



Friends of Dalijoda

A Newsletter of Sri Aurobindo Shreekshetra

Volume: 6 | Issue 1 | Feb 2025

I know that mighty gods are friends of earth. - Sri Aurobindo



In loving memory of
'Mamu' - Sri Gadadhar Mishra

Invitation

With wind and the weather beating round me
Up to the hill and the moorland I go.
Who will come with me? Who will climb with me?
Wade through the brook and tramp through the
snow?

Not in the petty circle of cities
Cramped by your doors and your walls I dwell;
Over me God is blue in the welkin,
Against me the wind and the storm rebel.

I sport with solitude here in my regions,
Of misadventure have made me a friend.
Who would live largely? Who would live freely?
Here to the wind-swept uplands ascend.

I am the lord of tempest and mountain,
I am the Spirit of freedom and pride.
Stark must he be and a kinsman to danger
Who shares my kingdom and walks at my side.

(CWSA 2/ 201)

Sri Aurobindo



Letters from Babaji Maharaj

Few rules have been outlined for effective management of Sri Aurobindo Srikrishetra (Dalijoda). Two or three sadhaks like you stayed in the Ashram initially. It has gradually increased to twenty sadhaks as sadhaks kept joining one by one. Initially there was no fixed rule. Since the ashram is going to be set up now, it must be managed properly. Some operational rules have been laid out in line with Sri Aurobindo Ashram. Few other rules have been defined based on the place, community, and the circumstances.

Keeping the realization of the Divine as the goal of life in front, if we can do all our work sincerely as a service to the Mother and offer them at Her feet, we can progress in sadhana along with growth of the Ashram. Harmony amongst each other is extremely essential for this. This can happen if (we) stay conscious of our goal, recognise our ego, and do not mistake its suggestions as justified or appropriate. In the path of sadhana, if we cannot be sincere to stay conscious of our goal and make mistakes in our strong resolve to offer ourselves like a small child at the feet of the Mother, we will fail to recognise our ego and adverse forces will create hurdles in our sadhana through the ego and also bring pain and suffering along with them. It will create hurdles in development and discipline of the Ashram. We should offer ourselves like small children at the feet of the Mother

and pray at Her feet to recognise our ego and to protect ourselves from it. Our intellect will be enlightened by Her Grace and we can recognise our ego. But we will not let the ego work. If ego is not allowed to work, we all can maintain harmony with each other by Her Grace and can follow the rules of sadhana and disciplines of the Ashram with interest.

It is absolutely necessary to have sincere harmony among the those responsible for management of the Ashram. It makes the management smooth and easy. Being organised, the Ashram will grow towards prosperity. Peace and joy will be established in us along with the progress in sadhana, Aspiration will be relatively more intense. Surrender will be easier. We will increasingly experience and feel the Grace of the Mother.

12 Sep 1979

To realize the Divine is the goal of sadhaks. Their work is their sadhana. Progress in sadhana is their reward. Doing good work in pursuit of external rewards will adversely impact your attitude of sadhana.

Our sadhana is like an ideal to develop capital city out of jungles, constructing tall buildings in a land which is uneven and full of pits. [Once upon a time] Bhubaneswar had jungles inhabited by Tigers. In my childhood, I have seen, no one was able to go alone for darshan to Lingaraj Temple during the day. Capital city was developed upon that forest by cutting trees as per the capital city plan. Had there been flaws in the plans

and mistakes in the initial development works then it would have been distorted and not have been like the capital we see today. It would have required to be developed, destroyed, and rebuilt again in the correct way. Our sadhana is exactly like that – like the example of building a house. Now the society is full of injustice, falsehood, attachment, and selfishness. Enemies like ego, selfishness, lust, anger, greed, attachment, envy, and hate within us are also getting stronger and trying to pull us down every moment. Our journey in the Supramental path is under such circumstances. As long as our being has not surrendered integrally, or some parts have not surrendered yet, the adversaries within us will be trying to pull us towards them anyhow on every opportunity. They are trying to pull us down in to the abyss upon the slightest opportunity. Sadhak cannot recognise the disguise or the pretentious advice of the enemies so long as his *buddhi* has not been enlightened enough by the inner being. Among these enemies, most aggressive ones are lust, anger and ego. They must not be supported under any pretext. They pull a person down, just as a person gets dragged in to the machine if his cloth gets trapped in it.

... all Sadhak brothers should remember the Mother's name "Maa" every moment; study books and do meditation regularly. Do each work with an attitude of sadhana and as the service to the Mother and offer it at Her feet.

This is the initial stage of the Ashram. If sadhaks build a strong foundation of their Sadhana, it will strengthen the foundation of the Ashram. Since this is a collective yoga, spiritual progress of the institution will help in individual progress.

13 November 1979

[We] should maintain a good relationship with the villages nearby and join the study circle functions they organise.

