

Radha Burnier (1923-2013)



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Burnier, Radha (née Sri Ram) was the seventh International President of the Theosophical Society (Adyar). Radha Sri Ram was born on November 15, 1923, on the estate of the Theosophical Society in Adyar, Madras (now called Chennai), India, where she spent her childhood. Her father, Nilakanta Sri Ram, a life-long Theosophical worker and a collaborator of Annie Besant's, was the fifth International President of the Society. Her mother, Srimati Bhagirathi, was also an active member. The family was Brahmin, but, as Theosophists, they did not observe the rules of segregation from other castes prevalent at the time. In 1951 she married Raymond Burnier, a Swiss citizen, and thereby became a Swiss national.

Coming from a Theosophical family, Radha early developed an interest in philosophical and spiritual questions as well as a sense of values and concern for the underprivileged. A childhood spent in the beautiful Adyar estate fostered a love for Nature and a sensitivity to its beauties. Having met during her childhood many people from various parts of the world, promoting harmony and cooperation among all peoples was, practically from the beginning, a way of life for her.