

You must remember that the Christ said, “He who will not pick up his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.” The cross is the symbol of the human body because, as you stand upright with your arms outstretched and your feet together, your body is in the form of a cross. And it is upon this cross that the humanness in you must be crucified—the human ego. It is the ghost of the Real Self or God, and it is that ghost which Jesus surrendered. It is that ghost which every man must surrender. And after he has gone through this tremendous experience within himself, then he is filled with the power of the Holy Ghost, or the Divine Ego.

– Mother, from a talk in 1974



We cannot say that we are followers of Christ unless we pick up our cross which is our body and follow him and emulate him in every single detail, even unto death, the death of that human ego; where we come to the point where we are willing to surrender ourselves and everything we call our own at the feet of the Lord in order that we might be purified, in order that He may come in and fill our temple.

– Mother, from a talk in 1977



It’s a tremendous experience when this happens to you. I can speak with authority because God, through His infinite grace and mercy, lifted me up and put me through the full experience of the Christ: the whole mystical experience of the birth, the way of the cross, the crucifixion, the death, the resurrection and the ascension. I did not do any of this myself. I did but one thing, and that was to give myself to God in absolute and total surrender. I said, “Here am I, God. Take me. Do with me as You will.” And He heard me, and He did.

– Mother, from a talk in 1969



## THE MYSTICAL CRUCIFIXION



**In Celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of Mother’s Mahasamadhi**



**1991-2021**





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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

© 2021 The Cross and The Lotus Publishing is dedicated to the publication of materials that promote God-realization. Our spiritual lineage begins with Jesus Christ and Babaji and flows down to us through Lahiri Mahasaya, Swami Sri Yukteswar, Paramhansa Yogananda, Yogacharya Mother Hamilton and Reverend Yogacharya David Hickenbottom. The three ordained ministers, Rev. Larry Koler, Rev. Jill Hough and Rev. Peter Schultz continue this work with the help and support of many sincere devotees.

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 are dedicated to realizing God and serving devotees of every race, color, creed and religion. We bow at the feet of saints and realized masters of all religions.



*Drawn by Lorraine Bourcier in 2004, in celebration of the 20th anniversary of David's ordination as a minister by Mother.*

“Mother, I’m going to tell you something: You’ve got to write some books! You’ve got to do it! This that God has put you through is so far ahead, so far greater, so universal, so much more so than anything I’ve ever heard of from anyone in my life, that it is fantastic. It’s liable to start a religious war, but it has to be done, because people have been walking in blindness. They have been taught the parables and they have taken them as historical truth, when actually what you say is the real Truth—that every scripture the world over is the history of the evolution of every man from the human to the divine.”

– Swami Satchidananda, in a conversation with Mother

truth behind the parables. Through your attunement, you are inspired to follow in the footsteps of the universal Christ. You then know that you too can directly realize Christ-consciousness and become one with your Heavenly Father, even as Jesus, the Galilean Master, did before you.

### My Testament

All of what you will read in this book was new to me when I first met Mother Hamilton in 1974. I heard it piece by piece through the months, years and decades as I absorbed her powerful teachings and inspired talks. Through God and Guru's Grace I followed in Mother's and the Christ's footsteps during my years of awakened Kundalini force and intense spiritual practice—for over forty years now. I can attest to the fact that what Mother teaches **is** the truth. I know through my own experience that the Mystical Crucifixion is in fact exactly what Mother teaches, that it has the power to lift you from the son of man and grants you access to the supreme Christ-consciousness within you, with the power to transmute you into a Son of God.

I can state from my own experience that this is the most fascinating, demanding and rewarding adventure you will ever know as you are uplifted and transformed through the Mystical Crucifixion.

This is what Jesus, Mother, Master, Papa and every great spiritual teacher has ever wanted for you—and wants for all of us.

### A Blessing from Mother

“My greatest prayer, my greatest hope, my greatest wish for you is that God may lift you up into His arms of everlasting bliss and hold you safe forevermore: that you can experience the bliss that I feel within myself, that you can be lifted up and have Him reveal to you the mysteries, the truth behind the parables, that you will know that truth, and the truth will make you not only free, but whole in Him.”

