

|| From the mighty pen of Sanjay ||

NEW REVOLUTION-THROUGH RAKSHA BANDHAN

We find that all the revolutions, viz. the Green Revolution, the White Revolution, the Red Revolution, the Industrial Revolution, the French Revolution and the Glorious Revolution started with the purpose of producing goods mechanically, abundantly and conveniently when man gained some new knowledge of science and technology. In other words, these were started with the motive of getting more rights for the common man.

As a result of these revolutions, our markets today have such a variety of articles of consumption, and in such great abundance, which was never witnessed before during the past 2000 years or more. As to human rights, citizens of many countries have, perhaps, more freedom today than they had under various types of monarchies or autocratic rulers who themselves had all the powers of the State, including the executive, the legislative, the judicial, the financial and the political power.

Farther From the Goal of Peace

However, in spite of all these revolutions, we find that mankind has not marched any nearer towards the goal of peace and happiness. On the contrary, we find that mankind is badly divided today and its various sections are warring amongst themselves and a large number of people are suffering from acute shortage of essential goods when others are living in great abundance and wastefulness. Man, instead of using new knowledge of science and technology for the betterment of the underdeveloped and for ameliorating the lot of the mankind at large, has made use of it for creating terror and producing enormous quantities of weapons. One also finds that there is violence in the atmosphere and there is brazen selfishness and because of industrialization, the cities have grown to such a big size horizontally and vertically that, at such a point of time in human history when there are potent means of telecommunications, the heart-to-heart communication between man and man is awfully lacking. We also notice that a kind of artificial civilization has developed which is a matter of concern. It is for this reason that today when thousands of people are dying of starvation in some countries, millions of tonnes of wheat or other cereals are

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Editorial

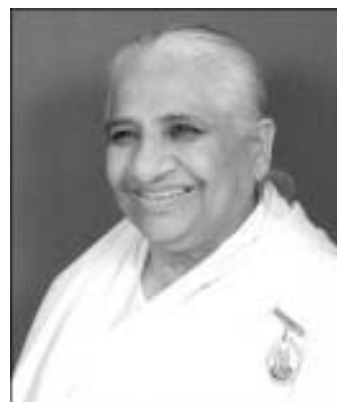
THE FLAME GLOWS BRIGHTER EACH DAY...

The spirit of Rajyogini Dadi Prakashmaniji's inspired leadership continues to reach higher and higher horizons in accomplishing God's task of world-transformation. As the history of this unique spiritual *Yagya* of the Brahma Kumaris bears witness, since its inception, unimaginable goals were set even when the number of BK members was small and there was hardly any formal, organized set-up like that of the Armed Forces or Educational Universities. According to God's Plan, everything evolved through the creative consciousness of the Founding Father, Brahma Baba. The power of pure spiritual love and inspiration worked wonders. Right from the beginning 75 years back, youth (women and men alike) have played leading roles in spreading the word of God and showing the light of love, peace and happiness to the entire human race.

Among the founding members of the Brahma Kumaris were noble souls like Mateshwari Saraswati, Didi

Manmohini, Dadi Prakashmani, Dadi Chandramani, Dadi Manohar Indra, Dadi Atma Indra, Dadi Hriday Mohini, Dadi Ratan Mohini, Dadi Sheel Indra, Dadi Atam Mohini, Dadi Meethu, Dadi Shantamani and others; holy mothers like Dadi Janki, Dadi Pushpa Shanta, Dadi Hriday Pushpa, Dadi Nirmal Shanta, Queen Mother and others; great Pandavas like Dada Vishwa Kishore, Dada Anand Kishore, Dada Vishwa Ratan and Dada Chandrahaas. These great souls proved to be worship-worthy jewels of the rosary of Supreme Father God Shiva. They were ever-inspired to follow the guidance of Brahma Baba, who maintained utmost confidence in these instruments.

As Mateshwari Saraswati left the scene in mid-60s, the mantle fell on Dadi Prakashmani to be torch-bearer of the *Yagya* after Brahma Baba ascended to the Subtle Region on becoming *Sampoorn Avyakt Farishta* (Perfect Subtle Angel). During Brahma Baba's lifetime, Dadi Prakashmani happened to be a



very trustworthy and reliable instrument of God. In her, Brahma Baba had seen the shining star who could lead the organization on his divine ascension. What a coincidence that Dadi Prakashmani found the prince of her dreams, when she had a vision of Shri Krishna, on the first day of attending the Om Mandali gathering (former name of Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya). She was very well-groomed to play the leadership role which she carried out with utmost devotion, love for Almighty God Shiva and divine Father Brahma Baba, love for the *Yagya*, and spirit of serving humanity in multifaceted roles. She was a perfect yogi and great scholar, ever eager to pursue spiritual studies.

She was a born orator. Her words of wisdom made her a major crowd-puller, as she lovingly shared Godly knowledge and experiences of Rajyoga Meditation taught by

none other than the Supreme Being through the chosen Medium, Brahma Baba. Her deep faith in those teachings could be seen from her pristine love for the divine elevated versions - Murlis - that she studied 4 times a day! She had hardly any interest in picking up newspapers or other periodicals and books, apart from just glancing through them for few minutes.

Dadiji led countless number of intense meditation programmes being at the helm, and also spread God's Message by organizing global campaigns for Peace and Cooperation. The United Nations presented her with a Peace Medal for the International Year of Peace in 1985 and Peace Messenger Award to the institution in 1987.

As an innovative and ever-inspiring spiritual teacher, Dadiji motivated thousands of Brahma Kumari sisters and Brahma Kumar brothers to accept the responsibility of becoming Godly servers and BK Teachers, and looking after service centres world-wide. She also organized special yearly programmes for them to explore the depth of spirituality and beauty of divine virtues, through intense Meditation Retreats (*Bhattis*) at the Headquarters.

It was her deep faith that the world would become better only through the power of spiritual wisdom, human understanding and friendship, purity and truth. On several occasions, especially in the midst of holy Gurus, Saints and Priests, she used to share her faith in and commitment to living by impeccable purity by saying, "I have never spoken a single untruth all my life". As spiritual leader par excellence, she wielded her unique power of judgment while also being the embodiment of love, patience, and compassion. She touched the lives of millions during her lifetime, especially from 1937 to 2007. She could befriend juniors and seniors, the youth and children, within seconds through her pure child-like smile and innocent gestures. Her ever-shining qualities of love and friendship not only inspired innumerable souls then, but continue to guide us even now through her subtle presence in our lives.

Let's learn to emulate and live such a meaningful life of self-sacrifice, and dedication of serving humanity and purifying the global atmosphere. This would be the best way to observe 25th August 2011, the 4th anniversary of Dadi Prakashmaniji.

TUNE INTO "PEACE OF MIND" TV

We congratulate our world-wide BK family of sisters and brothers, as well as our well-wishers, for the new feather in our cap!

Spiritual service is to take a gigantic leap on the launching of the 'Peace of Mind TV Channel', which is currently undergoing broadcasting tests. It will be 100% operative by the second week of August, as shared regularly by BK Brother Karuna, Director Public Relations, IT & Communications, and Chief of Peace of Mind TV, through the internet.

We thank you for your support, interest and attention, and encourage you to spread the word so that more of our spiritual family and contacts take benefit by becoming its subscribers.

On 1st August 2011, the Satellite Uplinking and Testing of Peace of Mind Channel took place at Shantivan Campus (Abu Road), in the auspicious presence of Swami Chakrapaniji, President, Akhil Bhartiya Hindu Mahasabha, Delhi, Rev. Bhante Karunakar Mahathera, Secy. Gen., Buddhist Religion, Farrukhabad, Rasik Pithadhishwar Mahant Janmajey Saran Maharaj,

President, Shriram Janmabhoomi Nirman Nyas, Ayodhya; BK Nirwair, Secy. Gen., Brahma Kumaris, Mount Abu; BK Karuna, Chief, Peace of Mind TV, Mount Abu and BK Ramnath, Madhuban Coordinator, Religious Wing.

Rev. Thera offered blessings by saying, "The widening abyss between religion and spirituality has torn humanity apart. The biggest problem the world faces today is mental instability, and the greatest need is peace of mind and positive change. The current TV Channels mainly mislead and confuse people. It is our hope that 'Peace of Mind' will show people a new path."

Swami Chakrapaniji expressed his blessings by stating: "Corruption and atrocities are wounds of society. No judicial system is capable of bringing these under control; however, if individuals are made to contemplate on inner

transformation, it is possible to find solutions. Peace of Mind TV will provide people with sufficient material and resources to help them build a better life for themselves. I pray to Almighty God for the Channel's success!"

Ayodhya Maharaj openly shared, "Unless the walls of Hinduism, Islam and bodily religions are brought down, no one can be strong enough to stop abuse and violence".

Peace of Mind TV will be a 24-hour Channel, available all over India on Reliance Digital TV. DTH Channel number 171 is dedicated for the same. Brahmakumaris family will enjoy DTH Services at an extremely low cost of Rs. 3090 under *BK PACK* offer.

BK PACK = Set-top-Box + Dish Antenna + Installation + one year free subscription + all popular paid and free channels + one preferred Regional

Channel + Peace of Mind TV.

BK Centres have the option of airing only "Peace of Mind TV".

New connections will be available only through BK Centres and Representatives, appointed by BK Brother Karuna in consultation with the respective Zonal In-charges/ Centers In-charges. The BK representative will be required to collect Rs.3090/- for each connection, maintain a list and deposit the funds in Axis Bank, Account Holder "Brahma-kumaris Audio Visual and other Department", A/c No. 911020008205512, IFS Code: UTIB0001126 Branch: Abu Road.

Please write to karuna@bkmail.org, <http://peaceofmindtv.com> or call: 0954 999 1111 or SMS: *BKTV "Name, City, Pin code" to 56161 for any enquiries or clarifications. - **BK Nirwair**

THE INNER VOICE –

A Brief Report on Retreat for Spiritual and Religious Leaders

(Global Retreat Centre, UK – 27th - 31st July, 2011)

A group of 35 people from 18 countries from Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim faiths gathered for The Inner Voice, a retreat to explore the impact of inner stillness in our lives and in the world.

Several were top leaders in their field who set aside this time to deepen and replenish their inner spiritual life.

The retreat took participants into an ever deepening journey of listening to the inner self,

listening to the Divine and listening to the voice of humanity. It is impossible to capture in words the impact that this retreat had on the hearts and minds of all those present.

A prominent Swami from India spoke of his realization that God is not in the idols but in the universe and in the face of love, compassion, truth and justice. As a great social activist, he spoke of the need for a spiritual model of development. "Spirituality is a movement; if not, then it degenerates into a monument!"

