

印度名人克城奉獻精彩講演

AMMA Sri Karunamayi 講述 Spiritual Discourse and Blessing

Sri Karunamayi is revered in India as an embodiment of divine motherly love, due to the love and affection that she showers liberally on people, animals, and even plants, the spiritual knowledge and guidance that she gives freely to all of humanity, and the humanitarian works that she has undertaken. "Amma," as she is affectionately called by her devotees, is simply the Telugu word for "mother," Telugu being Amma's native language. Although it is not possible to convey the experience of being in Amma's vibrant presence through words or pictures, the links on this page attempt to provide a brief glimpse into her nature, through a brief biographical sketch, a description of Amma's mission, and an account of a devotee's first experience of Amma.

Spiritual Childhood

Born in the traditional South India of 1958, Sri Karunamayi spent a childhood immersed in an atmosphere of prayer and worship created by her deeply spiritual parents. Both of her parents had received visions indicating that Sri Karunamayi was not an ordinary child, and her astrological chart indicated that she would dedicate her life to serving humanity.

Naturally inclined toward charity as a child, Sri Karunamayi, or "Amma," would often give away food and clothes to whoever needed them. When a family servant contracted cholera, a deadly contagious disease, Amma tended closely to the servant without concern for her own safety. To the delight and amazement of Amma's family, the servant survived the illness and recovered quickly, despite the doctor's dire prognosis.

One time, during a religious festival, Amma came to know that some poor people who had come had not eaten in several days. Amma immediately brought and served them some food that had been prepared by her grandmother specifically to be offered to God during a special ceremony. When her grandmother saw what she had done, Amma told her, "Ammamma, today you have done a very good thing. This is how the food so nicely prepared by you has been accepted by the Lord in the form of these people." Amma's grand-

mother was moved by her granddaughter's universal outlook, and quickly brought out the remainder of the food for distribution to all who wanted it. [Amma's biography is available in English, Telegu, Hindi, and Spanish, in the AmmaStore.]

As a child, Amma enjoyed helping her mother by making flower garlands by hand for her mother's daily practice of worship to Lord Rama. She also delighted in hearing Sanskrit prayers and verses sung by her father. Though she had never studied Sanskrit, she would often surprise her father with spontaneous insights into the inner spiritual meaning of the verses. When Amma's parents invited learned scholars to their home to give teachings, these scholars were often shocked and amazed to hear the original thoughts that flowed spontaneously from Amma's mouth. They had never heard of such a young girl discussing the spiritual essence of the Sanskrit prayers with such expertise.

Austerities in the Sacred Peninsula Forest

As she grew into a young woman, Amma felt an inner urge to begin spending more and more time in the family worship room, immersed in prayer and meditation. As she was now a first-year college student, she was forced to make time for meditation by reducing the time she spent sleeping. As her meditations deepened and intensified, she also began reducing her intake of food. These meditation sessions grew in length until one day Amma locked herself inside a room of the house and remained there in meditation for a month. Though her family members were perplexed, they did not dare to disturb her, having witnessed the profundity of her meditations before.

When she finally emerged, she seemed like a different person to her family members. Though she still showed the same sweet affection to which they were accustomed, her demeanor now expressed a more impersonal, universal love. Determined to fulfill the sacred

purpose of her life, Amma gently told her mother that it was time for her to go into seclusion in the sacred Peninsula Forest, to meditate there in solitude. Always respectful of her daughter's divine nature, and trusting completely in God, Amma's mother did not try to stop her from going.

In the year 1980, at the tender age of 21, Amma left the comfort and security of her parents' home and traveled by foot to the remote and sacred Peninsula Forest, where a number of India's ancient sages had meditated for many hundreds of years. There, she was free to live according to principles established by India's ancient Vedic sages. Rising at 2:30 in the morning, Amma would bathe with cold water from a pure river. Wearing only a simple cotton sari, she would go to one of the forest's many sacred groves and remain there, absorbed in meditation for hours, days, or even weeks at a time.

Local villagers who spotted her sometimes mistook her for a statue, as they could not even detect the movement of breath in her perfectly still form. Some of the more mischievous ones would toss small pebbles on her, just to see if she was really alive or just a corpse! Others, feeling that only an incarnation of the Divine Mother could sit for so long in deep meditation, would leave small offerings of fruit before her. Whether she emerged from her meditations to find stones or fruit in front of her, Amma always maintained a state of perfect equanimity and gave her blessings to all, regardless of how they treated her.