– Mother, 1976

May His blessings be upon you,  
Yogacharya David †

*Sample from the upcoming book  
to be published in 2021  
in honor of the 30th anniversary year  
of Mother's Mahasamadhi*

# THE MYSTICAL CRUCIFIXION

## THE WAY OF THE CROSS AND THE CHRIST

### *Preface*

*by*

**THE REVEREND MOTHER  
YOGACHARYA M. HAMILTON**

&

### *Introduction*

*by*

**THE REVEREND YOGACHARYA  
DAVID R. HICKENBOTTOM**

## Editors' Note

*In celebration of Mother's 30<sup>th</sup> Mahasamadhi we are sharing with you the first several pages of the upcoming book presently being compiled: The Mystical Crucifixion by our beloved guru, Mother Hamilton. In addition we have added inspirational and humorous quotes by Mother about writing her book (blue boxes).*

*We were hoping to have the book ready for this occasion but we would rather take the time it deserves and pray that God and Guru will allow it to be ready at some point during this anniversary year. It is a lengthy and exacting process, even though so much has previously been done by the dedicated team of digitizers, typists, transcribers, reviewers, cataloguers, excerpters, compilers and contributors, all under the direction and through the inspiration of Mother and David. There are too many of these devoted souls to be listed here.*

*This book will be Mother's alone. It is entirely in her words. We pray that she will approve of the way we have taken a section from one talk and a paragraph from another to weave a tapestry of her teachings in her voice. We trust that she is guiding us. We move ahead quite quickly at times—she lifts us up and a chapter is formed, then the process rests for a time—sometimes for a month or so. To date we have compiled seven chapters. These are still in review so the sample does not include them. We plan to have at least ten in all.*

*We are so fortunate that David had already completed an excellent introduction for the book. We have printed it here in its entirety. May Mother bless this work. Jai Mother!*

**– Rev. Larry & Cate Koler and the Cross & Lotus team**

I only hope, as I continue to write my book, that I am able to bring forth the Truth in a way that can be understood and accepted. It's not an easy job, I can promise you, because it's now many years since I went through these experiences, and to recall them and put them in order as they should be to coincide with the story told in the Bible, is not an easy one. But it will be done because that is my destiny, and I must fulfill it. No matter how difficult it is, no matter how I feel, still God's work must go on.

– Mother, from a talk in 1986

When Mother met Swami Ramdas, who was called “Papa” by all, through an extraordinary set of circumstances Mother knew that God had sent Swami Ramdas to her as the one destined to take her all the way to Him. Subsequently, Mother knew she must go to Swami Ramdas in India. In 1957, Mother and her husband, Ralph, sold all they had and left for India to be with Swami Ramdas at Anandashram. They had no clear idea if they would ever return. Master was forever Mother's *Sat Guru*, of that there was never a doubt. However, Papa Ramdas was to play a crucial role in the attainment of her complete realization of God.

## Mother and the Mystical Crucifixion

While in India, Swami Ramdas put Mother through the spiritual experiences known as the Mystical Crucifixion, during which she received revelations about the scriptures, most especially the New Testament. Mother would be put through some very specific experiences, then she was guided to certain Biblical passages and God directly instructed her as to how the inner meaning of these passages corresponded to what she just had gone through. In this way she was given original Christianity as practiced by those early century disciples of Christ, but which had been lost when lesser minds codified “faith through belief” doctrine, instead of direct knowledge of God through experience.

Bringing to light the truth of original Christianity was the very purpose Mother had taken incarnation on earth. Mother's spiritual experiences and her teachings are one and the same thing—it was her following in the steps of Christ every inch of the way that she was able to bring this liberating truth once again to the world.

## In Mother's Own Words

In these pages, you will read the words as Mother Hamilton spoke them. These are excerpted transcripts which have been gleaned from over 900 recorded talks that took place during three decades. When speaking, Mother felt uplifted in God, she spoke spontaneously and with the power of the Holy Spirit. She prepared for a talk by coming up with a title, having a few readings and perhaps some stories in mind—then she turned herself over to God for all the rest. The wisdom and power of her spoken word will uplift you and help you understand the living

In 1952 Mother's beloved guru left his body in yogic Mahasamadhi (a yogi's conscious release from the body at the time of death.) With an ever-increasing fervor Mother had an overwhelming need to realize God and to understand the truth behind the scriptures. It was her total loyalty to her guru and her tremendous desire for her oneness with God that drove her uncompromisingly. In 1954, she entered a very high state of consciousness called Nirvikalpa Samadhi. Even in attaining that high state Mother knew that she had not yet entered the supreme state of Sahaja Samadhi, or Brahma Nirvana. She prayed deeply to God to either directly lift her into a fully-realized state, or send her someone qualified who could help her.

