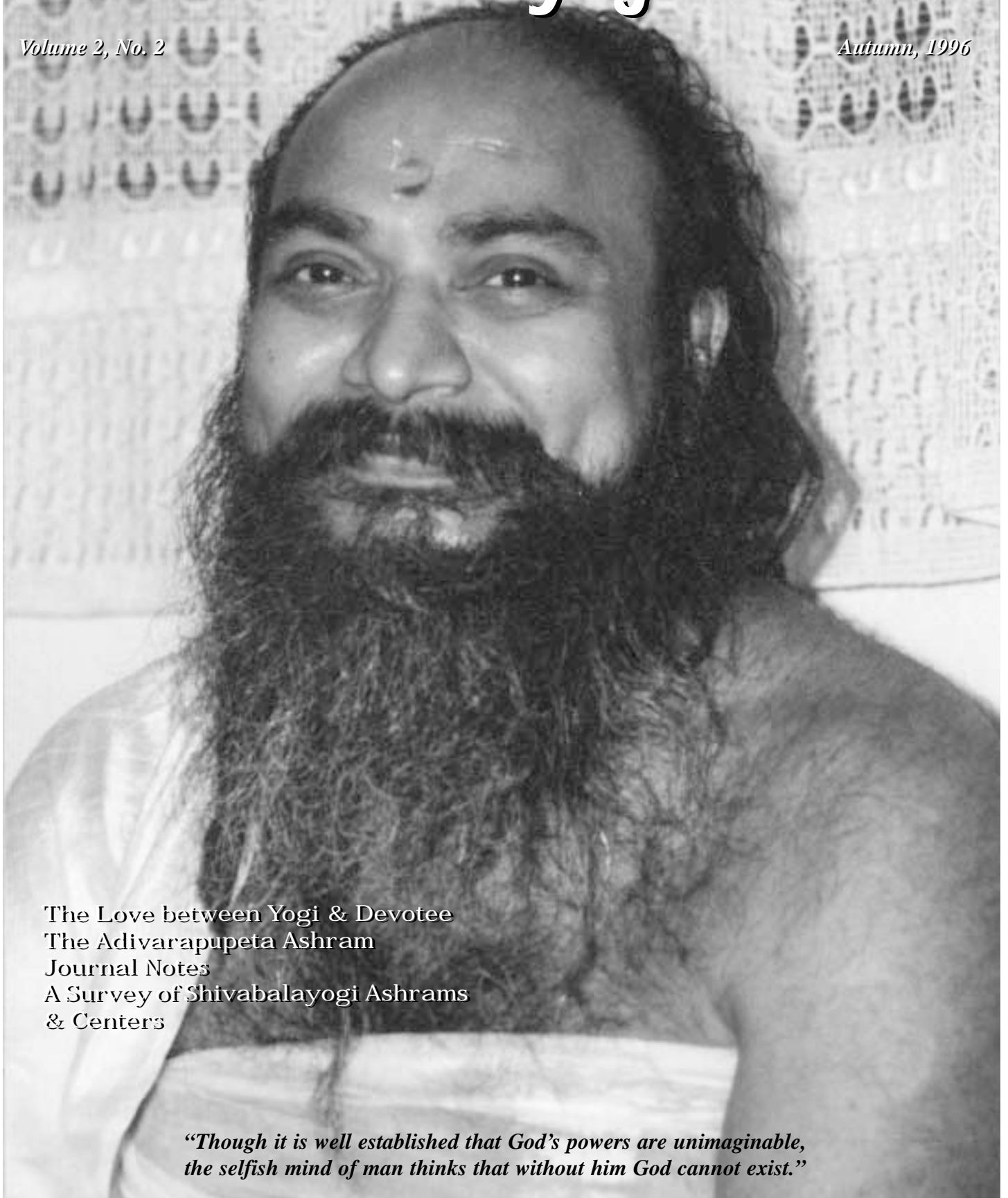


The Shivabalayogi Journal

Volume 2, No. 2

Autumn, 1996



The Love between Yogi & Devotee
The Adivarapupeta Ashram
Journal Notes
A Survey of Shivabalayogi Ashrams
& Centers

*“Though it is well established that God’s powers are unimaginable,
the selfish mind of man thinks that without him God cannot exist.”*



Shivabalayogi's 1996 International Tour

His Holiness Shri Shri Shri Shivabalayogi Maharaj will be conducting meditation and bhajan programs in England and in eighteen cities throughout the United States from August through December of this year. Please refer to the schedule on the outside cover of this *Journal*.

