they played; they gave their finest!



The afternoon had plenty to clear and scrub but well finished in time for the evening Pooja. Babaji was tired for the Paada Pooja and hence moved to another day post the festivities concluded. With due respect to Babaji's and everyone else's tiredness, it was the best to do although slightly disappointing it could not be done on the very special day!



The evening pooja began with **Lalitha Sahasranama pooja** performed by all the ladies gathered. It was cool, calm, serene, still! A true expression of Divinity. The mother's presence was experienced within and outside, as the Kumkum Archana began with the 1000 names of the Devi Lalitha recited. Some experienced, Guru Babaji, as the divine Mother and performed the Archana to his feet.

While the Paada pooja could not be physically performed to the Guru's feet on this special occasion, in all his compassion, he granted transcendent moments of pure Joy. He is the real Mother, to the many who were gathered that evening!

The evening concluded with the Mangala Aarti by Babaji. As Swami's Aarti was in progress, a flash thought led devotees to perform the Aarti for Babaji too on this special occasion.

It was Gratitude in abundance to the gracious Guru to grant each one's wish on this day!



The 11th Feb, Saturday, started with the routine cleaning but with aplenty to have done prior to the morning pooja. There was help galore to have it all in place with his grace.

The morning again started with Devi Abhishekam, Kalash puja, Mahalakshmi haven and concluded with Aarti. The place brimmed with people, positivity, and love. This morning, the Vishnu Sahasranamam was chanted together.

All the 3 haven's went live at the same time and Agni devata, the primordial lord of fire, rose tall granting one and all the blessings of the Mother. The smoke from the Havens engulfed us into another new world and one could not but miss the special moment of Babaji manifesting 4 gold coins to offer into the haven during the Pournahuti. Shri Babaji, in all humility sat aside in trance, prior to finishing up the morning with the Maha Mangala Aarti.

The evening saw some bhajans, haven's and a dance performance to entertain the Goddess. Devotees were allowed into the Sanctum Sanctorum to take a Sankalpa and offer their offerings into the Garbha Griha over which the Little Mother will be seated, signifying the energy connection with her always. Babaji initiated it by manifesting a gold chain and the rest followed. It was fascinating to watch each one offer whatever they had on them to the Mother. While this took a while for each one to have their turn, Babaji sat in patiently blessing each one. This was followed by dinner.

Post dinner, there were a few major events that happened impromptu as directed by the priests.

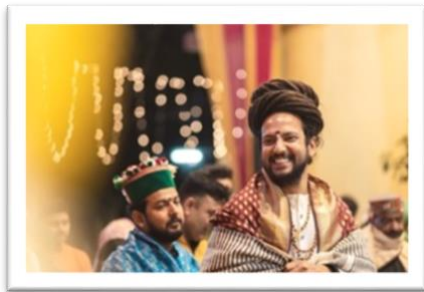
- Firstly, the Mother was rested on a bed of flowers and fruits.
- The kumbham, the crown of the temple, was to be installed atop the temple.
- Lastly the Garbha Griha had to be sealed and the Mothers, small and Big, were to be seated at the Mandir for the Big day to come.



The Kumbham was taken to the top, amidst unknown Joy and chants of Bole Baba ki jai and Jagadambe maya ki Jai. It was a sight to watch Shri Babaji, the priests, and few others atop. As this completed, the priests had the boiling hot mix ready to seal the Garbha Griha and have the little Mother seated ready for the Pratishtaan the following day.

While all of this was happening, Babaji and a small set of sevaks were at work getting Mother Mahishasura Mardini, ready to be carried into her sthaan at the Mandir. Full throated Devi kirtans began, and they kept flowing with renewed energy for the next hour as we witnessed the Mother being carefully carried into the Mandir amidst chants of Jai Mata di and Ambe Mata. As all parts of the full set up was transported into the Mandir, the doors were shut.

I could not wait to see the Mother in her abode. The energy could not be explained as it was all happening. The Mandir opened and Babaji in all his love announced a 5 min darshan. Those present took their blessings in bated breath; it was overwhelming to see the Mother in her sthaan back after many years. What a sight to behold and what a night to cherish! Babaji had the Mandir doors closed for the night so the Mother and all present could retire.

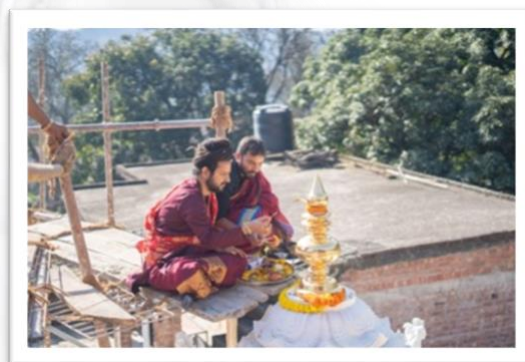


Babaji was in his elements, and one could just see how joyful he was. It was a few hours before waking up for the next day and plenty to do in the next couple of days. It was nothing but her strength and Babaji's love and grace that kept each one going.

12th Feb, Sunday, was the big day that each one was waiting for. **The Praana Prathista**. Each day leading to this day has been memorable and filled each one to the core. All that was on my mind, was to see the Mother in her full shringaar. I had no idea what was otherwise planned.

The morning began with a ceremony of seeing the Mother through a mirror and not directly through naked eyes. Each one made their way and had that beautiful moment to have that first glance. Clad in a simple cotton yellow saree, she sparkled through the doors of her new Home. **No Jewellery, No shringaar, No Flowers, yet she already looked majestic in her beautiful and lovingly built home.**

While this was happening, felt sprinkles of cold water and looked up to see our beloved Babaji showering us with blessings as the puja to the Kumbham was being performed. The Maha Ganapati puja, Go-puja and Durga Haven followed.



It was time for the **Final Maha Poornahuti**. As the Nadaswaram players were signalled to play and Babaji was handed the offerings for the Maha Poornahuti, the energy was palpable and the atmosphere ethereal. **In minutes, emerged, the glorious mother from Agni (the fire God), choosing Shri Babaji as her medium and navigating him straight into the Sanctum Santorum, with all her might and force. Nothing could hold him back.** It was my first experience and caught unaware of what I should be feeling. It was the mother, but the only thought that stayed was that Babaji feel fine. As Babaji entered the Mandir, we lost visibility to what was happening. The atmosphere was filled with Her Energy, each one had varied

emotions to work through. As the mother invoked herself into the idol, Babaji was brought out to be seated and to conclude the magnificent event. The Nadaswaram players played at their highest peak and it was intense.