### Driving Forces in Mother's Life

At the same time Mother was going through these uplifted states of consciousness, the organization which Master had set up to oversee the publishing of his work, Self Realization Fellowship, was busy making major re-writes of all of his previously published materials, such as his *Praecepta Lessons*, *Whispers from Eternity* and the spiritual classic, *Autobiography of a Yogi*. They even went to the extreme of forging his signature, changing the spelling of his name from Paramhansa to Paramahansa, with the added 'a'—not only in the printed form of his name but an actual forged signature as well. There were also changes being made in the way the organization was being run.

Mother was not in favor of the change in his written works—over three hundred changes to the *Autobiography of a Yogi* alone—and she fought against them. As she said, she became the “bad girl” in the organization. Mother was experiencing an intense desire for God and the desperate need to help to save her Master's work. She fervently prayed to God to help her on both scores.

### Answer to a Prayer Demand

In 1954, a fellow devotee of Master's, Bob Raymer, called to let Mother know that he had met an extraordinary swami who was making a world tour and planning to come to Seattle. Mother subsequently met Swami Ramdas several times; he spoke to the Seattle Center group—it proved to be a momentous time, a portent of things to come.

## THE WAY OF THE CROSS AND THE CHRIST

Every path, regardless of the name you call it, has within its scope that which is necessary to take man from the human to the divine. It makes no difference what path you follow, by what name you call your particular faith. The “way” is the way of the Cross and the Christ—because man's body as he stands upright with his arms outstretched and his feet together is in the form of a cross. It is the religion of every man, and he must go to the realization of his Oneness with God by way of that cross.

– Mother Hamilton

## PREFACE

by THE REVEREND YOGACHARYA M. HAMILTON

*[An excerpt of a letter Mother sent to a student around 1960.]*

Jesus, the Mystic Christ, is within every man. He is come in the flesh, the temple of the living God. Did he not say, “Lo, I am with you always?” Did he not also say that God and the kingdom of heaven are to be found only within? If this is true, then also he, the Son of God, can be found only within.

Jesus said to his disciples, “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever shall lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

It can be clearly seen in the statement, “If any man will come after me,” that man is free to choose his path. But if he does choose to follow the Christ, it is also clear that he must deny himself, the human ego, and take up his cross, which is his own body, and emulate him in every detail, even unto death, or the destruction of the ego.

This is not a path for modern moralists or coffee klatch orthodoxists. It is the last mile when the greatest and final effort must be made to pick up your cross and truly follow the Christ. It

has no place for the weak, curiosity seekers, or hangers on. Only tremendous strength, determination, love, worship and devotion for God can carry us through the final crucifixion of the ego, which entails the death of the five senses of the gross ego, and of the subtle ego consisting of the ten qualities of the mind, such as lust, anger, pride, envy, jealousy, etc.

After the crucifixion, comes the resurrection, the ascension, and a new body which has been completely spiritualized in Christ. For it says, “For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look within for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.” He did not say that Christhood was for one man alone, but rather “...as many as received him, to them gave he the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.”

He came to show us the way to Christhood so that we, too, might become one with our Father God. He said, “If I” (the Christ within), “be lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men unto myself.” If heaven is within, so also is the earth. So as the Christ within us lifts himself up from the earth (or humanness of our own being), he ascends into heaven and, with the magnetism of God, draws all men unto himself.

Even the Christ used his five senses, because anyone in a human body must taste, smell, touch, see and hear when he functions in the conscious state. However, he was not controlled by the desires created through the use of them because he was master of himself and all that he surveyed. Such a one, regardless of his high estate, must use his mind as long as he functions in a human body. The mind must be used both to eliminate the path and to destroy itself once this purpose is affected. What is left after all of these things have been accomplished is a spiritual ego, the Self with a capital ‘S’. Or, to put it another way, the little human self, the son of man, has been changed and transmuted into his real or God Self and is now the Son of God, the Christ.

