



Ma Nityananda Premeshwari Maji,

*Ma Nithyananda Premeshwari Mayi*

It is an exhilarating and amazing experience which quite frankly I don't know if I can truly describe in words. But since I've been given the honor of being a "mom", as swami often calls us, I shall try my best to share my feelings and thoughts with everyone. Whatever I convey accurately is solely due to Swami's grace and blessings. Forgive me if I convey any negative emotions or ideas, that must be entirely due to my shortcomings or inability to express my deepest feelings correctly.

I am a 31 year old woman, married but without any children. My parents often tried to convince me to have kids. But it always seemed like too much work and responsibility to handle, and I never felt ready for it. Two years ago, my brother and sister-in-law had their first child. The baby boy was named Rahul. I met him first when he was three months old, and found him to be quite adorable. As I kept seeing him with every visit to Chicago, I began to fall in love with Rahul. He was so utterly innocent and cute, that when I was with him, I dropped all my defenses and just enjoyed every moment. Time flew when I was with Rahul. Every minute and every day felt like a new day with many new joys to discover. The fact that he was a very happy and friendly baby made him even more lovable, and he was an instant sweetheart with all who came his way. He was, like any other child, totally living every moment and completely only in the present moment. Of course, he was not yet taught about worries and conditioned by all of us, by society, to be bogged down by it and let the present moment slip away. When I was with him, I too felt completely relaxed, deeply enjoyed every moment, became totally carefree

and lost all awareness of time. Rahul's actions were so pure and innocent with no vested interest, that seemed infectious and all who were in his presence become the same way, atleast for a few moments. Often times, when I was sad or upset, just looking at a picture of Rahul smiling would make me forget my worries and put me in a joyful state of mind!

I often wondered how children are so happy, bubbling with joy all the time, without a care in the world, so innocent and lovable! I began to question why I was not that way in my daily life? How did I lose touch with this lovely state that I too must have once experienced as a child? How do I return to that state again? I had heard my father talk about great spiritual masters when I was growing up and felt I might find some answers there. I turned to books by Swami Vivekananda and Ramana Maharishi and found some guidance there. It was at this time that I had a chance encounter with Swami Nithyananda and attended his meditation workshop called Ananda Spurana Program (or ASP) in India. The workshop was an eye opener for me, and it answered all the questions that were on my mind. Swami explained many things in such a simple way that he made the problems of life look almost silly! I felt I had so much to learn from this wonderful young master. Although he was younger than me by a few years, his wisdom seemed timeless.

I had the good fortune of spending a week in Dhyanapeetam, Swami's ashram in Bidadi, near Bangalore, which transformed my life completely. The beauty and grace that Swami exudes needs no mention, all who have met Him know it first hand. The wisdom that flows in His words is also heard and admired by those who have attended His discourses and workshops. Beyond the obvious, there was something I experienced in His presence during that one week in the ashram. It was a sense of utter peace and bliss, where I lost



track of time. It was the same state of mind I experienced whenever I was with Rahul! I was totally relaxed, not feeling that I was being judged in any way.

The time I met swami was also a time of turmoil in my personal life. But just being in his presence simply altered my state of mind. It was very hard then for me to explain it in words to my parents, and it still seems very hard to explain it in words now, but I will attempt it. It can surely be experienced though, and I met many people at the ashram who had similar experiences in the presence of Swami. A week in the ashram gave me a glimpse of the different dimensions of Swami. When He was doing administrative work, He acted like a CEO, a manager and all levels in-between! When He was with the kids in the ashram, He became one among them, joking around and teasing the adults around Him. When He would see people who came for healing, He became a mother, overflowing with love and compassion for the sick. When He would gather the ashramites and talk to them, He seemed like a father, firm yet helping them see their mistakes while lovingly guiding them along the right direction. When He conducted the pujas, He seemed so knowledgeable of the rituals and traditions, He looked divine. When He was with the “moms” at the ashram, He became a playful child. I was awestruck by His multidimensional personality, and the ease and effectiveness with which He slipped in and out of these different roles and moods. I understood that the enlightened state from which He was operating was the key to it all. Suddenly I realized I had fallen in love with his state and was consumed by a strong desire to reach the same state, to experience the nithya ananda, the bliss that Swami seemed to be in eternally, no matter what role he assumed. I was convinced that the key to transcend all my troubles and turmoil lay within myself, and that enlightenment

is the path and the goal. Thus began my journey for, with and in Nithyananda, and since then there has been no turning back.

I have been truly blessed with opportunities to interact with Swami during my visits to India and Swami's visits to the US. Every moment in Swami's presence is an experience that is hard to describe in any form. Those who have not experienced what I'm talking about find it all very strange and difficult to understand. Those who have experienced it know exactly what I'm talking about and agree completely. It is much like Swami's description of death – those who know cannot talk about it, those who talk about it do not really know it! In His presence, there is a pervading sense of bliss and peace in the midst of a flurry of activities. We would be on our toes all day and sleep very little, yet feel energetic and happy rather than tired and grumpy!

During one such occasion to be with Swami, He called me Nithyananda Premeshwari *Mayi*! He declared I was the youngest mom! It was such an honor and privilege that I couldn't believe my ears! I felt very touched that I would have the opportunity to serve Swami just as a mother attends to the needs of her child. Although I had not experienced a mother-child relationship before, I had a glimpse of it when I was with Rahul. But Swami was about to show me how deep and beautiful the *vaatsalya bhava* could be. There is a song in Tamil that goes: "what penance did Yashoda do to receive lord Krishna as her child? Even the saints and sages did not have the privilege of playing with Krishna, tying him to a rock, seeing the universe in his mouth, or rocking him to sleep!" Yashoda was truly blessed and I felt the same way when I joined the mom's club of Swami!

As a mom, I get to see the naughty little playful Krishna in Swami whenever I have the opportunity to serve him. One moment He would be the fountain of wisdom and knowledge, talking spontaneously without any notes to hundreds of people about the ultimate truths from the Upanishad. The next moment he would be full of mischief and joy, pulling our legs, enjoying his own pranks, and laughing at the supposed grown-ups making a complete fool of themselves! Being in His presence is like being with Rahul, and much more! Every quality I saw and admired in Rahul, I see in Swami too, like being totally in the present moment, filled with infectious bliss that instantly transforms anyone around Him, loving in a pure and innocent way, not judging anyone, accepting everyone as they are, being in the timeless zone and leading whoever holds his hands also into that zone of freedom and bliss, where every moment is new and waiting to be discovered; with no vested interest in all His actions, except to inspire and help us find our true self, our true child-like nature! The difference is, most probably Rahul will grow up like the rest of us and lose touch with his innocent and happy nature, while Swami proves to us day in and day out that it is possible to remain pure, innocent, blissful and yet be worldly wise at the same time! There is nothing one can do in His presence, but melt into His love and dissolve in the ocean of Nithyananda!

I now experience the joy of having a son, but without the responsibility of raising a child! It cannot get any better than that! God answered my prayers to experience motherhood, by himself becoming my son!! Everyday I thank Swami, from the bottom of my heart, for giving me the special and wonderful opportunity to be *Yashoda*, and serve my *Krishna* forever. It is an invaluable gift. All the words that I am struggling with to define and describe it cannot do much justice, so I feel compelled to stop the words and just be in and become one with Nithyananda! I sincerely wish each and every one could experience even a glimpse of Nithyananda to know what they are truly missing but constantly searching in their lives.