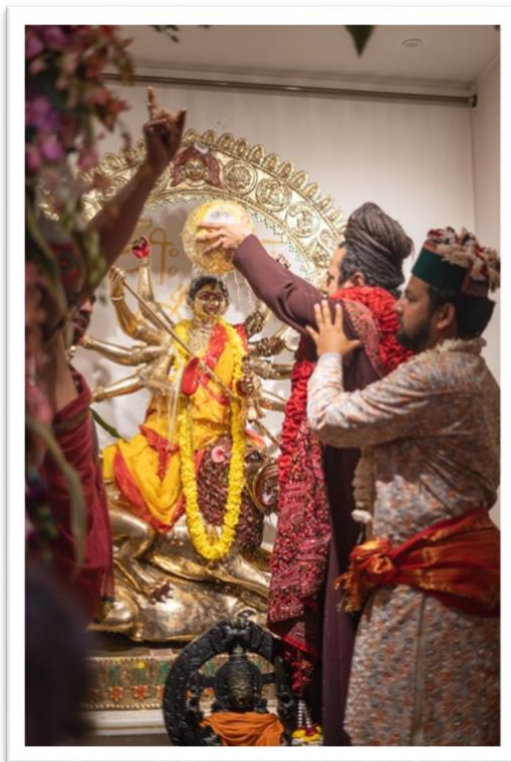
The kumbha abhishekam began, and blessings of cool waters, chocolates and flowers showered from atop.

To conclude, Babaji blessed each one with sprinkles of the holy water and the Maha Mangala Aarti was performed.



While people were ushered for lunch, Abhishekam of the mother was being performed in the mandir.

Mother couldn't be any happy and visibly showed through her beautiful smile. Each one was a moment that could not have been forgotten, Babaji earned everything through his Love for the Mother and unending Patience. I stayed on, not wanting to miss anything and just be in HIS and HER presence.



Shri Babaji went into the Mandir, to do the Mother's Shringaar

himself despite all the tiredness. Many waited to see Mother in her full Shringaar. It was a couple of hours, the

doors opened for darshan, and all sights on her. None could take their eyes of her. What a moment and feast to the eyes it was! All the time could be passed in joy, just watching her. Everything just felt lighter.

With very little time for evening Aarti by the Bengali Pandit, there was exhaustion and tiredness, but equally delightful to watch the Aarti and see Babaji down for his Mother and Devotees.



As the bengali Aarti was complete, the Dak players and the Himalayan artists played their hearts full, and devotees requested Babaji to shower us with his graceful dancing. [Shri Babaji on request, danced away in his most elegant style.](#) The evening built up with everyone joining in the dancing. It was a celebration, a commemoration in honour of the Mother's home coming. It was a little glimpse of Durga Pooja is what i was told. Plenty of rejoicing and exhilaration!



It was dinner time, and for many of us, it was the 1st meal of the day but no discomfort whatsoever. [Gratified by everything we had got to see and rejoice over the last few days and specifically this day!](#) With a little more than 3-4 hrs, before we wake up for the next day's big clean-up prior to the Shiv ji and Parvathi ji's Kalyaanam (celestial wedding), we retired for the day.

13th Feb, Monday, the whole space was re-done so it could seat devotees for the Celestial wedding. The Deities, Shiv Ji and Parvathi Mata were well groomed for the auspicious occasion, beautifully draped, and adorned with choicest ornaments. Shri Babaji was all along in the Mandir making sure everything was in place.

As everything was set to take the deities on a procession, the women led the procession with offerings of Haldi, Kumkum, Holy waters, Fruits, Sweets, Coconuts, Clothes, Jewellery and many more while the men carried the Divine mother and father.



The procession was carried out into the inner most streets surrounding the Mandir to the accompaniment of Nadaswaram, dak and Himalayan artists. As we returned, the divine couple were welcomed with the traditional braking of the coconut, Nadaswaram and Aarti. As the couple were seated, we took our seats too. Crowds from all over thronged the place. It was at full absolute capacity. Observing the celestial wedding was new to many. I couldn't dare to think a wedding could be so joyful.



The danceful exchange of garlands and a play with the flower ball between the deities was adorable to watch. The pundits were at their best in keeping one and all wrapped in attention and the audience were heartily entertained. It was an enjoyable and delightful experience for those present.

The tying of the sacred knot was heavenly, and the proceedings thereafter were sublime.

The morning thus brought us to the end of the divine unison. The conclusion of this whole event was a state of being with God!

This was followed by a **kangri bandara**, a feast that saw 100's of people being fed. The feast had the best of kangri curries served and each one ate to their hearts content. As we sat for the feast which we thought was the last batch to conclude the bandara, there still were scores of people, elderly, mid-aged, young, and tiny tots making their way to enjoy the feast.



Between 14th and 17th Feb, the pundits were seen off beautifully and so were the Nadaswaram, Dak and Himalayan musicians. The warmth and respect with which each one was treated and facilitated by Shri Babaji was a treat to the eye. In observance, it was true humility to learn from. The Master always mentioned, "**respect is to come from the heart**". It was truly a heartfelt send-off while we followed the Master and the pundits to the bus stand from where the journey was to be made to their respective homes.



There were plenty of Satsangs, informal and formal to cherish. Particularly for me, Babaji's intense journey and sacrifices along the way for the sake of showing us thy self were painful to hear and would turn one emotional. But it only re-iterated to us, the immense sacrifices the Master continues to make for our sake and the magnitude of effort and sacrifices we need

to make to hold onto him in our hearts and move forward in our journey. **Thy mission is our mission!**

18th Feb was **Shivarathri**, The Mandirs were cleaned abhishekam performed to all the idols.

The Rudrabhishekam was performed by the priest. It was scorching heat but did not deter anyone from participating in the pooja and Abhishekam to the Shiva Lingam. Some fasted and others lunched and rested post to stay afresh for the nights jaagran.

Babaji kick started night with Kirtans at night, and it travelled through difference voices and tunes with instruments added as we went along. We lost track of time and the night, isn't Shivarathri all about that? Babaji announced we would do Aarti at 2.00 AM instead of going to morning since everyone was tired. Trials were made on behalf of everyone assembled to extend the bhajans to early morning, but nothing seemed to work with summons from the loving master to wind up. In all, it was a night to treasure. A Shivarathri with Lord Shiva himself, in the presence of the Mother and at the Guru sthaan that Babaji revered. A long-time wish fulfilled and could not have asked for anymore.