Amma never felt that these meditations were done for her own sake, as she was following the example of India's ancient Vedic sages, who meditated for hundreds of years in order to discover the best teachings for all of mankind. Through Amma's austerities, she determined which of the Vedic teachings and practices would be of greatest benefit to people living in this difficult modern age. After performing such intense tapasya for ten years, Amma decided that it was

time to share her knowledge with all those who thirsted for true spirituality, wherever they may live in the world.

Current Activities

Emerging from her relative seclusion, she was invited by a devotee to stay in Bangalore, where a simple building was constructed to house a temple as well as living quarters. She began giving public discourses on various aspects of Sanatana Dharma, India's ancient spirituality, and conducting sacred ceremonies to promote world peace and universal well-being. As these discourses began attracting more and more people, she also began working toward fulfilling her dream of bringing medical care to the villagers of the Peninsula area by arranging for free medical camps and initiating construction of the

Sri Karunamayi Free Hospital.

In 1995, Amma was invited to come to America to give public programs, and since then she has returned to the US every year to give teachings and blessings, hold meditation retreats, and perform sacred fire ceremonies for the benefit of the world. During her visits to each city, people come by the hundreds to express their worries and problems and to request blessings or guidance. Amma's feeling, as she comforts each person like a mother, is that even her sari has become sacred because she has used it to wipe away the tears from her children's eyes. Amma often likes to say that her only work in this world is to remove the suffering from the hearts of her children. This she does through her kind, loving words of spiritual guidance and encouragement, her healing touch, and her divine knowledge and insight. Today, Amma divides her time between the US, Europe and India, fulfilling her life's mission of providing comfort, solace, and spiritual guidance to all who come to her.



Councilwoman SHARI L. CLOUD
Cleveland City Council, Ward 8

Dear Residents,
My name is Shari L. Cloud and on May 4, 2009, the Democratic Caucus of Cleveland City

Council unanimously appointed me as the replacement for former Councilwoman Sabra Pierce Scott and I was sworn into office that evening.

On March 24, 2009, the City of Cleveland passed an ordinance reducing the number of Wards from 21 to 19 which resulted in changing the ward boundaries. Ward 8 now includes Asia town, St. Clair Superior, East 55th Street and a portion of Midtown. The new Ward 8 boundaries will take effect January 1, 2010. Until then your current council leadership will remain the same; however, since this year is election year for all City officials, the ballot will include me as the incumbent for the next four year term that will begin January 1, 2010. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to share my vision and ask for your support in bringing our community to the

致克里夫蘭華人社區的一封信

next level.

As your new Councilwoman, I will continue to build upon the foundation that was laid by my predecessor and will strive towards making our neighborhoods premiere places to live, work, worship and play by focusing on housing, safety and jobs.

I pledge to work toward the elimination of vacant and abandoned properties in our community through focusing on foreclosure prevention, detection of at risk and abandoned properties, maintenance and blight elimination and positive redevelopment. We are all responsible for the safety and security of our community. I intend to nurture relationships with the police, community organizations and residents to create and maintain partnerships that will help us fight crime in



現任 Councilwoman 的 Shari L. Cloud, Ward 8 將和 Jeff Johnson 一起參與 2009 年 Cleveland City Council WARD 8 的競選。Shari L. Cloud 找華報引薦認識當地華人社團，華報把她帶到了天然寺，她十分有興趣聽賴經理的講道。她說她希望能幫助中國的發展。

our neighborhoods. I believe that sustainable employment for residents not only brings down crime but also increases the quality of life for employed individuals and the community in which they are able to invest. To encourage the creation of jobs in our neighborhoods, I intend to facilitate training programs that make our residents more employable and work to attract businesses that will hire locally.

I am a life long resident of this community and have served this community for the past 15 years through my contribution as Community Organizer and Program Director for Glenville Development Corporation; Business/Economic Development Officer for US Bank and most recently as the Executive Director of

Sankofa Fine Art Plus, a non-profit community arts organization who has partnered with the local community development organization in facilitating the Chinese New Year public art projects.

Through these roles I have been able to bring much needed services and programs to our residents. I was able to build community, bridge generation gaps and provide economic development opportunities. I look forward to continuing my service as your new Councilwoman.

I would also like to take this opportunity to invite you to a meet and greet that will be held on Tuesday, June 30, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. at the Asian Plaza, 2999 Payne Avenue, 2nd Floor Conference Room. At this meeting you will get an opportunity to meet me as well as learn of the City resources that are available to you as residents. I am committed to our residents, our neighborhoods and our City. I hope that you are able to join me on June 30 in our combined efforts to improve our community. Please feel free to contact me at (216) 664-4231 with any questions, concerns or just to say hello. Together we can make a difference. I look forward to meeting and serving you!

Councilwoman Shari L. Cloud, Ward 8

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