A professor of comparative religion from the UK spoke of the expansiveness of the presence of God and the deep strength needed to trust in life - life is a process greater than all of us. The head of an interfaith organization in Israel spoke of how we are banging our head against a wall trying to find God and yet we do not know how to use the door to go inside. If I see a relationship that is not based on love then it is my duty to make it better.

A prominent church leader from South Africa spoke of how God is not finished with us. God is continuing to reveal Himself. He questioned, 'how do I intervene without revenge?' There is a God who belongs to all of us and to whom we all belong. One Buddhist leader from South Korea (now living in the US) spoke of nourishing our divine nature and the transformative power of silence. "The clouds

come and go but the sky never changes."

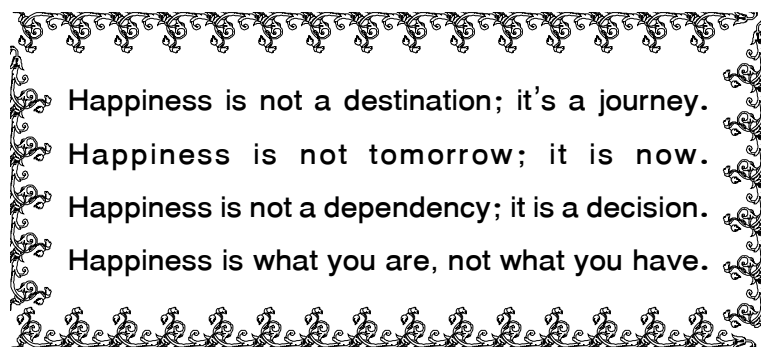
A Rabbi, who has worked all his life for peace, spoke, "How when we can include everyone with an inner source of dignity, then together we shall constitute the image of God. "It is often difficult to live with God but even more difficult to live without God."

Dadi Janki's presence brought the deep experience of silence and wisdom to the gathering. She shared that to listen to my inner voice; the heart that has been hurt has to heal. She spoke of the importance of patience, tolerance and contentment. The ability to tolerate brings a sense of belonging. God is truth, God is love. The purpose of all of us coming together is to know what truth is and to serve others. "Make power into truth and truth into power." Dadi spoke of the eight powers and the importance of being accurate,

alert and always present on service.

There were stories of inspiration from a Catholic Father from Brazil who has turned around the lives of thousands of street children in Sao Paulo, of an analyst who works at the International Criminal Court at The Hague on the evidence for war crimes and of a women who worked for many years at the Anne Frank House of Amsterdam when it was first opened to the public. As well as an evening concert at the Retreat Centre, the group was also hosted by Christchurch Cathedral and College, Oxford University.

At the closing session, many shared the spiritual gifts they had taken. A Muslim who is the head of the inter-religious organisation in Malaysia asked us to have a minute of silence to give thanks to Brahma Baba, who made all of this possible. ●



THE POWER OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF DRAMA



Spiritual Class by Dadi Jankiji - 1 July 2011, Kullu

Throughout the whole cycle, we will never find anyone like Baba, Almighty Authority God Shiva. Were you looking for Baba or did Baba find you? Many would say: Baba found me. I was lost in my own self. Having found Baba, we forget everything else. We don't like the old, impure world anymore.

Brahma Baba had the picture of Shri Krishna made in Mumbai with a lot of love, wherein the Lord is holding a globe of heaven and the *Murli* in his hands and kicking away hell. Shri Krishna says: 'I am coming'... But who played the *Murli*? We understand that it is Shiv Baba who spoke the *Murli* (elevated versions) through the medium of Brahma. When we speak of Shiv Baba, we speak of Him as the One up above. He comes and awakens us through the *Murli*. Sit in remembrance, listen to the *Murli*, and then perform actions as a *karma yogi*. It should be visible that you are a yogi soul performing actions.

Baba never used to allow us

to sit in the Bhandara (Dining Room) at the time of *Murli*. Once, I sat down to prepare Bhog at the time of *Murli*. Baba got me up and said: Child, at the time of *Murli Class*, you have to listen to the *Murli* because there is magic in this *Murli*. The *Murli* is able to transform everything completely. Through the *Murli* you connect your mind with God and develop the habit of focusing on God. If your mind is filled with other things, you will not enjoy the *Murli*. The *Murli* is a mirror in which you see yourself.

Everything has to be accurate. When you are preparing food, if there is little or more salt in it, people would not enjoy eating. Everyone has a role in the establishment of the new world. The world is being created with each one's finger of co-operation. It is not that you can do without this one person or that one. God wants every type of soul in creation of the new world. Actors in a limited play understand what their particular role is. Each one

plays his part accordingly. Even two identical twins cannot play their part in the same way, even if they are given the same role. We cannot say: "This is not good, this one is not good." Know that the Drama is predestined. Previously, since we did not have knowledge of the World Drama we were discontented and unhappy. With Baba's knowledge, we receive peace and love. But with knowledge of the Drama we are able to remain stable. Those who have knowledge of the Drama accurately in their intellect will never fluctuate.

Knowledge of the soul gives peace. Knowledge of God gives power, and knowledge of the drama makes us cheerful. No matter how much you say "Baba, Baba", but if you don't like a particular scene in the drama you cannot remain cheerful. If you want to remain cheerful, then remember the drama.

Baba said: You have to be entertaining. How can I become that? My face should never be confused or wilted. With understanding, I am able to remain mature so that I do not fluctuate in small situations. Being cheerful does not mean laughing out loudly all the time.

Mama had such a powerful stage that no one noticed her physical body, even though she

was in a serious condition at the end. This is only possible with knowledge of the Drama. I need to have deep practice of being bodiless over a long period of time, so that whatever scene comes in front of me my face remains the same and is not influenced. Baba said: It is nothing new. It had to happen and so it happened. It was the Drama. That is all. The knowledge of the Drama makes us unshakeable and immovable, and also teaches us to play with jewels of knowledge.

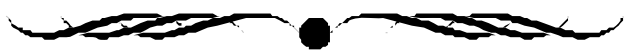
Knowledge is first sweet and then we realise its value. The value of education and income is realised when a child grows old. Unless I earn my own income I cannot understand the value of it. *Baba gives us sovereignty and then makes us worthy to rule the kingdom of the pure world. We have donated and performed charity at this time and so receive the return of that for the whole cycle.* In the Iron age, people attain everything through fighting, but we do not have the sanskars of fighting or battling. We are simply happy with our own fortune. We do not snatch anything from anyone, but create our fortune for the future 84 births with understanding. My face should reveal the sovereignty I have had throughout the whole cycle. ●

THE SACRED BOND OF RAKSHABANDHAN

– B.K. Neena, East Delhi

Rakshabandhan – a sacred tie of Love and Purity
Symbolizes sanctity in thoughts, words and deeds
Thus laying down certain proprieties – of moralities
The sacred thread adorning the wrists of soul-soul as brothers
Thereby, upholding the doctrine
Of universal fraternity!
Not to forget the filial concern
Shown by the sisters for brothers;
Laukik brothers safeguarding
The honour of sisters dear
Providing them a defensive Armour clear;
Professing their undying sincerity and loyalties
But, does the sister really have to doubt
The brother's integrity?
Or, for that matter do the innocuous brothers
Need to remind time and again
That 'Rakhi' is tied to protect their sisters' sanctity?
Thence, is it only a sister's prerogative?
For **Aeons**, Sages tied this sacred thread
Ancient kings got it tied by their Subjects
Then what underlies its elevated Object?
The auspicious threads of assorted colours and hues
Remind us to instill the divine attributes –
Verily, wear the bracelet studded with godly virtues
Giving up our vices; being honest, austere and righteous
Hither pledge purity, simplicity, uprightness and humility!
Unfurling the message of good wishes, pure feelings for all
To be **Holy** and a **Yogi**; making ourselves emancipated
And absolved (from any sin or misdeed...);
Oh' **BABA**, I wish I could tie **Rakhi** to the brothers
Casting their evil eye on World sisters!
Thereby, creating an Eden garden of eternal bliss and peace
The subtle nuances of which, could never go amiss!

DISCIPLINE



– Karishma, 8th class, Bangalore

"Without discipline there is nothing to be proud of"

– Richard L Kempe

Humans are social beings. Without positive social contact, one cannot lead a happy and peaceful life. Human emotions are stronger than the emotions of other living beings and we need someone to share these emotions with. In order to live a peaceful life in the society, discipline is one of the essential pre-requisite. The dictionary meaning of discipline is 'Training to act in accordance with rules; activity', exercise, or a regimen that develops or improves a skill;

Discipline is like a barrier to our emotions, actions and thoughts. Wherever we go, we need to carry discipline with us and teach it to those who do not know its value. If we have discipline in our life, people will take inspiration from us. We can lead a very systematic life if we learn to be disciplined in everything we do. We must maintain discipline in all our activities. We have to sleep and wake up at the right time every day. We have to eat a balanced diet in order to stay healthy, and

get the right amount of exercise to stay fit. We must get fresh air everyday to have a peaceful mind.

Even in the outside world, discipline is very important. When we go to a crowded place, we must wait in lines and should not push one another. If we maintain discipline and go in a single line, all of us can conveniently get a chance to see the monument, statue, or god in a temple etc. If people break discipline, it can cause stampede which can result into injury. Such behaviour causes lot of damage to the society. People who don't maintain discipline, trouble and annoy others and are a disgrace to the country and to the community.

We should not talk loudly which irritates others. We should dress up properly and look decent. We should maintain discipline in character and should not openly express our emotions and actions. A problem can be solved by dialogue peacefully and not violently by throwing stones,

shouting and setting things on fire and killing lives. It again causes a great damage to the society and to the nation as a whole. Even in schools the first thing we learn is discipline

In today's world, very little importance is given to discipline. The word discipline is forgotten and the very few people who follow discipline are framed "uncool and uncouth". All our good habits and values are ignored. Those persons who have no character in life come up fast in life. Observing such a trend in society, many people leave discipline and get involved in unhealthy practices.

But we must remember that the real progress is that which brings benefit to us as well as to all members of society. Great persons who are remembered even today had discipline in their lives and their actions were not motivated by self-interest, greed or avarice. Spirituality teaches us to maintain discipline in our thoughts, speech and actions. It is only through self-control that we can bring a positive change in ourselves, which can inspire others also to do so. It is a well-known fact that success follows discipline. They are the two faces of the same coin. In order to gain success in life, a strict and disciplined life must be led.