27th March was the Final day of the 48-day long Devi Abhishekam and formally concluded the whole Praana Prathista event. Unto this day, Shri Babaji lovingly made garlands, performed the Abhishekam, spent time doing the Devi Alankaram and dressed her up in a variety of styles each day. Babaji also blessed one and all with glimpses of her each day post the pooja was performed. As magnificent as HIM, was Devi Ma in all her splendour and beauty. On the 27th of March, was a grand celebration to conclude the festivities and the Mothers Sthapana.



A blessing indeed it was, to be a part of this ethereal celebration. Jai Baba! Jai Ma! Without their anugraha (blessing), it would have remained a distant dream. In all gratitude, bow down to thee. There's possibly no word in the dictionary to express this gratitude and Love!

In loving memories, deep love, and gratitude,
At your Feet beloved Bhagawan Babaji...

2

Experience the Truth**Maa Durga:** Paresh, Mumbai

My loving Pranams at the lotus feet of our Divine Mother – Maa Durga. Maa is omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient, the source of divine love and the supreme personification of eternal bliss.

The following notes are my learnings, observation and understanding from various experiences I've had. Some of the experiences have been truths mentioned by our compassionate Babaji in his talks.



ψ **Maa Durga is our highest self, present within each of us.**

We were all gathered by Maa to experience Her divine energy and love. Maa has bestowed upon us this connection with Her, which is true and the highest wealth that no being can ever rob or replace. Our presence mattered to Maa and was expressed by her on several occasions during the puja. Maa communicates with all of us through words, gestures, and the heart.

ψ **Maa Durga's Pratishtaan is a reminder to all of us that we need to let go of all the burdens, false assumptions, resentments, guilt, and expectations we have created for ourselves. When we overcome these, we respect Maa's existence in our lives by giving her the importance we ought to.**

ψ **Maa is that:**

Strength that helps us desire and choose the right purpose or goal

Strength that brings the right knowledge and wisdom to achieve these goals

Strength that helps us accomplish these goals (physical and mental strength, for a human to perform any action)

Maa is that

Truth and the Final Destination!



ψ **Maa is present in all three states** – Sattva, Rajas, and Tamas, and She alone can connect us with Herself if we have the slightest desire and make the slightest effort to connect with her. Furthermore, she's always the giver, whatever we present to her (through thought, prayer, action) proliferates, whether it's from a Sattvic, Rajasic or Tamasic state of mind - it is provided to us instantly and abundantly. Whatever may be our state of mind, at any time, we surrender that to Her.

ψ A place where Maa's energy is respected (like, during the puja) will expose our defects to us in clarity. **She guides. Listen to her and follow her message instantly with respect.** She speaks to us in the language of love (not limiting the nature of the speech of love to sweet voices or soft speech within the mind). Her messages are only for our betterment and the benefit of the entire creation. She loves all unconditionally.

ψ She teaches us, tests our progress, and is present during the test in any form, and She is the one rewarding us for our success in the situation provided by her. Abide by and practice all that She's taught us - even in the toughest, unbelievable tests conducted by her. There's always a deeper meaning behind what our senses perceive, and our minds understand initially. **She is the only one we shouldn't fear and can be approached in all moods.**

Life is a precious gift given to us by Maa to experience the bliss She is, live it with Maa's divine love, peace, guidance, and joy. If we wait for others (in past, in present, in future) who determine our happiness, or if we postpone living our lives due to reasons, we're not valuing Maa's gift.

ψ Live in the present. Be content and happy, let go of the past and **accept yourself as you are with happiness.** Maa is the embodiment of all the right and good. **Let Maa do her divine work in Her way as She knows what She's doing and doesn't require any suggestions.**

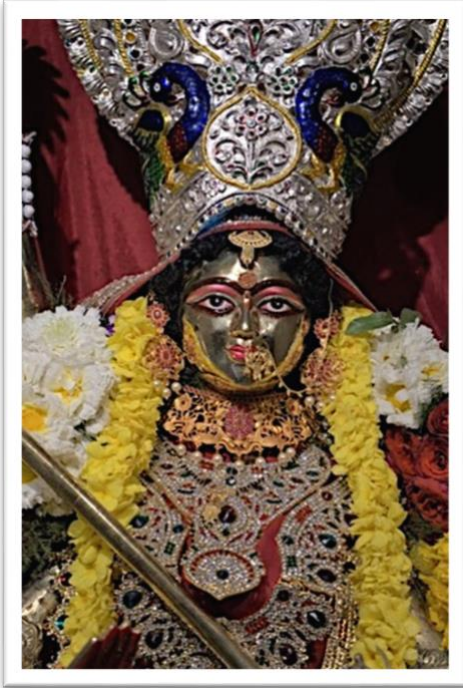
ψ Instead of asking her to solve our daily problems (which She already knows about), provide riches, wealth, and boons (which She always gives and knows when to give), we need to **sit silently, meditate, and let Her divine energy work through us. She knows everything about us than we can ever know.**

I'm grateful to our dearest and ever-loving Swami and Babaji for blessing us all with this divine experience of attending Maa Durga's Pratishtaan puja and experiencing Maa's energy, love, and blessings in this form.

Witness to a Celestial celebration: Roja Kathira (United States of America)

Visiting Babaji was nothing but bliss this time when we made our way for Durga Maa's Praanaprathista at Kangra. Every single day with Babaji and the festivities, was a unique experience in itself.

Babaji's abode and the temple premises resounded with Veda Ghosha's that felt like all ganas from Kailash had arrived to participate in the Divine event of welcoming Maa Durga. The Nadaswaram, offered as a seva to Mahishasura Mardhini, felt like the various tunes of Lord Shiva's own celestial sounds. As the Lord of the Music that He is, Babaji looked resplendent. The Yagnas conducted in Babaji's presence invoked all devatas who have graciously come to bless everyone.



The experience was as if the whole event is manifesting Kailash in all its magnificence. Such divine and indescribable joy was felt throughout.

It was indeed a celestial event to witness Durga Maa emerge from the Homa kund after Babaji offered Poornahuti to the completion of Durga Havan. Divine Mother then entered Babaji as He danced in Shiv Tandav nritya and approached the Sanctum Sanctorum where Durga Ma idols were installed the previous night. To be born in this time, to witness this wonder is such a Divine blessing to all present at that moment. Once Babaji entered the Garbha Griha, dancing in ecstasy, Divine Mother then entered the idols installing Herself permanently at Kangra Mandir to bless millions of Her devotees to come. This one-of-a-kind event took place in this small remote town called Old Kangra. How blessed are the people here!

Who can even attempt to describe the joy everyone felt during Shiva Parvathi Kalyaanam! Babaji transported all of us to a different plane of existence with His presence during this celestial event that once again took place in the Dev Bhumi - Kangra, Himachal Pradesh in the heart of Himalayas, the abode of Ma Parvathi.