These programs will be conducted by Shri Swamiji himself. Although he has dropped his own physical body, he continues to work directly in the world in the same ways in which he worked over the prior three decades, including through bhava samadhi. His presence through bhava samadhi is something which must be experienced to be understood, and those who attended the 1994 programs can confirm that his darshan and blessings through such presence are as powerful and

transforming as was in his own physical body.

Programs consist of Shri Swamiji's darshan in samadhi, initiation into dhyana meditation and one hour of meditation, an hour of bhajans (spiritual song) during which Shri Swamiji may give bhava, followed by an opportunity for each person to obtain individual blessings and blessed vibhuti from Shri Swamiji. There is never any charge.

The Shivabalayogi Journal

The Shivabalayogi Journal is a publication of the Shri Shivabalayogi Maharaj International Trust whose headquarters are in Adivarapupeta, India, with offices in Bangalore, India, and Seattle, Washington. It is printed by the Shri Shivabalayogi Maharaj Charitable Trust, an Oregon trust, on behalf of the International Trust.

Correspondence regarding *The Journal* should be sent to Editors, *The Journal*, P.O. Box 293, Langley, WA 98260, U.S.A. The editors are Karen Morell and Tom Palotas and they can also be reached by e-mail addressed to info@shiva.org. The Shivabalayogi worldwide web site is at <http://www.shiva.org>.

The Journal is published quarterly and is distributed without charge. To be added onto the mailing list or for address corrections, please mail or e-mail names and addresses to *The Journal*.

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Announcing the Shivabalayogi International Trust

The Shri Shivabalayogi Maharaj International Trust was formed in Bangalore on June 21, 1996, and is the sixth trust established to further Shri Swamiji's mission of service. Its headquarters are at the Adivarapupeta ashram, the place where Shri Swamiji sat for his twelve years of tapas. The trustees of the International Trust are drawn from the Trusts and other groups in India, United States and England and will include representatives from around the world.

The purpose of the International Trust is to encourage communication and exchange of materials among the various Trusts, ashrams and groups throughout the world which are dedicated to Shri Swamiji. The International Trust will publish and distribute periodicals, books, video tapes, photographs and other materials and generally serve and support all devotees and Shivabalayogi organizations.

The Shivabalayogi Journal has been published by the Oregon Trust with a distribution and a readership throughout the United States, India and England. It is intended to be a resource for all devotees throughout the world. Therefore, its editors are pleased to announce that this and future issues of *The Shivabalayogi Journal* are published in the name of the Shivabalayogi International Trust.

The Love between Yogi & Devotees

The love between Shivabalayogi and devotees is demonstrated in the many experiences he showers upon them. What is the wealth of a yogi, he asks. The yogi's only treasure is the devotees. When Swamiji gives blessings, both he and the devotee are happy, just like when a lover gives a kiss, each enjoys it.

Darshan through Trance

My wife's family were all devotees of Shivabalayogi, so for a wedding gift, Shri Swamiji gave us a copy of her wedding card nicely framed with glass. Swamiji's photo was printed in the corner of the card. I did not realize the importance of this strange gift for many years to come. Even though I was a non-believer of Swamiji, my wife would silently worship Shri Swamiji every day.

In 1975, when I was at my native place on vacation, Shri Swamiji came in trance on my twelve-year old brother-in-law. I was skeptical but along with others, I asked this trance Swami a few questions about my work and possible promotion. I got convincing replies but I did not take the incident very seriously.

The next day I was to return to Pune where I was working as a design engineer in TELCO. My father-in-law, Sri Veerabhadraiah, suggested that I visit Shri Swamiji's ashram in Bangalore as it was on my way to Pune. I agreed and went to the Bannerghatta Road ashram.