TRANSACT WITH THE HEARTY NOTES OF COOPERATION

– B.K. Surendran, Bangalore

We all know that people come together to achieve certain goals through establishing an organisation/institution. Initially there would be the founding members and subsequently many others come forward to cooperate with the activities of such organisations/institutions. We are all aware that the Government Institutions, down the line, are functioning with the cooperation of those who are directly working there or indirectly cooperating with such organisations. In a democracy, the Parliament, the Executive and the Judiciary cooperate for the smooth running of the government. Likewise, the institution of family is naturally a cooperative institution. When a child is born, he gets the cooperation from his mother, father and other family members. When he grows up, he gives as well as gets cooperation, which continues until his death. During one's life journey, one gets co-operation as per the circumstances. It is well-known that in human life

there is mutual cooperation. Besides, without the cooperation of others, proper living conditions in the world cannot be created, the needs of the people be met or the life could be made happy. All kinds of inter-human relationships in the world are aimed to give and take cooperation. Each and every relationship has a duty and responsibility with regard to giving and taking cooperation. We have duty, responsibility and authority which are in a way unwritten laws which govern the principles of giving and taking cooperation.

Cooperation implies mutual love, sympathy, compassion, respect, sacrifice and service in human life. It is believed that some of the necessities of human life, may it be connected to family, social, cultural, financial, political and so on, cannot be fulfilled to the satisfaction of one and all without mutual cooperation. In fact, cooperation is necessary for the physical, mental, intellectual and spiritual development of human life. It is also clear that cooperation is

not a one-way affair, but involves mutual giving and taking, in the absence of which enmity, hatred, stress etc., are created. It is, therefore, a natural human nature to give and take cooperation. When someone succeeds in his/her endeavours, it must have been undoubtedly because of many others through their cooperation.

When one has become selfish, he tries to block the track of cooperation with those whom he dislikes. If someone tries to get cooperation through force, he does not truly enjoy the power of cooperation. There are some people who garner cooperation from others for their own progress and fame through hypocrisy and tactics. It may be possible that such cooperation should be extended to others justifiably, but ultimately such a person hijacks such cooperative ventures of others for his own advancement. However, one must be prudent enough to understand the necessity for extending cooperation at a particular situation and to a deserving person. It is necessary to understand the dire need for extending cooperation. When we give cooperation to a person, we must make sure that such cooperation is not used for

selfish motives to create problems for others. Giving cooperation is a sign of a spiritually-evolved person because it contains mercy, kindness, pity, world-welfare, charity and sacrifice. For example, if someone does not extend cooperation to another person at the time of necessity, there may be different reasons for such a situation. The person concerned may be busy otherwise or involved in a situation wherein he is helpless.

LIFE IS A CORPORATE ENDEAVOUR – CO-OPERATION ITS BINDING FORCE

It is well known that life is independent as well as inter-dependent. As swami Vivekananda said ‘we have very few living people in the world’. He also said ‘Who are those living people? Living people are those people who live for others. Others are more dead than alive’. Living for others means to extend cooperation in times of necessity. Even in other situations also, wherever possible, we must cooperate for the decent, happy, peaceful and tidy upkeep of this world. We must give more than what we take from this world. Our life is a corporate endeavour. We are living with the

cooperation of those who are in our surroundings and also those who are far away and unknown to us. For example, we eat our food which is prepared by others. If we go to the background, we can find that the farmers who are toiling in their farms made it possible for us to be sitting on the dining table and enjoying the food. The cloth we wear is made by others, the place we live in is made by others, the vehicle we travel is made by others and so on and so forth. Therefore, if anyone is blocking the track of cooperation they are in fact saboteurs of the amiable and amicable conditions of this world. It is the duty and responsibility of each and every one of us to extend cooperation when it is required for a particular situation or for a particular cause. There are some people who do not extend cooperation, in spite of knowing that a particular person is in dire need of cooperation. It is a willful neglect of one’s duties and responsibilities. We can learn many aspects of cooperation from the nature. A tree is giving shade to a passerby. A river is flowing down the stream watering the land on the way or quenching the thirst of a weary traveller.

BLOCKS IN THE TRACK OF COOPERATION

We must be aware of those saboteurs of cooperation, who are the enemies of humankind who block the track of cooperation. **The following are some of the situations where the track of co-operation is blocked.**

- ▶ 1. Because of jealousy, some people block the track of cooperation and dislike the person who needs cooperation fearing that if they extend co-operation, he may overtake them and snatch away the opportunities due to them.
- ▶ 2. Some people do not extend cooperation due to the fear that they will lose their importance, name and fame thinking that if such a person becomes popular, their own popularity would fade away.
- ▶ 3. Some people think that it is their right to demand cooperation from others while they do not want to cooperate with others.
- ▶ 4. Some people do not cooperate in the name of religion, caste, language, region, status and so on.
- ▶ 5. Some people not wanting anyone else to become better and richer than themselves don’t cooperate with them who are more capable, more

efficient and much better than themselves to come up in life.

▶ 6. Some people avenge others by not cooperating with them and adding further problems to them in already existing crisis situation and enjoy on their sufferings.

▶ 7. Some people drowned in the vices of sex-lust, anger, greed, attachment, ego, jealousy and sloth are not able to cooperate for the welfare of this world because of the negative and vicious mindset. Their nature is to create non-cooperation and problems for others.

KEYS TO REMOVE THE BLOCKS

We must remove the above blocks from the minds of these people with the power of pure feelings and good wishes and acts of unconditional cooperation to them in different ways which should positively force them to fall in line with God's remembrance with good intentions and thoughts of others' wellbeing will be another positive course of action to enlist the cooperation of such people.

COOPERATION IS AN ETERNAL VALUE

The Gita exhorts '*parasparam bhavayantah srevasparam avapsyatha*' which means to attain

prosperity and welfare by following the way of mutuality and cooperation. Where there is love, cooperation is a natural upsurge. It need not be asked for. Cooperation is an expression of gratitude in life. Life is a long journey. Mutual help and cooperation make the journey easier, happier and pleasant. Where there is cooperation, there is happiness. Cooperation is a combination of love, faithful and goodwill filled feelings for others. Cooperation is also a kind of great charity. Charity should be given to those who deserve it as otherwise such people will misuse our cooperation. 'Cooperation' is a divine virtue. 'Cooperation' is also the nucleus of Godly service. There are four subjects of Godly knowledge being taught by Incorporeal God Shiva through the medium of Prajapita Brahma – *Gyan-Knowledge, Yoga-meditation, Dharana-inculcation of divine virtues and Seva-Godly service*. All these four subjects are independent and also inter-dependent. If one has to understand Godly knowledge properly, he should practise meditation and through meditation one inculcates divine virtues. The consequence of these efforts will make one a godly servant meaning thereby

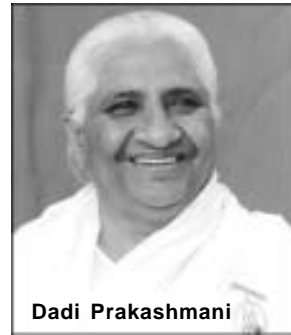
that one is on the run to extend unconditional cooperation through thoughts, words and actions to one and all irrespective of religion, region, caste, creed, language etc. Therefore, the natural nature of those who are in the path of godly knowledge and yoga is to extend cooperation to one and all. When we closely examine these 4-subjects, it becomes very clear that there is an element of mutual cooperation of all these subjects because if one wants to understand the knowledge properly, he needs to practise meditation, divine virtues and have the practical application of knowledge in the field of Godly service. In the path of Godly knowledge, there are innumerable occasions where cooperation should be extended to the fellow spiritual effort-makers. When someone is found slow in effort-making or finding difficulty in effort making, it is our duty to extend cooperation. There is no word as 'non-cooperation' in the dictionary of Godly servants. Our mutual cooperation at the personal level will ensure cooperative initiatives at the macro level for the Godly task of world transformation. We must be aware of the reality of existence. We are the children

(Contd. on page no. 16)

SHE SMILED, SHE LOVED, SHE CONQUERED

(The life that redefined leadership)

— B.K. Sneha, Mumbai



Dadi Prakashmani

“Don't you ever have a headache, Dadiji? You shoulder the responsibility of such a large worldwide organization!” it was a question emerging spontaneously from a participant at a National Conference of Engineers and Scientists. Dadi Prakashmani, the then Chief Administrative Head of the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Organization, was meeting all the delegates. Dadiji's eyes twinkled as she responded, "No, I don't have headaches because I don't consider myself as the head..." She explained, "I am an instrument and am led by the Supreme Being, the Almighty God. What simpler and greater lesson can one have on managing stress? And it works, surely, as it did for 80-year old Dadiji who was co-ordinating 8,000 centres in more than 120 countries then.

There was a precious moment I was fortunate to witness and experience every year (until Dadi was amongst us) when I visited Shantivan,

the International Headquarters of Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya, Mt. Abu, Rajasthan. Every morning, Dadiji enters Diamond Hall, encompassing about eighteen thousand spiritual students, and waves of enthusiasm make the entire hall come alive. During her sweet loving initial conversation, when Dadiji asked innocently, "Is everyone okay? Is each one satisfied with the accommodation arrangements? Does anyone need something? Please inform Dadi about it," every soul in that assembly of thousands used to be touched deep within and felt "Dadiji cares for me."

Whether it was a meet of the most venerable amongst religious heads or a conference of highly accomplished jurists or administrators, Dadiji first entered through their heart, strengthened their self-respect, and then shook their conscience, "How many of you, my brothers and sisters, are willing to give up your undesirable habits, to give up vices?" I've seen the brilliance of truth as words

poured out of her lips, "Dadi has never lied in her entire life." It was not a pride, it was not a challenge; it was just a beautiful mirror reflecting evidence that integrity is indispensable for long-lasting success.

Dadi Prakashmani, who headed the Brahma Kumaris organisation from 1969 to 2007, dazzled everyone everyday as she allowed an entirely unique form of leadership emerge from within herself. Her expression of love and values was beyond everyone's imaginable limits thereby constantly setting new standards for spiritual effort and spiritual service. It is no wonder then that this organization is unique in the world in many respects. It is led by women, is completely volunteer-driven, there are no fees or charges for any of its services, it does not actively seek donations from the general public, focuses on spiritual education than on material charity, encourages analytical thought on orthodox religious and social practices, emphasizes personal example

as the precursor for social change and provides forums for daily life-long spiritual learning, taking no holidays!

