

## *Dadiji was very positive & was always open to new ideas*

*Dr BK Nirmala, Australia*

*I came to know Dadiji in 1964 when she was appointed as co-ordinator of Mumbai branch. She was a kumari but had many motherly qualities; she was very loving, caring and sacrificing. She was also very humble and had great interest in all yagya activities. Dadiji used to visit different centers, countries and of course, Madhuban, the headquarters.*

*In the Brahma Kumaris, a leader does not just take responsibility for spiritual aspects but is also involved in administration and managing household activities such as buying grains, fruits and vegetables, and general stock, the maintenance of buildings and gardens, Dadiji always knew what was in stock. She also knew a lot about construction. She kept tabs on the price of a square feet of land, how much it cost to make different types of tolis. Following in Brahma Baba's footsteps, she used to visit the kitchen and construction sites every day.*

*Brahma Baba was a unique teacher and trainer. He trained many senior teachers and trainers such as Jagdish Bhaiji, Ramesh Bhaiji, Nirwair Bhaiji and Brij Mohan Bhaiji. All the dadis had in-house training for 14 years on the subjects of knowledge, yoga and dharna. It was Brahma Baba who established the administration model and Dadiji who followed it.*

*She had numerous administration specialities. Perhaps, the most prominent of these were:*

- a) She was readily available to listen to suggestions and complaints.*
- b) She would create plans with the other 2 administrative heads and senior brothers. She would then present those ideas in front of the full gathering of staff before implementing them.*
- c) She regularly visited each department and held meetings with them.*
- d) She was action orientated and plans were implemented immediately.*
- e) Like a mother, she would take the staff for picnics, to play games and on tours of nearby cities.*
- f) Because of her friendly and loving nature, whenever she would make a request or ask for something to be done, everyone would do it immediately, even if they had to sacrifice rest, food or comfort.*

*Dadiji shared the responsibility of looking after various departments with individuals. She personally trained those individuals, trusted them and gave them the authority to co-ordinate departments.*

*Dadiji was very positive in every aspect. She was always open to new ideas. She would suggest experimenting with new ideas on a small scale to see how they worked before implementing them. In this way, all BKs felt listened to and inspired. Her sanskara of inclusiveness gave everyone a sense of belonging.*

*She was not only a good administrator, she gave good lectures and had a charismatic personality. Her inspirational tours to various cities and overseas helped local teachers promote the teachings of the BKs and VIPs came closer to the BKs.*

*In India, one senior sister was appointed in each zone as zone-in-charge to oversee activities in the various zones. Dadis with over 30 years of experience were sent to Calcutta, Delhi, Kanpur, Bangalore, Chennai, Indore, Bhopal, Amritsar, Mumbai, etc. Through exhibitions lectures and seminars service expanded a great deal during the 60's and 70's.*

*Dadiji loved to meet people. She would sit in the courtyard every day and answer even the smallest questions. Many sought her guidance in all aspects of life.*

*After Brahma Baba became avyakt in January 1969, Didi Manmohini and Dadiji started training of kumaris to empower and inspire them. At that time many kumaris surrendered which, in turn, helped service expand.*

*One of Dadiji's specialities was her balance of love and law. Once two brothers had a conflict and one hit the other in the meditation room. The way Dadiji dealt with the situation was to call senior Madhuban Niwasis and ask them if the brother who hit the other should be sent to his home. Only when everyone agreed, was he sent home. Dadiji would sometimes correct someone but afterwards would not carry on thinking about it but would maintain pure vision.*

*When I first traveled overseas, Dadiji gave a grand farewell. On my return, they gave a grand welcome. When I first went to New Zealand, I stayed in the homes of various contact souls. Living in such an environment was challenging. When I wrote my experience to Dadiji, she replied saying, "You are like a lioness who moves around alone whereas elephants move in herds." This letter of praise and encouragement helped me to stay overseas and establish new centers despite the challenges of unfamiliar environment and culture.*

## *Her Message was Her Life*

**BK Charlie, Australia**

*It was very early on the morning of the 22 August 2007 that we heard that Dadiji was in a coma and unlikely to survive. I was in Sydney, a 14 hour flight and a 4 hour car ride away from Mt Abu but immediately I had the pull to go but it was not until I sat in meditation at 4am the next morning I finally decided to go. I packed, booked my ticket at 9am and flew at 11.30am the same morning.*

*I arrived in Shantivan the next morning 24th August and as soon as the car stopped we went to see Dadiji in her cottage. There was a very sweet silence in the atmosphere and Dadiji was so still, breathing slowly like the sleeping beauty. Dadi Gulzar and others were sitting quietly in the room. In Diamond Hall there was continuous yoga going on and it felt like to whole of Shantivan was immersed in this sweet silence.*

*The next morning it was the 25th August. Class had just finished and I saw Nirwair bhai who told me to visit Dadiji. She was breathing lightly and just seemed beyond but I noticed the machines beside her bed registering her blood pressure and other medical functions were fluctuating quite significantly. I went for breakfast and then returned to Dadiji's cottage where now thousands of brothers and sisters had congregated outside. All the senior brothers and sisters suddenly began to arrive and rush inside. We all know what was happening inside.*

*Eventually I also went inside into Dadiji's room. It was a scene that I will never forget. It is etched on my memory track. Around Dadiji's bed were her companions and friends of seventy years, Dadi Janki, Dadi Gulzar, Dadi Ratan Mohini, Dadi Manohar Indra, Mohiniben, Muniben, the senior brothers and more. I notice all the machines were now registering zero. Dadiji had flown. Everyone stood so quietly. The silence was stronger than ever. The feeling was one of such great reverence, of profound respect, and a purity of love that only Dadiji drew from all.*

*Over the next few days the tributes flowed from all comers of the world. From the BK family; from the Leaders of India; from Religious leaders; from the residents of Abu Rd and Mt Abu; from the workers and the ordinary village folk; from everyone. What was in Dadiji that drew such profound love and total respect from everyone? Each one had a personal story to share of how Dadiji made them feel special, how she included them, how she valued them, how she helped them, how she always showed respect. She touched hearts everywhere and won universal love and respect. At every moment her drishti of love and her radiant smile transformed the atmosphere and uplifted everyone. I remember Dadiji once shared how much she valued the blessings of the divine family and how she was careful not to lose the blessings of even one. She said the blessings of the hearts of others was like a power that helped her move forward. Once Baba said if you want to become full of all virtues become a Bestower of respect. This was Dadiji's life. She gave everyone unshakeable respect and received it from all.*

*In the early 1990's I was part of a small team making a film about the Dadis called Women of Spirit. In New York we interviewed Dr James Jonah who was Under Secretary General of the United Nations for Political affairs at the time. This meant that he interacted on behalf of the Secretary General, with many*

of the World's leaders during the Reagan and Gorbachov era. I asked him of all the leaders he had met who was the most impressive. Immediately he answered "Dadi Prakashmani". He said that Dadiji's leadership was not by cleverness and force but by the example of her own life. He said that this leadership wins the trust of all around and today we have lost trust in our leaders because what they say and what they do are different. He went on to say that Dadiji's words were reflected in her actions and how this was the leadership that inspired people and what was needed in our world. Once Albert Sweitzer was asked about effective leadership and he said "Example is not the best form of leadership it is the only form of leadership". By observing Dadiji we could see what was the result of Baba's teachings and where our study was leading us.

