




Nisargadatta Maharaj
1897 - 1981



निसर्गदाता - मुंबई
२२ नोव्हेंबर १९७७

*'Nisargadatta - Mumbai, 22nd November, 1977' - Signature of Maharaj,
courtesy Dr. Mrs. Rekha Gore, M.B.B.S., Borivili, Mumbai.*

 On 8th September 1981, at 7.32 pm, Sri Nisargadatta Maharaj, the sage of 10th Lane, Khetwadi, Mumbai, entered 'Mahasamadhi'. Thirteen days after their Maharaj's death, his devotees held the 'Bhavanjali' (offering emotion and devotion) at Laxmi Baug to honour Sri Nisargadatta.

Under the Chairmanship of Mr. P. O. Kasbekar, many devotees paid reverential tribute to their guru by speaking about him, the times they spent with him, and what they learned from him.

Maharaj spoke only in his mother tongue, Marathi. He knew only a few words of English. S. K. Mullarpattan was one of Maharaj's principal devotees and the English interpreter who translated Maharaj's words for the foreign visitors who attended the talks. What follows is the Speech he gave that evening.



Friends,

You have just heard a very moving speech and a touching poem recited by Mrs. Doongajibai. Her recitation has raised us all to sublime heights of devotion. Therefore my talk, probably, may bring you down to the level of gross-earth on which we are firmly placed, as I want to start my talk from this level.

Now, to say that I shall talk on Sri Maharaj would sound precocious on my part. Because to talk on Maharaj, I must know Maharaj, and to know Maharaj, I must first know Myself. This was his fundamental teaching. Therefore, my attempt at this speech would be something like an earthworm trying to explain about space and the cosmos. Nevertheless, the talk must go on and I must talk about that personality through which the very

parabrahma (Supreme Absolute) spoke and expressed Itself. So, when I say I am talking about Maharaj, it is about that body – that instrument – through which the veritable *parabrahma* spoke and guided us so lovingly all these years, by coming down to our gross level and leading us spiritually upwards.



Friends, Maharaj was nearing 80 years of age when I had his *darshan* (blessed presence) for the first time. Even at this ripe old age, he was active and energetic. His daily talks used to be highly impressive and penetrating. Many a time, just prior to his talk, even though he may not have been feeling well, we found him becoming energised as the discussions proceeded and, finally, he would appear as the very personification of energy. This was the state of his health, over the last 5 years.

After the morning sessions, he preferred to take a short walk accompanied by two or three devotees, among whom I was also usually present. During these morning walks, we would stop at some wayside restaurants for a cup of tea or a glass of *lassi* (yoghurt drink).