

Life Eternal Trust, Shri Mataji's instructions for the creation of the Australian Sahaja Yoga Leadership Council

Summary:

Traditionally individual National Leaders were responsible for spiritual aspects for Sahaja Yoga. The Trust for secular responsibilities that supported Sahaja Yoga. Shri Mataji shared Her concerns about Sahaja Yoga leadership and for the future of Sahaja Yoga in Australia and said from 1981 She had to remove every Australian individual Leader from their Leaders role, except for Uncle Michael Fogarty for whom She expressed Her ongoing admiration. During the same period Shri Mataji said She did not have to remove a Trustee from their role.

Shri Mataji said the challenges in the past would come again in the future but would not come from the Trustees. Shri Mataji said the past city and state leader always supported the National Leader right up until the time that She had to intervene to remove the National Leader. She said none of the other responsible Yogis wrote to Her of what was going on here. Shri Mataji had to find out for Herself. Shri Mataji shared that this is another challenge we face in Australia where we follow the 'leader' without question which Shri Mataji called "sheep tatwa".

Shri Mataji also said that Australian Sahaja Yoga will always be under challenge in the future from Yogis forming groups of murmuring souls spreading division within the Collective. As the Mooladhara is at the base of the subtle system the negativity challenging Sahaja Yoga in Australia mainly comes from the left side.

In 2000 the National Leader also became a Trustee assuming responsibilities for managing Sahaja Yoga finances together with responsibility for Sahaja Yoga. Maladministration led to significant governance failures and serious challenges for Sahaja Yoga at many levels particularly from the relevant government agencies who have oversight for the not-for-profit sector.

In 2005 the Trust informed Shri Mataji who was involved with a breach of Her privacy in releasing Her private medical records over the internet. Shri Mataji intervened and issued a letter removing the Australia Leader from all roles and responsibilities.

Views have been shared from the 80's and 90's about Yogis personal views of the role of the National Leader and the Trust. These views are uninformed of the circumstances involving Australian Leadership and Shri Mataji's intervention. No one from the current Australian Council participated in these discussions with Shri Mataji and cannot speak to what transpired and the circumstances under which the Australian Council was created. In 2005 Shri Mataji asked one of the Trustees to become the next Australian Leader as She was removing the incumbent National Leader due to misdemeanours, and he had "hurt Her".

The Trustees worked with Shri Mataji proposing the role of Sahaja National Leader end and worked with Shri Mataji to set up the first National Sahaja Council to manage some aspects of the previous roles.

A National Sahaja Council would support the spiritual aspects of Sahaja Yoga and the Life Eternal Trust Deed which Shri Mataji had created provided clear oversight over the other aspects by the Trustees. This was discussed in the context in preparation for the future when Shri Mataji could no longer intervene as She had needed to throughout Sahaja Yoga's history since 1981 in Australia to remove and replace National Leaders. Shri Mataji asked what can be done in the future when She will not be present to remove the Leader from their role as has happened in the past as it will happen again in the future.

Measures were needed to prevent issues with Leaders which had resulted in embezzlement where \$44K in today's dollars from a catering event being Shri Mataji's money was directed by the Leader into a private company and was never returned to Sahaja Yoga.

The Trustees proposed to Shri Mataji that She may replace the role of the National Leader with a Council. The Coordinator of the Council should not be the Trustee or manage Sahaja finances so that all power and responsibility is not with a single person and that Councils be tenured for 3-5 years so if matters again proved to be challenging as Shri Mataji warned would happen again, then tenure would ensure renewal with new Yogis coming into Sahaja leadership roles.

In discussion with Shri Mataji, it was agreed the Trustees would delegate powers from the Trust Deed relating to Sahaja Yoga spiritual conduct to the first Australian National Council created by the Trustees with Shri Mataji blessings in 2005. The Council would manage Sahaja Yoga spiritual matters but there would be a separation of duties and powers such that the Trust would manage other matters as covered in Shri Mataji's Life Eternal Trust Deed.

Shri Mataji said moving from a Leader to a Council had not been tried before. It is good this starts in Australia and if it works out it can be adopted in other countries. We also committed to Shri Mataji that candidates for the role of Sahaja Yoga Councillor be drawn from the collective and the final appointment of a Sahaja Yoga Councillor be done using Vibrations as an expression of Shri Mataji's Will. In September 2010 in Genoa Shri Mataji blessed a written proposal that vibrations be used for Councillor selections with no involvement by present Councillors and confirmed Her approval in writing that this be used into the future.