After Dadiji's passing there were many bhog messages. In many of these messages Dadiji gave us two special gifts in the form of self respect and respect. When Brahma Baba passed away he summarised his efforts with the words incorporeal, viceless and egoless but it seemed these two gifts were Dadiji's message of what took her to the highest stage of a living angel. Her natural purity created such an easy self respect that was so attractive. A good leader creates self respect in himself or herself but a great leader creates self respect in others. Once a group of us were sitting and chatting with Dadiji asking her experience of managing such a huge yagya with so many different personalities. She told us first I listen then I teach. When others feel listened to they will listen to you. She then went on to say I give freedom to everyone I don't try and control anyone. She explained when you give freedom, others will come close naturally and they will want to listen to your ideas and opinions. If you try to control others you push them away and they will never listen to your ideas and opinions from the heart. She also said that I trust everyone. She consciously invested trust in everyone as that brought them close. Finally she said I give good wishes and pure feelings to all. The power of this pure attitude of Dadiji created unity in the entire Brahmin family. This attitude of respect for all brought everyone together and showed us an example of how to have divine and soul conscious relationships.

Dadiji's unshakeable self respect was the foundation of her humility. On her first visit to Sydney in 1977 we had a big public event at Sydney University. It was the first such event we had in Australia and so afterwards we returned to the centre a little tired. Dadiji noticed and proceeded to the kitchen to cook and serve us all soup with so much love. How many who are heads of big international institutions would serve in such a way. A sister from Mumbai was telling us her experience of Dadiji's humility. She came into gyan as a girl and attended the centre where Dadiji lived in Mumbai. Only a few years before Baba became avyakt a group from the centre took a train to Madhuban to meet Baba.

When they arrived at the station there was one less ticket to the number travelling, so it meant that one of them had to sit on a bag of grain between the seats. As she was the youngest she sat on the bag. In the middle of the night Dadiji woke up and saw this 17 year old girl sitting on the bag of grain. Seeing this Dadiji gave her bed to the young sister and sat up all night on the bag of grain remembering Baba. This was only a few years before Baba appointed her to be the head of the Institution.

Dadiji was so great yet so humble. Dadiji never felt she was the head of the institution. She had such a deep feeling that she was just an instrument and Baba is doing everything. Once I asked her if she would visit Australia and she answered "If Baba gives Dadiji permission she will come but if Baba does not give

*permission, Dadiji cannot come". She talked about herself in the third person like it was just a role, a part she was playing. She had no sense of position or importance that made her feel superior but she always had the feeling I am an instrument, I am a server. I think this egolessness was why Baba trusted her so much. She did not use the position to create her self respect like most leaders do today but her self respect made her a natural leader.*

*Dadiji was a living bouquet of virtues but I always loved her sense of humour. On my first visit to Madhuban in 1975 we were meeting Baba in the History Hall. All the personal meetings had finished and the Seniors were chatting with Baba. Dadiji then told me to speak to Baba in Hindi.*

*As I dont know Hindi she would speak a phrase and I would repeat it to Baba. She said in Hindi " Baba I love you" and I would repeat. Then "Baba, I looked for you for so long and now I have found you" and I would repeat. Then Dadiji said something which I again blindly repeated and everyone laughed and laughed including Baba. Dadiji said in Hindi "Baba, I am a monkey" and I looked in Baba's eyes and repeated it with so much love. It was all in good fun. Dadiji carried herself with so much dignity as a leader but in a second could become a playful child. Dadiji has moved on but her example lives so strongly in my heart.*

*Her life was her message.*



## *Dadiji was truly a great spiritual leader*

**BK Brijmohan, New Delhi**

*I always felt very close to Dadiji, I think everyone felt that way with her. Dadi Prakashmaniji made each person of this divine family feel as if he or she was the most valuable, worthy soul; she could give everyone the feeling that they were very special. Everyone was special in her eyes and that is why she never gave special gifts or toil (prasad) exclusively to anyone.*

*She never found fault with anyone but always encouraged and appreciated the specialities of others. Whenever people visited Madhuban (Mt. Abu) she took great care that they are satisfied and staying comfortably. She personally saw to it that everyone had good physical and spiritual sustenance. She played a perfect role as the head of the spiritual family.*

*Dadiji was completely egoless. As the chief of such a large spiritual organization she exercised her authority with great humility. She always reminded others that it was Baba's (God's) work and He was getting everything done. She crossed all challenges with complete faith and surrender to Baba.*

*She was a charismatic spiritual ambassador. She traveled worldwide and met numerous heads of state and leaders from different walks of life with whom she shared the message of peace. Her spiritual charm gave them all in instant feeling of spiritual bonding and pure love. She was truly a great spiritual leader.*

□

*Dadiji a woman fearlessly lived the life of Truth*

**BK Mohini, New York**

*One of the most beautiful praises of God is that He is Satyam, Shivam, Sundaram. It means He is Truth, the Benefactor, and the most beautiful.*

*These three qualities and the experience of these qualities keeps coming in my heart when I think of Dadi Prakashmani. Dadiji one time stood up in a very big gathering and said "I can say that I have never spoken a single lie in life". The audience was spell bound but the way it was spoken everyone in the audience acknowledged this truth with grace.*

*During various situation in life there is always the possibility of adulterating the truth with some excuses and reasons. Here this woman fearlessly lived the life of Truth: Truth in thoughts, words, actions and all relationships. It definitely left a big impact on the lives of many of us.*

*Her pure unconditional love always made her the image of one who will always bring benefit in people's lives. She was benevolent leader. Her heart was generous and full of compassion. It was very simple for*

*her to forgive. She always had a very pure vision towards everyone. She always created friendship. She was good friend even to the elements.*

*Beauty was radiant in her personality. Her eyes always were sparkling with love and beauty. She would make everyone feel beautiful. Her natural quality of giving respect to everyone was coming from her own self respect. Dadiji was natural.*

