

# **In Loving Service**



**A Tribute to Yogacharya Mother Hamilton  
on her Retirement, January 7, 1990**

**By Yogacharya David Hickenbottom**



**Mother's Mahasamadhi Anniversary - 2019**



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The cross and lotus symbolizes the unity between East and West. The lotus is the sign of illumined consciousness, the thousand petal lotus of the crown chakra. The cross is the symbol of the body surrendered to the will of God. Following the way of the cross results in the resurrection of illumined consciousness.

*The Cross and the Lotus, symbol of man.  
East and West blended, join hand in hand.  
Marching toward the infinite light and life divine.  
Lift up your eyes and see the star,  
descending from heaven where e'er you are.  
Be filled with the peace and ecstasy of God's almighty love.  
Aum-Amen.*

The Reverend Yogacharya Mother Hamilton

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The Reverend Yogacharya David Hickenbottom continues this lineage with the help and support of many sincere devotees. We are dedicated to realizing God and serving devotees of every race, color, creed and religion.

Mother Hamilton often said she was the product of two fully illumined Masters, her own Guru, Paramhansa Yogananda, and Swami Ramdas. We therefore feature articles about Swami Ramdas and Anandashram. We bow to the feet of Saints and realized Masters of all religions.

# In Celebration of the 28<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mother's Mahasamadhi

## Introduction by Yogacharya David

There has been a flurry of work getting Mother's talks transcribed and checked for accuracy, with the eventual aim of publishing her talks in a series of books. As we have gone into the later dates of her sermons, the late 1980s and early '90s, there have been some talks in which Mother and I both gave a talk for the same Service as Mother was too weak to talk for very long.

Then, early in 1990, Mother said she was going to retire as minister. While we are used to ministers retiring at some point, and Mother was definitely Master's ordained minister, still it came as a shock. For a guru to retire? Even, could she? What Mother was retiring from was giving talks weekly, something she had done with some breaks for forty some years. Mother was not strong physically, with, among other things, a weak heart—I think her family was encouraging her to lighten her load. Of course, Mother would never do anything unless God directed her—so we know this was God's will for her and for us.

The morning she announced she was retiring I gave this talk. I sought to put into words what Mother meant to me, to us all. In truth, words can only hint at the impact Mother had on so many lives. But you know, we do the best we can to convey what is in the heart when speaking of one's own guru—the most important person in a devotee's life. I am not unhappy with what I said, but it seems so inadequate to the task.

As I read back through the transcript what I am very happy about is that I said all this to Mother while she was sitting right there. There are many times in life we do not say the most important things to those we love. When Master tore loving words from Sri Yukteswarji, you could feel that it was painful for the Master to put into words what was in his heart. I think this is true for many of us. Mother gave me this opportunity to honor her while I had time to say it to her directly, and to say it to all.

And now, through publishing this transcript for Mother's Ma-

hasamadhi Anniversary, I can say it to her again, and to you, how precious and life-changing my Guru was, and is, in my life. I know she continues to inspire and be a living presence for many; that she is ever pointing the way for those who have the courage to follow—to merge and become one with her and her Infinite Beloved.



Mother Ordaining David as a Minister, March, 1984

Please, I beg of you, meditate; dedicate your life totally to God. You won't be sorry. Your life will be successful—it will be filled with right things, with bliss, with right friends.

May your souls soar on the wings of prayer until you reach the castle of God's infinite presence and His blissful presence. Try it, you'll like it. God bless each and every one of you.

– From a talk by Mother in 1989

# Loving Service: A Tribute to Mother on Her Retirement

A Talk Given by Yogacharya David Hickenbottom  
in Seattle on January 7, 1990

*[Bible reading was St. Matthew, Chapter 3, verses 1– 12]*

Something that I read on New Year's Eve that I think is so beautiful that I'd like to read it again. It's written by Simeon, the theologian; he lived from 949 to 1022.

