



In the spiritual history of ancient India we find the names of *Gargi*, *Saswati*, *Sulabha* and *Maitreyee* – female ascetics of immense determination, who had chosen the rare and most difficult route to attain salvation, — the '*jnyan marg*' or the route of knowledge. They were called '*Brahmabadinis*', as they had expounded the mystery of '*Brahmā*' through intense self-analysis and identified God within their own selves. '*Swo-aham*' (I am He) is what they declared to the world on reaching their goals. Through out their long and arduous spiritual search they had staunchly rejected every other available option and we hear this in the compelling voice of Maitreyee, '*Jenaham amritasyam, tenaham kim kuryam?*' (*That which cannot lead me to immortality, what shall I do with it?*)

In the subsequent eras of Indian history there were many male worshippers, who had chosen the '*jnyan marg*' to reach the thresholds of salvation, but **Brahmamoyee Ma** perhaps is the single female ascetic in recent times, who had shown her followers the way to attain self-realization by pursuing this arduous route. And yet to identify **Brahmamoyee Ma** as a female would be a fallacy, because in her eyes *there was no distinction between the male and female bodies, both being mere lumps of flesh and blood.*

This amazing and highly absorbing life story and teachings of **Bramhamoyee Ma**, recounted by one of her devout disciples, who had the rare experience of being given his '*mantra*' by the Divine Mother in his dreams, - just as he had prayed for night after night, - is a narrative which is bound to draw people of all religions all over the world and make them keen to learn more about this hardly known saint, who spent her short life in the anonymity of eastern India but left an enormous impact on all those who had come to know her and a bright beacon of hope and wisdom for the generations that followed.