

MANGURIA NIRBAN MATH

Village: Manguria
P O: Manguria - Lallpur
Dist: Purulia

The History of Sri Sri Brahmajna Ma Ashram:

The founder of the Manguria Nirban Math is Swami Umananda Maharaj. He was commonly known as 'Laal Mama'. He was an ardent follower/devotee of Sri Sri Brahmajna Ma. Having become a devotee of Brahmajna Ma, he had come to the Manbhum District (now Purulia) in the year 1928 in the month of April/May (Baisakh). He arrived at the village of Manguria under the Hura Police Station.

Umananda Maharaj took shelter in the mango orchard of Late Kanka Mahato in the southern part of Manguria village. He used to live in a small cottage and was supplied with food by one Buchan Mahato.

Maharaj was cared for by a few benevolent gentlemen named Tantinam Bhushar Bholanath and Shulapani mahato. In this way Maharaj spent five to six years in prayers and meditation.

'Ma' while on her way back and forth from Pooncha had stopped by this cottage and many devotees were blessed with her 'darshan' and presence. Later when 'Ma' fell ill in Deoghar, Swami Umananda Maharaj had gone there to look after 'Ma'. He stayed there for four years to take care of her. After 'Ma' transcended from this world, Swami Umananda returned to Manguria Nirban Math. For about 10 to 12 years he remained in prayers and meditation at the cottage, his Ashram and thereafter received enlightenment. Swami Prabhuddhananji stayed there during those years. Later, with the blessings of 'Ma' Umanandaji acquired a great amount of landed property. Thereafter in the Bengali calendar of 1356 (1949) he received nineteen bighas of land from the Zamindar of Purulia on the side Poocha Road and set up his Ashram there.

In the Bengali year 1357 (1950) he erected a small building on the plot. Later a kitchen, a toilet and wells were built as well as a pond was dug. About a couple of years later he had a three - roomed house built there. Two years later he set up a temple of Sri Brahmajna Ma. At present the Naat Mandir remains to be erected. Swamiji had built a wall surrounding 15 bighas of land and now it is in a state of disrepair. Later Swami Umananda Maharaj sold off a lot of landed property barring the Math. He donated Rs 6000.00 for the establishment of the Sri Sri Bramajna Ma Vidyamandir, a High School. He deposited Rs 16000.00 at the State Bank, Hura. With Rs 21000.00 he left for Deoghar.

Manguria is a large village, inhabited by almost 3000 people. Most of them are farmers and depend on agriculture as their livelihood. Most of the people are devotees of Sri Sri Brahmajna Ma. People of neighbouring villages are also devotees of 'Ma'. There are

great variety of trees within the Ashram premises. The varied trees are coconut, betel nut, mango, jamun, peepul and also many flowering bushes.

Two occasions are celebrated in the Ashram. One being The Birth Anniversary and the other, the Death Anniversary. She was born on 9th of Phalgun in the Bengali year of 1286 (1880), the tithi being Shukla Ekadashi. She departed from this world on the Chaturdashi before Kalipuja, when the Death Anniversary is celebrated. On both these days Sandhya Arati is performed. The Bhagvad Gita and Sri Sri Chandi is recited for the devotees. Moreover, 'Ma's' Life and teachings and her wishes and objectives are read out to the assembled devotees.

It may be mentioned here that apart from myself, Swami Umananda had also given 'diksha' to 3 other disciples. He sent Swami Nirvanda to Deoghar. Swami Sarvananda is presently at the Anandamayi Ma Ashram serving there. Swami Nityananda is busy touring India.

I took Sanyas under Swami Umananda in the year 1377 - 1378 (Bengali Calendar) (1970-1971) and on his direction travelled to North - east Himalayas, Haridwar, Hrishikesh, Gangotri and other places on a religious tour. I returned to Deoghar after about 2 or 3 months. There Swami Umananda Maharaj handed over the responsibilities of running the Manguria math to me.

Later in the Bengali year 1389 (1982), in the month of Kartick on the 11th day at 6 hours 40 minutes Swami Umananda breathed his last at Deoghar.

Swami Sachchidananda