*From these three qualities she served every moment of her life. Life and service were very much integrated. This also made her image of simplicity and solutions. We would often walk in her room with some questions and problems. She will simplify everything and make us find practical solutions.*

*She was very creative, full of pure energy and ever-ready for unlimited action plans. She was able to manage the vastness of a task with great confidence and ease.*

*She was a leader who always reminded us that for creating peace, you need to be peaceful. Different leaders from all walks of life like politicians, religious leaders, etc. were very inspired and bowed in front of her with respect. She was loving but detached. She was firm but also very flexible. A leader who guided through her life as an example.*

*Thinking of Dadiji' creates a flow of beautiful energy in me.*

*My salutations to Dadiji.*

☺

# THE SMILES SHE LEFT BEHIND

By Uncle, Aunty and their family, Trinidad

Dadi Prakashmani was like a diamond with many facets. Every smile left an indelible impact on the lives of those she touched. The radiance of her smile exuded the coolness of her character, and it drew others into the soothing comfort of care and compassion. The brilliance of her smile shone through the magnetic attraction of her eyes, revealing the many sides of love free from selfish attachments and beyond the reach of 'I' and 'mine.'

Dadi was a leader and a mother. She led with an open heart and an open mind. However her greatest genius was her smiles. Her smiles revealed the light of new understanding.

Dadi has been an integral part of our family ever since we first met her in 1976. Over the years, we have had the privilege to share many meaningful experiences with her. Below are some inspired moments and cherished smiles that make her immortal presence a living legend.

## HER EVERLASTING SMILE ...

—Uncle Steve Naraine

"I remember Dadi most for her faith in God. During the period when I served as the High Commissioner of Guyana to India Dadi would invite me to the coordinating committee dealing with international affairs meeting in Mt. Abu every year. At this meeting many different ideas were generated regarding world service and the direction that it should take. Dadi's presence was outstanding and her outlook was pleasant. Whenever a situation arose in the meetings where there was a disagreement and something was said out of the way, Dadi would respond with a wide smile. Without saying anything the smile reflected such love to the people involved that they would take courage and strength from her smile and correct themselves.

After days of discussions and final agreement decided on, and everyone thought that a firm plan was developed, Dadi would say: "let's hear what Baba has to say." She would ask Dadi Gulzar to go to Baba and get a response as to whether this is the path to pursue. Every time this happened I saw her as a true instrument of God and how important it was for her to pursue the direction of service according to the plan of God.

The remarkable thing was that the 100 or so people attending the meeting never questioned her and would wholeheartedly support her pursuit of getting the final decision from Baba. This, I feel has been the remarkable success of growth of the organization.

The smile that touched me the deepest, was at the end of her time with us when she was very ill and I visited her in Shantivan in her cottage. She looked deep into my soul and offered me a piece of toli (sweet) and then she gave me a wide smile and asked me to break off a piece of the same toli and feed her. Our eyes were locked in sweet drishti, and our smiles were broad and wide and time stood still. Such remarkable closeness can never be forgotten nor can it be described. It was as if we both realized that it was the last meeting in this present life and what she was leaving behind with me was her everlasting smile."



HER HOLINESS DADI PRAKASHMANI



### HER LOVING SMILE ...

–Aunty Betty Naraine

“It is difficult to describe how it actually happens. One look into her eyes and our hearts would open to receive the abundance of love that was flowing through her whole being. The love of her soul flowed through her eyes. And her eyes showed us the emergence of a golden dawn full of newness. We felt as if her heart was touching our hearts. It was something so magical – her soul actually smiled!

She took with her smiles, and she gave with her smiles. Her smile took all our mental and emotional burdens and burnt them with the fire of her love leaving us free and light. And her smile relaxed our minds and hearts with the assurance that everything was easy and the impossible would become the possible.

She was called the Chief Administrative Head, but her leadership skills were all from the heart. She led the organization with the power of love.”



*Unlce and Aunty meeting with Avykt BaapDada*

### HER RADIANT SMILE ...

–Savi Naraine

“Dadij’s smile was one of a kind. It started from her eyes and moved slowly down to her cheeks making her face sparkle like a diamond. Her smile was like an energy that pulled you into her heart and gave the comfort of love, strength, and most of all, the experience of divinity. Her smile spoke volumes, and along with that special twinkle in her eyes, she pulled you not to herself but to her combined form of being with BaapDada. Her smile had the pride of a deity and the innocence of a child, a very rare combination indeed.

I cherish the beautiful moments spent with her and whenever I think of her I see her radiant smiling face, and twinkling eyes sneaking me with her into the intimacy of God’s world, a world of peace, beauty, and love.’

### HER ANGELIC SMILE ...

–Sita Naraine

“Her smile exuded the brightness of a million stars shining around an angel and yet you can experience the ‘landscape smiling in the sunlight.’

Her hug was like having the rainbow wrapped around you.

Her laughter had the ring of a child, but as her eyes closed, which was so peculiar in her case, I experienced her shutting out the physical world and enveloping me in the inner world of her heart and seating me on God’s heart throne.”

### HER PLAYFUL SMILE ...

–Gayatri Naraine

“The anticipation was high and it kept rising higher as the ticking of the clock counted down the moments to Dadi’s arrival. It was her first visit to Guyana, and she and her entourage were nearing the center from the airport. The street was lined with people waiting to welcome her. And the steel band

players stood poised to play Indian music on Caribbean pans. I stood at the top of the stairs anxiously observing the excitement down below. My job was simple. I had to pull a string attached to a folded piece of cloth hanging from a canopy holding rose petals. The idea being that before Dadi entered the building of the center she would be showered with rose petals at the threshold.

She began to climb the stairs and with each step she took, my nervousness grew with the persistent thought: “would this string thing work?” I timed her well and as soon as she was standing at the threshold under the cloth, I pulled the string and waited. There were no rose petals. My nervousness took over and I kept pulling harder on the string. Still nothing happened. Dadi stood there quietly looking at me – at the horror and embarrassment on my face.

Then she smiled. And her smile started playing with me. She looked up at the cloth still holding the rose petals and then back at me, a couple of times and each time her smile was more playful with a tinge of amusement. Everyone started laughing and the tension evaporated. Her playfulness made an otherwise awkward moment into a very funny one.

Later that night, when most of the guests had left she took me by the hand and led me back to the spot at the top of the stairs. She took the string and gave it a jerk and out came the rose petals tumbling down on both of us. By this time we were all joyfully laughing.”

Dadi saw life as a seamless whole and the world as a manifestation of God’s family. As a spiritual leader every imprint of her life offered this highest realization as she led from the authority of her experiences and the recognition of the benefit of every scene of the drama. As a world mother her role as a spiritual leader offered the opportunity to love, to serve, and to give.