World history has been a witness to various kinds of leaders who influenced the course of their communities - towards development or degradation. For a large majority, the principled leaders like Mahatma Gandhi or Abraham Lincoln are "ideal leaders" but the same majority does not see in themselves the strength to emulate their ideal. There is a crucial need for leaders who inspire by personal example in the current scenario, who have immense love that can bind everyone in unity, who have deep respect for all which knocks down ego, who can love both the perpetrators and the victims of oppression and heal both - leaders who have no desire to be leaders - but the pure intention to simply serve.

Dadi Prakashmani was such a leader. She had unflinching faith in the vision -of recreating the original social order of perfect harmony on earth-shared by God. She was quoted in 'Life Positive' magazine stating, "(Establishment of) Satyuga² is as sure as death."

Love was what led this mighty leader. From the time she joined Brahma Baba, the founding father of the organisation, she had a pure desire for self-progress and for service. Only 14-year old then in 1937, she was made responsible for a school that was started to provide holistic education to small children, an education that balanced their spiritual, intellectual, emotional and physical development. Despite her young age, Baba would entrust her tasks like writing letters to organisations such as Cambridge University, and to important public figures like Mahatma Gandhi, discussing important aspects of spiritual thought. Throughout her life, Dadi Prakashmani had to take high jumps stretching far beyond what she imagined her potential to be. But her love for God gave her the courage and faith that it was possible. And her deep love for each soul in the world family enthused her furthermore.

Respect and freedom were the natural outcomes of her love for all. One of Dadiji's favourite slogans was, "Stay in elevated self-respect and give respect to all." As Caroline Ward³ shares

in the video 'Jewel of Light', "Dadiji had a schedule which might cripple someone of her age. Yet, if you come in front of her, it's as if you are the only person in the world... she is 100% present." Dadiji understood people from their own frame of reference. So, the solutions she found were simple and effective, based on the capacities and unique needs of the particular situation. One might ponder "who has the time today for such listening? When will tasks get done then?" But Dadiji's army of lakhs of volunteers could vouch for the effectiveness of this approach. Each person whom Dadiji met (whether personally or in groups), went back with a deep sense of fulfilment and deep trust in her leadership that translated into long-term commitment, higher self-confidence and increased capacities to manage themselves and their service better. The freedom that she gave nurtured immense innovation in the organization. The Brahma Kumaris organisation has one of the most outstanding decentralized structures in the world, bound by Godly Love. Many

1. Dadi means 'elder sister' in Sindhi language and 'ji' is added as a note of respect in Indian culture. 2. Satyuga -The Age of Truth,

3. Director - About People Co., Australia

References: 1. PBKIVV (2010), Prabhu Ratna -- Dadi Prakashmani. Mt. Abu (Rajasthan) PBKIVV, 2. PBKIVV(1995), Ratna Prabha - Dadi Prakashmani. Mt. Abu (Rajasthan), 3. Stephen Covey (1989) - The 7 Habits of Highly Effective people. London: Simon & Schuster UK Ltd. 4. Jewel of Light (VCD), Brahma Kumaris, 2006.

pioneering efforts saw daylight only because of this environment of openness, freedom and trust.

'Keep everyone content as much as possible' was Dadiji's daily song. Is it a safe goal to pursue, many might wonder today? Steven Covey writes in the famous book '7 Habits of Highly Effective People' - "for win-win interactions, you got to be nice and be courageous, empathic and also confident". Dadiji was a living example of this principle. As God's instrument, she wanted everyone to adhere to divine principles. But as a mother, she ensured that her family never felt bound by these principles but rather learnt to love God and love and understand those principles; she brought about a winning balance between love and law.

Dadiji's mirror-clean character inspired enormous trust. How else would it be possible to draw the support of millions of volunteers who give best quality service to their divine family? Most people who visit the organisation's campuses, have a common observation, "there is nobody overtly commanding anyone here, work just flows." This is the organisational culture Dadi has groomed. Financial resources also flowed in due to

this foundation of integrity.

It was pure spiritual strength that enabled Dadiji to be brimming with enthusiasm every moment. After doing intensive service along with volunteers, when everyone would be tired, she would still be fresh enough to serve the volunteers too. She woke up at 2 a.m. everyday to meditate and give vibrations of peace, love and good wishes to the entire world.

Humility was Dadiji's radiant crown that kept her easy and light forever. She always acknowledged the contribution of her colleagues, giving full respect to their views and opinions. She frequently engaged everyone in play, art, celebrations and picnics. She shattered the typical notion that spirituality was all serious business devoid of fun.

Dadiji was a great student of spiritual knowledge. She also chose to learn from challenges, from people, from criticism and

she valued the learning. She was honest, had no hidden agendas and no insecurities. Hence, her mind was free to help others.

As her name signifies 'Jewel of Light', Dadi Prakashmani, for me, was a clear mirror in which I discovered my own beauty and realised that a new age of harmony is possible. She believed 100% in the inside-out approach, invested in people and relationships, managed perfect balance between process and outcomes and created a nourishing environment for God's garden to grow and bloom. She was a Servant Leader, a Parent Leader but never seeking leadership... simply serving. Perhaps this is why Dadiji was popular yet incognito. For beloved God and His magical instrument, i.e., Dadiji, my heart resounds with the words of a famous song.

"I can fly high like an eagle because you are the wind beneath my wings." ●

(Contd. from page no. 13)

of the Supreme father – the Lord and we are all the members of the great family of God. Our Home is *Paramdham* and we are all brothers enacting our roles on the World Drama stage. Our fundamental duty is to cooperate with others to ensure peaceful coexistence and overall progress of each one of us. At last, we must remember that we are all *helpers of the Lord for re-establishing Golden Age on earth*. Let our thoughts and attitudes of cooperation emerge from the bottom of our hearts and many other hearts trigger in positive affirmation.

(Continued from July issue)

BODY, MIND AND SOUL

— B.K. Hans, Paschim Vihar, Delhi

TIME passed on and the souls continued playing their roles on the world stage birth after birth, in different and costumes, roles until the present time when the original *sanskars* become so weak that the soul becomes completely influenced by the five negative traits of Lust, Anger, Greed, Attachment and Ego. The period of Satyug or the Age of Truth was in the past and now we have Kaliyug, the Iron Age. These acquired *sanskars* are the bane of the present world, and the root cause of poverty, corruption, destruction of human values, wars and the accompanying misery and unhappiness, religious bigotry and hatred among peoples and nations, leading to evils like terrorism and killing of innocent people. The five vices have overpowered individuals all over the world, so much so that mental and intellectual faculties have almost abdicated any responsibility of one's actions.

Humans have become

helpless. We are caught in a sort of vicious circle: our negative *sanskars* give rise to negative actions, which further strengthen the former. Our mind is like a horse, ever-galloping at a high speed, without any sense of direction, under the influence of our negative *sanskars*. This horse is not only wayward and headstrong but also unbridled. Unless we hold the bridle, 'intellect', firmly in our hands to rein in the horse and turn it towards the path of goodness, we will certainly come crashing down one day and hurt ourselves deeply.

The mind and intellect are great powers gifted by God to human beings. Concentrating on matter and material things, humans have worked wonders with these powers but yet little is known about them. Just think about what can be achieved if one truly focuses attention on them! However, this is difficult as the mind and intellect have become prisoners of the negative *sanskars*. What

should have been the master has now become a mere slave.

In one of his recent articles published in the Hindustan Times, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, a noted spiritual leader, expresses his view that we should educate people to shun terrorism. I have all respect for him but wonder who the 'we' are whom he refers to? Who will travel to the different places and deliver a discourse on non-violence and brotherly love to a gathering of Talibans and Al Qaeda followers? How will it be achieved?

Things have come to such a pass i.e. divisions in today's society have become so deep-rooted that the world is well past the stage of simply lecturing people to do good or set things right. The task of changing the mindset of people in this age is beyond the capacity of any human being, however great and saintly he or she might be. No religious teacher or scripture can achieve it. Founders of various religions and belief systems have not been able to unite humanity together. So it is necessary for us to think of different tactics and ideologies.

PURITY, PEACE and LOVE are the true and original nature of the human soul. But there is no fragile peace and love in the world today because man has not only lost his original

sanskars but has also forgotten that he is a spirit, a being of divine energy or soul. Therefore, he identifies himself with the body, bodily relations, comforts, possessions, and everything connected with the body. The intellect and mind have become tainted with thoughts of body consciousness, leading to selfish and unrighteous actions. From soul-consciousness, humans have adopted body-consciousness resulting in the play of negative *sanskars and karma*, and the pitiable condition of the world!

All around us is turmoil, stress, tension, worry, anxiety, sense of insecurity, and above all, a fear of untimely and sudden death of self or near and dear ones. Diseases, like heart trouble, blood pressure, diabetes etc. caused by tension, irresponsible eating habits and erratic lifestyle, are the order of the day. Rich people, who are almost a majority among the victims of these diseases, pay thousands of rupees to attend lectures of high-profile teachers who profess to teach you the art of stress-free and happy living. If nothing else, these courses provide individuals a break from their hectic life, to enjoy a sort of vacation and chance to meet others of their like.

PEACE AND HAPPY-

NESS are the two most sought-after experiences in the world. Humans have been in search for a long time, but there has never been a greater need for them as now. Many wars have been fought. Individuals have travelled from country to country, continent to continent to seek new habitations and colonies for livelihood. Machines have been invented to make work lighter and simpler; humans have devised quicker means of communication and transportation to realise the dream of globalization, so much so that he is now exploring space to make his or her home in Mars. All has been done in the name of peace and happiness which have sadly eluded us so far.

Do not be disheartened. Humans has now turned to religion and spirituality with the avowed purpose of achieving not only a stress-free and violence-free society, but also for attaining eternal peace. Numerous television channels have sprung up, spewing religious lectures and discourses day and night. So many gurus, religious teachers and spiritual preachers have lately emerged to provide a host of yogic exercises, meditation techniques, art of living courses etc. Lakhs of Hindus go to

Haridwar, Varanasi and other religious places every year. They bathe in the Ganges thinking that a dip in the Ganges will wash away their sins. They throw gold coins and ornaments into the river as a mark of penance for their sins. Some stand on one leg for hours together in the hope that God will take mercy, absolve them of all their sins and deliver them from the cycle of birth and death.

BUT can we say with confidence that the world has become a better and safer place to live in? Efforts to find peace and happiness have come to naught. We have delved deeper into the mind and sharpened the intellect in pursuit of these goals, but sadly enough, we have missed the root cause of our troubles: our present negative *sanskars*. Unless purified, these *sanskars* will keep us away from peace and happiness.

