

INVITATION

SATSANG & WORKSHOPS WITH MATAJI & GANGA

16-19 May 2013 – Sint-Denijs & Gent



ASANA



YAGYA



KIRTAN



PRANAYAM

ADVAITA

SATSANG



MANTRA



BHAKTI



GITA





Narvada Devi or Mataji is a remarkable German lady who became a sadhu in India over 30 years ago. Only since 3 years she is coming back to the West for a short tour and we are fortunate enough to be able to receive her. For Peter Marchand, after Harish Johari left his body, Mataji has been a main teacher. Being a Western with such an intense sadhu experience, she is a very interesting teacher, in part because she often better understands our "Western" questions than many Indian teachers.

In the 70's, Mataji arrived on the island where Baba Santosh Puri was doing his tapasya. She never left him again. Although he tried very hard, he could not make her abandon him and his teachings. Guru Santosh Puri gave her the name "Narvada", two yellow clothes to cover the body and the holy name of Lord Shiva as a Mantra to repeat and to meditate upon for the rest of her life. For Narvada it was the beginning of a very hard time of purification.

For almost ten years she stayed with Babaji on the island only with a fire place under a tree and for food whatever happened to come by the divine will, once a day or not. Besides inner struggles for faith and devotion, struggle from outside with storms, rains, cold and heat as well as annoyances by Indian and foreign bureaucrats had to be overcome. But due to the divine grace nothing could ever separate them. Santosh Puri was a Guru of older times, giving hard lessons from inside, pulling out by the roots the main obstacles of the spiritual path: laziness of the body, pride, egoism, selfishness or vanity.

After eight years Mataji married Baba Santosh Puri, not for enjoyment, but out of the unshakable confidence into the divine will or the will of the holy Ganga Maata. Even before the birth of the first son, the Santosh Puri Ashram was founded, where spiritual and charitable service life continued. There they had also 2 daughters. The physical form of Babaji then separated, but the more important spiritual relation continued by a constant consciousness of the presence of the departed soul in each and everything in the Ashram life.



Ganga Puri is the son of Mataji and Baba Santosh Puri and meanwhile a yoga teacher with a remarkable background. His classes are designed to promote well-being, positive relationships, self-confidence, control of body and mind to enable the practitioner to lead a creative, self-contained life.

Ganga Puri enjoys the privilege of being born in Haridwar (the gate of Heaven) at the bank of the holy river Ganges into a family of renunciates. His childhood passed in the company of holy men and women as his only relatives. Still his father insisted on the best education possible, by no means forcing the boy into the spiritual path. Ganga Puri graduated with a degree in Physics & Mathematics from the Grahwal University in Srinagar.

After the mahasamadhi of his father (Allahabad Kumbh Mela) a fundamental change of realization overcame the student of Science and Ganga changed his life into complete devotion to the Divine Truth. Meditation and yoga practices became his main intention, as they are today.

At the Gurukul Kangri University of Swami Dayananda Saraswati, Ganga Puri successfully obtained a post-graduate diploma and Master's Degree in Human Consciousness and Yogic Science. As a Yog-Acharya (master of yoga), he devotes his energy to lead yoga courses and Vedic studies for the aspirants of truth. Besides his studies, he has been continuously blessed by the teachings of traditional Indian gurus and yogis.

Since 2001, he has overtaken the spiritual heritage of his yogic father and assumed responsibilities for the maintenance and courses of the Santosh Puri Ashram. The ashram is a retreat center for spiritual research and studies of the yogic art of living.

More information on the event :
phone Peter Marchand 0475 73 32 78
www.leela-yoga.be

PROGRAM

There is no need to subscribe to any part of this program – just come as it suits you and we will accomodate.

In order to facilitate Mataji & Ganga's travels and support the Santoshpuri Ashram, donations are much appreciated.