18 November 1979

A lot of work will be done there and there will be lot of progress of the Ashram in future. But all work must be done with an attitude of sadhana, as a service to the Mother and offered to Her. All the work that gets done in spiritual institutions are sadhana towards fulfilment of the goal. We can maintain this attitude [of considering each work as means to achieve the goal], if we can remember the Mother's name "Maa" every moment. Sadhana is the priority. Work will be done as means to attain the goal.

12 December 1979



A Tribute to Er. Byomakesh Dash

I first came across Er. Byomakesh Dash at Uchhab Babu's (Sri Uchhabananda Samantaray) Rajabagicha residence where I have gone to meet revered Champaklalji and to receive his blessings in 1978. As I was leaving, he was entering and I was amazed to see his handsome face with a Brahminic aura and particularly his eyes were so shining, beautiful and lively. We have not conversed. Subsequently, I had gone to visit Sri Aurobindo Srikshetra Dalijoda for the second time. There I came to know that Er. Byomakesh Dash was the designer of the fascinating pagoda-shaped Sri Aurobindo Relics Centre building standing on nearly 3500 sq. feet plinth area. With its three-tiered, four-lobed slant roofs one above the other, the lotus shrine looked beautiful. The meditation floor was four-petalled in symmetry with the roof, representing the four powers of the Mother. Though originally there were twenty outside pillars on the veranda, it was later cut out to make it symbolic according to twelve outer petals in Mother's symbol. Since it was black cotton soil, great care was taken to make the four concealed major pillars to stand on piling base. He had given attention to make the structure to be an architectural new creation as found in Auroville. He had also spread white round boulders of quartz stones, two truckloads brought from Talcher from the river bank of Brahmani on all around the ground.

His architectural and artistic genius had manifested in this grand design.

I have heard that he helped in raising funds for the Ashram and himself contributed in many occasions. He also helped a lot in the repayment of mortgaged loan of the erstwhile landlords of Srikshetra land. Through his efforts and meticulous calculations, overpaid compound loan interest to Bidyadharpur Agricultural Bank of S.B.I by the Ashram, regarding the land deal, was refunded to us. He was instrumental to repair the long-left tractor in which Brigadier Sangram Keshari Ray lost his life. A huge amount of money was required for this which was all arranged by him. He planned and designed the buildings to be made for Sri Aurobindo Educational Research Society registered on 7 April 1980, which was later meant for Sri Aurobindo Rural University at Dalijoda.

When I joined Sri Aurobindo Srikshetra as a Sadhak in 1984, I came to know that he was a founding Trust member of Sri Aurobindo Srikshetra, registered on 15 February 1975. He was very close to Babaji Maharaj and Prof Prapatti, who was then the founder secretary. Er. Dash was first to inform me (sometimes in 1986) that I was chosen to be a member of the Managing Committee of Sri Aurobindo Srikshetra to handle some more responsibility in addition to regular work given to me in the school and agriculture assigned by Babaji Maharaj. I was quite inexperienced in many fields. However, I accepted with my faith and confidence in

the Mother and Sri Aurobindo. I had to go to Cuttack often in Ashram work of various kinds. Sometimes, when we had to stay at night (at Cuttack), we used to stay in his government residential quarter in a particular room. Slowly we got acquainted more. He was very sincere and devout in Mother's work. Almost in all outside works in connection with government offices, he was our dependable helping hand and big brother. He never assumed any superior image in dealing with us. He was always kind and brotherly. He was dealing almost all our construction matters. Whenever he was coming to the Ashram, he would be bringing some fruits or eatables for us. He assessed what are available here and what more would be needed, especially when we had to host an important guest from outside. He offered his personal car in all these matters and in all important functions. He had a keen subtle sense to detect the fidelity and behaviour of a person and accordingly he would give instructions. Whenever we, out of respect and love, were offering some vegetable or our orchard fruits to him, he would immediately go to the Relics Centre and offer some money to the Mother in the offering box. He never liked to take anything from the Ashram for free. He was very famous as an honest engineer in Odisha, a rare personality. His honesty and integrity as a Trustee of Sri Aurobindo Srikshetra was unquestionable and praiseworthy. Prof Prapatti once commented on him that he was a married Sadhak. Due to sacrifice and help of such people, it was possible to carry out the Mother's work in such a remote place of Odisha.

I have heard many things about him from several quarters that he was the brother-in-law of the first Odia Chief Engineer Sj. Madhav Pani. At that time, few people had personal cars. Er B. K. Dash being one of them which implied his significant status in the society. But he was not maintaining any distance from Mother's devotees, rather made sure that his vehicle was used effectively in the Mother's work for free whenever needed. It was given away to Prof Prapatti at a low price when he barely needed a vehicle to move due to physical impediments. I also heard from a senior devotee Behura babu, who was a Laboratory Assistant in Ravenshaw College when Er. B. K. Dash was an Intermediate student, that Byoma (he affectionately called) was good at Asanas and used to give demonstrations in the College. At that time, he was a follower of Swami Sivananda. I also followed the same line since my High School days. Er. B. K. Dash was also connected with several other Mother's institutions, particularly with Matrubhavan, the prime centre of Odisha, where he was part of the Managing Committee. He had also given designs to several Relics Centers in Odisha.

