Vishwa Janani—Akhanda Maa

Parameshwari, the supreme divine power, was about to give birth to her child. But at the moment of delivery she noticed restlessness in the unborn baby within. She beckoned her Lord for help. The Supreme Divine Lord, Parameshwar, came forward and asked the little one inside, "My child, what is your problem?" An unseen quiet anguished tone responded, "My Lord, I feel that I am now going to be separated from both of you and that is why I am feeling so restless." "Do not worry my child. I shall always remain with you, pervading every bit of you with my omnipresence and omniscience. Again I shall manifest in innumerable life forms within you which shall learn to mingle with me in infinite possibilities." "Will you be there always with me in your fully manifested form?" asked the unborn child. Parameshwar replied, "Whenever you truly need me, when your balance is disturbed, I shall descend with all my powers and resurrect myself in a form of life to revive your harmony." The unborn one now asked Parameshwari, "What about you?" "I will always be with you," she replied. "Will you also only remain omnipresent and physically manifest specifically on occasions when you feel that I need you?" asked the unborn baby. "I shall ever be with you my child, wherever you are, whether you need me or not," came the reply. "Promise?" asked the unborn one and immediately came the reply, "I promise, my child." Hearing this, the delighted Lord smiled and spoke to the unborn one, "My child, you have received the word of one who never fails anybody. Now you can take birth in peace. Parameshwari shall manifest in the most wonderful ways in your realms and shall nurture every life form within you with utmost care. Her finest form will be one of unequalled, unblemished love. She will be the manifested divine power on earth and shall bring you back to me, your origin." The unborn one now calmed down and became quiet. He was prepared for the historic moment.

Those were the hours before Time itself was born. From within the unlimited quiet sky of the great Void emanated the first unexpressed vibrations, "MMMM...."? the state of equilibrium between Unmanifest and Manifest; the lightning of the supermind flashed in the great Void and these vibrations took akara, that is became expressed, expanding "MMM..." into the form of "MAA...."? Akhanda Maa, Adyashakti as the undivided mother of

the divine matrix, Brahman. From within these pregnant vibrations emanated the child of the Supreme Divine Being through the primordial vibration of creation? "OM..."; and the new born came out with a big bang in all glory and splendour. The newly born child was named "Vishwa Brahmand" and was called by other names like "Vishwa", "Brahman", "Universe", "Cosmos", "Creation", etc, depending on exactly what aspect of it is referred to. Again "OM" expanded into "AUM" and its manifested power took ananda-akara as "UMA"? the form of Adyashakti as the consort of the Lord of Creation within the realms of Vishwa. As she manifests from darkness to light, Adyashakti displays countless Knowledge forms of which the ten Mahavidyas are pre-eminent. When she first manifests in darkness we know her as "Mahakali" ? the dark one; as she fully emerges in the glorious light of cosmic creation, we know her as "Mahagauri" ? the fair one ? all variants of the Mother Goddess "Durga". These Dasha Mahavidyas or Ten Divine Knowledge forms hold the keys to the mysteries of creation and their unravelling is essential for returning to the roots of one's own origin.

> Pervading Cosmos with divine radiance, Permeating Life by love's fragrance; Powering Creation with eternal wisdom, Gracing Earth in an enlightened form; You are, we know, feel and see, Everyone's Mother, Vishwa Janani.

Mother Vishwa Janani, sometimes also called Brahma Janani, kept her promise to Vishwa. She never failed her child. Even Vishwa's father? Vishwanath? the Lord of Creation, took special life forms within the realms of Vishwa to experience Mother's love. Vishwa taught every life form within its ambit two eternal divine truths? first, "MAA" is the eternal divine from which they are all born and second, "OM" is the mantra that will take them back to their origin. To return to their original parental abode, one must sit on the lap of their Eternal Divine Mother, who is always present in the realms of Vishwa, eager to take her child back home.

So imagine what the feeling must be when Adyashakti, our Eternal Divine Mother, descends in all her divine glory in a human form and takes you in her fold. We, her blessed children know. We are truly fortunate.

—Her Blessed Child

Dr. Partha Pratim Chakrabarti