OUR FIGHT IS thus with our present *sanskars*, which we have acquired over the course of hundreds of years, birth after birth. Doctors usually advise that many physical illnesses are caused by toxins which get deposited inside the body. Our negative *sanskars* are also like toxins which debilitate our mental faculties.

So we need to get rid of or transform the negative *Sanskars* if we wish to experience peace of mind.

I often pass through a park in the morning, on my way to the Brahma Kumaris centre, where I see a group of elderly men doing physical exercise. After they finish their exercise, one of them chants a prayer loudly and others repeat after him. The prayer goes:

Parampita Paramatma

Hum hain tumhari Atma

Papon ka kar do khatma

(O' the Supreme Father, the Supreme Soul

We are your souls,

Put an end to our negative actions)

I respect the sentiments expressed in this prayer as they sound very noble. However, when people say 'we are God's souls', they generally believe that we souls are a part of Him. The correct meaning, however, is that we souls are His children. The third line of the prayer can be changed a little as it leads us nowhere. While it is we who commit vices, how can we expect God to put an end to them? It would be more effective to ask God to help us realise the truth and eliminate the vices.

WHAT is the way out of the mess that the humans have

made for themselves? There is no problem in the world which has no solution. We only have to first know and realize what the problem is. There are many of us who, like the proverbial pigeon in the story, have closed their eyes to the dangers ahead, thinking that there is no danger at all. We sometimes argue why we should bother about the world's problems when we have plenty of our own. But whether it's our problems or that of the world, they are as clear as daylight. They are fast leading us to towards chaos and end of the world as we know it. Hatred and enmity among people for reasons of nationality, religion, caste, colour, material gains, ongoing arms race have crossed all limits of safety. The world is practically sitting on a volcano crater which may become active and erupt any time.

THERE ARE PEOPLE who realise there are severe problems with the world but they do not know how to deal with them. They want change but their approach to bring about the change is inaccurate: most people think that whatever they do, good or bad, is the will of God, and therefore the change is also His responsibility.

But let us not worry. God has

a plan for such souls which is already in action. To know this plan, we first need to understand certain truths. Though some of these truths have already been stated in the preceding paragraphs, it is necessary to reiterate them so that the reader comprehends God's plan fully.

One: We are souls, and not mere bodies. Yes, bodies do exist but the body is only a means to an end - to enable the soul to perform its part in the world drama.

Two: Souls are distinct from the Supreme Soul, *Param-Atma* or *Paramatma*. God does not take birth in the manner that we do, and secondly God is ever the same whereas we souls pass through different stages of well-being.

Three: The relationship between the Supreme Soul and souls is that of Father and child. As such, souls are entitled to His spiritual inheritance.

Four: God is as much an entity as a soul is. He is not present everywhere and in every being. He is what He is and as He is, and we have to know and recognize Him as such.

Five: God is not only the Producer and the Director of the world drama, but also a Principal actor who has a role to play.

Six: World history is the story of the rise and fall of Bharat from the pinnacle of Bharat's glory in *Satyug* to the depth of its ignominy in *Kalyug*.

Seven: Change is an eternal law of universe. *Satyug* will follow *Kalyug* as day follows night, and spring follows the winter.

Last: but not the least. There is a small auspicious period of time at the concluding stage of the world drama, which marks the end of *Kalyuga* and the dawn of a new Golden Age. This is when God descends on earth to establish a new world. He takes loan of a human body to make contact with us. This is His divine birth, an occasion celebrated only in India as *Shiv-Ratri* or *Shiv-Jayanti*. That time is now.

Armed with these weapons of knowledge, or rather decorated with these gems of knowledge, we shall not only understand this plan but also appreciate it. As this plan is for the benefit of all humanity (including the flora and the fauna), God does encourage and expect us to lend Him a hand in the execution of His plan, being His children and the rightful inheritors of His legacy. God has the power to do everything on His own but since it is a plan for our peace,

happiness and prosperity, should we not be motivated to participate in all that He is doing? Further, the roles to be played by each of us in the new era would be decided by the amount of help each one gives, under His guidance and direction.

We have given God many names while singing His praise and glory, one of them being 'Heavenly God Father'. The true significance of this phrase is that God is the One, and the only One, who creates heaven on earth. The hellish world we live in is set to be transformed into heaven; this is God's plan. The good news is that God is already playing His role within this plan.

IT WOULD REQUIRE many more such articles to describe God's plan in details. The strategy of the plan though is very simple. First of all, on meeting human souls, God gives us knowledge of Himself as the Supreme Soul, Supreme Father, and of us as souls, His children. Then, He takes us right into the secret of the World Drama, how it begins, what changes take place in the middle and how it is going to end. He reminds us of how we had been committing sins under the influence of the vices all this while, and importantly how this is the time

for us to return to our eternal Supreme Home. Before returning home, it is essential to cleanse ourselves of past negative *karma* and *sanskars* so we can only return in our purest original state.

This cleansing happens by returning to our original state of soul-consciousness, which is achieved by staying in His company/remembrance, day and night. He is also the Supreme Teacher who educates His children to become worthy of receiving His gift of Heaven by imbibing the godly qualities of knowledge, love, compassion, purity and truth.

God's plan aims at fulfilling human beings' dream of a new world of plenty, peace and happiness, where there will not be any division on account of religion, nationality, language, color or economic interests; where there will be health and wealth all around; where human beings shall live in their pristine stage of soul-consciousness and where nature will regain its natural benevolence. It will be a new world order where mind, intellect and the body will work in harmony with each other, and our original *sanskars* will be very much in place.

Some critics may think this

(Contd. on page no. 24)

THE UNIVERSAL SPIRITUAL PLATFORM

– B.K. Raghbir Singh, New Delhi

The philosophy of Prajapita Brahma Baba, whom Incorporeal Shiv Baba had chosen to be His human medium to deliver His message to humanity, revolves around the concept of soul - consciousness and the concept of absolute purity at the level of thought speech and deed. Baba preaches that all of us (being children of one God) are spiritual brethren and that between spiritual brothers, there exists no room for animosity, ill will or any negative thought or feeling. Baba also preaches that for attainment of absolute purity, soul has to undertake the journey of remembrance (Yaad ki Yatra) into both past and future. When soul goes down memory lane into past, it recaptures its primitive glory of the golden age--the glory, gradually lost by it on journey from golden age down to silver age, copper age and finally Iron Age. When soul undertakes journey into future, it looks forward to the re-establishment of the golden age and the

pristine glory, then to be regained by it through the noble deeds of the on-going Confluence Age (Sangam Yug.) The rewinding into past and the future winding into future reconnects the soul with its inherent characteristics of peace, love, happiness, knowledge, purity, kindness and power which the soul sets out to regain through Purusharth (noble karmas). When human attention gets stabilized in the twin awareness of soul's primitive glory of the past and the pristine glory to be regained in future, one experiences the bliss of getting reconnected to soul's inherent qualities of peace, love, happiness, knowledge, power, kindness and purity.

Brahma Baba's spiritual philosophy revolves around the axis of soul's journey on the wheel of its evolution and because this is the story of every single soul's evolution, it is the universal spiritual platform for each and every soul of the world to share in common, without reference to

caste, colour, creed, nationality or religion. On this platform, there is no room for feelings of 'this' or 'that'.

Here it shall be in fitness of things to study the viewpoint of major religions of the world. Every Christian of the world knows about 'Paradise Lost' and 'Paradise Regained'. Paradise lost is the story of man's fall from soul-awareness to body-awareness and Paradise Regained is the story of Jesus Christ paying with his life for the sins of man and for the restoration of lost paradise to mankind.

The Holy Bible says that Man's first ancestors, Adam and Eve used to live pure and soul-conscious life in the Paradise called Garden of Eden. God had forbidden them to taste the fruit from apple tree because it had in it knowledge of body-awareness. But Satan, in order to avenge his fall from heaven to hell, at the hands of God, decided to destroy man's paradise by tempting Eve to taste the fruit of tree of knowledge. He became successful in his Satanic and evil design and man lost his paradise due to body-consciousness.

John Milton, the eminent British poet starts his epic - 'Paradise Lost' with the following words: -

**Of Man's first Disobedience,
and the fruit
Of that Forbidden Tree,
Whose mortal taste
Brought death into the world
And all our woe
With loss of Eden, till one
greater Man
Restore us, and regain the
blissful Seat,
Sing Heavenly Muse**

"EARTH FELT THE WOUND", says John Milton to describe the cursed moment of Eve's first bite of the fruit of knowledge. In Book IX of his world renowned epic, Milton gives a painful portrayal of Man's fall from soul-consciousness to body consciousness in the following words: -

*She plucked, She ate
Earth felt the wound
And Nature from her Seat,
Sighing through all her works
Gave signs of woe
THAT ALL WAS LOST*

It is in the same spirit that William Wordsworth refers to child as Man's spiritual father. He says: -

*Child is father of Man
And I wish my days to be
Bound each to each
By natural piety*

Wordsworth's wish to stay connected to the first day of his life through natural human piety is nothing but soul's longing for

travelling to its primitive glory of the Golden Age. It is in this spirit that the writer has named his poem as An Ode to the Intimations of Immortality.

Wordsworth says: -

*"From God we come, Who is
our home".*

*But he painfully regrets
that due to gradual loss of
basic innocence of human
soul, "There hath past away,
A glory from the Earth".*

Our Mohammedan brethren especially observe Ramzan as the month of purification of soul through fasts and penance. Again the idea is to enable the soul to stay connected to its inherent qualities of purity, peace, love, happiness, knowledge, power and kindness.

Sri Guru Nanak Dev, the first Guru of Sikhs, deeply laments and mourns over the state of abject condition of spiritual poverty to which man has degraded and subjected himself by keeping himself constantly engrossed in the items of body-consciousness and in the temporal values of the materialistic world. This pathetic condition of body-awareness to which man has fallen from his elevated state of soul-consciousness has been described by Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji in Raag Siri Rag on page

15 of Aadi Sri Guru Granth Sahib in the following manner:-

*Ras Suena, Ras Rupa, Kaman
Ras Parmal ki Vaas
Ras Ghore, Ras Seja, Mandar,
Ras Meetha, Ras Maas
Ete Ras Sarir Ke
Kai Ghat Naam Niwas*

The Bani (Holy Scripture) written originally in Gurmukhi script, can be translated into English in the following manner:-

Man has become so deeply engrossed in tastes of lust for gold, silver, body enjoyment, sweet fragrance of flowers, vegetation and fragrant wood, pomp and show, physical comforts, palatial houses, sweets and meat, that there is no room left for remembrance of God to help one undertake journey of soul's renewed connection with the Almighty.