The Shivaratri celebration with Babaji, the Shiva Himself amongst us, was such a blissful and divine experience. Pranams at the Lotus feet of Maa Mahishasura Mardhini and our dear Bhole Baba, Babaji.

From Grenada to Ananda: Conchita Ramos (Spain)

After the many invitations made by Babaji to go to Kangra and attend the inauguration of the Maa Durga Temple, I decide to get going and start all the necessary procedures to make a long-distance journey. Many problems arose with the tickets, dates, times etc. As one problem was solved, another unexpected one appeared. Those were very hard days... **The more difficulties appeared, I felt that the bigger and more important the objective would be: "To meet Babaji, to be in his physical presence".**

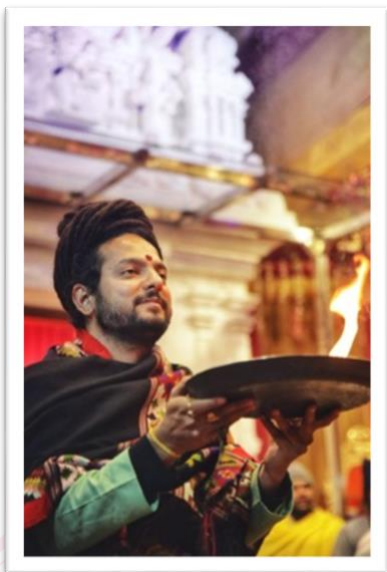
On reaching Delhi, the feeling of His presence became more intense. And the help of His "Team" (Abhishek, Bharat, and Rishi) who took great care of us for our greatest well-being, facilitated our arrival at Kangra. And every moment, my heart opened more, and I felt happier.

Coming into his presence, the warm and friendly welcome from both Babaji and His entire family really touched me deeply.

That same day Babaji showed us the Devi. Babaji told us that this was a very special ceremony and that not everyone could be in her presence, only those who had been called by her. A current of energy ran through me from top to bottom, feeling her magnetic gaze on my forehead, an effect that still lasts.

The day before the start of the Praana Pratishtaan Program we accompanied Babaji to the Jwaalamukhi Temple to collect the flame that would burn in the new Maa Durga temple.

Jawaala Mukhi is a temple where a flame burns in the rock. The fire comes directly from the stones. The story tells that a girl was born from that fire. She is considered Adi Shakti, the first 'shakti'.



Activities were started according to the Pratishtaan Program. Very powerful ceremonies, never seen before, never experienced before, just overwhelmed me...!!! Pranam Mahishasura Mardhini Maa!! Bhole Baba Ji ki Jai!!!

On the most important day of the Program, when Maa Durga would enter her temple, the mother's presence close to Babaji made me understand how Shiva-Shakti is the unit that maintains life.

Seeing and understanding Divinity (from my conscience) in the simplest and daily moments and, on the other hand, the simplest and daily things in Divinity are priceless, no words can explain it.... There simply remains an indelible mark on my soul of bliss, of joy, of happiness, of Bhole Baba....

Thank you, thank you, thank you for all the gifts received, both material and immaterial.

Pranams at your lotus feet!

Bhole Baba Ji Ki Jai!

Jai Vishwa!!!

The Shiv Lok Experience: Aunty Prema (Bangalore)

Om Namah Shambhave

I booked the flight ticket to Kangra on 18th Jan for 8th Feb to attend the Durga Prana Pratishta. After booking the ticket, I was bedridden for 4 days and had to cancel the flight. I was feeling sad for cancelling the ticket. Just 4 days before the commencement of the function, I rebooked the flight for 7th February irrespective of my illness and put all faith in Babaji and Swami and left.

When I was about to reach Babaji's house at about 2.30 in the afternoon, to my surprise, Babaji was standing alone in the main entrance of His house, as if waiting for us. As soon as He saw me coming with other devotees, Babaji told me that He was very happy about my coming.

When I entered the abode of Babaji, I lost myself and felt that I was in Shiv lok or Vaikuntam, whatever it may be. The full area of Babaji's house was decorated with different types of pandals with beautiful colours and chandeliers. One side had mild music on Devi, on the other side, some devotees already landed there and, on another side, Babaji was enjoying with devotees. One cannot express the grand Divine atmosphere amidst the Himalayan Range. It was not an ordinary place like a choultry decorated, but a Divine place with cool breeze filled with Shakti, Divine vibrations, and happiness.



From 8th to 13th February, the whole atmosphere was filled with Nadaswaram on one side, Veda gosh in front of the Havan, and the sudden appearance of Babaji with Divine Smile before the commencement of the function, talking to each one who were present there. Babaji used to see whether every arrangement was done to His satisfaction and perfection.

Once the pooja started, the discipline and silence were maintained by all the devotees and the Veda recitation and mantras chanted by priests in their best voice reached the sky, the Nadaswaram with other musical instruments increased the energy in the area, vibrating every nook and corner. I could feel the Divine Shakti in the abode of Babaji amidst the Himalayas. The chanting of mantras by the priests soaring the sky and the flames in the 3 Homa kundam's with Babaji in the midst made me feel as if I was in the ancient Yagnya shaala as read in the puranas.

Every evening till 9 or 10 in the night was so exciting with different energies of Babaji and Swami among the devotees which was beyond description.

On the Praana Prathista day, i.e. on 12th February instant, the whole atmosphere changed with an increasing crowd of devotees, Mantras, Nadaswaram, Himachali music with drums and Babaji's increased power after Poornahuti. When Babaji offered the contents in the Plate to the Agni in the Main Homa kundam for Poornahuti, I saw the shivering of His fingers as I was sitting near the Homa Kundam. Suddenly, He dropped the plate and the Shakti entered Him which was beyond description. Nobody could control Babaji, and I felt the Shakti Tandav at high speed. The high energy vibrations from Babaji, mantras by priests, musical sound from Nadaswaram, Himachali drums all in high speed and sound, made the sanctum Sanctorum of Babaji's house as the abode of Shiva and Shakti, Kailash Parvat. Babaji was drawn to the inside of the new temple. Few people followed but I could not see Babaji and on enquiry, was told Babaji is seated. Suddenly from the big Durga Devi who was not adorned yet, but only wearing a simple yellow saree, I saw a big Gold Trishul studded with shining and beautiful gems and diamonds. The Trishul was shining so brilliantly that it emanated different colours. This Trishul appeared from the big idol and was moving very fast and with great speed. I thought Babaji was holding the Trishul but when I asked some people about Babaji, they said that Babaji was still sitting. This shaking of Trishul lasted for 3 minutes. After significant time, Babaji came out tired but kept walking towards the Homa Kund.