I can never forget my first meeting with Shri Swamiji. When I entered the darshan hall I witnessed the wonderful sight of Swamiji seated on the dais. His sparkling face had an immediate and miraculous effect on me. In those days He wore only a *kaupina* (loincloth) and no shawl. His youthful body and a graceful face gave the effect of a divine presence in the hall.

I found a number of devotees dancing in trance while the bhajans were going on in the front of the ashram. I had never seen anything like it before. Shri Swamiji was controlling the movements of many people in trance while simultaneously talking to the devotees around Him.

At my father-in-law's suggestion, I asked the same question to Shri Swamiji which the previous day I had put in my native place to the trance Swami. His simple reply was, "*I have replied to these questions to you in your native place yesterday. Why are you repeating these questions?*" I was amazed at the great powers of Swamiji who can travel in His astral body to devotees hundreds of miles away.

Forty Day Meditation

These events took place in 1961 shortly after Shri Swamiji completed his twelve year tapas. They are related by Tuni Pullayya who still lives in Adivarapupeta.

I used to go for a bath in the canal and on the way back I would go by the dhyana mandir (the meditation temple where Swamiji sat for tapas). One day I was near the mandir and Swamiji Himself was there standing and staring at me. That was the time the energy entered into me and my body started trembling. After that I had to go there every day. I couldn't stop going there. Since then my mind got totally diverted to Swamiji. I am always thinking of Him.

I used to go to Swamiji and ask Him the same question. "Tell me what is it that is beyond the normal, regular life that we are seeing around us? Is there something we can see? The best I can imagine is that you can earn a lot of money and be a lakhie (like a millionaire) here. Is there something beyond that? Even a lakhie is doing the same thing that I do." So for that reason I asked Swamiji to make me sit in tapas.

I was made to sit for forty days in the shed which used to stand near the dhyana mandir. All during those forty days I was not at all conscious. I don't know what I did during those forty days. I went there, that is all I know. Every day I would get up very early in the morning, have a bath, and then Swamiji's own mother used to give me milk. I would drink the milk and go back to meditation. That is all I was aware of.

Afterwards people told me that while I was sitting I used to give discourses in Hindi and English. Sayings would come out of my mouth extemporaneously. People used to tape record them but the tapes are lost. These messages used to be about different spiritual matters, but I was not aware of them.

After some time my parents came and cried in front of



The Love between Yogi & Devotees



Swamiji, “If we lose our son then we will die. We cannot live.” Finally Swamiji explained that forty days was all I could do and my parents were allowed to take me home.

During those forty days I was made to wear a *kaupina* (loin cloth) which Swamiji Himself had worn. After I returned home, Swamiji sent a devotee to tell me to give back the *kaupina*. He said, “That *kaupina* shouldn’t be in your house.”

My knowledge has increased because of this forty day meditation. Earlier I used to be like a dumb fellow. If somebody was talking to me I would listen with my mouth open. People would make fun of me saying that flies would go into my mouth. After I got up from the forty day meditation, I felt more aware of my surroundings. I feel more conscious and my mind is sharper. I have studied only up to fifth class, but I taught myself Hindi and some English and Urdu. I tutor Hindi grammar to school children. If forty days of meditation can improve a mind this much, imagine what could happen after years of meditation.

Swamiji’s Telegram

I had gone to Madras to attend to some business, but things did not go very well. Even my personal life was not going well and I was very depressed. I was wondering why things should be going so badly. I was traveling by myself so there was really no one I could confide in. Normally I would talk about such matters with my mother, whom I trust a lot, or talk internally to Swamiji. I was riding in the train back from Madras and quietly asking Swamiji what the hell was happening. I was lying down on the sleeper bunk.

Suddenly I was overtaken by an intense happiness. I simply experienced and enjoyed it. I forgot about my problems and my depression.

When I arrived home I think I told my father about what had happened. Then a few days or weeks later, Swamiji came to Hyderabad. I was unable to see Him but my parents went. He told them to tell me that His telegram from Bangalore had reached me.

I didn’t understand what it was. So I saw Him at the airport as He was going away. He didn’t say anything. He just smiled. I really couldn’t make out exactly what this telegram was. But later looking back, I think that my experience in the train was the only extraordinary thing that had happened. He knew that I was a little disturbed and He tried to give me a little peace. Along with peace, He gave me happiness also. He gave me an experience, the kind of experience that comes with *bhakti* (devotion). Once you experience it you understand that all this jargon trying to understand and know things has no meaning. It makes no difference, that little experience is so powerful. The experience of that *bhakti* is enough to overcome any difficulties, that was the message. That is the experience He gave me.

