



*Above: The Ganges at Hardwar; Below: the ghats at Vārāṇasi*





Above: The Ganges at Hrishikesh; Below: the Bengali ghat at Māthura



Early in 1927 Ānandamayī Mā and Her entourage visited the sacred pilgrimage centers of Hrishikesh and Hardwar in the Himalayas. While in Hardwar She ordered Didi and her father to stay there for three months and practice *sādhana* in solitude. She had decided

that the time had come to eradicate whatever worldly traits were still lingering in those two close devotees. In the austere simplicity of the Himalayas they were to live a life of renunciation. Considering that Sasanka Mohan Mukherjee was an elderly man and that he was used to comforts (for Indian circumstances), he showed remarkable hardiness. He had to get accustomed to walking long distances over rugged terrain and to bathing in cold streams. The spiritual path is not meant for weaklings. The bliss-permeated Mother, meanwhile, continued Her travels, stopping at Māthura and Vrindaban, the sites of Lord Kṛṣṇa's earthly *līlā*, and Vārāṇasi the spiritual capital of India, before returning to Dacca.

The devotees in Dacca were gradually becoming aware of the fact that their monopoly on Mā was a matter of the past. Ever more frequently did She go on extended trips. In July, 1927, Her *kbeyāla* prompted Her to go to Vindhyācal in Uttar Pradesh. At that time