The next day, 13th February, Shiva Parvathi Kalyan took place, which looked like a real marriage which Babaji enjoyed very much. The entire crowd of devotees from local Kangra and from other places in India and Overseas overjoyed the Shiva Parvathi Kalyan culminating with Kangri Dham, a special food from Kangra in which Babaji sat along with devotees on the floor to enjoy.

Nobody wanted to leave the place after each day's program in the morning and night as Babaji's love, and affection was spreading throughout the area which gave Bliss to all. The smile on the face of Babaji and his talks with everyone, was beyond description

Each one felt sad while leaving and being lovingly sent off by Babaji.

The Facebook call: Mayank (Mumbai)

I knew Babaji from Facebook. We were friends on Facebook but had never met in person. In 2022, I was curious to know about Babaji and just repeated the Aum Namah Shivaaya mantra with Babaji on YouTube. The chanting's were so intense and full of devotion that I was in Bliss in just a few minutes. From then I decided to meet Babaji. I met Babaji in Kangra, and I felt he is like my best friend. He had an answer to all my questions. It is a blissful experience to be with Babaji and to speak with him.

Babaji initially invited me to the Dussehra celebration. I wanted to go to Kangra and witness the grand celebration of the worship of divine Mother statues made by Babaji. I planned the to and fro journey to Kangra via train and bus. Despite being late in reaching the station, both the times, I did not miss the train and the train itself got delayed both times. Babaji through His devotion brought life to the clay idols and now it reflects the magnificent, beautiful form of the Divine Mother. The delicious food served during the festival is holy with healing properties as if a divine mother has cooked the same for her children. Babaji's unmatched devotion to the Divine Mother inspired me to LOVE her and helped me to have unflinching faith in Her.

Babaji invited me again to Maa Mahishasur Mardini temple inauguration. It was indeed a blessing from the divine to have participated in such an event. I felt that the Yagna is purifying my mind and removing the negativities from my mind. The celestial marriage ceremony performed for Lord Shiva and the Divine Mother by the priest gave me a peaceful & blissful experience and I felt the presence of the Divine Mother & Lord Shiva in the core of my heart. The event was organized at a very grand scale, and it was executed meticulously by the grace of the Maa Durga. I felt like the Divine Mother is inspiring people and giving them the energy to work, contribute their bit by volunteering and serving selflessly. The most touching part was the idol of the Maa Mahishasur Mardini. Even the smallest part of the entire idol was so heavy that even the strongest person couldn't lift it alone. Its entire weight is several hundred kg, to get an idol made of ashta dhatu (Eight metals) by a boy hardly 17 years of age is hard to even imagine.

It was Babaji's blessing and grace of Maa Durga that made this unimaginable thing a reality. And now we have got a beautiful form of divine mother to adore Her beauty, sing Her glory, and please Her with ease.

A Surreal experience of Life: Avantika Saidaas (Mumbai)

Between 9th February and 21st February, I had the opportunity to visit Babaji at Kangra for the Durga Mandir Praanaprathista, little did I know that this visit would turn out to be one of the most surreal experiences of my life.

This was an event that was very meaningful to Babaji. And as a devotee of Babaji and Mother Durga, I was looking forward to it with great anticipation. The previous day's poojas were beautiful with chants and yagnas during the day and the presence of Maa being felt very strongly.



During the evening pooja on the 10th, while I was sitting for the Kumkum pooja with many other women, I felt the presence of Ma very very strongly. Soon after the pooja, I found myself feeling very overwhelmed with emotion and crying without reason, this experience lasted a couple of hours for me.

As Ma's Sthapana was in process through 11th night and the morning of the 12th, I found myself slipping in and out of tears without reason. I constantly felt the presence of something very strong and powerful and yet gentle that made my heart feel full and overflow with tears.

Words can't capture the experience of Ma's first darshan on the 12th morning – the joy of a longing being fulfilled through her Darshan. That day was surreal for me with Ma showing her presence so strongly.

As the yagna Poornahuti was being conducted, something remarkable happened. Babaji Shivananda, suddenly went into a trance-like state and began shaking. At that moment, it was like having the Darshan of Ma for me and just standing before her. It was a sight to behold. I was completely overwhelmed with emotion, and tears streamed down my cheeks. The intensity of the moment was indescribable, and I felt like I was in the presence of something so much greater and powerful. Despite people trying to hold him back, Babaji was drawn to the temple idol, and he only stopped shaking when the energy of Mother Durga returned to the idol. The whole experience was surreal, and I was overcome with emotion all day.

As I reflect on that day, I realize that it was a profound moment of connection with the divine. Witnessing Babaji being taken over by the energy of Mother Durga was a powerful reminder of the presence of the divine in our lives. It was a moment that reminded me of the power of faith and the presence of the divine in our lives.

3

A Journey with HIM: Many a first-time experience

Experience Sharing 1: Father Philip Kuruvilla (Bangalore)

Food for a spiritual journey...

In 1983, at the age of 32, I left my home and my life as a businessman, sportsman and a socialite in the then happening city of Kolkata, to search for God. I hitchhiked across Europe, USA, Australia, and New Zealand. My journey took me to many places all over the world. I got a post graduate degree from Oxford University, and I worked among the marginalised, that included HIV Positive people and members of the LGBTI communities. During this time, I was ordained as a minister/priest of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church and worked as a Youth Facilitator. I also met and married my wife Bibi, and we have 2 beautiful children, Maria, and David.

Fast forward 30 years: My wife Bibi had come home one evening in early 2022 from a Satsang in Bangalore, where she went with a friend, and she talked about this young Guru she had met there. Then in the months that passed, I heard her praising this Guru on many occasions. I know my wife is not easily impressed by faith leaders, and it crossed my mind that there must be something special about this person. Later in the year, my wife and daughter joined a small entourage that visited Kangra in HP and the house of the Guru, who was known as Shivananda Swami, or more simply, as 'Babaji'. The conversation in our house also reflected this new phenomenon. Quoting from his talks about other faiths, Bibi and I often discussed the proximity of Jesus' life and sayings to some of the teachings of ancient seers. Was Jesus' message to the whole Universe now enclosed and encapsulated in such a way to be palatable only for the Christian faithful, the children of an Abrahamic, monotheistic God?