Later my father asked Swamiji, “When did You send the telegram? Why did You send the telegram?” Swamiji laughed and said yes and that everything was all right now.

A Climbing Accident

During the mid 1970’s, Swamiji and several devotees visited Badrinath in the Himalayas. Nearby is the Kedarnath Temple of Shiva, one of the twelve jyotir lingam temples in India. (A lingam is a stone form of the soul. A jyotir lingam is a lingam of light.) This temple is at the end of a steep fourteen kilometer climb. I was anemic and weak at the time so I asked Swamiji to be excused from the grueling hike. He insisted that I go, and I managed to complete the climb despite my illness.

With us was a lady who meditated regularly and was a very strong devotee of Swamiji. She slipped and had a nasty fall on the way up, but it did not prevent her from completing the climb to the jyotir lingam temple and back. Swamiji was waiting as we returned at the bottom of the trail. His attention was on this lady and He asked her whether she had fallen and was all right. She replied that she did fall, but it was not serious.

Swamiji told her that yes, it was serious. He explained that He had a dream in which she had a serious fall and died. He said that is why He had waited for her to return so He would be sure that she was all right. He had protected her from a fatal fall.

A Car Accident

Swamiji was touring all His ashrams in North India by car, escorted by several devotees in other cars. On the way to Dehradun, one car got separated.

Swamiji was quite anxious for the devotees in that car. When we arrived at the ashram, we all sat out on the roof terrace. Swamiji made us have our meal, but He Himself refused to take any food. "Let the little children come first," He said in Hindi. But He insisted that we other devotees not wait to take our food.

He made us call the police station to find out what had happened. He told us to make them call the other police stations and check points along the route to see if the car had passed by or find out any information about what might have happened to them. Finally we got word that their car had been involved in a small accident, some had received minor first aid, and they had set out again for Dehradun. Still Swamiji would not eat.

The missing devotees arrived at about 1:30 a.m. in the night. Swamiji asked each of them whether he or she had suffered any injuries. Satisfied that they were all right, He gave each of them a glass of milk and made sure that they were properly fed. Only then did He take any food.

Counting Coconut Trees

Thinking about Swamiji's playfulness reminds me of these events which took place when I was visiting Him at the Bangalore ashram. This day I was a little afraid of Swamiji because He was angry with me for having gone to sleep early the night before. But I had to help Him with His bath, so I could not avoid Him.

As "punishment," Swamiji sent me outside to count the coconut trees in the ashram garden. I did so and counted about 170. I reported back to Swamiji and He said, "So many? Let's go count them again." So the two of us walked the gardens and counted the coconut trees. This time the number was only 73. Swamiji exclaimed in mock seriousness, "What happened to the hundred coconut trees?"

"I don't know Swamiji," I replied. "When I counted them there were over 170, but now there are only 73."

We happened to be near a coconut tree and Swamiji asked me to tear down some leaves which were overhanging the ashram building. As I did so, a coconut fell down. "My God," exclaimed Swamiji, "We are in trouble. Yashoda [the devotee who managed the ashram gardens] will fine us 100 rupees for taking the coconut. Let's hide it." So we took the coconut back with us to Swamiji's room and hid it under His bed.

When Yashoda came in, Swamiji admitted to the transgression saying, "My guru, we have stolen a coconut and you must punish both of us. I am able to pay the 100 rupee fine, but this shishya [disciple]

is a sannyasin [renunciant] and has no money. What punishment should we give him?"

Having teased us this far, Swamiji then devised the punishment. He told me to eat three unripe mangos, which are very sour. But He also instructed that afterwards I be given three coconuts to eat. Coconuts are sweet. "See," explained Swamiji to me, "after we eat the sour food, we get the sweets."

Stealing Sweets

Swamiji was in Dehradun for two months in 1988 and a devotee brought Him a box of especially fine sweets. This box was kept in Swamiji's room. Each evening I would help Swamiji to His *asana* (formal seat) for darshan and bhajans. Then while the program was going on, I would sneak into His room and take one or more of those sweets.