May this article ignite the precious moments you shared with our beloved Dadi Prakashmani.



## **Dadi Prakashmaniji was concerned about welfare of everyone - BK Shashiji, Madhuban**

Those who had the beautiful fortune of meeting Dadiji know clearly that Dadiji is a treasure-store of specialities. Just like Sakar Baba, one of the most striking qualities of Dadiji is her vast, ocean-like heart and the pure love she has for Baba, the yagya, Brahmin family and all of humanity.

### **DADI'S SUPPORTING FAITH IN ME**

I began residing in Pandav Bhawan in 1974, then on Dadiji became instrument to help me progress in my spiritual life. There were many times when Dadiji entrusted me with responsibility for a new task. As I was fairly new, I would not be sure what to do and so I would openly tell Dadiji, "Dadi, you have given me this task but I don't know how to carry it out". Dadiji would reply, "Baba and Dadi have faith in you and know you will be able to do it". Dadi's faith was the guiding force through which I developed arts and skills on the service field.

### **DADI'S ACCOMMODATING HEART**

Beside other services, I was given duty of arranging accommodation for our foreign students and guests. Dadiji would love to invite souls to Madhuban but there were times when accommodation would get filled up, and there wouldn't be space for foreigners or guests. I once had asked Dadiji, "There isn't suitable space here so why are more guests being invited?" Dadiji's reply was, "This is Baba's home, things are possible, just big-heart is required". With adjustment and re-arranging, everyone used to settle down comfortably. There were several times when Dadiji herself would personally see that the halls were properly set up.

### **DADI'S HUMILITY AND LOVING INTERACTION WITH JUNIORS**

Dadiji had once hosted a gathering for Religious Heads, Mahatmas and Saints in Pandav Bhawan. During their stay, Dadiji met the great souls individually in her Meeting Room. I once took a Mahamandleshwar to Dadiji. Dadiji made me sit next to her during the meeting, which was noticed by the Mahamandleshwar. He was touched by this gesture and later told Dadiji: "In our ashrams, neither a disciple nor any junior is permitted to sit by our side, at our level. Moreover, they need to be seated at a distance of few feet. But I just saw how comfortable you are with the younger sister sitting next to you. This made me realise the greatness of sustenance bestowed by Baba and the Dadis. This genuine love is the key to progress and expansion. Soul-conscious love and equal respect for all are the greatest virtues. I now understand how big-hearted and far-sighted Baba was and how the Dadis are following Him perfectly."

Dadiji never ordered anyone to carry out a task but would always initiate it herself, begin the task and inspire others to cooperate. When Om Shanti Bhawan was being built in 1982-83, the entire rocky mountain area had to be cleared which was a huge and difficult task. Dadiji would often visit the site to build up everyone's enthusiasm and dedication towards the project.

### **DADI'S INTEREST IN SPORTS & RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Apart from being excellent in spiritual knowledge and yoga, Dadiji was always interested in sports and entertaining activities. Dadi knew the importance of leading a balanced life and paid attention to keeping the body fit as well. Despite her age, Dadi was active and believed that we have to keep both mind and body healthy.

Dadi would play badminton and even cricket at times. Dadi would often make programmes for all of us to go to Peace Park to play games and engage in other recreational activities. Dadi was very spontaneous in planning such outing. Not only would Dadi join us in the games, but she made sure everyone was present and participating as well. Dadi's enthusiasm was always on a high. We once held a Sports Competition of the Niwasis in Peace Park and Dadiji motivated everyone to participate in any game. Dadi spent so many hours with us on that day ensuring that everyone had a good time.

Dadiji also taught us to enjoy the beauty of nature in every season; she would sweetly remind us to become rivers of knowledge, ever-flowing to quench the spiritually-thirsty souls. During monsoon season, Dadiji would call us all of a

sudden and tell us to get ready as we were going on a picnic to see the waterfalls etc. It would be a beautiful feeling of togetherness and family love.

#### DADI'S ADMINISTRATIVE SKILLS PAR EXCELLENCE

Dadiji never saw herself as an 'administrator'. She always considered the yagya to be foremost a family. Before beginning any task or assignment, Dadiji would first invite the main coordinators of the concerned departments for a meeting. She would present the whole task before them and take their opinions and suggestions. Having considered all aspects and hearing everyone's thoughts, Dadiji would go ahead with the best decision.

Despite being senior in age and position, Dadiji remained ever-light with her juniors. Dadiji understood everyone's specialities and distributed the service accordingly. Dadiji felt it was important that everyone was involved and no one was left out.

#### DADIJI'S ACCURATE FLOW OF COMMUNICATION

I am very grateful to Dadiji for having taught me the art of communication. Her system of being clear with service companions was really phenomenal. Dadiji would directly communicate with instruments who were involved in a particular service, give them directions and then follow up to see that everything was going smoothly. This is the reason why every project became successful under Dadiji's guidance. Dadi never said, "Dadi has done this and that" – Dadiji always said, "It's Baba's wonder, and He is doing everything".

Living in Pandav Bhawan for so many decades, I was able to receive perfect training from Dadiji. The faith she had in juniors enabled them to grow and improve. Dadiji never kept anyone's weaknesses in mind, but always merged situations like an ocean and forgave souls if they realized their mistakes.

#### DADI'S GENEROUS AND CARING NATURE

Dadiji respected and looked after everyone – whether elderly or young, senior or junior, cleaners/labourers or VIP guests. Dadi's heart was so clean and clear that it could merge anyone in it. There was a time when I had slight pain in my arm; when Dadi heard about this, she instantly took out the sweater she was wearing and made me wear it! She could really tap into the hearts of juniors. Her loving behavior was so heart-warming and filled my eyes with tears of love.

Dadi was always concerned about welfare of anyone coming or living in Baba's home or centres. She would also ask about the workers, maids and cleaners, see that they were all right.

#### DADI MADE US TO FEEL VERY CLOSE TO BABA & YAGYA

Dadiji appreciated us being honest with her. We would often meet Dadiji during the day and evenings to share whatever had happened in service or amongst companions. In this way, we were able to get Dadi's advice and her faith in us increased. Many times, I would be pulled to go meet Dadiji and she would say, "I was just thinking about you, and you have come. Was it my thoughts that attracted you or your love pulling me?"

Dadiji taught me that when our thoughts and mind are clean and clear we can have powerful yoga with Baba, secondly come closer to the seniors and thirdly, experience Baba's canopy of protection constantly. I never thought or expected I would be doing service so closely with the Dadis or senior instruments, but Dadi's powerful vision and her faith in me helped developed faith in myself and Brahmin life. I remain ever-grateful to Dadiji for nurturing me so lovingly.