Then in early 2023, Bibi and Maria, my daughter, received invitations to attend a 'Devi Sthapana' in the home of Babaji in Kangra. Since it was few days before Shivaratri, they decided to stay on for that as well, and asked me if I would like to join - it would be a good opportunity to meet Babaji. It was with more than a little trepidation that I agreed. The real fear was that it was still very, very, cold in Delhi and HP, and being a good southerner by my DNA, I was quite concerned whether I would be able to enjoy anything at all, if I was freezing. The weather Gods were in my favour and the temperature went up just as I reached Delhi and took the overnight bus to Kangra. Maria met me at the bus stop, and I proceeded to Kanchan's home where we were to stay for the next few days. Kanchan was a true 'pahadi' [mountain dweller] who opened her house to strangers because Babaji asked her to, but she opened her heart to us - because that's the kind of person she was! I was told that Babaji was unwell after the 5 days of puja and was resting. I had a nap in the sun, and it was lunchtime that we went over to Babaji's house to join a few others for a simple meal. During the meal, cooked and served by his sister-in-law and other relatives, I saw Babaji for the first time. Though I had seen several photographs earlier, I saw this pleasant, handsome, young

man with a beard and matted hair who joined us, sitting cross-legged on the ground for the meal. When our eyes met, I gave a respectful namaste, and he acknowledged with a smile.

In the 3 days after that, we had several occasions to listen to him, and also when on two occasions he gave us a private audience. While elaborating about kriya yoga, albeit upon Bibi's insistence, he took us into yoga and philosophy. During his discourses and teachings, I feel I gained insights which can only come from a truly spiritual guide. On Shivaratri, Babaji had organised a Satsang in his courtyard. About 50 people had come together - there were some rustics from his village, others included old women, families, couples, a smattering of foreigners and some young techies, all seekers - and they kept singing bhajans till about 2 am. In between Babaji gave a discourse in Hindi. **While finding it personally amusing that an Indian Orthodox Christian priest was present at the foothills of the Himalayas to join in Shivaratri bhajans, I enjoyed every moment.**

In these encounters, what touched me most about Babaji was his innate simplicity, and humility. When he walked around his house or led the bhajans or sat on an [ordinary] chair and gave his discourses, it was about the simplest of things told in a very simple way-which anyone could grasp - much like the barefoot teacher I call 'Lord' and 'Master' - viz., Jesus Christ. No pomp, no show, no jargon, no hype. And, he spoke of the **Sanatana Dharma**, which was India's faith-heritage gift for all her children, regardless of their faith. How all faiths ultimately led to the ocean of God's divine presence. Of how, it was love and service that overcame the barriers and divisions.

In these messages by themselves, I must admit I found nothing new that seers and sages had not said before, but he put them forward to his rapt listeners to remind them of their duties to others through service, especially to the fallen, the downtrodden and marginalised. I've had the experience of sitting in small and large Satsangs with other, more well-known Hindu faith leaders like His Holiness Sri Sri Ravi Shankar in the Art of Living centre in Bangalore, and with Pujya Chidananda Swami on the banks of the Ganga in Rishikesh, where there were far greater number of devotees. Their styles, their approaches were different, and much in contrast to this home-grown guru who was explaining his Universe to those who cared to listen. As a Christian, with experience in listening to other faith leaders on various platforms and podiums in India and abroad, I was keenly listening for anything out of the ordinary, but also for words by which the speaker would seal off a certain area for 'his' people, from 'others', [ie., those not from his religion]. I listened for something hidden in his words which would ultimately make his followers 'exclusive' and take them to a place where I, as a practicing Christian, could not follow. However, on reflection, there was nothing in his words that I could not agree with, nothing that would contravene my ideas of the Triune God, as I knew and understood Him, though through a 'Christian lens' and a different theology and language.

I wondered whether the Message of Jesus Christ - the Evangelion or the Good News - to the world, which was brought to India by one of his 12 disciples, Thomas, in 52 AD, was originally meant to have been much more open and more inclusive, especially in the ancient land of Sanatana Dharma? That message attracted our forefathers enough to convert them to

Christianity. However, has it been, over the last 2000 years, narrowed down by our faith leaders and theologians, till today it remains a “closed” religion which gives little space for true seekers who wish to follow the Spirit and seek beyond its borders? Was our proud “Syrian Christian heritage” blocking us from receiving the fullness of Christ's divinity in this ancient land, and also from giving His message to others in a way more easily appreciated and understood by our countrymen? *It set me wondering whether a “different” Indian Christian theology could yet be developed which was not limited by Syrian, Catholic or Protestant Christian exclusivity, but instead could be offered in a different way in this sacred land so acceptable of other faiths and philosophies?*

Thank you for opening my mind and heart at this crucial time Babaji. I come away from your presence confused as to what my future course of thought and action will be, but I continue my search with your blessings.

I am emboldened by the words of the Spanish mystic saint, Migel Unamuno, who wished his followers thus: *“May God deny you peace, but give you glory”.*

Fr. Philip Kuruvilla

Experience Sharing 2: Rahul (United States of America)

My experience with Shivananda Babaji was a transformative and life-changing event. I had been on a spiritual journey for a long time, seeking guidance and clarity on my path. One day, I visited Roja sister's home and that is where I first saw Babaji's picture in her temple. She mentioned that she could arrange an online meeting with Babaji. I met him online and his presence was magnetic, and I found myself drawn to him. He invited me to be part of a greater cause - Prana Pratishta of Goddess Mahishasura Mardini.

I have not visited India since 2009 and I was not sure if I would like to go back either. I expressed my concern but Babaji in his firm voice said “Apko aana hee hai” (you must come) and there I was in Kangra (India) in front of Babaji. When I met Shivananda Babaji, I was struck by his presence. He exuded an energy of peace and love, and I felt an immediate connection with him. I felt a sense of peace and calm wash over me. I saw myself merging into an absolute like a drop of water merging into an ocean.

Due to a personal life situation, I wanted to leave Kangra on the first day I arrived, but Babaji said “mae sab deekh lunga. Ruk jao agar viswas hai to” (I will handle everything. Just stay back if you trust me). It was a leap of faith.

I read in various books how Master's, Guru's handle things in their disciples and devotee's lives, but I experienced it live.

Looking back, that first meeting with Babaji was a turning point in my life. First experience with the guru will always hold a special place in my heart. It helped me to connect with my inner self and to find a path that was truly meaningful to me. It taught me the importance of seeking guidance from those who have walked the path before us and of opening ourselves up to the guidance of the divine. His teachings and guidance continue to inspire me on my spiritual journey, and I will always be grateful for the time I spent with him.

Experience Sharing 3: Carmela, Switzerland

How can I express in a summary my experience of these events' unknown to me as a westerner? The first internal force was to go to Kangra to meet Babaji personally and to coincide with the consecration of the new temple of the Divine Mother Durga.