He passed away recently on 11 March 2025 at age 88. We are thankful for all his services. He was one of the ideal children of the Mother in Odisha. After his retirement as a Chief Engineer, he was staying at his quarters in Odisha House, Pondicherry. He had rendered his services there to Sri Aurobindo Ashram Dining hall and in other construction matters. He was a great votary

of *Ma Namajapa*. At his Pondicherry house *Pathachakra*, once in a week, he was holding one hour sitting on vocal *Ma Namajapa* in which interested people used to attend. During my visit to Pondicherry, I have attended it three to four times. Due to this practice, he was healthy and happy for quite a long time. We pay our heartfelt tribute to the great soul.

Dharanidhar Pal
(Trustee, Sri Aurobindo Srikshetra)



Let us offer our work to the Divine; this is the sure means of progressing.

*

Consciousness develops best through work done as an offering to the Divine.

Indolence and inaction end in *tamas*: that is a fall into unconsciousness; it is contrary to all progress and light.

To overcome one's ego, to live only in the service of the Divine—that is the ideal and the shortest way towards acquiring the true consciousness.

(CWM14/ 297)

The Mother

Happenings and Road Ahead

Golden Jubilee of Sri Aurobindo Srikshetra

The Golden Jubilee of Sri Aurobindo Srikshetra was celebrated on 30 June 2024 with Sri Suparno Satapathy as the Chief Guest and Sri Niranjan Pattanaik, and Sri Prasad Tripathy as distinguished guests. Dr. Sampadananda Mishra, Sri Samarendra Rout were speakers on the occasion. 'Mamu', Sri Gadadhar Mishra, was fondly remembered by everyone for his care and vision for the Ashram. [*'Mamu' was the Managing Trustee of Sri Aurobindo Srikshetra, Dalijoda before he left his body at Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Pondicherry on the Golden Day – 29 February 2024*]. It was decided to improve the functions of Sri Aurobindo University as a central hub of activities of the Dasa Karmadhara. On behalf of the Ashram, Sri Dharanidhar Pal welcomed everyone and Sri Prafulla Pattanaik expressed gratitude.

Sri Aurobindo Purnaga Vidyapitha

- The Golden Jubilee of Sri Aurobindo Purnanga Vidyapitha (SAPV) was observed on two days from 4th to 5th of December 2024 with active cooperation from old Students, organisers of the Mother's work in Orissa and friends of Dalijoda. A flame from Sri Aurobindo Ashram was brought to inaugurate the function. During the various panel discussions, old students of SAPV, inmates and friends of Dalijoda

deliberated on the need of the hour and actions to take SAPV and Sri Aurobindo Srikshetra to its aspired heights.

- A Tata Magic was procured from Matrubhaban, and is now used as conveyance for students of the surrounding villages to school. This has helped improve the attendance of students which had declined over the last few months.

Shree Bhandar

- Shree Bhandar building was remodelled with generous offering from Sri Bijay Kumar Sahoo, a friend of Dalijoda. Sri Tarakanta Mohanty has been given charge of Shree Bhandar to improve its functioning. The renovated building was inaugurated on 30th June 2024 by Dr. Sampadananda Mishra.
- With Tarakanta bhai's initiative, a new product, Divyashakti Chhatua is being prepared and sold at Shree Bhandar now.
- Sri Swayam Bikash Das, Proprietor of Swarna Ahar, marketing organic products, promised to help market our organic rice.

Shramadan Shibir

‘Sri Aurobindo Shramadan Shibir’ was organised during Dusshera Puja holidays (from 10th October to 14th October) in collaboration with Sri Aurobindo Unit of Agriculture (SAUA). Sri Prabhat Kumar Nayak,

Study circle organiser from Srikshestra coordinated the event along with Sri Adhir Kumar Sahoo of SAUA. In the inaugural session on 10th October, Sri Prasad Tripathy joined as the chief guest and Dr. Shyama Kanungo gave brief introduction to the purpose of the camp. Apart of the deliberations, an Exhibition on organic food products of nearly 30 varieties of items, posters, books, etc. (by Sri Dharanidhar Patra and Sri Swayam Bikash Das) was also organised. More than two dozen students (age group 10-20) from about 7 districts of Odisha participated in the camp. The event saw a very harmonious collaboration from all Ashramites of Dalijoda along with few friends.



Be faithful to your ideal and dedicate your work
to the Divine.

(CWM14/ 302)

The Mother

Write to us:

Friends of Dalijoda, Matrubhaban, Sri Aurobindo Marg, Cuttack – 753013
E-mail: friendsofdalijoda@gmail.com

Visit us: Sri Aurobindo University:

<http://www.mothersorissa.org/SriAurobindoUniversity/sau%20index.htm>

Call us: 9438436620 (Samarendra), 9937291283 (Satyajit)

Join hands for Commitment, Coordination, Support and
Help to Realise the Ideal