Dadiji's far-sightedness and nature of being unlimited in vision, attitude and service was the main reason how service expanded not only in Madhuban, but Bharat and abroad also.

### **Magic touch of a Farishta - BK Vijayaji, Gulbarga**

Even today I remember the first time I met Dadi Prakashmaniji, it was March 1977.

We travelled to Madhuban by train, in those days train journey was not much comfortable. I was much tired due to long journey. We had been called to history hall to meet Dadiji. We all were sitting in the hall for sometime. Dadiji entered the hall, she waved hand with lot of smile on her face. When I saw Dadiji automatically my tiredness went away and I started feeling fresh.

When my turn came, I slowly walked towards Dadiji and suddenly felt that I was walking towards an Angel. When Dadiji touched my head with lot of love I had a feeling that a Farishta had touched me. Dadiji took my hand gave the Toli, drishti and bestowed love on me. Many a time Baba mentioned Farishta swaroop in Murali but I had never imagined I would meet a Farista in real life.

In the year 1980 Dadiji came to Gulbarga Sevakendra. In those days Gulbarga centre was housed in a small building with five rooms. We were rather hesitant to bring Dadiji to a small place like that. There were no sofa, no dining table. But Dadiji never made us to feel that it was too small place for a big personality. She was happy and made us happy. She entered the kitchen and praised us for keeping a well arranged kitchen. Dadiji and Mohini bahenji had took meals by sitting in class room and said that the food was very tasty.

Dadi asked us to organise the Global Cooperation for a Better World Conference in 1988. It was her magic touch that it became an Inter National Conference because the delegates from London, Australia, America, Delhi, Kurukshetra etc., were with us along with Dadi Janki, Jagadish Bhai ji and Jayanti behn. It was a grand success and memorable one.

I had an opportunity to accompany Dadiji to Mahaboob Nagar. All the time she spoke lovingly and treated me as a child. Whenever she called me "Vijay" I had a feeling that I am marching towards victory.

27th January 1996 was the most happiest day for Gulbarga BKs. Dadiji inaugurated "Satya Teerth" our new building. The then Vice-Chancellor of Gulbarga University Prof. N. Rudraiah invited Dadiji to inaugurate "Value Education Conference" at University Campus. Dadiji addressed a big gathering of Professors, students and the cream dignitaries of Gulbarga. Dr. N.Rudraiah had been impressed so much that a hostel building was named as "Gyan Sarovar" as remembrance of her visit. Dadiji stayed for only one day, even then Gulbarga people experienced the Magic touch of the flying FARISHTA.

### **Dadiji was an able administrator, great spiritual leader - b.k. nirwair, mount abu**

As shared by Dadiji herself during her chats over the years, she belonged to a devout family. Her father would always adore her as 'the Meera of their household'. He knew astrology and had written Dadiji's horoscope. According to his convictions, Dadiji joined Om Mandli at the tender age of 15, when she had the visions of Shri Krishna playing the flute and dancing with her.

She started attending satsang at Brahma Baba's house regularly and later surrendered her life in Godly service. She became one of the teachers in the boarding school set up by Brahma Baba for young children whose parents wanted them to receive both physical education, as well as spiritual upbringing. She explored the depths of spirituality by learning and practicing for 14 long years at Karachi and then at Mount Abu, under the supreme guidance of Shiv Baba, Brahma Baba and Mateshwari Saraswati from 1937 to 1951.

DADIJI TAKING OVER RESPONSIBILITY OF THE YAGYA AFTER BRAHMA BABA BECAME AVYAKT

Dadiji had inborn qualities of leadership, and her mere presence would inspire everyone to cooperate in any great task. She had the ability to inspire everyone and receive their whole-hearted cooperation in Godly service. Her

personal example of sterling purity and divinity automatically commanded respect, love and appreciation from all, be it saints or the householders, be it political leaders, administrators, scientists, engineers or social reformers.

Many, many important brothers and sisters, or rather whole families received spiritual benefit and became firm believers of Brahma Kumaris' philosophy. Her drishti and words were like Midas' touch for many young sisters who became involved with the Brahma Kumaris as student members, and later as dedicated Brahma Kumari Teachers. Her personal inspiring qualities became the accepted parameters for the highest standards of a Brahma Kumari Teacher's conduct and lifestyle. Thousands of surrendered sisters and brothers were inspired by her ever-winning smile and heart-touching behavior. She could endear anyone to her from any background within no time with her pure vibrations, loving nature, friendly interactions, and unassuming loving touch.

#### DADIJI'S EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATIVE SKILLS

Dadi Prakashmani had been identified as one of the best administrators by the Founding Father, Brahma Baba. She was considered almost as efficient an administrator as Mateshwari Saraswati, the first Administrative Head of the Brahma Kumaris. Before Brahma Baba left his chariot for the subtle region, he passed on the baton to Dadi Prakashmaniji in a very subtle, divine way. While sitting on his bed in Pandav Bhawan, Mount Abu, with Dadiji standing in front of him, Baba gave his hand in Dadiji's hand and gave her divine drishti, before ascending to the subtle region on 18 January 1969 evening.

Dadiji was a very able administrator, great spiritual leader; very caring mother and sister; very strict teacher who would always bring home the spiritual depths; a very regular, accurate meditator; very friendly sportsperson and very loving spiritual friend. She expressed all these qualities through a variety of activities on local, national and international levels thereby revealing to the world how Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University was the only spiritual university in the world that offered a unique way of education for divine life onto people of all ages, religious beliefs and national backgrounds.

Dadiji had many winsome ways to inspire the responsible sisters and brothers and so enable smooth running of all Brahma Kumaris Centres. Dadiji always wanted us to think about something new, something great while organizing Godly service every year so that God's message reaches far and wide all over the world, beyond all boundaries.

She would herself lead the organization of national events or global projects where hundreds of thousands of people would take benefit. Those events were in the form of big exhibitions, spiritual fairs, Universal Peace Conferences, Global Initiatives for a better world, and Mega Programmes in the form of big festivals in capital cities where the participants ranged from 100,000 to 300,000 at a time.

Her inspirations during meetings were always focused on the youth and intelligentsia alike, to help create new methods for taking the Godly message to far and distant places, including villages, small towns, hill stations et al. As a result of her guidance and inspirations, there are over 12,000 sisters and 3000 brothers fully dedicated in the service of humanity, who look after 8500 centres in over 137 countries.

Under her patronage a very powerful global team of thinkers, planners, administrators, executives, artists, and workers numbering over one million has been working continuously with a very definite aim to bring about positive transformation in the world for a very peaceful, healthy, clean and caring society. Dadiji proved to be the most successful captain of a great team of spiritual teachers, our beloved Dadis, senior sisters and brothers who have pledged themselves fully in God's work for life.