I could not imagine the energetic explosion of the celebrations but above all my first physical approach to my beloved Babaji. I could write a lot about it, but many of the things I felt are part of my heart. They are absolutely personal and intimate; they stay inside me.

Babaji, A point apart from anything I could have imagined. Love, closeness, joy, humour and such a warm welcome. I witnessed something absolutely impossible to describe on a very special day for Bhole Baba's mission and Maa Durga's arrival at Kangra in the new temple. Wonderful everywhere you looked. Overflowing, powerful, loving, blessed. My eyes always on Him.

Mention of Amma's arrival, another divine experience. An energetic tandem without words to do justice to the experience. SHIVA & SHAKTI together. His family, devotee-friends, sevaks - Rishi, Abhishek, Bharat and others, attending to everything with efficiency, devotion and love to every need.

Now, the temples of Bhagavan SRI SATHYA SAI BABA and MAA DURGA, face each other in a boundless space of Love.

Babaji, SHIVA-SHAKTI but also KRISHNA, thief of hearts! I yearn for love and total surrender to that which we call GOD. Thank you beloved, for all your attention, love and care, priceless gifts, for all the beauty you emanate. I ask for your blessing.

Your gopi,
Carmela.

Experience Sharing 4: Bibi Kuruvilla, Bangalore

Whoever may chance to read this testimony of Truth and Love, may you realize your responsibility to give a similar testimony of our Guru, pray for those that are fallen to untruth and be cleansed therein to know the path of our Guru. For our citizenship is of the new world where we patiently wait to be led by our Guru.

Such was the readiness of my higher mind that trampled over the mundane things of the world which even included time, space, and daunting people before me, to take bold steps, bindaas steps on a journey of Celebrating Life.

I was travelling to Kangra, in Himachal Pradesh with our celestial mother Achinthya Ma and a small team, accepting wholeheartedly Babaji's invitation for Navratri. After my first visit during Shivarathri, I madly gave myself into a prayer to lead me into the path of the Guru once again.

I promised to be myself, my original self, no pretences, in order to absorb the core of spiritual life in the presence of GuruDev. A man of quiet and auspicious demeanour, I knew by now that my Guru would be a precise road sign, a benchmark to attain 'endless Life of Joy and Truth'.

Edgar Allan Poe wrote "once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered weak and weary; over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore. While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping"as I pondered the magic of these words, a subtle tapping laid siege to my inner consciousness; to open my eyes as a witness to Navratri.

The nature of how we act depends on our own experiences of our characteristics and qualities we possess and how we operate them using them outwardly. **Babaji's Home had a magnetic shield of Divine Consciousness. There exists a subtle, powerful magnetic reverberation, in the enigma - Babaji,** despite the myriad balance of guna's that predominantly dance around this enigmatic Guru of tender, gentle nature.

Babaji's Home, even on a dark night or dull, cold day illuminated as a 'Garden of Eden'. There was no show of ostentatious living but defined simplicity, formless movement of silence, a powerful ocean of spirituality only to be experienced, because **the Guru's presence was everywhere - in the cosmic dunuchi dance to being a beacon of light to each person present.**

Babaji's Home was filled with people who were living, breathing, dancing, laughing, and crying with every moment of these emotions silently endearing towards their Guru. All gathered to worship a Goddess of glorious stature, the imaginary garden filled with rousing cries to Mother, glorifying her deeds and being praised for her identity with her devotees. The devotees become her in those moments of magic. As I entered the compound of Eden, I was reminded again and again of the soul's agenda to merge with the Universal Father.

The Divine love story was evolving - between the Goddess of love Ma Durga and her eternal

potter, our Divine Gurudev. As my senses thrived on everything that the senses freely availed of - the sounds, the fragrance, the movements and touch of Divine love, a story unfolded of human love aspiring to reach and touch the Infinite 'being of Love'.

Babaji himself laboured relentlessly, a potter sculpting his one perfect creation of Ma Durga. A final manifestation so complete that she drowned all in myriad emotions. She carried with her ethereal beauty, a poetic compulsion to tickle the sensuousness of all present; to raise the highest potential in all to worship and love her beyond comparison. [The living, breathing idol drew her strength from the stillness of Babaji who in turn was drunk in her ethereal beauty and compassion.](#) Every woman present was to draw that courageous power and dedication to Divinity from Ma's inexhaustible treasure of blessings. Who could in all honesty, ever go back to mundane living! After being drowned for 3 days in this romantic interlude of the Creator Baba and his very own Cosmic creation. His aim was to lead all present to the Truth that her gates were always open to those who desired their needs supplied, to be ministered to by her, to allow one and all to depend on Her for spiritual life, for bodily health, for advice, for food, water, clothing, and all necessities of life. Babaji's work of divine creation had its dark hours. Sometimes it seemed on the verge of shipwreck, but Babaji's faith never failed nor was it ever disappointed. [The journey of the murti and her creator has stood the test of time to uplift all present in the Divine Leela between Guru and His Goddess.](#)

There was Divine love story unravelling between Guru and his Goddess. Through the silence beneath the tumultuous loudness, revealed the presence of pure, flowing, liquid love.

All I could hear were the external sounds; sounds of countless external temptations and their comparable inner responses. [Drumbeats, blow pipes, Vedic chants, sounds of movement that made dance a language of worship to God.](#)

Through all this, I tried to contemplate on our Guru. deep silence of the Guru began to speak to me, segregating the presence and leading me to the essence. In this gathering of all types of personalities with varied concepts, ideas, fears, conditioning and all other flavours of life, our Guru stood as the Energy Shield; scripting a new story of passionate love for Mother and her creation - who can separate Mother from her creation - only fools! the cosmic Mother sequentially joining each actor to the relevance of the Divine Play between 2 lives - the devotee and the passionate Mother. The story of Love Divine often made one cry, at times laugh, sometimes fear, and very often rouse one to an act of Love. The same story continued each day.

The attachment to the deity brought about tears to the eyes and sadness to the raw emotion in the heart. But the liberation after the farewell 'visarjan' on the last day was the transcending to a higher awareness of defining within ourselves as to who is Cosmic Mother and who is the eternal stillness?

Our Guru, Babaji, through the presence of the Living Mother interlinked through the Divine deity, taught us that She pervades the oceans and mountains. In that awareness, we need to develop reverence for Mother Earth, never to destroy her or become instruments of

destruction of Life. The soothing touch of the divine play between Guru and Goddess created an aroused sensitivity to becoming grateful.

In the unfolding leela of the 3 days, wisdom was flowing abundantly to inspire those that cared to be sensitive to the existence of the divine deity and her play with Cosmic Shiva. For those who chose to remain in the diversity, duality and differences, a strange worldly vision and focus was overpowering.