We awaken in Christ's body as Christ awakens our bodies, and my poor hand is Christ. He enters my foot and is infinitely me. I move my hand and wonderfully my hand becomes Christ, becomes all of Him, (for God is indivisibly whole, seamless in His Godhood.)

I move my foot and at once He appears like a flash of lightning. Do my words seem blasphemous? Then open your heart to Him and let yourself receive the one who is opening to you so deeply. For if we genuinely love Him, we'll wake up inside Christ's body, where all of our body, all over, every most hidden part of it, is realized in joy as Him. He makes us utterly real.

And everything that is hurt, everything that seemed to us dark, harsh, shameful, maimed, ugly, irreparably damaged, is in Him transformed and recognized as whole, as lovely, and radiant in His light. He awakens as the Beloved in every last part of our body.

## Loving Service

I would like to speak this evening on loving service. When we think of loving service, we think of our great guru, for she has embodied loving service every minute of her life and in every thought that she has in her mind. Possessed of nothing but a desire for God, she sold everything and went to India, gave every last penny so that she might sit at the feet of the great God-man, Swami Ramdas. And there he bestowed her with the power to be transformed: transformed into her Christ-self, transformed into her God-self and bring forth as a blessing to the world the message that God is within us. And that within this holy temple of our own bodies, the Christ seed is born and travels up the spine

and brain and puts us through many experiences until at last it raises us up so that we may meet God face-to-face and find Him within our own consciousness, within our own hearts, within our own bodies.

### **David Meeting Mother**

When I first came to Mother, I felt lost and confused and was searching. In her I have found a vast ally. Not knowing what the term “guru” meant, not really knowing what a guru-disciple relationship was all about, I went forth in faith based on the power of God that I felt within her, in the words that she spoke, within the movement of everything that she did. As I was leaving my first meeting with her, I walked to the back of the room where she hugged everyone as they left. After receiving my hug, the next thing I knew I found myself sitting in the back seat of a car, and I was transformed, I was lifted up. I felt as if I was a thousand miles away. There are those that I’d gone there with who were talking about going to get ice cream afterwards, but I felt myself totally removed. I felt the power of God in Mother through that experience. And though I did not understand much, yet I wanted to follow after her. I wanted to discover the source of this power, the source of this amazement that I felt within myself, and I’ve never once been disappointed.

### **Mother is a Hero**

We go through many disillusionings; we go through many misconceptions about God-realization—what it is, what it is not—about the guru—who they are and who they are not. And yet in learning more and more about what a true God-person is, my understanding has gained depth, has gained the realization that Mother is truly a hero—hero in the noblest and most virtuous sense. She has blazoned paths when there were very few who were willing to take on the challenge. She fought against organizations when she stood alone as one individual without any help, without any guidance, only trusting in her own intuition, only trusting in the guidance of God. She has carried on in perfect loving service to God and to her guru for so many years. Many times alone, many times with only God as her guide, many times facing disappointment from all of us, many times fighting against our own group, fighting against those of us who say we want to follow after God, we want to know God and yet when we start on this path, we begin to resist.

## Greatest Gift is Mother's Example

We feel ourselves aligned with God at times, and at other times as if in a vast desert, not knowing who God is, not knowing what direction to go to. And there our teacher has been. Mother has always been there for us, able to give advice, able to give us inspiration. But the greatest thing she has given us is her example, seeing her stand up here at times shaking like a leaf blowing in the wind, barely able to stand and yet she has brought herself here to serve all of us in whatever capacity she can. What greater marks of heroism is there than that? To follow the things that you believe in with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your soul, all your strength and to never waiver in that. This is the greatest mark of heroism in my mind, and it is embodied in our own guru.

These are the true teachings—those of example, the footsteps that are trod surely and nobly through this life, that we can depend on. Mother has faced all of the same doubts, all the same worries, all the same frustrations that all of us encounter in this life. Yet in the noblest way she has struggled through every time. She has given everything that she has. She has a tremendously powerful will and she uses it to conquer those inner problems that keep us at bay from God.