#### DADIJI'S PERCEPTION OF LOVE AND LAW

Dadiji had a very clear concept of educating all sisters and brothers about the Godly Spiritual Laws and inspired them with the power of Godly love to inculcate spiritual discipline lovingly and sincerely. She created her own example of accepting and living by those concepts, and therefore her word had the power to command love and

respect from all the dedicated Brahma Kumaris and Brahma Kumars, as well as from all the student members whether they were leading family lives or were single.

In her final years of administration, she was once asked what she thought about the balance of love and law. Dadiji answered very sweetly, "For Dadi, love is the law." This was the most valuable secret of her life, and it was this natural approach of hers: "Love is the Law" that had endeared her to the elders, youth and children alike. She had the capacity and ability to become an elder amongst elders, a thinker amongst thinkers, an administrator during administration, the best divine family friend for patients and be able to behave like a child while playing with children. She was so, so loving and yet always detached.

#### DADIJI'S DIRECTION/INSPIRATIONS

Dadiji was an inspiring example of 100% pure and divine life which she would sometimes express very innocently by saying, "Brother/Sister, I have never spoken a lie in my entire life. Nothing else but the truth has always been in my thoughts, words and deeds." This makes for a great statement like, "God is Truth" and "Truth is God". This fact made her like a mirror for others and inspired them to be truthful in their behavior and interactions. Due to her purity, she had the power to inspire others to take the vow of purity, even amongst big gatherings during conferences and festivals.

#### DADIJI'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE UPLIFTMENT OF VARIOUS PROFESSIONS OF SOCIETY

Under her leadership and in consultation with Br Jagdish Chander, Didi Manmohini, Dadi Janki, Dadi Gulzar and other senior sisters and brothers, Dadi Prakashmaniji had very ably organized Godly Service through different wings based on professional backgrounds and social service set-up. As a result, there are now 18 Godly Service Wings that are beautifully organized and busy in spreading a very powerful message of attaining higher consciousness and stress-free management. These Wings hold many, many programmes of rendering service to the poor, rural folk and ailing society. Dadiji even inspired the set up of Global Hospital & Research Centre and created the Medical Service Wing for such services.

#### DADIJI'S ROLE AFTER THE INSTITUTION SHIFTED FROM SINDH TO ABU & HER ROLE IN ENHANCING SERVICE IN BHARAT AND ABROAD

In 1954, she was part of a delegation that represented the Brahma Kumaris at a World Peace Conference in Japan. They gave Godly message in Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Philippines, Indonesia for 6 months before returning to India. During her tenure as Administrative Head, she travelled to all parts of India as well as all over the world to initiate Godly service by opening new meditation centres, meet cooperative VIPs and IPs, and of course sustain the growing BK family.

Dadiji was responsible for starting Godly service at Delhi, Patna, Kolkata and later Mumbai (Bombay). From 1969 till 2007, Dadiji was based at the International Headquarters of the Brahma Kumaris in Abu, Rajasthan. Dadiji was a very powerful orator, convincing teacher and highly spiritual yogi whose words of wisdom and presence enabled VIPs and IPs to appreciate the depth and beauty of spiritual wisdom, and easy way of connecting with the Supreme Being.

She played a very leading role right from the beginning. Due to her courage, enthusiasm and wise ways of dealing with different aspects of administrative work, the founding father, Brahma Baba always called upon her to visit different centres or different places for rendering personal guidance. She spent nearly six years continuously in Mumbai, 1964-1969, where she created a very powerful team of senior sisters and brothers and other active instruments which organized seminars, conferences, exhibitions and fairs. Her leadership was looked up to for achieving the highest goals; she had become Brahma Baba's most trust-worthy leader amongst all the senior sisters and brothers in Godly service.

True to her words while answering a question from a journalist, "I don't have any followers; I have very able divine sisters and brothers who are spiritual teachers serving along with me."

Her popularity and greatness brought on all kinds of honours from the Universities, Mayors, and the United Nations: She was conferred the Doctorate Degree by Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur. During her years of being Administrative Head, the institution expanded by leaps and bounds from 125 centres in 1969 to about 8500 centres in 2007.

It was my personal fortune to have received her divine sisterly, loving care and inspiring guidance from October 1959 until she breathed her last in 2007. She was my inspiring guide, ever-caring elder sister, most confidential and trust-worthy friend and greatest companion in Godly service. Her power of judgement, her faith in the Divine, her discipline in Godly principles, her immaculately clean habits, her inspiring oratory, depth of understanding Godly versions and her power of persuasion are incomparable. Her winsome smile continues to inspire us till date.

### **Her Message was Her Life - BK Charlie, Australia**

It was very early on the morning of the 22 August 2007 that we heard that Dadiji was in a coma and unlikely to survive. I was in Sydney, a 14 hour flight and a 4 hour car ride away from Mt Abu but immediately I had the pull to go but it was not until I sat in meditation at 4am the next morning I finally decided to go. I packed, booked my ticket at 9am and flew at 11.30am the same morning.

I arrived in Shantivan the next morning 24th August and as soon as the car stopped we went to see Dadiji in her cottage. There was a very sweet silence in the atmosphere and Dadiji was so still, breathing slowly like the sleeping beauty. Dadi Gulzar and others were sitting quietly in the room. In Diamond Hall there was continuous yoga going on and it felt like to whole of Shantivan was immersed in this sweet silence.

The next morning it was the 25th August. Class had just finished and I saw Nirwair bhai who told me to visit Dadiji. She was breathing lightly and just seemed beyond but I noticed the machines beside her bed registering her blood pressure and other medical functions were fluctuating quite significantly. I went for breakfast and then returned to Dadiji's cottage where now thousands of brothers and sisters had congregated outside. All the senior brothers and sisters suddenly began to arrive and rush inside. We all know what was happening inside.

Eventually I also went inside into Dadiji's room. It was a scene that I will never forget. It is etched on my memory track. Around Dadiji's bed were her companions and friends of seventy years, Dadi Janki, Dadi Gulzar, Dadi Ratan Mohini, Dadi Manohar Indra, Mohiniben, Muniben, the senior brothers and more. I notice all the machines were now registering zero. Dadiji had flown. Everyone stood so quietly. The silence was stronger than ever. The feeling was one of such great reverence, of profound respect, and a purity of love that only Dadiji drew from all.