Edgar Allan Poe wrote "Take this kiss upon the brow! And in parting from you now, thus much let me avow: You are not wrong, who deem that my days have been a dream".

4

From The Ashram - at Kangra

THE ASHRAM LAND IS ALREADY SERVING ITS PURPOSE!

Thousands were hosted for breakfast, lunches, and dinners across the 7 days of Devi Praana



Prathista! It was an opportunity for those present at the divine celebration to feel the energy of our Ashram. Many also had an opportunity to meet with our Architect and Builder. There were others who came forward to contribute in their own ways to the building of the ashram! The Mother's blessings were immensely outpouring for this grand Mission of Shri Babaji Shivananda.

Shiv Dham has already witnessed the miracle of Mother Earth! It's time to eagerly wait for many more.

In an attempt, to find an underground water source in our Ashram land, the drill was performed at two places, but the efforts were in vain. **While there was disappointment, Babaji assured that there is Water for certain in our Land.**

An expert opinion was sought to check on the availability of underground water in our Ashram land. A scientist from the Geology department examined soil and gravel samples from our previous failed attempts. Looking at his own geological maps and examining the stone gravels, his response added only more to the disappointment. Babaji insisted " **Why do you give up? Have faith, water will definitely come**"



In preparing for Pratishtaan, the trials had to be put on HOLD. However, towards the end of Feb, post the Pratishtaan and Shivarathri, Babaji insisted we try again and was quite sure that this time we will hit the water source.

The Process re-started with much anticipation but also much nervousness and there She was! With the blessings of Mother Earth, the connection to the underground water source was established!

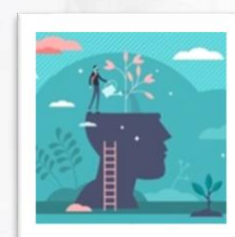


Maa Ganga emerged in all glory out of mother earth. It wasn't a trickle but in absolute full force with nothing to stop her! **What a blessing and could the Master ever go wrong? Faith in his words can absolutely move mountains**



Threading on the water project success, there's much more that a young team of researchers within the Samaaj could achieve in a very short span. With Babaji's utmost grace and direction, a proposal has been drawn up to Focus on **improving Mental well-being and reducing emotional stress through activities such as Meditation, Yoga, Healing, Stress Management etc.** Efforts are being made in also offering a Human Excellence course to transform Health wholistically.

The aim is to create societal benefits with focus on individual well-being and establishing role models for healthy living.



Another important aspect that has been of immense importance from Babaji's perspective was **establishing a research centre for education and health through support and partnerships with institutes of eminence.** The premise behind this being, **Education of the SELF,** guided by Shri Babaji Shivananda himself. **This will be a whole body of study of deep practices that will result in human upliftment through**

SELF – DISCOVERY. It is the inner world that finally manifests into the external world of social acceptance after all.

Further progress has been made in getting ourselves Credit Rated, from a credible Credit Rating agency in India which is critical to establish connects with external agencies, corporates, and the likes to keep our research and Ashram work happening. **The Sai Mangalam Trusts credibility has been verified by CRISIL**, which now makes it appropriate for us to approach CSR Funding and reach out to external parties with conviction.



CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) Proposals are underway to fund the research projects and other works with a small team of dedicated workers. There's more and plenty to be done.

An endeavour is being made to set up a **Research and Innovation centre as part of the Ashram**, focussing on health and education for the needy. **Anyone interested and keen, to be a part of the Research and Innovation initiative, may reach out to:**

- ψ Raju Goteti (raju.goteti@gmail.com)
- ψ Vasudev Rao (mvasudevrao@yahoo.com)

There is an opportunity and a call for those who have worked on below:

- Establishing impactful proposals (Eg: CSR proposals etc) and right connects and
- Creating Visually aesthetic content

A wide range of other skills are on offer for Seva, and we believe we should have them all from within the Babaji Samaaj! **For those interested, please reach out stating your areas of interest to**

- ψ Vipul Sindwani (vipulsindwani8@gmail.com)

Knowledge to You:

Dear readers,

Keep your mind and heart space open to read the most awaited book being written by Shri Babaji Shivananda himself. This book is set to get you to journey with the Master and his beloved Mother. One is sure to have the Heart and Soul nourished through reading these experiences. This journey is fascinating, exciting, invigorating and lastly would help one appreciate the power of Adi Shakthi that we witness today at Kangra, HP.

- 1. Brahmavidya (Vol 1 and Vol 2):** *A Garland of 108 Divine messages from Babaji Shivananda is meant for seekers of Self-Realisation. Journey to the Inner Self and tread the land of Brahmavidya (Self-Knowledge) with these Words of Wisdom from Babaji. The messages serve as a signboard and a daily dose of wisdom for those seekers tending towards their Goal and those who are direct transmitters of Self-Knowledge*



Volume 1: Paper back, E-book and Kindle versions in Hindi, English and Spanish
Volume 2: Paperback and Kindle version in Hindi is now available

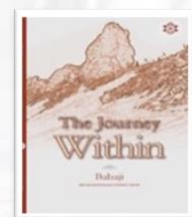
For those overseas, E-book and kindle versions are available

- 2. Inner Experience with Babaji Shivananda:** *Authored by his very own children, is a collection of experiences from devotees across the globe. These experiences are expressions of love in abundance at the very first instance of meeting with the Master. Free your heart space and be inspired. There will be a series of "Experiential sharing" that will follow, share your own if you wish.*



The English version of the book is available at [Story Mirror](#), [Amazon](#), [Flipkart](#), [Snapdeal](#) and [Google e-books](#) !

- 3. The Journey Within:** *The book's authored by Babaji himself. It is an enchanting narration of his journey to himself. The breathtaking journey to Shrikhand Mahadev and the Divine Encounters with the Lord and Mother in various forms during each of his visits has one gripped in divine energy. His thoughts are intense, touching and thought provoking. It moves one deeply from within and has enthralled and inspired one and all who have had the opportunity to read it.*



The English and Hindi kindle editions are [available here](#) while the Spanish version is now on [amazon.es](#). Simply search on "Babaji Shivananda"

For details on the books and links to the different versions, please [Refer Here](#)

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Babaji's mission is one of **Love, Truth, and Simplicity**. To the one who is serious about this journey to Oneness, Babaji says

**Our Life is on a journey from long, we stand still
at the same point with our desires!**

**The one who has left himself free from everything alone gets the support of
that Eternal power!**

Please [reach out to us](#) to know more about the mission, activities and how you can be a part of this transformational journey. Please also write to us for any feedback on the newsletter or to contribute to articles in the newsletter.