In the same way, Gautam Budha and Swami Mahavir have preached the principle of 'Know thyself' as the pillar of man's spiritual strength. Knowing oneself is to know our spiritual roots and to learn to stay connected to them.

Every spiritual philosophy of world brings home one universal message for mankind and that message is: - To live in soul-consciousness is to enjoy the bliss of the paradise of

(Contd. on page no. 32)

THE INNER SOVEREIGN SPEAKS...



– B.K. Urvashi, Mount Abu

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high...'

Can we Indians proudly claim to have realized Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's prayer, as we celebrate our Independence Day 2011?

Undeniably, we are a civilization that is spoken of with admiration, awe and good feelings around the globe in all spheres. We get amazed at our own resilience, intelligence, innovation, determination, far-sightedness and love for life that emerge naturally during the least expected hours. And yet, with the progress India is making, there remains an unfulfilled desire to see every Indian more empowered and leading a carefree but secure life of dignity and harmony with all.

Our well-being and triumphs do get affected by our physical surroundings, the support of relatives and loved ones, efficiency of our government and its relationship with other nations. We don't live in a vacuum and could not manage or appreciate life without any

one of these factors. Yet how much do we allow external factors or resources to dominate our thinking, emotions and decision-making?

Sixty-three years back, the fight for freedom was a very 'real' battle where our ancestors could see and fight the opposition. But today, we wage a battle with almost invisible enemies: poverty, corruption, religious intolerance, gender discrimination, weak education system, fragmented relationships, disappearing moral values, red-tape, terrorism and much more. We are all suffering, irrespective of whether we are the oppressors or victims. It's a fact that we cannot transform every terrorist or corrupt politician or chauvinistic boss or teacher, or abusive relative. But at the same time we can neither keep waiting for them to change nor allow ourselves to become cynical about positive transformation.

We can however work on what we have right now, namely our self-esteem, positive and broad vision, education and

courage, and our right to dismantle the negative forces that pollute our mind, heart and destiny. We start by realizing that 'I' have the solution, or more importantly, 'I am the solution'. India's power lies within its common man and woman, but only when we listen to our conscience and choose to empower our inner world.

Just as a spider weaves the most delicate but robust web, there are several subtle chains we've got entangled with unknowingly. These inner limitations appear to be as natural as life itself, but they are not really part of our original emotional, intellectual and spiritual make-up. These are the demoralizing traits of ego, giving and taking of sorrow, inability to empathise with others' misfortunes, anger, greed, selfishness, distaste for honesty, impure vision and the like. Though it doesn't seem like these weaknesses could be the reason behind our problems, they are the poisonous seeds that give birth to frivolous minds, blocked and wavering intellects, fragile and unfeeling hearts, and stubborn sanskars that work against our better judgment and kill our pure conscience bit by bit... Could there be anything more tragic than the human soul stifling its own personality, integrity and power to develop?

How ironic that on one hand, we fight for our rights for good education, better jobs, safety, enriching relationships, and yet simultaneously we are being unjust to ourselves by allowing negativity to taint the inner being...

I, the human soul, a divine point of consciousness have been entrusted with a body, mind, intellect and sanskars to enact a role and fulfill responsibilities towards my family, friends, work place, society and country. Whatever is rightfully mine will come to me at the right time and in the fair quantity but I shouldn't forget that I have to perform

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talk of the world changing from hell to heaven is a tall dream. They might say it has always been the same and nothing is going to change. Or perhaps they think God being all-powerful can do anything by magic and in a fiffy, then where is the need for Him to ask souls for their contribution? Change is as much a part of the World Drama as the present suffering is. Change is the work of God and He is presently doing it with the help of His willing, obedient children.

One day, we have the faith that the long-lost *sanskars* of deities will reign supreme. The curtain on the world stage is soon to rise to unveil the next show of the World Drama... Be ready!

(Concluded)

actions in a truthful and respectful way.

By spending regular periods of time in self-contemplation and connecting lovingly with God Almighty, I break the bondages that limit my progress and re-emerge my permanent qualities of love, wisdom, purity, bliss, joy and power. With love and discipline, I can oversee the activities of my mind, intellect and personality traits and use my thoughts, words and actions in a beneficial way. These kingly sanskars will slowly make me a leader of the self and worthy example for others.

With every Indian gradually experiencing such unique self-empowerment, my Father will definitely awaken my country 'into that heaven of freedom'...



MY TRUE LORD

– B.K. Bhabagrahi, Naharkanta, Bhubaneswar

O' Shiv Baba! Thou art my true Lord
Lord of all lords, residing in the soul-world

Rama, Krishna are deities, subject to cycle of birth
Thou Almighty, immune to it, and sorrow or mirth

When Paradise is lost, hell comes to exist
Vices reign supreme, humans become atheist

All souls grapple in darkness of ignorance
Can't find way in turmoil and turbulence

Perform worship, sing prayers, yearn for peace
Hold religious congregations for happiness and bliss

Five vices-- anger, avarice, ego, attachment and lust
Torment all beings, reach extreme, seem to burst

O' Merciful Baba! Thou bear it no more!
Descend on earth from Thy Supreme Abode

Release all souls from vices, grant them liberation
Those who obey divine orders, you gift fruition

O' Shiva Baba! Thou art my dear Lord
And transform the hell into heavenly world!

ARE YOU IN TROUBLE? CONGRATULATIONS!!



– B.K.Vinayak, **Solar Dept,
Pandav Bhawan, Mount Abu**

“Do not fear the shadow. It indicates the presence of light nearby”– Mahatma Gandhi.

Humans are always in the search of opportunity. Some people waste their complete lives dreaming about opportunities but unfortunately never get associated with it. A majority wish to become great figures or outstanding personalities *if* opportunity knocks their door. As one prefers to look at opportunities, one never likes to come across a difficulty as it is thought the latter will distance us away from good opportunities. If any challenging circumstances come, we try to escape from it, block it out of our minds, or pray to God to get rid of it.

But, the history of mankind reveals the truth that opportunity always lies in the middle of difficulty. Unfortunately, while trying to escape from it one does not realize that a golden opportunity is being missed, which could make one great.

There are several famous personalities in this world who have made obstacles or situations the device to reach their destination of greatness. We just need to turn over the pages of history to realize how a bad situation can act as a stepping stone towards success...

Attain spiritual greatness but in jail!

There are two places on earth where no one wants to go: the grave yard and the jail. It is assumed that to go to prison is nothing but dying from the society, but did you ever think a prisoner could guide society towards spirituality? Yes! He can and he has!

A young man, who took part in the revolution for freedom, got arrested by the British Government and was sent to prison. But neither did he try to escape nor did he cry endlessly over his fate. That brave man transformed the difficulty into

opportunity and gave a beautiful turn to his life. It was in jail that he was seriously awakened to the inner world. Confined to his own prison cell, he was able to practice meditation and read about the ancient principles of yoga, undisturbed by external commitments. He began to have profound experiences. He felt he was not in a prison but a place of spiritual learning. When he came out of prison he was like a treasure-store of knowledge as well as peace, and began to lead the world on the path of spirituality. **He was Maharshi Arvind Ghosh, a great Indian philosopher!**

Not a curse but a boon

Sir Thomas Alva Edison is reputed as one of the most renowned scientists in history. As a child, he used to work as a newspaper hawker in trains. One morning he did not make it aboard in time and the train started to pull away. He tried to climb up onto the steps but was not able to keep his balance. All of a sudden, a railroad worker grabbed him by his ears and hauled him up. As a result, Edison's ears got damaged and he became deaf... Alas! What an ordeal! A six-year-old kid, who had his whole life in front of him, lost one of his most valuable sense organs... Was this not a cruel act of fate? But Edison claimed his deafness

made him free from engaging with the noisy world, and thereby helped him pay attention on his inventions. He accepted the curse as a boon and a way to success. He did not look upon it as a deficiency, as that itself made him a great inventor.

Lost his own light, but lit the lives of many

A three-year-old boy, while playing in his father's workshop, accidentally got one of his eyes injured. Due to unavailability of immediate and proper medical treatment, the other eye also got infected and eventually he lost his eyesight completely. Though this seemed to be a miserable scene in the world drama, behind the stage it was preparing for an exciting scene. This boy called Louise Braille lit the lives of blind people by developing '*dotted script*', braille language, through which the blind experience the world.

On the path of spiritual effort-making, where sacrifice of vices and inculcation of divine virtues and powers is given top-most priority, it is natural for us to face different type of situations. Sometimes, when there is a lack of inculcation of knowledge in the form of powers, the effort-maker gets fed up with the situation and calls out to God for

guidance or salvation, or decides to run away from the person or place perceived as unbearable or difficult to handle. But then one forgets a very important condition of this endeavour, which is, in order to become a bead of the victory of rosary, one needs to earn the record of being victorious over test-papers and situations over a long period of time.

It is the law of this World Eternal Drama that one does not become valuable or elevated without going through tough times. Fragrance of sandalwood only emerges when it gets rubbed against stone; flowers must be dipped into boiling water to be transformed into perfumes; gold, before becoming valuable ornaments, must go through the test of fire. So, just as a sculptor hammers a stone to transform it into a worship-worthy statue, circumstances come to us not to hurt but manifest our hidden virtues as well as powers. It also gives us a chance to thread ourselves in the rosary by making us victorious.

Situations or challenges are very powerful devices that manifest our Most Beloved Father God Shiva in front of the world. The virtues and powers that emerge within us when we face situations draw everyone's

attention towards Him, the One who bestows love, strength and wisdom to make us virtuous and powerful.

Therefore, we should treat every challenge as a stepping-stone to reach our elevated destination of inner perfection. The only thing needed is a little bit of courage, but this is not difficult since our constant companion is the Almighty Authority, God Shiv Baba. In order to boost our courage and enthusiasm, He says, "Sweet children, just keep a step of courage and God will come forth a thousand steps to help you". It is also said, "The one who tolerates will become 'King of Kings'".

So, if you say that you are in trouble then congratulate yourself because rather than facing problems you are going a step ahead to manifest your greatness as well as that of God.

 **HAPPINESS** 

Happiness is not a destination, it's a journey. Happiness is not tomorrow, it is now. Happiness is not a dependency, it is a decision. Happiness is what you are, not what you have.