Over the next few days the tributes flowed from all corners of the world. From the BK family; from the Leaders of India; from Religious leaders; from the residents of Abu Rd and Mt Abu; from the workers and the ordinary village folk; from everyone. What was in Dadiji that drew such profound love and total respect from everyone? Each one had a personal story to share of how Dadiji made them feel special, how she included them, how she valued them, how she helped them, how she always showed respect. She touched hearts everywhere and won universal love and respect. At every moment her drishti of love and her radiant smile transformed the atmosphere and uplifted everyone. I remember Dadiji once shared how much she valued the blessings of the divine family and how she was careful not to lose the blessings of even one. She said the blessings of the hearts of others was like a power that helped her move forward. Once Baba said if you want to become full of all virtues become a Bestower of respect. This was Dadiji's life. She gave everyone unshakeable respect and received it from all.

In the early 1990's I was part of a small team making a film about the Dadis called Women of Spirit. In New York we interviewed Dr James Jonah who was Under Secretary General of the United Nations for Political affairs at the time. This meant that he interacted on behalf of the Secretary General, with many of the World's leaders during the Reagan and Gorbachov era. I asked him of all the leaders he had met who was the most impressive. Immediately he answered "Dadi Prakashmani". He said that Dadiji's leadership was not by cleverness and force but by the example of her own life. He said that this leadership wins the trust of all around and today we have lost trust in our leaders



because what they say and what they do are different. He went on to say that Dadiji's words were reflected in her actions and how this was the leadership that inspired people and what was needed in our world. Once Albert Sweitzer was asked about effective leadership and he said " Example is not the best form of leadership it is the only form of leadership". By observing Dadiji we could see what was the result of Baba's teachings and where our study was leading us.

After Dadiji's passing there were many bhog messages. In many of these messages Dadiji gave us two special gifts in the form of self respect and respect. When Brahma Baba passed away he summarised his efforts with the words incorporeal, viceless and egoless but it seemed these two gifts were Dadiji's message of what took her to the highest stage of a living angel. Her natural purity created such an easy self respect that was so attractive. A good leader creates self respect in himself or herself but a great leader creates self respect in others. Once a group of us were sitting and chatting with Dadiji asking her experience of managing such a huge yagya with so many different personalities. She told us first I listen then I teach. When others feel listened to they will listen to you. She then went on to say I give freedom to everyone I don't try and control anyone. She explained when you give freedom, others will come close naturally and they will want to listen to your ideas and opinions. If you try to control others you push them away and they will never listen to your ideas and opinions from the heart. She also said that I trust everyone. She consciously invested trust in everyone as that brought them close. Finally she said I give good wishes and pure feelings to all. The power of this pure attitude of Dadiji created unity in the entire Brahmin family. This attitude of respect for all brought everyone together and showed us an example of how to have divine and soul conscious relationships.

Dadiji's unshakeable self respect was the foundation of her humility. On her first visit to Sydney in 1977 we had a big public event at Sydney University. It was the first such event we had in Australia and so afterwards we returned to the centre a little tired. Dadiji noticed and proceeded to the kitchen to cook and serve us all soup with so much love. How many who are heads of big international institutions would serve in such a way. A sister from Mumbai was telling us her experience of Dadiji's humility. She came into gyan as a girl and attended the centre where Dadiji lived in Mumbai. Only a few years before Baba became avyakt a group from the centre took a train to Madhuban to meet Baba.

When they arrived at the station there was one less ticket to the number travelling, so it meant that one of them had to sit on bag of grain between the seats. As she was the youngest she sat on the bag. In the middle of the night Dadiji woke up and saw this 17 year old girl sitting on the bag of grain. Seeing this Dadiji gave her bed to the young sister and sat up all night on the bag of grain remembering Baba. This was only a few years before Baba appointed her to be the head of the Institution.

Dadiji was so great yet so humble. Dadiji never felt she was the head of the institution. She had such a deep feeling that she was just an instrument and Baba is doing everything. Once I asked her if she would visit Australia and she answered " If Baba gives Dadiji permission she will come but if Baba does not give permission, Dadiji cannot come". She talked about herself in the third person like it was just a role, a part she was playing. She had no sense of position or importance that made her feel superior but she always had the feeling I am an instrument, I am a server. I think this egolessness was why Baba trusted her so much. She did not use the position to create her self respect like most leaders do today but her self respect made her a natural leader.

Dadiji was a living bouquet of virtues but I always loved her sense of humour. On my first visit to Madhuban in 1975 we were meeting Baba in the History Hall. All the personal meetings had finished and the Seniors were chatting with Baba. Dadiji then told me to speak to Baba in Hindi.

As I don't know Hindi she would speak a phrase and I would repeat it to Baba. She said in Hindi " Baba I love you" and I would repeat. Then "Baba, I looked for you for so long and now I have found you" and I would repeat. Then Dadiji said something which I again blindly repeated and everyone laughed and laughed including Baba. Dadiji said in Hindi "Baba, I am a monkey" and I looked in Baba's eyes and repeated it with so much love. It was all in good fun. Dadiji carried herself with so much dignity as a leader but in a second could become a playful child. Dadiji has moved on but her example lives so strongly in my heart.

Her life was her message.

## **The Smiles she left behind - By Uncle, Aunty and their family, Trinidad**

Dadi Prakashmani was like a diamond with many facets. Every smile left an indelible impact on the lives of those she touched. The radiance of her smile exuded the coolness of her character, and it drew others into the soothing comfort of care and compassion. The brilliance of her smile shone through the magnetic attraction of her eyes, revealing the many sides of love free from selfish attachments and beyond the reach of 'I' and 'mine.'

Dadi was a leader and a mother. She led with an open heart and an open mind. However her greatest genius was her smiles. Her smiles revealed the light of new understanding.

Dadi has been an integral part of our family ever since we first met her in 1976. Over the years, we have had the privilege to share many meaningful experiences with her. Below are some inspired moments and cherished smiles that make her immortal presence a living legend.

Her Everlasting Smile ...

**–Uncle Steve Naraine**

"I remember Dadi most for her faith in God. During the period when I served as the High Commissioner of Guyana to India Dadi would invite me to the coordinating committee dealing with international affairs meeting in Mt. Abu every year. At this meeting many different ideas were generated regarding world service and the direction that it should take. Dadi's presence was outstanding and her outlook was pleasant. Whenever a situation arose in the meetings where there was a disagreement and something was said out of the way, Dadi would respond with a wide smile. Without saying anything the smile reflected such love to the people involved that they would take courage and strength from her smile and correct themselves.

After days of discussions and final agreement decided on, and everyone thought that a firm plan was developed, Dadi would say: "let's hear what Baba has to say." She would ask Dadi Gulzar to go to Baba and get a response as to whether this is the path to pursue. Every time this happened I saw her as a true instrument of God and how important it was for her to pursue the direction of service according to the plan of God.