This continued each night for some time until only about six or eight of the sweets remained. I thought to myself that if I ate any tonight, Swamiji will notice it, so I will not take any. After darshan that night Swamiji retired to His room with another devotee and me. Swamiji went to the box of sweets and counted them. When He saw how many were left, He remarked, "Ah, we are fortunate. Seenu has not taken any sweets tonight." He had been counting those sweets every night! ॐ



The History & Development of the Adivarapupeta Ashram



The statue of Shri Swamiji installed on the Samadhi at Adivarapupeta. The white area to the left is Shri Swamiji's astral body.

The village in which Shri Shivabalayogi Maharaj was born and where he completed twelve years of tapas is a small hamlet in the rice paddies of the Godavari River. It consists of the houses of mostly weavers who work on hand looms. The village has no shops, no businesses (other than weaving) and no government offices. For many years there was no road leading to

Adivarapupeta. Immediately adjacent to the village is Shri Swamiji's Adi Ashram (the first ashram) and its history reflects the development of Shri Swamiji's mission.

The ashram property was donated to Shri Swamiji by Vattikuti Pattabhiramanna, the zamindar (landlord) of Vella village. It was to this landowner's fields that the Balayogi moved his tapas in November of 1949. The infants and young children who died in the village used to be buried in a corner of this field and the villagers were afraid to go there, which is why the Balayogi moved to this location. The day the Balayogi first sat in this field, its caretaker spotted him and immediately reported this to its owner. He already knew because the Balayogi had come to him in a dream the night before, and the landowner gave instructions for a shelter to be built for the Balayogi.

The Balayogi sat in tapas in this small, crude hut with gunny sack

curtains until October of 1950 when the one room, twelve foot square dhyana mandir was completed a little to the east. It was around that time or the next year that a shed was constructed to the south to give visiting devotees some shelter in the open field. A dome over the dhyana mandir was the contribution of Tapaswiji Maharaj and it was completed for Shivaratri of 1953. Other devotees contributed the construction of a well so that the Balayogi could bathe nearby without having to go to the canal. Later a large pond was dug so that visitors and devotees could bathe before taking darshan.

In March of 1962, Shri Swamiji installed a Shivalingam and Goddess Devi in the dhyana mandir where he had sat for tapas. Another building, the existing ashram building, was constructed to provide him with living quarters. It was around 1972 or 1973 that the second story on that building was constructed and Shri Swamiji's living quarters moved there. To this day, his rooms are kept set aside for his exclusive use and food is offered to him there daily.

In this way and for over twenty years, the Shivabalayogi Ashram in Adivarapupeta consisted of a humble, two story building and the one room dhyana mandir which housed the Shivalingam and Goddess Devi. But the twenty months after Shri Swamiji mahasamadhi in April of 1994 have seen dramatic developments. Starting with virtually no funds, local devotees established an ashram trust, installed a life sized marble statue of Shri Swamiji on the sacred Samadhi where his holy body is interred, constructed a beautiful new temple which measures 86 feet long and 46 feet wide with a 45 foot high dome (*gopuram*) which replaced the dhyana mandir, and completed the construction of a large, three story, modern building with eighteen guest rooms each with its own bathroom plus a dining hall, offices, living quarters for caretakers, and store rooms. All this was made possible and accomplished through the continuous guidance and specific directions of His Holiness on everything from financing to design and construction specifications.

It was on March 19th, 1994, about two weeks before his mahasamadhi, that Shri Swamiji consecrated the foundation for the new temple. He discussed its design and construction with the engineer and ashram committee members in great detail and he was anxious to have its foundation installed and pillars constructed as quickly as possible. However, its construction was undertaken only after he had dropped his physical body.

Those devotees familiar with the development of Shri Swamiji's ashrams know how he was actively involved in the design and supervision of construction. The engineer working on the construction in

Shri Swamiji standing where he was first made to sit in tapas, by the canal near Adivarapupeta



Adivarapupeta and the trustees of that ashram committee relate that Shri Swamiji's supervision and directions during the building of the temple were equally detailed and brilliant. They assure us that the work accomplished in Adivarapupeta would not have been possible without Shri Swamiji's instructions through bhava samadhi.