THE JEWEL THAT SPREAD DIVINE LIGHT

– B.K. Mam Chand Garg, Kurukshetra

Dadi Prakashmani was a jewel of Light or Knowledge. She was given the spiritual name “Prakashmani” but was also known as Kumarka Dadi. After she started following the divine path, Brahma Baba became spiritual father and guide for her. She used to shoulder great responsibilities right from her childhood. She became a great spiritual teacher as she imbibed the tremendous knowledge spoken by Incorporeal God Shiva through the corporeal medium of Brahma Baba. Gradually, the fragrance of her virtues started spreading and her power of meditation brought zeal in thousands of disheartened souls.

Born in 1922 in Hyderabad, Sindh (Pakistan), Dadi ji was a great supporter for women, the poor and the weaker sections of society. She was an embodiment of simplicity and royalty. In this selfish world, she had the natural quality of attracting everyone with her kind words and humility. Anyone who visited Madhuban,

i.e., International Headquarters of the Brahma Kumaris organization, could meet her and ask any question. She would ask the wellbeing of the participants and ensure that they were having a comfortable stay there. As she had such care and concern for all, one would really try to take spiritual guidance from such a humble and noble soul. Her generous nature was evident from the fact that she would certainly take out time to have interaction with the delegates of the ongoing conferences and seminars. Due to these sterling qualities, she had become quite popular among spiritual people and the participants of the conferences, particularly media persons. She would stroll in the courtyard of Madhuban in the morning and the evening. Anyone could meet her without seeking prior appointment.

After Brahma Baba left his mortal coil in 1969, she was appointed Chief Administrative Head of the Brahma Kumaris. She discharged this responsibility to the best of her

abilities and never compromised on principles of the organization. She was strict in maintaining discipline and she advised all to follow *shrimat* and adhere to the principle of purity. While interacting with B.K. brothers and sisters, she would always remain positive and courteous even in adverse situations. She would ask them not to worry and extended her full cooperation in overcoming their weaknesses. Her generous nature would certainly go a long way in removing the hurdles in the field of service. Her most important and unforgettable advice was to give love to all and be humble.

I had the opportunity to meet Dadiji when she was appointed Chief Administrative Head of the BKs in 1969, after Brahma Baba became *avyakt*. After that also I met her on many occasions and found her always to be positive and supportive. I also noticed one more thing that she never spoke such words that would hurt anyone or offend them. Master of a positive personality, she would always inspire others, uplifting and encouraging them. It was because of her sterling qualities of head and heart that the organisation reached new heights in all sphere of its activities.

The B.K. brothers and sisters

would express their innermost feelings before Dadiji and she used to listen to them with rapt attention. She used to give her decision instantly. She certainly had a soft corner for kumars, understood their problems and gave appropriate solutions. Many programmes of deep meditation for kumars would specially be arranged so that they could take maximum spiritual benefit. It was certainly because of her care and concern for kumars that she was called Kumarka Dadi. I feel that it is because of Dadiji that we could follow this path of Rajyoga smoothly for such a long time. I always felt myself very close to Dadiji.

When Dadiji visited Kurukshetra, I had an opportunity to attend to her. She had keen interest in cultural heritage of India and she made it a point to visit Jyotisar, near Kurukshetra, which is believed to be the holy place where *Geeta Gyan* was spoken for the benefit of mankind. She also met the *purohit* there and discussed spiritual knowledge with him. Once I went to Mount Abu to discuss some personal matter. Dadiji very carefully listened to me, gave her free and frank suggestions and offered to me that I could come and stay in Madhuban whenever I wanted and for as long as I wished. Thereafter also I got opportunity to meet her on a number of occasions and got inspiration to move fast on this spiritual path.

Her commitment and dedication got global recognition in the service of humanity and spirituality. In 1984 she was awarded a UN Peace Medal for services rendered for world peace. She was also awarded honorary Doctor of Literature Degree by Mohan Lal Sukhadia University, Udaipur, India for her outstanding contribution in the field of moral and spiritual education. She served as one of the Presidents of the Parliament of World's Religions convened in 1993.

On 25th August 2007, Dadi Prakashmani breathed her last. Prakash Stambh built in her memory in Shantivan Complex, Abu Road reminds us of her love and affection, care and concern for humanity. Dadi Prakashmani will always be remembered as a strong pillar of spirituality, universal harmony and fraternity. On this forthcoming anniversary of Dadi ji on 25th August, let's pledge to work for spreading positive vibrations to all souls of the world.. ●

My Dear Shiv Baba !

– B.K. Priyanka Sunil Udasi,
Amravati

Dear Shiv Baba, You're so bright
Have lot of light and might
You purify our sight
Teach us the things right
And take us to great height

Creator of this universe
You have various powers
In our path spread flowers
Really sweet is the love
That you always shower

One who is your follower
Stays always cheerful
Attentive and careful
In each effort successful
Happy, contented and blissful

RELATIONSHIPS

Good feelings for others are like ointments that heal wounds and re-establish friendship and relationships. Good feelings are generated in the mind, are transmitted through your attitude and are reflected through your eyes and smile. Smiling opens the heart and a glance can make miracles happen.

(Continued from July issue)

FROM SANYASI TO A RAJYOGI

– BK Bipin, Gyan Sarovar, Mt. Abu

[Born in Jharkhand State of India, B.K. Bipin had since his very childhood a strong yearning to meet God. He studied scriptures, attended satsangs and visited many ashrams in search of God. He also took sanyas and started living in an ashram for this purpose. Soon he realised that those who had renounced the world for self-awareness were trapped in vices, and his desire to meet God would not be fulfilled, as none of them had realised God. He had also strong aversion to the BKs ideology. In a dramatic turn of events, how his physical ailment became instrumental in his arrival at Mount Abu and how he became a Brahma Kumar—our esteemed readers shall read in this concluding part.

– Editor]

Once I was invited to attend the Kumbh fair held at Ujjain. I visited the fair together with other Sanyasis. The tents of the sanyasi clans were spread over large area there. Everyone was competing in showing-off his power by spending huge amount of money. As the Shipra river had dried completely, it was filled with water through pipeline and it looked like a nice lake. Everyone was supposed

to take a "Holy Dip of Kumbh" at that place to earn good fortune. On the day of main celebration, I witnessed confrontation among the top most Sanyasis of different clans for becoming the first one to take the holy dip. I felt very sad after witnessing this scene. I was embarrassed even more when I saw most of the Sanyasis taking the holy dip in a completely naked state. I was

sure that one couldn't meet God through all these things. Thereafter, I visited Mahakaleshwar and Omkareshwar and, then returned to my ashram. After seeing the strange conduct and activities of the

so called protectors of religion, I didn't like this path. I silently started praying to God saying, "Oh God, however You are, whether in a physical form or in incorporeal form, please enlighten me, and show me the right path, the path of truth..." Then I decided to leave the ashram, and do Tapasya in Himalayas. I prayed to God to show me the true path as I was no more interested in leading that sort of life.

It is true that sanyasis get lot of respect from their devotees and followers; highly established people, political leaders, ministers and government officers bow to them, but, they can't share their dilemma with anyone. My confusion was further increased by reading scriptures because they greatly differ about God, soul and other spiritual matters. The main activity in our ashram was to read the Gita everyday. But, I was not able to understand what the truth was! Somewhere God says that He doesn't take birth; and at another place He says that He exists in the form of Banyan tree, the river Ganga or in the form of the Sage Kapil. Also, elsewhere God says that He lives in a place which is beyond the physical limits of Moon, Sun and stars and where their physical light also cannot reach... and



Bipin, bearded and with long hair in the garb of a Sanyasi prior to becoming a B.K.



B.K. Bipin after becoming a Brahma Kumar

somewhere He says that He is omnipresent. I also noted many other contradictions. The sanyasis had to live in that state of ambiguity against their wish and they also had to keep the devotees in that confusion. Else, if they themselves exposed their confusion, then the devotees would no more respect them. Then how would their ashrams run? I used to ask many famous Sanyasis about their personal experience whether they had met God or if they had attained mental peace in their lives? Almost all of them used to answer that they were still searching for Him. I found them busy in criticizing others and proving that their path was the best. Some of the senior sanyasis also suggested me to join their groups. I found conflict in every corner; none was free from the five vices-Lust, Anger, Greed, Ego and Attachment. It seemed as if the contemporary religion was standing on the support of external show-off. I continued performing services in the ashram with all these confusions in mind. Around the same time, a highly learned, elderly and saintly person came to visit our Ashram. He had the degrees of MBBS and FRCS in Medicine. Besides, he had also attained the Degree of Ayurvedacharya. He had also

memorised all the Sanskrit shlokas of Vedas and other scriptures. He was a great devotee of Sri Krishna. He celebrated his birthday in our ashram among thousands of devotees. Thereafter, I met him in private and discussed about my problems and queries. On listening to those, he started criticising my Guru and suggested me to become his disciple. I couldn't sleep that night and whole night kept remembering and praying to my Guru that, being my Spiritual Teacher, he must come in front of me, and show me the right path to God; else the next morning I would leave him and become the disciple of Dr. Shivananda Goswamiji. But my prayers didn't get any result. So, the next morning secretly I became the disciple of Shivananda Goswamiji and requested him to keep this news confidential. He shared his experience that he had travelled throughout the World but couldn't meet God anywhere. So, he advised to consider every human being as Narayan (the highest deity) and respect all.

He ordered me to leave that ashram and I agreed to do so. I started preparing to leave the place. But at that time I had been feeling strong pain in my right

leg and waist for some time due to which moving around had become difficult. I had undergone various types of treatments, but nothing helped. Seeing my plight, my brother advised me to read an article in Gyanamrit, a Hindi magazine published by the Brahma Kumaris organisation, for removing pain through Rajyoga Meditation and Magnet Therapy. After reading the article, I decided to visit Mt. Abu with my brother to try out that treatment too. My mother and brother had been following the teachings of Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya for a few years. They used to arrange the visit of Brahma Kumari sisters to our ashram from time to time, so that I could take interest in Godly knowledge. But, I never listened to them. This knowledge seemed to be completely opposite to the path of devotion. My intellect couldn't accept this new knowledge. As a result, I had become averse to the Brahma Kumaris. I didn't even like someone praising them. But, as my visit to Mt. Abu was being finalised, during my prayer in the ashram, I had a vision of Brahma Baba inviting me with his open arms. It was a beautiful experience as if Brahma Baba was standing right in front of me

and the entire place was filled with golden red light and I could see everything through my open eyes. I liked this experience very much and as a result, my respect and faith towards the institution began to develop.

