“REUNION IN YOGA”- IYTA WORLD YOGA CONVENTION SYDNEY 2010

The IYTA convention held from 16-19 September 2010 at Manly, Sydney, Australia was a grand reunion of Yogis and Yoganis in the true spirit of Yoga. Aptly titled “Reunion in Yoga” it brought about a true reunion for so many, in so many ways, and at so many levels. We all united in the spirit of Yoga that is of union, integration and harmony.

Personally it was such an honor to be invited as the Major Presenter at the convention and share the stage with eminent personalities representing Yoga ‘down under’. It was indeed a pleasure to meet and interact and exchange views with such loving people like Wendy Bachelor, Leigh Blashki, Louise Wiggins, Margo Hutchison, Trish Brown, Michael de Manincor, Anne Nakhoda and Mary-Louise Parkinson. We met so many wonderful people in the four days and it was special indeed to spend the time interacting with Judith and Colin Clements of the Australian Yoga Life who are a lovely couple with a great sense of humour.

Patricia Wigley, the current IYTA president and editor of their lovely journal ‘International Light’, was such a gracious host. She spared no efforts in making us all feel at home and enabled all in attendance to enjoy the spirit of Yoga in its totality. She was ably assisted by Mary Shellens, Janet Stevens and so many other lovely volunteers who made sure that we all had a great time.

We had a lovely time and the love, respect and attentiveness of all participants moved us greatly. It was a joy to share with such human beings and, ‘Do your best and leave the rest” became a household word for us all. Swamiji and Ammaji really expressed themselves beautifully through me as I am only the vehicle, the medium, the transmitter for their amazing evolutionary teachings. I felt that both Swamiji and Ammaji were there completely during the convention and that pleased me greatly for they will only be there if Yoga is truly there.

My Carnatic vocal concert with local musicians and the excellent Bharatanatyam performance by Devasena received incredible appreciation and applause from all present, moved us both very deeply. Prana was really flowing that night and it was especially wonderful for me to be able to honor and express my heartfelt gratitude to Dr John Mumford (Swami Anandakapila) for having opened such a wonderful window in my consciousness thus enabling me to access an invaluable part of my father’s legacy through the art and science of Yantra.
In his welcome speech on the occasion of the Gala Dinner and concert night, Philip Liney, the NSW representative gave an excellent overview of the IYTA. He reminded us all that the IYTA was founded in 1967 in Sydney by Roma Blair and a group of like-minded yogis and was probably the first such Yoga organization in Australia, who were at that time a rare breed indeed. It has aimed to provide fellowship, support and continuing education for Yoga teachers; and to promote Yoga generally, and high standards of ethics and competence in Yoga teaching in particular. He reminded us that the IYTA had respect for all traditions and was indeed an inclusive organization.

As he was recounting the names of all the great luminaries who have been invited by the IYTA in the past, I was struck to truly realize the magnitude of my visit. This was the first World Convention in 13 years as the last one was held in 1997. The list of major presenters at the past conventions reads like a veritable Who’s Who Of Yoga Worldwide for it includes Swami Satyananda Saraswati, Swami Gitananda Giri, Swami Satchitananda, BKS Iyengar, Andre Van Lysbeth, Lilias Folan, Howard Kent, Swami Maheshwarananda, Mansukh Patel and many, many others from all walks of Yoga. That moment was another special moment in my life and I realize that all these blessings are only due to the grace of my Divine parents. Swamiji and Ammaji have given me so much, I can only try my best to continue and live and share Yoga for that is the only way I can ever express my gratitude to them.

One of the most amazing moments was when all the more than 200 delegates and invitees chanted the “Om tat sat krishnapanamastu” Mantra before the Gala Dinner. My dearest and most loving Swamiji would have been mighty pleased to see and hear that!

Murali and Devidasan played a nice trick on me as I never knew Devidasan was going to come to the convention let alone meet me this time. Imagine my surprise when I opened our room door and he and Murali are standing there with grins on their faces! They had kept an excellent secret and it really warmed my heart to see my dear Gitananda Yoga family making the efforts to be with me. Reunion was the true word for what we all experienced as Gita, Margo, Murali, Devidasan, Bernadette, Lesleigh, Zgy, Phil and so many others enjoyed our time together in oneness. It was special to have Gita bring her husband Anwar along to enjoy the concert. “I have been trying to get him to a Yoga event for the past 15 years” she said. “And finally he comes today-only because of my darling Ananda and Devasena”. Wonderful love gushes forth from Gita at
all times and it felt so nice to bring about such a family union and reunion in Yoga.

Intrapersonal, interpersonal and transpersonal union and reunion truly occurred over the days of the convention and I am sure the positive ripples of this will be felt world over in the next few years that will then take the benefits of Yoga to more and more aspiring beings all over the planet.