

# Crimson Dawn

An Ananda Marga Review

Autumn 1995 New York Sector

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Children line up for school at a rural Ananda Marga school in Haiti. (below) Didi with a few of her many school children in Guatemala. (center)

## A Real Summer 'Treat! Global Conference July 1 through 7, 1995 at Ananda Kanan Master Unit

This summer's retreat was a global SDM conference (see *Ananda Marga In a Nutshell* column) and was considered by all to be one of the most uplifting retreats ever. There was a seven-day akhanda kiirtan running throughout the retreat in Baba's House, lending an incredible vibration to the rest of the retreat. Different groups and kiirtan leaders were assigned shifts so there was never an interruption. Indeed, there were some late night kiirtans that really rocked.

The weather was better than perfect, almost spring-like with its cool days and starry nights. There were programs, lectures, classes and regular Dharma Cakras in the meditation hall and under the trees. Special guests Didi Ananda Giita and Dada Sarvatmananda (former GS) as well as Dada Suthiirthananda, Dada Haratmananda and Didi Ananda Dyotina were also present with wonderful stories and wisdom to share. There were some beautiful cultural programs in the evenings, including plays, a special slide and musical presentation on the mystic journey, and very moving Prabhat Sam'ghiit and other music performances.

And of course one of the highlights of the week was the all-day Mela. Designed with the children in mind, it is hard to say who had more fun, the kids, the adults or the Acaryas. The day

started out with a glorious parade through the grounds of Ananda Kanan complete with costumes, singing and music. Then there were races, relays, the obstacle course and a tug of war. One memorial sight was Didi Ananda Giita participating in the canoe race, orange robes billowing in the breeze. And of course the Mela would never be complete without the water fight at the end. What started as a water balloon toss soon turned into a full fledged monsoon, with fully loaded garbage cans of water being thrown at whomever was available. There was one group of Proutists trying to ignore it all and hold a serious meeting under the trees. It was quite a sight to see them all leap into the air as an orchestrated barrage of water balloons descended on them!

The retreat ran smoothly thanks to the efforts of a number of people, including all the LFTs now living at Ananda Kanan. Plans are under way for next summer and will certainly include an all-week kiirtan.

## Regional Spotlight: Atlanta Region

by Mahitos'a

(Each issue we'll highlight a different region.)

Retreats here are wonderful. We just had our fourth retreat at Kings Mountain State Park in South Carolina. It's a beautiful retreat site with small cabins scattered in the forest and a nice lake for swimming and canoeing. The highlight of this retreat was the 24 hour kiirtan. And judging from the 90 blissed-out souls that attended this retreat, 24-hour akhanda kiirtan will be a part of all our retreats. There were also classes for the many new people, meetings and an evening program around a bonfire. Our next regional retreat is scheduled for Baba's birthday in May.

Our regional secretaries are Dada Vidhyadhara and Didi Ananda U'sa. Didi has been working in the region for several years inspiring all of us with her devotion, cheerfulness and hard work. She has just purchased a mobile home on a beautiful wooded site near Asheville, North Carolina, as her office. Dada was posted this summer and has been busy touring and creating many new margiis.

Atlanta region has a forty-five acre master unit near Asheville. It is located in rural Appalachia in an area known for its burley tobacco. The land borders and sits high above French Broad River with mountain views in all directions. Besides the river there is a bold stream and three springs on the property. There are now two families living on the master unit and Vishvamitra rents adjacent property. A jagriti and possibly a residence will soon be built.

### Other news:

Regular Dharma Cakra is held in many units of the region including:



### Come to the Caribbean!

Ananda Marga Sectorial Conference in Port au Prince, Haiti  
November 15

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