THURSDAY 16 MAY

18:00 – 21:00 : Evening Satsang

Mataji & Ganga

Sint-Denijs

Satsang means literally "to be in the company of truth", but in a more general sense it means to be together with the teacher and the teachings. Everybody is welcome to this informal gathering with Mataji and Ganga in the home & garden of Peter Marchand. This satsang is especially interesting to people who like to ask some questions or just enjoy good company.

FRIDAY 17 MAY

14:00 – 17:00 : Afternoon Satsang

Mataji & Ganga

Sint-Denijs

Same "no-program-program" as the day before, except it's in the afternoon ☺.

19:00 – 21:00 : Gayatri Yagya (Fire Ritual)

Ganga

Sint-Denijs

A Yagya is an age-old vedic fire ritual (also called Havana or Homa). This Yagya will be especially dedicated to Gayatri and is very suitable for those who want to strengthen their power of concentration on the gayatri mantra in meditation. Fully according to ancient scriptures, the fire ritual will start with a variety of prayers and ritual actions performed by Ganga, after which the entire group will chant the Gayatri mantra 108 times, while a mixture of ghee and sacred herbs is offered to the fire with each mantra. A powerfull event, that is also accessible for those who have never chanted the Gayatri mantra before.

SATURDAY 18 MAY

10:00 – 12:30 : Hatha Yoga (Asana & Pranayam) Ganga

Sint-Denijs

Join Ganga for a rejuvenating Hatha Yoga workshop in the original Himalayan tradition. The workshop includes a variety of Asanas (physical postures), followed by Pranayam (breathing excercises). This workshop is certainly also accessible for people with little experience with Asana, while it may at the same time still challenge those more experienced Hatha Yoga practinioners. If the weather is good, the practice will happen in the garden.

14:00 – 17:00 : Jnana & Karma Yoga lecture

Mataji

Sint-Denijs

Mataji will treat us to a discussion of Jnana Yoga and Karma Yoga, based on the world-rekknowned scripture Bhagavad Gita. Jnana Yoga is the path based on the Advaita Vedanta, the non-dual knowledge. Karma Yoga is the path of selfless service, an ideal excercise for individual consciousness to attain non-dual understanding.

19:00 – 22:00 : Evening Kirtan (group chanting)

Mataji & Ganga

Sint-Denijs

In the evening we will chant many bhajans around the fire, accompagnied by Mataji on the harmonium and by Ganga on the drums. Anybody can join these easily learned chants and whomever likes to bring another drum or instrument is very welcome to do so.

SUNDAY 19 MAY

10:00 – 12:30 : Hatha Yoga (Asana & Pranayam) Ganga

O.B.S.Gent

Join Ganga for a rejuvenating Hatha Yoga workshop in the original Himalayan tradition. The workshop includes a variety of Asanas (physical postures), followed by Pranayam (breathing excercises). This workshop is certainly also accessible for people with little experience in Asana, while it may at the same time still challenge those more experienced Hatha Yoga practinioners. If the weather is good, the practice will happen in the garden.

14:00 – 17:00 : Jnana & Bhakti Yoga lecture

Mataji

O.B.S.Gent

Mataji will treat us to a discussion of Jnana Yoga and Bhakti Yoga, also based on the Bhagavad Gita. Bhakti Yoga is the path of love and devotion, a way to aproach the non-dual unity of existence through the duality of individual and cosmic consciousness. Jnana Yoga is the path based on non-dual knowledge.

Location "Sint-Denijs"

At the home of Peter Marchand, Jeroom Duquesnoy laan 8, 9051 Sint-Denijs Westrem. Take bus 76-77 from Gent Sint-Pieters railwaystation.

Location "O.B.S.Gent"

Ontmoeting Buitenlandse Studenten Gent te Kortrijksesteenweg 500 - 9000 Gent. It's a 5 min walk from Gent Sint-Pieters railwaystation.

While some soup, tea & snacks will be made available, please bring your own picknick for lunches & suppers.

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