

Dadi Janki's visit to Nairobi
23rd – 26th September 2011

Serve Africa Retreat centre was buzzing with a new found energy with nearly 70 workmen brimming and exerting their innate skills from carpentry, plumbing to interior designing, painting and most importantly preparing the whole Retreat centre for the imminent Inauguration Ceremony which was going to take place in less then two weeks by the auspicious hands of our beloved Dadi Jankiji.



Though, the Brahma Kumaris Global Museum was originally built and inaugurated by our adored Dadi Gulzar in 1991, the current thrill was because the Global Museum was finally dragged into the 21st century and converted to a beautiful Serve Africa Retreat Centre with tastefully decorated rooms that could accommodate nearly 40 guests with en-suite bathrooms and fully equipped

dinning area & many small to medium course and seminar rooms.

Finally the much waited day arrived. The air was filled with eager exhilaration as Dadi Janki, Hansaben and Anandbhai (Gyan Sarovar) were arriving in less then one hour! Everyone felt the eagerness and excitement that Dadi Janki was specially making time in her ever busy schedule to inaugurate the Serve Africa Retreat Centre in Nairobi - Kenya.



Angels had descended in every corner of the Retreat Centre as last minute preparations were going on. The scene was delightful. The fragrance of roses had filled the whole Retreat Centre, as exquisite fresh flower arranged were placed around in all corners of the centre.

Even though meticulous planning had gone in preparations for the arrival of Dadi and 140 guests, certain conditions are still out of our control. An 18 kilometer journey took more than 3 hours to complete due to a grid-lock on the airport highway, but Brahmins transform any challenge into advantage and therefore it became an opportunity for intense tapasya.



Two souls on behalf of all present welcomed & escorted Dadi's car with a picturesque welcome banner from the main road till the gates of the retreat centre. Each and every soul felt part of the celebration as they were standing in single-file two neat lines on the either side of the red carpet, dressed in their national costumes receiving drishti while showering multi colored rose petals as Dadiji walked. The

atmosphere was filled with music, excitement, laughter and local singing. Dadi shared the four habits that bring the world into an impure state. Corruption being the most damaging habit; the other three are Criticism, Comparison & Competition. The habit of Criticism stops one's progress and hence she encouraged everyone to check themselves.



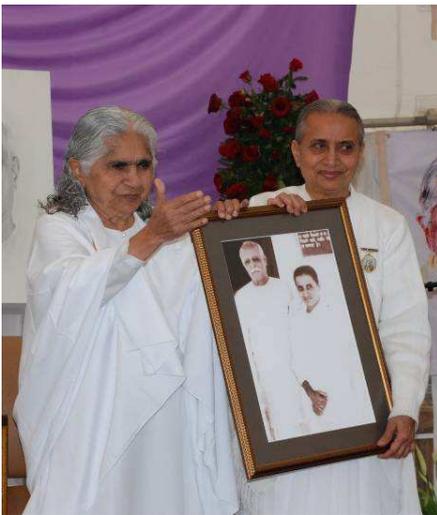
The evening welcome program was held at the Serve Africa Retreat Centre Auditorium where Dadi, Hansaben and Anandbhai walked through the aisle of young mothers all dressed in white outfits standing on each side holding candles with the song 'Vande matram' playing in the background. The welcome evening progressed with song sung by Jyotin (a talented local artist) and graceful dance performed by Divya (who specially travelled from the UK). The highlight of the evening for Dadi Janki was when some souls shared their experiences and their journey as a Brahmin.

On the 24th Sept 2011, a special evening was planned for invited dignitaries & professional guests on Overcoming the Coping Game. The function was well attended by 150 personages. The evening started with a beautiful dance by young girls from Kamini School of dancing. Dadi shared wisdom on discerning thoughts into Negative, Waste, Weak & Positive.

The day of Inauguration arrived with zeal and Zest with 750 people participating in the festivities. Everyone was entertained by Becky Sangolo and her companions who sang an inspiring song titled *Give Peace a Chance*.

The event was well attended by many influential dignitaries and among them was the Member of Parliament: Honorable Martha Karua - MP for Gachoka.

Followed by introductions from souls from various countries viz; Australia, Bahrain, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Congo Rep, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea Conakry, Holland, India, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Reunion, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Switzerland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, UAE, UK, USA, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Souls had travelled from local towns of Kenya - Mombasa, Thika, Nakuru, Gilgil, Narok, Kisumu, and Eldoret.



Sr Vedanti, the Regional Coordinator of Africa shared her experiences of serving in Africa and was presented a surprise gift by Dadi Janki of her photo with the founder Brahma Baba with the song “Tuje dekhkar ...” which made her very emotional .

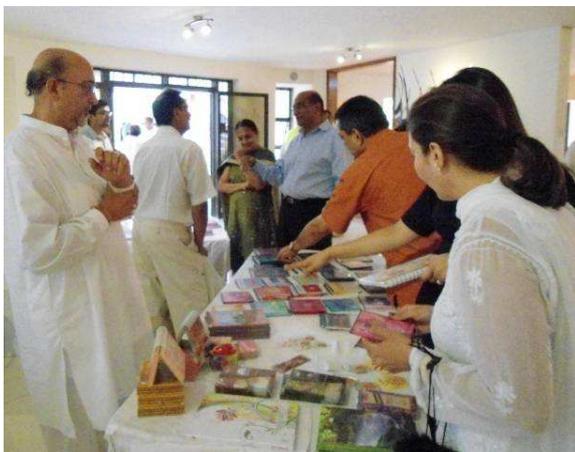


The celebrations continued with a dance by a Family Community Based Org called “*Jericho*”. The inspirational talk from Br Markus from South Africa and Mr Mike Eldon marked half way of the program followed by a dance from Kamini School of dancing and Nizarbhai shared, who has been closely associated with the Brahma Kumaris for the past 20 yrs. Before the Unveiling of plaque and cake cutting Sister Nita from South Africa conducted a meditation commentary which created a very powerful atmosphere of silence.

Dadi Janki accompanied by Vedantiben, Nizarbhai, Hon Martha Karua, Pratibhaben & some distinctive guests walked a short distance to the plaque stand, which was gloriously decorated with fresh red and white roses & officially marked **The Serve Africa Retreat Centre** as opened while unveiling the plaque.



The doors to the retreat centre flung open to all guests, who were welcomed to tour around the whole building while enjoying lunch & refreshments. Guest left with variety of mouth watering tolis packed in a stunning white box, an engraved virtue (gratitude) stone & a blessing card as take-away gifts to use over and over again. Dadi Janki inspired all to be light and spread their light of love wherever one went.





The evening ended with Dadi Janki gathering the tireless service departments, groups and Sevadharies (helpers) to share her appreciation for all the diligence & love shown by all. She said that the harmonious and smooth operation happens when there is unity and unity comes when there is humility. She summarized by saying that this group is Satoguni (highly virtuous) hence the vibrations are of Love, Peace and Co-operation are omnipresent.

As all merriment has to come to an end, the farewell program took place with an enchanting evening with lots of dancing and singing. The evening ended with a bang when Dadi got so touched by her favorite song "*chalte chalte*" that she immediately got up to dance as the song started and sent a wave of happiness among all, who started dancing forgetting everything else!



In Sangum Yuga every second is used valuably, the Foundation stone for the Serve Africa retreat Tower was placed by Dadi Janki before departing for her onward journey to Mauritius.

Om Shanti.

Nairobi Family