At every moment in her life, she has sought to serve God—and for what profit? You know it amazes me to look at some of these TV preachers and some of the different teachers with vast memberships, receiving vast amounts of money, vast amounts of fame and power. Yet Mother, in my estimation, bringing such a powerful message, such a tremendous message, such a saving message for me and I know for others, has served without ever charging a thing, without ever advertising, but by the word of mouth from one to another.

In our lives I wish that we would follow in her footsteps, just a little bit. That we might be able to use our will and our intelligence and the gifts that God has given us to every advantage, even as Mother has. That we may be able to see the sacrifice and the love and the generosity that this one person has given to God. Believe me, even though our numbers today are small, I know that there are thousands who have been influenced by her life, that there are individuals and souls all over this world who have

benefited because she has walked this earth and because she has demonstrated in her life the tremendous realization she has attained.

I remember her 80th birthday. We sent out invitations to individuals around the world, and they instantly sent back letters of love and gratitude, letters of good wishes, that she might have a wonderful 80th birthday. Wonderful are the stories of her encounters with these different souls, these different great saints that she met in this lifetime. Wonderful is the counsel that she ended up giving them, even—many times, taking them further along on the path than they'd gone up until that point. Wonderful was the day that she raised a man from the dead, and today he yet lives because of the grace of God within Mother.

### **Mother Gives our Lives Purpose**

And wonderful was the day that we met Mother, a pivotal day that changed our lives. I think about my life sometimes and wonder what it would be like if she hadn't been in my life, if I had never met her. And the alternative pales into insignificance when I think about what my life might have been. I think about the times that I feel God's love and His bliss and His joy and His presence inside of me and all around me. This is all a gift from Mother. I think about those times when I feel inspired by great thoughts, by great saints and indeed this has been a gift from Mother. And I feel the purpose in my life, and I think what a vain life my existence would have been if she had not entered into it. I could watch football games, I could work, perhaps have a family, a home. Yet all of these would seem simply empty without the presence of God and Guru in it.

I think about those tremendous experiences that I've had and going through the Mystical Crucifixion. I think about the powerful things that God has done in my life, the realizations that I've had through my experiences. And not one of these would have been possible without Mother entering my life. And I'm sure as each one of us examines and thinks about our own life and how it has been changed, how that powerful current of God within a single human being can change us, transform us, lead us in new directions and to new heights that perhaps we did not even dream of before we met that one. It is all there, it is all said in that one thought, that in loving service to God, Mother has



served all of us and has given us a gift which is beyond measure, which is beyond money or fame or any of those other things the world has to offer us.

Sometimes people have asked me, "Is Mother famous?" when I talk to them about her. I say, "Well, she's famous to a small group of people." And indeed, that's true. For the people who love and follow Mother, there's perhaps no greater person in this world than she. For the people who have benefited from her loving presence and the bent of her powerful mind, there is nothing else that can truly compare to the guru-disciple relationship.

### **Love Completely**

I remember many years ago as we sat in a pizza parlor by Lake Union. There was a whole group of us, and Mother turned her attention to me and as she could do and I've seen her do with others, she totally encapsulated the two of us. And I'm sure that no one could hear us, even if they tried—for I have been in situations where Mother has talked to others and even though I sat right next to her and could hear her voice, somehow the words were obscured, and I couldn't make out anything she was saying. So, she turned her full attention to me and she looked deep within my soul—it's never been uncomfortable when Mother has looked deep into my soul—and she asked, "Why don't you love me totally?" I knew exactly what she was speaking about. Once in my late teens I'd been hurt by love and I vowed at that time never to allow myself to be that open to hurt again.

And so I told my story to Mother. She said that I would never attain God unless I learned to love completely. So, I vowed at that moment to love God completely and to open myself to hurt if that's what it would take in order to do that. And another time—we were again in a group and she asked me, "What are you going to do to pay for the air that you breathe?" Well that's quite a question and I had no means of answering it. But it set me to thinking. It set me to think about this world and all the wonderful gifts it has given me, and that this life is not just a random happenchance, but that it has an exact and specific purpose. That it is up to me to use my talents and my energies in order to attain something beautiful for God, so that when I leave

this body—and that might be at any moment, who's to say—that I can meet God face-to-face and feel good about the things that I've done and that there might be something, maybe just one thing that is worthy of Him—the Creator of all that is.