Much of the personality, and many of the habits peculiar to the personality, remain as an automatic function. But, because there is nothing left in the temple but the indwelling God, even these are divinized. The fact that the human mind no longer

church mortgage was not paid. Yoganandaji placed God right in Mother’s heart, and made her know that she could realize God and the Christ through direct, inner meditational experience.

### **Christian Yoga**

Master brought to the West an Eastern view of an oriental Christ—a universal Christ for all mankind. He spoke and wrote of his encounters with Jesus in glowing inspirational terms. He brought a new way of understanding Jesus’ life that appealed to logic; it made sense and set out in clear terminology that we are all called to a higher life by Jesus and that his proclaimed brothers and sisters were all those who do the will of the one Father God. Master taught that, in reality, we all have the innate capacity to know Christ-consciousness even as Jesus did. Through methodical meditation, as practiced by yogis, anyone who is willing to apply him or herself may have direct perception of Christ and of God. In a revelation to many, Yogananda’s teachings would lead an aspirant to experience Christ-consciousness through definite, scientific methods, replacing the old formula of faith through belief.

In fact, all the teachings of Jesus point toward having transformative experiences based on deepened meditation upon God. This is the original Christianity that existed before being diluted by the Counsel of Nicaea in 325 A.D. and followed by other political/spiritual counsels, resulting in the orthodoxy of Christianity brought about by Emperor Constantine.

### **God Can Be Realized**

Upon meeting Swami Yogananda, Mother heard—for the first time—that God was within her, and that she might realize Him through intelligent application of her will in meditation and by leading a spiritually-attuned life. For 27 years, Mother followed her living guru and put his teachings to work in her life. Paramhansa Yogananda asked Mother to be Center Leader for Seattle. Later, he ordained Mother as a minister, and then at a convocation in front of thousands he gave Mother the ultimate spiritual title of Yogacharya, meaning teacher or master of yoga—one of six Yogacharyas in his world-wide organization, and the only woman.

### A First Person Account

Today, many followers of the Christian faith accept church orthodoxy without question, or even an awareness of how these formulas were historically created and changed down through time. However with Mother Hamilton, we have a first person account as she walks in the footsteps of the mystical Christ. From direct personal experience, she describes what she went through and what God revealed to her. Her teachings make self-evident the inner meaning of the universal Christ—universal because it is ultimately the story of how every soul progresses from the human to the Divine, regardless of creed, nationality or race. This makes Christ's life and teachings personal to every aspirant walking the path of realization and relevant for all mankind, struggling to relate to these powerfully influential teachings that have so changed the world.

### Mother's Early Life

Mother was born into a Catholic family, the only one of seven children to survive. Being very poor, the family circumstances were difficult and Mother never had the opportunity to graduate from any school, except a six-month business course. As a teen, she had read a novel, *A Romance of Two Worlds*, which supported her in thinking that there was more to this world than what is perceived through the five senses. As she matured, Mother made a life-changing decision to leave the Catholic Church; her mother and father were definitely not happy when their only child left the church.

### Discipleship

In 1925, Mother was twenty years old, and was invited by a co-worker to attend a lecture by a Hindu yogi. Meeting Swami Yogananda changed Mother's life completely, and from that moment on she was an enthusiastic disciple of the yogi who later was known as Paramhansa Yogananda. Needless to say, Mother's parents were distraught that Mother had a Hindu yogi as a guru. Little could they have suspected that Swami Yoganandaji would bring Mother closer to the living Christ than she had ever experienced during her time in the church. Her memories of early years in the Catholic Church were filled with the fear of committing a sin and what would happen if the

exists does not mean that we function without a mind. Rather, it has been transmuted and absorbed into the Universal Mind and functions divinely in the state of Cosmic Consciousness.

Many have said, like you, "Why should I destroy my ego? Of what value is it? I cannot conceive of such a thing because then I would be nothing." Let us remember the great ones who have destroyed their egos in order that they might become the saviors of mankind: Krishna, Buddha, Jesus the Christ, Mohammed, Zoroaster—and in our own time, Ramakrishna, Ramana Maharshi, Ramdas and our own beloved guru, Paramhansa Yogananda, to name only a few. Were these non-entities? Nothings? They were and will be forevermore the greatest personalities the world has ever known. They chose to lose their lives, the human ego centered only in the consciousness of the little self, that they might become the saviors of the world. They will be remembered long after all of the kings, presidents, and others great in the worldly sense have been forgotten.

