

Joan Shack, a Vedantist in the Ramakrishna tradition since 1979, was initiated by Pravrajika Mokshapranaji of Sri Sarada Math. She co-founded the Sri Sarada Society as a nonprofit organization in 1992.

Written submission.

I traveled to Portland for the darshan of Swami Aseshanandaji in 1986, 1988, and 1990. He liked to keep me busy touring: Lewis and Clark College, Washington Park or the center's retreat outside of Portland. I also had lots of walks around the reservoir. Plans were always changing at the center. I never knew what to expect.

Talking informally to a group or individually to me, Maharaj had the same message. In my journal, I wrote:

“Meditate on Mother, not just in the meditation room but always have a portion of your mind given to Her. Form a personal relationship with Her, be aware of Her presence. Use your imagination, see Her as present in your heart. Imagination becomes reality.”

Another time, he said: “Visualize Holy Mother, lay flowers at Her feet, talk with her, imagine Her laying Her hands on your head in blessing, smiling to you. Develop a personal relationship with Her, take Her with you at all times.”

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