Finally, I left for Mt. Abu with my brother and reached the beautiful complex of Shantivan. We stayed there and the next day, we reached the Global Hospital at Mount Abu. Brahma Kumar Anil who has been serving there was familiar to us since he too hails from the same place as we do. He made all arrangements for my spiritual treatment, apart from physical treatment. I was introduced to Dr. Srimant Sahoo. I had a strong ego of my Saffron dress. Therefore, I didn't take interest in listening the spiritual knowledge and refused to take the introductory course. But I was so much impressed by amiable nature and humility of Dr. Srimant ji that gradually I started listening to the ideology of the Brahma Kumaris. I used to ask many questions in the beginning. His logical answers increased my curiosity in this knowledge. After taking lessons in Rajyoga for three days, I started believing that this knowledge is definitely being given by God Himself and this is the true knowledge which I

have been searching for throughout my life. The thought, "Oh God, finally I have found you... and from a devotee, you have made me your child ..." came repeatedly in my mind. I got the answers to all my questions and my thirst for knowledge was finally quenched. I started feeling the saffron dress of a sanyasi as a show-off. I could wait no more. And one day I silently went to the market, without telling anyone. At a barber's shop, I got my hair cut and shaved my beard which had grown over last few years. Then I bought a set of white dress and wore it. Wearing the normal dress of a Brahma Kumar, when I looked in the mirror, I initially couldn't recognise myself. In the evening, when Dr. Shrimant came to discuss the knowledge with me, even he couldn't recognise me. After sometime when he recognised me, he felt very happy. But he suggested that I should remain in the saffron dress for some more time so that I could spread the Godly knowledge and spiritual message among other sanyasis after returning to the ashram. But, I was determined to be a real child of God and follow His Shrimat completely. I said that if I continued to live in the ashram like a sanyasi, I'd have

to disobey God's Shrimat of eating pure food. It was so because none of the sanyasis used to cook in the Ashram as the cooking work was usually done by the servants who were householders.. Thus the first disobedience of Shrimat was likely to happen in the intake of pure food. Every activity in the ashram was based on body-consciousness, e.g., the worship of the guru, which is also body-consciousness. How far could I avoid confrontation with them if I decided to live with them? Since now I had found what I had been searching for so long; it was desirable for me to give up sanyas.

Finally, those fortunate moments too came for me when I met BapDada (the Supreme Soul, incorporeal God Shiva and Brahma Baba in combined form) through the medium of Rajyogini Dadi Hriday Mohini ji. When Dadiji went into trance, I couldn't see her physical body. I could clearly see Brahma Baba seated there. And then I could see a bright source of light, spreading its powerful rays. I kept looking at it for a long time. That was the time when I was experiencing the stage of complete bodilessness . I was in the blissful stage of meeting God, the experience so much

sought after by me. It was the first time in my life when I experienced the real state of bliss. I considered myself very fortunate since I could finally meet God whom the entire world is searching for.

Full to the brim with the love of God and His divine family, I didn't feel like leaving Baba's home. But, I had to leave. I reached my ashram where all inmates were highly surprised to see me in white dress and without any beard. They started asking hundreds of questions. They were not ready to listen or understand anything I tried to say. In their view, I had committed an unpardonable crime by wearing white dress and cutting the beard. They started looking down upon me; some even humiliated me by saying derogatory words. This was a moment of huge test for me because a sanyasi who used to get lot of respect was now being humiliated openly by everyone around. I just kept silently remembering my dearest Shiv Baba. Finally I said to them, "Whatever you may say, I have finally found God whom I had been searching for in my life. Now I have decided to leave the ashram by handing over all the responsibilities to you all. Please liberate me from here."

For a second, everyone was

dumbstruck on listening to my decision. As I was leaving the place, many of the sanyasis and devotee mothers and sisters had tears in their eyes. But, I was determined to live a life based totally on Baba's shrimat. My part of bhakti was over and now I had attained God as the fruit of my devotion. As I came back to my home, I found that many of my relatives and neighbours had already started gathering there. Those poor souls were unaware of this Godly knowledge and so they too were misunderstanding me. Many of them even rebuked me. I considered these things as test papers for me and kept my faith unshaken. Soon some of the relatives came up with marriage proposals and started troubling me. On the other hand, since the ashram was close to my home, everyday people would pressurize me to return to the Ashram. At times a thought came to my mind that since the people in the ashram were calling me back, why should I not go and live there as per Baba's shrimat? But, I kept visiting the local B.K. Centre everyday and listening to Baba's Murlis. On listening to Godly versions, soon all my waste thoughts were overcome. Now the heart keeps humming the song, "Even if the world tries millions of times, I

will never leave Your hand". Now I am leading a surrendered life at the International Headquarters of the Brahma Kumaris organisation, as a full-fledged child of Baba, an ever-happy Brahma Kumar.

(Concluded)

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spiritual purity and to live in body-consciousness is to lose the bliss of the Paradise of Soul-consciousness. It is moral and human duty of each one of us to become loud messengers of this message and to carve in our hearts, a universal table around which entire humanity may sit to restore to itself its paradise of purity, peace, love and happiness. We must learn to live life, abiding by the principle that we live only once but if we live right, once is enough and that what God has made us is God's gift to us, what we make of ourselves is our gift to God. Prajapita Brahma Baba, as human medium of Incorporeal Shiv Baba, provides universal spiritual platform to the entire humanity every soul of which is a co-spiritual traveller with all others on a spiritual journey.

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being burnt or destroyed due to various other reasons, including deterioration due to rains etc.. It is because of the absence or lack of these qualities of the heart that when millions of children in many parts of the world, urgently require food and are in great need of the means of education, the advanced countries are manufacturing bombs, rather than sending to them baby foods, and are making missiles rather than medicines.

Need for Revolution in Man's Relationship

There is, therefore, need for a revolution, which awakens in our mind a kind of feeling that one great family and have relationships of brothers and sisters among us. We must look after and care for each other. We can't live alone as an isolated island in an ocean. We are social beings and our sense of social justice and of being a good citizen depends upon our understanding of what relationships we have among ourselves. Our condition is not going to improve if only the love is in short supply. We must not forget that man cannot live by bread alone; he needs love and wants to express love, and it is this aspect of man's being which needs to be revolutionized.

Rakhi for a New Revolution

'Rakhi' has the potentialities of such a new revolution. Though it is only a piece of thread to look at, the spirit and the understanding with which it is tied have, indeed, seeds of a great revolution. A piece of wire has, ordinarily, no power but when an electric current runs through it, it can be used to set big wheels of a giant machine in motion. Likewise, the kind of love and the knowledge which Rakhi carries with it has more power than any other power man has for transforming a human heart. Hence, 'Rakhi' is a unique festival. The sight of sister tying Rakhi to a brother not only stirs a feeling of love and the recollection of the family bond of affection between a sister and a brother but it awakens in the mind of every spectator also the feeling of pure and universal love. If a person, who is witnessing this sight, has no sister, he would say, heaving a deep sigh: "I wish that I also had sister who would have tied a Rakhi around my wrist today." A girl who does not have a brother and boy who does not have a sister feel what a great thing it is in life to have a brother or a sister. Every brother and sister considers this day as one of the most

auspicious days and this kind of love as more refreshing. Therefore, we say that 'Rakhi' which is celebrated by tying a piece of thread and by applying a tilak - sandal or a saffron mark on the forehead - can transform the relationship between human beings.

Love in our Relationship is Necessary for Peace

We should remember that our peace and happiness are linked to our mutual relationships. If there is hatred, jealousy, feeling of vengeance, selfishness, bitterness or estrangement in our relationships, we cannot feel peaceful. It is only when there is love, amity, cooperation, consideration, attitude of help, understanding, feeling of kinship, the motive to share and the attitude of helping each other that we feel happy and we think that life is worth living. But these are the values, the feelings or the human qualities, which no industrial, agricultural or political revolution can bring about. It is only such a socio-spiritual celebration as the Raksha Bandhan that can bring change in human hearts. 'Raksha Bandhan' is an occasion not merely for gala ceremonies or festivities but for renewing and reawakening these qualities of ours, and re-strengthening these holy bonds.

Goodwill and Love are Our Best Protection and Security

We must bear it in mind that we may have the mightiest of weapons and greatest of armies, the most experienced of all generals, the most brilliant scientists who can give us newer and newer means of protecting ourselves and destroying our enemy, but no one can be sure that these would work as an unbreakable defence system and impenetrable means of protection. Let us remember, therefore, that there is no greater security than that which lies in goodwill and friendship. One cannot disarm nations by diplomatic negotiations or by passing resolutions but only by extending one's hand of amity to those whom one has been looking at as one's adversary. So, let us make preparations to kill the enmity rather than the enemies, to destroy the weapons rather than destroy the segments of society with weapons. All this requires a revolutionary change in heart, a change in relationships, and Raksha Bandhan can bring about this change.

May the whole world - not India alone - celebrate 'Raksha Bandhan' in this spirit!

UNDERSTANDING OUR REAL SIGNIFICANCE

– **B.K.Archana.M.Das**, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

Many a time we are unable to realize our own importance and lead a life of misery, sorrow and suffering. If we understand our true worth and the importance of our significant role, we cannot only lead a happy and peaceful life, but can also be instrumental in development and progress of many other persons in the society.

Recently I read a story about a man who lived in a tiny apartment and died in extreme poverty. At one point in his life, he had been homeless, living on the streets. This man never had any success to speak of, nor any noted victories. He lived and died as just another face in the crowd.

After the funeral, some family members went to his little run-down apartment to clear out his belongings. They found a painting hanging on the wall which they decided to sell. The woman who bought the picture took it to a local art gallery for an appraisal and was shocked to know that the painting was extremely valuable. The piece of art that hung for so many years in a little run-down apartment had been painted by a famous artist who lived in the early 1800s. The woman decided to auction off that painting and ended up selling it for several million dollars!

Just think of how the poor man's life might have changed if he had known the value of what he possessed. He was a multi-millionaire and didn't even know it! So many people today are living with priceless treasures inside, and they don't even know it. Sometimes we have to appraise what is on the inside of us to really understand what we have. Don't settle for living a mediocre existence. You are a masterpiece created by the most famous artist of all, but if you don't understand your value, you will go on thinking, 'I'm just average, I'm not talented, I've made so many mistakes'. Don't allow those negative thoughts to play in your memory box.

Remind yourself: "I am an important soul, handpicked by God, and I am a person of extreme value and significance". We are God's masterpiece that means we are not average; we are one kind of original. See yourself as original. When you understand your value not only who you are, but also whom you belong to --then you will love more and you will love the souls around you in a better way. Every actor in this eternal drama is unique. You are not meant to be like everyone else. You are designed the way you are for a purpose. Realize it!!!! You are an extremely valuable soul!

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