

The Universal Mother

Yet another Durga Puja has arrived. The Supreme Divine Mother has been worshipped by sages, savants and almost all



Sri Pulin Behari
Brahmachari

great avatars since ages. The popular form of Durga Puja prevalent today memorializes the great 'akal bodhan' invocation of Lord Sri Ramachandra, who sought her blessings for vanquishing the highest evil power of the day. While this has become more of a cultural event nowadays, the deep spiritual import of the event is sometimes lost in the gaiety of external rituals bereft of the

realization of the omnipresent, omniscient and omnipotent existence of the mother of the universe. Yet, her presence can distinctly be felt wherever she is worshipped by a pure heart who truly realizes her all-pervading existence, be it in the palace of a king or the hut of a pauper. Such was our experience during the visit of Sree Sree Maa to Kharagpur in the winter of 2003.

During lunch after the first night stay in Kharagpur, Sree Sree Maa asked Partha-da, "Is there a place named Talbagicha nearby?" Partha-da replied, "Yes, there is a place named Talbagicha. It is a primarily rural locality where Debu resides. How come you suddenly asked?" Sree Sree Maa then asked if there was a Mandir or Ashram in that locality because she had felt the existence of a deity of the Mother-Goddess with awakened and active consciousness over

there. She also felt through her intuition that this deity was established by a spiritually enlightened sage (*siddha sadhak*). When pressed further, Sree Sree Maa narrated her experience of the previous night. After midnight, when Sree Sree Maa was taking rest, she observed a gleaming flame of light slowly enter the room, approach her and then stand still in front of her. Through her heart, Sree Maa silently asked the flame, “Who are you”? The light then took a lively form manifesting as the deity of a Goddess and said, “I am the Mother-Goddess. I saw the lustre of your aura here and hence, came to meet you. Will you not come to meet me?” Sree Maa asked, “But where do you stay?” The Mother-Goddess now replied, “I stay nearby at Talbagicha”. Saying this, the Mother-Goddess again re-transformed herself into a flame and quickly departed from the room. Sree Sree Maa now saw through her inner vision a small hut with thatched roof beside a narrow village road and a deity of Mother Singhavahini (Lion-seated Goddess) enthroned within this hut.

Though he was a resident of the area, Debu-da could not immediately locate the place. Keeping this conversation only between themselves Partha-da and Debu-da went out for some work that afternoon and by the evening returned with the information that there actually existed an Ashram of a mahatma where the deity of Devi Kattayani was enthroned. Hearing this, Sree Sree Maa took all of us for a *darshan* of Devi Kattayani that very evening. There we



The deity of Mata Kattayani enthroned at Sri Sri Pulin Behari Baba's Ashram

discovered and came to know about a highly enlightened sage named *Sri Pulin Behari Brahmachari*, one of the foremost disciples of the great saint *Sri Bijoy Krishna Chattopadhyay* of Howrah and a brother-disciple of the highly renowned saint *Brahmarshi Satyadev*. From the Ashram, we obtained a few of his writings and a few Kattayani Puja invitation letters. Although, these were carefully preserved by one of his disciples Sri Satyagopal Mallick who stayed nearby, most of the manuscripts were badly damaged due to ageing. These apparently non-descript documents reveal both the depth of enlightenment and purity of surrender of a realized soul who envisioned the entire creation including the animate, the inanimate and

each emotion, sensation, vibration emanating therein as a manifestation of the divine primordial Mother. His annual Puja invitations uniquely express his realization about the worship of the divine mother. It is presented as a call of the universal mother to her beloved children. A summary reads as follows:

My Child – Like the illuminating rays of the sun, as the primordial vibration (Vak), I usher in the dawn of all spiritual realization, both of the self and the universe. This not only manifests as the entire perceptible world and executes the divine play of creation, sustenance and annihilation, but also pervades the realm of one's entire cognition as felt in sense, feeling, thought and emotion. Yet neglecting this ever-revealed and ever-awakened form of the

eternal “Mother”, you engage in a futile strive to attain Me outside. Alas O children of mine, while you obliviously play on your mother’s lap, you behave like orphans, searching for your lost Mother in never-existent lands, even as I attract you intensely towards various entities in nature through the earnestness of my motherly affection in a fervent attempt to turn you towards me. O my child, if you could have only realized that all the spontaneous expressive vibrations that arose from the depths of your heart were but my manifestations, you could have easily broken away from the shackles of your fanciful meditation and be truly blessed by jumping into my lap. You will then see me as the twenty-four fundamental principles of creation, wherein embodying myself concurrently as both the Mother and the Child, I have founded this entire universe. Come my child, feel the affectionate attraction of your Mother in the subtlest sensations of your body, mind, soul and realizations. Behold the external world as my own manifestation, embrace the realizations spontaneously arising within,

observe and comprehend the expressive vibrations within your heart as the embodiment of the Mother and pay your deepest reverent obeisance at Her holy feet. May your worship be successful and complete. – your beloved Mother.

Being an enlightened and truly God-surrendered saint, Sri Pulin Behari Baba looked upon the annual puja of the Mother as being performed by her to remind all devotees of her true essence, meant to be realized each moment, everywhere, within and without. Sri Pulin Behari Baba considered himself as a mere instrument performing the will of the Mother herself as her priest. It is therefore no surprise that the force of the universal mother remained so awakened in this almost unknown of places several years after the physical demise of the devotee saint. Such places are important to the Divine Mother because here the heart is in the right place. Therefore, on this auspicious occasion we pray to Maa that we may become worthy of receiving her blessings feel her ever vibrant presence.

–Her Blessed Child **Sri Arnab Sarkar**