### **A New Challenge**

And so at these different junction points Mother has challenged me. She has put before me tough questions, to open up growth for my soul. Tonight, I guess she has laid down another gauntlet for me—complete and total service to God, which I committed myself to when I was ordained with the title Minister and Reverend. I feel so deeply inadequate to perform this kind of service, yet I trust in God to step forth, hoping and praying that His presence will guide me in whatever direction I go. That Mother's presence will always be with me—of this I'm sure—and that the wisdom that she's given me, the power and the voice of God that she's brought into my life, that I'll never lose it. And it is this that gives me the courage to take up this challenge, to take up this title and to move forward in life.

### **The Greatest Gift to our Guru**

It is my greatest privilege to live in service, in loving service to God and Guru. And this I wish with all my heart: that we may all lead lives such as the great example Mother has shown us, that we will inspire others to know God, to love God, to serve God and become His friend. This I believe is the greatest gift that we can give. It is a gift that I wish for all of us, to follow after Mother, that we may know God in all of His glory and all of His intelligence, that we may feel His presence surging through ourselves and in every cell of our bodies, that we may feel Him expand our consciousness and lift us up into the vast presence of His universal consciousness. And that we may know Him and someday be with Him and be so thoroughly intoxicated with Him that we will know nothing else but that spiritual consciousness, that we'll forget body, we will forget name and fame, we will forget everything except for that supreme consciousness.

And having been risen up in that consciousness, we will feel our oneness with God and know that there is truly no separation, but that there is only oneness. There's only oneness with blessed peace. There's only oneness with divine life. There's only

oneness in spiritual consciousness. This is my hope and my prayer for all of us who follow after Mother, that we may know this, and that in finding this, we will never forget the one who set our feet on the path, who gave us loving guidance through many difficult times, who instilled us with the power and the will to know this highest spiritual consciousness. This is our dream, a vision, beyond all which everything else in this world pales.

Words fail me as I try to think of anything that might convey the amount of love, the amount of reverence, the amount of admiration, the amount of divinity that I feel for our Guru. Perhaps there are no words that can express it. Perhaps, as Mother once told us, the greatest gift we can give to her is the gift of our own God-realization. And this gift I wish for all of us: to lay the gift of our God-realization at the feet of God in our divine Guru.

### **Mother's Response to David's Talk**

Mother: "I want you to know that I think that all of you are wonderful souls and it's been a privilege to serve you. I love you with all my heart. And don't forget if you're ever really in need, you can always call me. I'll be sitting in my chair at home.

May God bless each and every one of you and don't forget how much I love you."



I've been thinking over the many years that we have been together. And I want some action. As you all know, I've been in a great deal of pain in the last six years, ever since my stroke. And yet, I come here to serve you the best way I can. I know it isn't perfect, but I do the best I can. And that's all I can expect of myself at the moment. But I also have expectations of what I expect of you. I expect you to follow the things that I teach you. I expect you to meditate morning and night. I expect you to live the good life, to obey the commandments. This whole world, you know, is an expression of what man is, because every thought, every word, every action that we send forth from ourselves makes the world what it is. That vibration goes forth and creates. So if we do not like the state of the world, then let us look to ourselves and what we give forth from ourselves to make the world a better place. – **From a talk by Mother, 1989**



Mother, in the 1970s, around the time  
Yogacharya David met her.



21st October 1967

Beloved Mother,

... We can imagine how busy you have been. Papa has assured you that God will be making you do great work in America.

May the light of God be kindled in the hearts of more and more people so that people may live in the knowledge of the Truth, happily and peacefully, loving and serving each other, thus making the world a veritable heaven.

Ever your Self,  
Satchidananda