As Sri Ramana Maharshi once put it so aptly:

The body is the cross. Jesus, the son of man, is the ego, or 'I-am-the-body' idea. When the son of man is crucified on the cross, the ego perishes, and what survives is the Absolute Being. It is the resurrection of the Glorious Self—of Christ, the Son of God.



With all of my heart, my mind, my soul, my strength, I serve Him every moment of my life, day and night. My telephone rings all day, my doorbell rings. And people say to me, "Why don't you write books?" "When are you going to write a book?" "Have you started writing your book yet? When are you going to do it?" So I tell them, "When you let me, when you let me." I want to write books, too.

I give all the truth; it is recorded. All of these talks are being transcribed. They're being cataloged and certain subject matters taken out and classified in certain ways so none will be lost.

— Mother, from a talk in 1980

## FOREWORD

by THE REVEREND YOGACHARYA DAVID HICKENBOTTOM

[Written in 2017]

### Mother's Life and Teachings

The extraordinary life and teachings of The Reverend Yogacharya Mother Hamilton (nee: Mildred Marie Sayen) makes for compelling reading. In *The Mystical Crucifixion* you will read in Mother's own words the tremendous spiritual experiences she was put through and the revolutionary truths that came about as a result. Mother's life story is intricately connected to the story of Jesus, and as you will see, Mother's understanding of the meaning of Jesus' life and teachings went through a complete transformation as she grew in spiritual and mystical understanding.

### A Mystic's Life

A mystic's life is fundamentally different than that of most people. Ordinarily, we learn at the knees of our parents and family, go to school and perhaps proceed to university studies. When we enter the adult world we continue to learn through the experiences of life itself—we talk with others and form opinions, and come to a world-view that is ideally both stable and open to new information.

A mystic adds an entirely new dimension to this process of learning—that is, gaining access to information through intuition, which is not derived from books, discussion, cognitive thought process or ordinary worldly experience. For a mystic, an inner life comes alive in which powerful internal forces are released and result in direct revelations of truth. When taken to its ultimate conclusion, the mystic's life is transformed down to the foundational core of his or her being.

### Destiny Called

Mother knew she was destined for something other than what she was taught when growing up—spiritually, she was raised in the orthodox teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. Upon meeting her guru, Paramhansa Yogananda, her life underwent a dramatic change. Through his teachings, she heard for the first time that God was not some fearful Being out there someplace, but a loving, knowable Presence to be found within. Through the

years, Yoganandaji, whom Mother lovingly referred to as "Master" (a spiritual term meaning one who has achieved self-mastery), wrote the *Second Coming of the Christ* series in his East-West Magazines. The "second coming," so long predicted, is not the Christ descending from the clouds found up in the sky, but through the parting of the clouds of ignorance. This realization dawns in the individual—and not as a singular global event. In fact there have been "second comings" down through history, for Christian saints as well as saints and sages of all religions from around the world. This astounding teaching reached deep into Mother's soul and inspired her to sacrifice everything in order to have this highest realization of God.

### From Son of Man to Son of God

The fundamental change that occurs during the Mystical Crucifixion is described when Jesus refers to himself as both the "son of man" and the "Son of God." Jesus knew that the son of man must be crucified and ultimately resurrected as a Son of God. The term son of man describes his human nature; the Son of God, the divine. The two natures are vital parts to Jesus' life in the scriptures; every act of Jesus inextricably leads him to the crucifixion of the son of man, and to the exaltation of the resurrected Son of God. This transformation from a lower human state to the higher divine one is what is encapsulated in the New Testament scriptures—what Mother calls the "Mystical Crucifixion."

### Early Christianity and Orthodoxy

There have been many interpretations of Jesus' life and teachings since the earliest days of the formation of what is today called Christianity. In the first 300 years the multifarious teachings by those who followed in the tradition of Jesus the Christ covered a broad spectrum of thought. Then, through the insistence and enforcement of Emperor Constantine, a small portion of these teachings were encoded into an orthodox system of belief. All other perspectives were declared heretical. However, believers who held with other ideas than the new orthodoxy did not see themselves as heretics, it was simply how they understood the teachings of the master. Those "heretics" were either converted, or they were tortured and killed and their books burned by the Emperor and his church.