

# Happy 115th Birthday BABA!



Jai Gurudev!

My dear Guru Sisters, Brothers and Friends,:

With great respect and love I welcome you all with all my heart. One- hundred- and- fifteen years ago, at sunrise on the morning of May 16th, a child was born into a wealthy family near Mangalore, in the south Indian state of Karnataka. It was also a full moon day, which is considered to make the day very auspicious. This year Baba's lunar birthday falls on May 5th.

The child's mother had been praying for a son for some time, and had been visiting the famous Manjunath Shiva temple for some time to offer her prayers. Then one day, a mendicant went to her door begging for food. She welcomed the sadhu with great respect and love, and served him selflessly. When the sadhu finished his meal and got up to leave, he suddenly stopped, and looked intently at her and said, "Mother, don't worry, you will soon be blessed by Lord Shiva with a son. Also, repeat the sacred mantra, "*Om Namah Shivaya*," all your life. It will fulfill all your desires. Without hesitation, she began repeating the mantra right then and there. And in due time she gave birth to a son just as the sadhu had predicted.

The parents named the boy Krishna, and from an early age Krishna showed a deep interest in spiritual matters. It is said that the mother is the child's first Guru. So whenever she fed Krishna, she would

have him repeat the mantra with each bite he took. And when his father read from the scriptures, Krishna would sit very close to him so he would be sure to hear every word.

Krishna also had a premonition about his future. He would say that one day he would travel the world and would meet many people and do many things. These premonitions began to manifest when at the age of fifteen he met the wandering saint and ecstatic yogi, *Bhagavan Nityananda*. Nityananda was known as a supreme *Avadhuta*, indicating one who had attained the highest spiritual state. He wandered freely, wearing only a loincloth. He never asked for anything, but was always ready to give to those in need. And he had the power to awaken the dormant spiritual power residing within everyone. When young Krishna met Nityananda, the saint gently stroked his cheek in blessing. One day Krishna went to meet the saint, who at the time was staying in a cave located at a place called Kadri Hill. It was a popular place amongst sadhus. Another sadhu, who at the time was sitting with Nityananda, tells us what Nityananda said about the young boy after he had left. Nityananda told the sadhu, “Did you see that young boy who was just here? He is no ordinary boy. He will wander for some time, but when “this one” calls him, he will come to me. I will then send him all over the world, and he will bless hundreds of thousands of people by awakening the divine inner *Shakti*.

And we all know the truth of this prophecy. By the grace of his Guru, Bhagavan Nityananda, young Krishna, who later became known as Swami Muktananda did indeed travel the world, awakening the inner divine power (*Shakti*) to all kinds of people. He welcomed everyone with love and respect. He did not discriminate between one person and another. He was a true Guru. He became known as a *Siddha Purusha* (a perfected being), and the “Guru’s Guru,” And although so much time has passed, and he is no longer in his physical body, people still receive his or his Guru’s grace. Death is no obstacle to them. People who have never met Baba physically are always telling me how they have received his blessings. Some say that he appeared to them in their dreams or meditation and gave them instructions, while others have received *Shaktipat* by simply reading about him, or seeing a photo of him. It actually does not feel that very much time has passed at all. It seems to me that it was only recently that we were sitting at his feet. And we are still sitting at his feet, receiving his blessings. May you all experience his presence in your lives. And may he awaken your true inner Self. That is my only wish.

*Sadgurunath Maharaj ki Jai!*

With great respect and love,

Swami Prakashananda

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