Informed of the successful experience of this first Council and in discussion with the Trustees Shri Mataji authorised the 2010 Letter announcing the principle of tenure Councils and Committees. This was discussed at length and Shri Mataji decided not to include Trusts in this declaration. Shri Mataji implemented the Life Eternal Trust Deed with no tenure for Trustees in the UK, India and Australia.

In the past a group of Councillors and a small number of supporters wanted to disregard and replace the LETA model and undermine the Trust Deed Shri Mataji created and signed in 1986 and replace it with a committee model under their leadership. The group conducted a campaign of accusations and criticism of the LETA Trustees which proved groundless.

There was also an attempt by the Australian Council to reinterpret and manipulate Shri Mataji's words of the 2010 letter to pursue their own aims and outcomes. In 2019 an illegal action was launched by a non-LEPA office holder to announce an unauthorised spill of Directors roles and to attempt to takeover LEPA. At this time the Council was silent and did not protect the authenticity of Shri Mataji's letter. The attempt failed as the Trustees stood in defence of Shri Mataji's letter and the attempted manipulation of Shri Mataji's words.

Background:

Shri Mataji created Life Eternal Trust Australia in 1986 under Her direction utilising a Trust document that was also being implemented in the UK and India. Impetus for establishing Life Eternal Trust Australia was the move to purchase No 10 Clarence St Burwood as a National centre and the ownership not to be in the names of individuals but through a Trust where Shri Mataji would be the President. When drafting the aims and objectives of the Trust (see below) were aims to

- To expand the provision of Sahaja Yoga existing community services and continue to make them freely available.
- To manage the finances of Sahaja Yoga in a transparent means in accordance with the Trust Deed.
- To protect and maintain the National Sahaja properties as assets for the current Sahaja Yoga Collective to enjoy and to pass on to future generations.

Shri Mataji's Letter of 2010 announcing the principles of Tenured Councils and Committees

In 2010 as the term of the first Australian Council was coming to an end. The Trustees met with Shri Mataji in Genoa and discussed the renewal of the Australian Council. Shri Mataji said the move from a Leader to the new Council had proven successful in Australia. A letter would be drafted to recommend this be adopted more widely.

Shri Mataji had created Life Eternal Trust and in the drafting of the LETA Deed did not create tenure (a fixed period of service) for a Trustee. In discussions with Shri Mataji announcing tenure for Councils and Committees the subject of tenure for Trustees was also raised. The responsibilities of the Trust has created by Shri Mataji is clear and unequivocal .

(b) IN FURTHERANCE of the above OBJECTS but without prejudice to the generality thereof and not otherwise:

- (i) For the purpose of advancing and propagating the understanding and practices and the maintenance of the spiritual teachings of the Sahaja Religion as taught by Her Holiness to Hold lectures courses public meetings study groups seminars classes religious services and worship and to use such other methods (including instruction in Sahaja Yoga) as the President and Trustees shall in their absolute discretion from time to time decide and To Establish and maintain such centres meeting places places of worship libraries ashrams retreats hospitals laboratories and research centres for medical and agricultural research and schools as the President and Trustees shall in their absolute discretion decide; and**
- (ii) To apply for invite obtain collect and receive money funds securities and other sources of income and capital by way of contributions subscriptions donations grants legacies sale of publications and other lawful methods and receive gifts by will and inter vivos of property of any description whether or not subject to express trusts provided that the Trustees shall not engage in permanent trading.**

Representation was made from jurisdictions where Life Eternal Trust had been established in India and the UK. They asked Shri Mataji that Trusts be excluded from the letter of 2010. Shri Mataji agreed to maintain the role as a Trustee to ensure continuity of good governance needed for the Trust, sound administration in support of the Trust's legal responsibilities, for the prudent care of Sahaja funds, maintenance of Sahaja properties and other assets. Moving Yogis in and out of these roles based on tenure would mean vital experience may be lost.

Shri Mataji decided that the arrangements for the Trust were not to be included in Her 2010 Letter regarding tenure for Councils. While the Councillor roles were to be renewed, Shri Mataji decided that rotating Yogis in Trustee roles that required continuity of expertise, experience and professional background was detrimental to the good governance of Sahaja Yoga

While Shri Mataji's Deed has no tenure for Trustees since 1987 there have been 12 changes to the Trustees positions confirming the Trustees role is not permanent. Sahaja Yoga Australia has taken the spirit of the LETA Trust Deed as the founding principles for the organisation of Sahaja Yoga to take us into the future.

High level legal advice and interpretation in relation to the Trust Deed advises and confirms the following with respect to Life Eternal Trust secular and legal responsibility for Sahaja Yoga. The Trustees delegated such powers as related to Sahaja Yoga spiritual conduct when they decided to create the first Australian and State Councils which were created by the Trustees in 2005.

Signed LETA Trustees