The idea of a large guest building originated with Shri Swamiji, again through bhava samadhi. He wanted comfortable quarters available for devotees who visit the Adivarapupeta ashram. The trustees had already committed to the construction of the temple and the installation of Shri Swamiji's statue, so they were reluctant to incur the expense of a third major development. But Shri Swamiji pushed them to begin. The trustees originally had planned to complete only the second story by Shri Swamiji's 61st birthday and finish the third story rooms later. That by itself would have been a very ambitious construction schedule. But with Shri Swamiji's encouragement and blessings and around the clock work, the entire three story building was completed and dedicated within a year, on January 25th, 1996. It stands on south side of the ashram, on the site of the shed which had stood there for over forty years.

The development of the Adivarapupeta ashram continues and much work remains to adorn and decorate the temple and install the many statues of Shivabalayogi and his prior incarnations as requested by Shri Swamiji. Although there is a deficit of 250,000 rupees (about \$8,000) on the guest building construction, the Adivarapupeta trustees have begun work on yet another building for kitchen and storage facilities. The foundation for this new building was blessed by His Holiness on April 6, 1996. In addition, the longer term plans as laid out by His Holiness include the construction of four rows of two story flat houses to be residences for those who serve and do sadhana at the ashram.

The Adivarapupeta ashram is a spiritually unique and important site which belongs to all those who seek God and spiritual development. Shri Swamiji assures us that it is from his sacred Samadhi in Adivarapupeta that he is radiating his blessings throughout the world to all who would take them. The story of its development since the mahasamadhi is a small example of how Shivabalayogi is using bhava samadhi to work in the world today. ॐ



Above: The ashram building in March of 1994. Behind to the left can be seen the dhyana mandir which has since been replaced by the temple.

Below: The new guest building on the left and the temple on the right at the Adivarapupeta ashram. Taken in April of 1996.



VISITING ADIVARAPUPETA.

Devotees are encouraged to visit Adivarapupeta which is located about one kilometer from Draksharam. Most visitors take a train to either Rajamundry or Kakinada and either arrange for a car or take one of many busses that run to Draksharam. There is a local bus every hour that connects Adivarapupeta to Draksharam and nearby Ramachandrapuram. For more information, please contact the trustees K. Gopanna in Kakinada at 0884-78303, or N. Ramanna at Rajamundry at (0883) 76289.



The shankusthapana (consecrating the foundation) of the new kitchen building in Adivarapupeta.



Justice and Mrs. Malimath present the Bangalore trustees' plaque to D. Jagadish Kumar.

Journal Notes

The Shivabalayogi WWW Site. Those equipped with computers, modems and an internet account can access the Shivabalayogi site on the World Wide Web. Its address is <http://www.shiva.org> and the site is the creation of Dan Gobin for the Shivabalayogi International Trust. For more information you can contact the editors of *The Journal* or send your e-mail to info@shiva.org.

Availability of Shri Swamiji's Initiation. Shri Swamiji's initiation into dhyana meditation is available at weekly meditation and bhajan programs in Seattle, Portland and Durham, and at special programs this September through November which Shri Swamiji will be conducting in the U.S. and England. However, we know there are people in the U.S. interested in receiving his initiation who may not be able to attend these programs. Therefore, the Oregon and North Carolina trustees have compiled a list of devotees in various cities throughout the U.S. through whom Shri Swamiji's initiation is available. Contact the Editors or access the Shivabalayogi WWW site for further information.

Bangalore Trust Honors Devotees. This year, two devotees spent five months traveling around India to talk with Shri Swamiji's devotees, gather the histories of the many ashrams Shri Swamiji established, and interview about two hundred fifty devotees to gather their personal experiences. In appreciation for their service, the trustees of the Shri Shivabalayogi Maharaj Trust in Bangalore, India, presented D. Jagadish Kumar and Thomas L. Palotas with gifts and plaques citing the work they have done for Shri Swamiji's mission.

