



# CHAPTER 1

## Photography — My Avenue to Love

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ONE OF MY ASSIGNMENTS was to produce a video feature for Cable News Network on Indian spirituality. CNN had previously aired several news stories that I had written based on my experience with Catholic missionaries, who worked with the indigenous people in the Brazilian Amazon.

After working with people and organizations of different faiths, and after covering situations where people had been divided by their religious beliefs, I had come to terms that there are many paths to God, and there is no one right way.

By now, I felt prepared to finally meet the person whom I considered the greatest missionary of them all, Mother Teresa. I considered her to be free of religious prejudice, and for that reason she was a magnet for people of all faiths. As author Navin Chawla wrote in a biography of Mother Teresa: “We cannot view her through Catholic eyes, or Hindu eyes, but only through human eyes, for she does not discriminate. She respects all religions and all people . . . . By not making her religion exclusive, Mother Teresa’s compassion encompassed persuasions and the irreligious and disbelievers as well.”

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I got my first break when Jay Suber, Vice President at CNN who was in charge of feature shows, gave me an assignment to cover five stories in India

including a possible feature on Mother Teresa’s work. I was grateful at the prospect of making some money on this trip, but I considered my trip to Calcutta as a pilgrimage more than as an opportunity to cover a story. Very often as a photographer, I had been assigned to photograph in soup kitchens or in shelters crowded with the homeless on the coldest nights. Perhaps this was in prepa-

← In India, the streets alongside the temples are constantly bustling with activity. A small sign hanging on the wall of Kalighat — the home for the dying — indicates Mother Teresa’s presence at one of India’s busiest temples. A mother hugs her small boy outside the entrance of the home, while merchants work near the main door, and a beggar squats on the steps.