

Infinite Love

Amma's Visit to Singapore – 26 to 29 March 2008

After two long and anxious years, Amma blessed Her Singapore children with a 4-day programme at the Singapore EXPO.

"Amma is a shoreless ocean of motherly love..."

The programme began on the morning of 26 March 2008 with Amma leading a meditation session followed by darshan. These morning meditation and darshan sessions were held over the next few days, each session seeing a crowd of over 3000 people from a wide variety of ethnic and religious backgrounds, drawn to Amma's simple message of infinite love and inspired by Her extraordinary humanitarian work.

The first night of Amma's Singapore programme began with an explosion of colour and the rich sound of cymbals and drums as the well-established Long Sheng Wushu & Lion Dance Troupe performed a pulsating traditional Lion Dance, with acrobatic jumps and graceful dance moves, for Amma.

Amma "fed" the lions fruits and vegetables and the lions presented Amma with a scroll etched with calligraphy. The performance ended with the lions showering a burst of confetti on Amma. After Amma blessed the lions, She entered the programme hall where many had been waiting eagerly since mid afternoon.

On the second night, Amma was greeted with a colourful and lively Bhangra dance performance by Anser Creation and on the third night, Asparas Arts academy welcomed Amma with a vibrant multi-cultural dance item.

Over the course of the entire programme, a series of welfare initiatives were launched by the Amriteswari Society. Mindful of Amma's message of service to all, food provisions were distributed to 50 needy elderly persons and 30 wheelchairs were presented to various homes including patients at the Adventist Rehab Centre. Amma also blessed saplings that were to be planted at the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve on the North-West of the island. A blood donation drive was organised for members of the public to meet the high demand for blood at the hospitals. A free health screening session was also organised for the public. Finally, bursaries awards were distributed to 100 children from less-privileged backgrounds in order to encourage their educational endeavours. These initiatives were supported by various local charity bodies including the Singapore Red Cross, the Singapore Environmental Council and the Community Development Centre.

Drawn to Her message of selfless service and love, a number of officials also came to see Amma while She was in Singapore. On the first night, Amma was garlanded by the Minister-Counsellor of the Myanmar Embassy (Singapore) Mr Aung Kyaw Oo, the Counsellor for Labour of the Malaysian High Commission (Singapore) Mr Shanmugam s/o Thiagarajan, the Secretary of the Venezuelan Embassy Ms Alexandra Perez, Philippines Senator Ms Jamby Madrigal, Mrs Dalip Kumar Seth of Sunrise Company

Private Limited, the CEO of the Muslim Kidney Foundation Mr Ameerali, and the General Manager of Singapore EXPO Mr Keith Oliver, who warmly welcomed Amma to Singapore and to the EXPO. The Souvenir Magazine to commemorate Amma's 2008 Visit to Singapore, *Snehaamritam*, was blessed by Amma and launched by Mr Kenny from Golden Villa Goldsmith Pte Ltd.

Over the next two days, the Management Committee of the Loyang Tua Pek Kong Temple led by the Chairman Mr George Peh, came for Amma's programme. The Loyang Tua Pek Kong temple is a one-of-a-kind temple which is home to Hindu, Buddhist, Taoist, and Muslim shrines at the premises on the eastern part of Singapore. During Amma's 2006 Visit to Singapore, Amma had visited and blessed the new premises of the temple. The Temple has been an active supporter of the activities of the Amriteswari Society over the last few years. Amma was garlanded by Mr Jayachandran, Chairman of Ollam Company Limited and his wife, as well as by Mr George Peh and his wife. The Deputy Commissioner as well as the First Secretary of Commerce from the Indian High Commission, together with Mr VR Nathan and Mr Rossi Giadali, Vice-Presidents of the Inter-Religious Organisation were also amongst the distinguished persons who had come to meet Amma.

There was strong support from numerous local welfare organisations such as the Hindu-SANA Aftercare, Tampines Family Services Centre, the Hindu Centre, Thye Hua Kwam Hospital, People's Association and the Management Development Institute of Singapore.

"...our past is like a cancelled cheque and neither the past nor the future should be given undue importance...Only the present moment is in our hands..."

Amma's satsangs covered many of the issues that are currently plaguing today's community. During Her satsangs, Amma emphasised the importance of striving to be happy and compassionate. Amma spoke of the importance of family and, citing the example of a relationship between a husband and wife. Amma highlighted the need to develop increasing understanding and tolerance of each other, as well as to maintain open communication. It is important, Amma says, to have an account book of our values. It is insufficient to attain only Wealth and Pleasure. Righteous Living and Liberation were also two other pillars of life that must be developed instead of ignored.

"...Devotion to God and Compassion are like two sides of the same coin..."

Amma spoke of how the world is thirsting for pure love and peace and how it is important for each of us to learn how to manage our thoughts and mind rather than to allow hatred to creep in as the latter would bring no end to human violence and war. Encouraging each of us to develop compassion for the needy and poor, Amma said that God can be found in every single atom and as such we must learn to love everyone equally and without qualification. Amma followed each satang with bhajans and there was great excitement in the hall as Amma sang the popular Punjabi bhajan "Mata Rani" on the first night.

"As long as there is enough strength in these

*hands to reach out to those who come to her,
to place her hand on a crying person's shoulder,
Amma will continue to give darshan.
To lovingly caress people,
to console and wipe their tears
until the end of this mortal frame
—this is Amma's wish."*

As the local newspapers carried news of Amma's Visit, by Devi Bhava night, thousands of people gathered to receive Amma's darshan. On Devi Bhava night, the entire crowd, including those gathered outside the hall doors, participated in the Atma Puja. After Her satsang, Amma led bhajans before She changed into a lovely sandalwood-coloured sari for Devi Bhava. Looking resplendent and ever-smiling, Amma gave darshan through the night, listening intently to Her children's problems, sharing their joy, whispering soothing words in their ears and showering each one of them with warmth and intense love through the simple but deeply meaningful act of hugging.

Before heading to Malaysia, Amma decided to visit the MA Centre at Hindoo Road to distribute prasad to the members of the Amriteswari Society who were present. Amma then sat amongst Her children and described the Amriteswari Society as a beautifully blossomed flower whose fragrance Amma was enjoying. No doubt, this brought great happiness to those around and it is with immense enthusiasm that Amma's children look forward to working towards the next Singapore Visit. Amma rounded up the visit to the MA Centre with a lively rendition of "Mata Rani" to which everyone sang along enthusiastically. Mata Rani Ki! JAI!