Jagadish has personally served Shri Swamiji since 1982 and traveled with Shri Swamiji and interpreted for him during the world tours of 1990, 1991 and 1994. He was with Shri Swamiji when they were held hostage by the Iraqis during the 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Tom is the author of two books published through the Bangalore Trust, *Tapas Shakti* and *The Living Yogi*. The citations

also honor Pat Templeman who organized the 1994 international tour and is organizing this year's tour as well.

The trustees' citations read: "Presented with Swamiji's blessings to . . . for their commitment to promote the mission of Sri Sri Shivabalayogi Maharaj. Also in recognition of their outstanding contribution for the development of Sri Swamiji's ashrams."

Ashrams and Centers. This is a list of Shivabalayogi ashrams and centers conducting regular programs. Visitors and guests are welcome at each of these places.

Adivarapupeta, India. Sri Shivabalayogi Maharaj Ashram Trust, Adivarapupeta, Draksharama, Ramachandrapuram, East Godavari Dist., Andhra Pradesh 533 262 India.

Tel. (088574) 412. Bhajans every night although Friday is the main night. Trance and bhava can be seen almost every night and darshan of Shivabalayogi through bhava samadhi is possible. The ashram has comfortable accommodations. For more information and assistance, contact Mr. K. Gopanna, trustee, at Kommireddi House & Street, Kakinada 533 001, India, telephone (0884) 78303.

Bangalore, India. Shri Shivabalayogi Maharaj Trust, 1/A, Phase 3, J. P. Nagar, Bangalore 560 078 India. Tel. (080) 648822, 648242. This ashram is Shri Swamiji's International Centre for Indian Culture. Bhajans every night and Sunday is the main night when one can see several people in trance and have Shri Swamiji's darshan through trance. There is a mass feeding every Sunday after the bhajans which run between 6:30 and 8:00 p.m. The Trust maintains an office at the ashram and there are comfortable accommodations for guests.

Agra, India. Sri Sri Shivabalayogi Maharaj Shakti Kendra Ashram, Nirbhaya Nagar, Galiana Road, Agra. Tel. (05692) 22956. Bhajans every Sunday beginning at 7 p.m. For more information and assistance, contact Mr. V. N. S. Chauhan, proprietor, Hotel Swami Sofitel, Delhi Gate, Agra-Mathura Road, Agra 282 002 India, telephone (0562) 351 800. Agra is frequently visited by tourists so anyone in Agra on a Sunday should contact Mr. Chauhan and attend the weekly program.

Dehradun, India. Shri Shiva Bala Yogi Maharaj Trust, Kailash Kumari Devi Bhawan, International Center for Indian Culture, 180-C Rajpur Road, Dehradun 248 009 India. Tel. (0135) 684214. There is a manager on site and rooms for guests to stay. Dehradun is a center for traveling and trekking in the Himalayas and numerous ashrams are located in and about Dehradun. Visitors should make a point to visit this beautiful and peaceful setting for meditation.

Sambhar Lake, India. Sri Shivabalayogi Satsang Mandir (opposite Labour Society), Sambhar Lake, Rajasthan 303 604 India. Telephone contact: G. R. Lamba,

res 4207. The ashram is managed by Sri Krishan Lal Ghai and his wife and is located in a small community on the edge of the Rajasthan desert. This ashram has a well deserved reputation for its devotees' love for Shri Swamiji and other devotees. In addition, the ashram is very comfortable for Western visitors and Mr. and Mrs. Ghai are wonderful hosts. For more than thirty years Shivabalayogi has been coming upon Mr. Ghai to give darshan and spiritual discourses. Weekly programs every Friday evening.

Muddireddipalli (Hindupur), India. Located a few hours by bus north from Bangalore, this ashram has bhajan programs every Saturday evening. The ashram is located in the southwest of the Muddireddipalli in the Shivabalayogi Nagar neighborhood. Visitors should contact Sri Muniappa or Sri Timayya, both of whom live a few hundred yards from the ashram and will provide invaluable assistance.

Doddaballapur, India. This is the first ashram established after Adivarapupeta and it has a long history. Doddaballapur is a short distance north of Bangalore and bhajans are conducted every week. The ashram is opposite the rural police station near the Mill Dairy. Contact Sri P. M. Ramachandrappa, ashram secretary, at 2589 Chickapet, Doddaballapur 361 203.

Anantapur, India. This beautifully built ashram is located south of the city just off the Bangalore Highway. There are comfortable accommodations and a temple which has the first consecrated statue of Shri Swamiji which he installed in October of 1982. Contact C. Mallikarjuna, ashram treasurer, proprietor, Sri Venkatarama Traders, 24-41, Gandhi Bazaar, Anantapur. Tel. res. (08554) 30176 and business (08554) 30226 & 31226.

Gollapalli (Hyderabad, A.P.), India. Gollapalli is located in a peaceful rural setting about an hour outside of Hyderabad. Shri Swamiji once told devotees that this ashram is the best suited for meditation. For information and assistance, contact D. V. S. Raju, working president of the ashram committee, managing director, ELICO, Ltd., 6-3-456/A/1 Punjagutta, Hyderabad 500 082. Tel. office (040) 227265 and residence (040) 319840.

Guntur, India. Shri Swamiji used to stay in Guntur during his frequent travels between Hyderabad and Adivarapupeta. The ashram is located opposite the Satyanarayana Swamy Temple at B1-46 in Ravindra Nagar, Guntur, and Miss Yashoda is the on-site manager. For information, contact the ashram secretary, Mr. Ganapaty, at tel. 231596 (office) or 231939 (res.), or the ashram president, Dr. P. N. Murthy, 86B Sangieva Reddy Nagar, Hyderabad 500 038. Tel. res (040) 274805 & 274765 or office (040) 231246.

Ratnagiri (Rolla, A.P.), India. Shri Swamiji's newest ashram is located five hours by road northeast from Bangalore, just inside Andhra Pradesh at Shri Shivabalayogi Nagar, Rolla Mandalam, Anantapur District, A.P. 515 321. The setting is idyllic and peaceful, there are regular bhajans, and the hospitality genuine and enthusiastic. The founder and onsite manager is Sri. R. Thippanna who can be reached by telephone through V. M. Pande Rangappa, ashram committee working president, (08493) 89118. For more information, contact

Motilal V. Tambre at 2, Olleff Road, Langford Town, Bangalore 560 025. Tel. res. (080) 222 5142.

Jhansi, India. There is no ashram property, but Jhansi has a group of devotees whose activity and dedication are an inspiration for the rest of us. They hold weekly kirtan every Saturday night at 6:30. The bandhara (mass feeding) conducted each year to celebrate Shri Swamiji's birthday is probably the largest among Shri Swamiji's ashrams or devotees. Any devotee passing anywhere near to Jhansi should contact Sri R. C. Nanda at 95/7, 38 Civil Lines (near Jain Nursing Home), Jhansi, tel: (0517) 446633 & 441151. You will be in for a treat.

Dombivli (Mumbai), India. Shri Swamiji's devotees in the Mumbai (f/k/a Bombay) area meet for bhajans every Thursday evening at the residence of Sri S. Veerashaiah, 6, Mandev Apts, Deen Dayal Cross Road, Dombivli (West) 421 202, tel. (0251) 473898. Shri Swamiji is present through bhava and devotees should talk with the many wonderful devotees in Dombivli about how Shri Swamiji has blessed and continues to bless them.

Portland, Oregon, USA. Weekly meditation and bhajans each Sunday beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Center, 6404 SW Barnes Road, Portland, Oregon. Call Steve Scheer, trustee, at (503) 285-6756.

Seattle, Washington, USA. Weekly meditation, bhajans and free vegetarian dinner each Sunday beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Shivabalayogi Center for Meditation, 419 Queen Anne Ave. N., Seattle. Call Karen, Pat or Tom at (206) 284-2885.

Durham, North Carolina, USA. Weekly meditation and bhajans every Wednesday beginning at 7:00 p.m. at 5014 Mt. Sinai, Durham, North Carolina. Call Stewart Walker at (919) 489-5355.

London, England. Regular meditation and bhajan programs are held by the U.K. Trust. For timings and venue, please telephone Kathleen Lawless, trustee, in London at (071) 328-6146.

Hamburg, Germany. For information on weekly programs, contact Monika and D. S. Singh-Sesodia at Barca Strasse, 14, 22087, Hamburg.