The remarkable thing was that the 100 or so people attending the meeting never questioned her and would wholeheartedly support her pursuit of getting the final decision from Baba. This, I feel has been the remarkable success of growth of the organization.

The smile that touched me the deepest, was at the end of her time with us when she was very ill and I visited her in Shantivan in her cottage. She looked deep into my soul and offered me a piece of toli (sweet) and then she gave me a wide smile and asked me to break off a piece of the same toli and feed her. Our eyes were locked in sweet drishti, and our smiles were broad and wide and time stood still. Such remarkable closeness can never be forgotten nor can it be described. It was as if we both realized that it was the last meeting in this present life and what she was leaving behind with me was her everlasting smile."

Her Loving Smile ...

**–Aunty Betty Naraine**

"It is difficult to describe how it actually happens. One look into her eyes and our hearts would open to receive the abundance of love that was flowing through her whole being. The love of her soul flowed through her eyes. And her eyes showed us the emergence of a golden dawn full of newness. We felt as if her heart was touching our hearts. It was something so magical – her soul actually smiled!

She took with her smiles, and she gave with her smiles. Her smile took all our mental and emotional burdens and burnt them with the fire of her love leaving us free and light. And her smile relaxed our minds and hearts with the assurance that everything was easy and the impossible would become the possible.

She was called the Chief Administrative Head, but her leadership skills were all from the heart. She led the organization with the power of love.”

Her Radiant Smile ...

–Savi Naraine

“Dadiji’s smile was one of a kind. It started from her eyes and moved slowly down to her cheeks making her face sparkle like a diamond. Her smile was like an energy that pulled you into her heart and gave the comfort of love, strength, and most of all, the experience of divinity. Her smile spoke volumes, and along with that special twinkle in her eyes, she pulled you not to herself but to her combined form of being with BaapDada. Her smile had the pride of a deity and the innocence of a child, a very rare combination indeed.

I cherish the beautiful moments spent with her and whenever I think of her I see her radiant smiling face, and twinkling eyes sneaking me with her into the intimacy of God’s world, a world of peace, beauty, and love.’

Her Angelic Smile ...

–Sita Naraine

“Her smile exuded the brightness of a million stars shining around an angel and yet you can experience the ‘landscape smiling in the sunlight.’

Her hug was like having the rainbow wrapped around you.

Her laughter had the ring of a child, but as her eyes closed, which was so peculiar in her case, I experienced her shutting out the physical world and enveloping me in the inner world of her heart and seating me on God’s heart throne.”

Her Playful Smile ...

–Gayatri Naraine

“The anticipation was high and it kept rising higher as the ticking of the clock counted down the moments to Dadi’s arrival. It was her first visit to Guyana, and she and her entourage were nearing the center from the airport. The street was lined with people waiting to welcome her. And the steel band players stood poised to play Indian music on Caribbean pans. I stood at the top of the stairs anxiously observing the excitement down below. My job was simple. I had to pull a string attached to a folded piece of cloth hanging from a canopy holding rose petals. The idea being that before Dadi entered the building of the center she would be showered with rose petals at the threshold.

She began to climb the stairs and with each step she took, my nervousness grew with the persistent thought: “would this string thing work?” I timed her well and as soon as she was standing at the threshold under the cloth, I pulled the string and waited. There were no rose petals. My nervousness took over and I kept pulling harder on the string. Still nothing happened. Dadi stood there quietly looking at me – at the horror and embarrassment on my face.

Then she smiled. And her smile started playing with me. She looked up at the cloth still holding the rose petals and then back at me, a couple of times and each time her smile was more playful with a tinge of amusement. Everyone started laughing and the tension evaporated. Her playfulness made an otherwise awkward moment into a very funny one.

Later that night, when most of the guests had left she took me by the hand and led me back to the spot at the top of the stairs. She took the string and gave it a jerk and out came the rose petals tumbling down on both of us. By this time we were all joyfully laughing.”

Dadi saw life as a seamless whole and the world as a manifestation of God’s family. As a spiritual leader every imprint of her life offered this highest realization as she led from the authority of her experiences and the recognition of the benefit of every scene of the drama. As a world mother her role as a spiritual leader offered the opportunity to love, to serve, and to give.

May this article ignite the precious moments you shared with our beloved Dadi Prakashmani.

### **Dadiji, I will never miss you - BK David Howard, Washington**

When brahmins meet each other for the first time the introductions inevitably get around to how long you have you been in Baba’s knowledge or “in Gyan” as we say. My introduction was so gradual and over such a long period of time that its difficult for me to pinpoint when I actually came into the knowledge. What I can say, though, is when the seed was planted. For me the seed was meeting Dadi Prakashmani.

That was in 1999. Sister Jenna, Baba’s main instrument in Washington DC, had called me up at my office. Dadi Prakashmani was coming to town and Sister wanted to arrange for the Mayor of Washington to meet with Dadiji. I was the Mayor’s scheduler at the time and had never heard of the Brahma Kumaris or Dadi Prakashmani. When we were not able to set up a meeting with the Mayor, Sister asked if I could help arrange a proclamation for Dadi. We were able to arrange the proclamation but then Sister Jenna, always Baba’s determined instrument, asked if I could arrange for someone to come and present it. Unfortunately, the Mayor was not available and neither was the Deputy Mayor, nor the Secretary, nor even the Director of Religious Affairs. Exhausting those possibilities, Sister asked if I would come present the proclamation. I explained to her that I was the scheduler and not an official who would present proclamations. But Sister Jenna must have known something that I didn’t and insisted that I should come and present the proclamation on behalf of the Mayor.

So on June 10th, 1999 at the National Press Club, it was my fortune to present to Dadiji a proclamation from the Mayor proclaiming June 10<sup>th</sup> Dadi Prakashmani Day in Washington DC. Although I did not realize it then, looking back on that day I can see that it was the beginning of a great journey. In the years that followed Sister Jenna would invite me to various programs, especially on Dadi Prakashmani Day. On June 10th, 2000 the “Om Shanti - I Am Peace Tree” was planted in Dadiji’s honor on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol. Another year, embassies were asked to share the values that were most important to their country. These values - like love, humility, freedom and peace - were illustrated on banners with artwork from the International Child Art Foundation and hung along key thoroughfares for “Envision a City of Values”. The following year “Remember Me” banners with the image of Shivbaba’s light raised awareness of a higher level of consciousness.

By 2006 I had become a regular Murli student and had been to Madubhan to meet Baba and briefly met Dadiji again. By then Dadi had inspired many service projects in Washington but in 2007 she was not well and Baba’s Washington family wanted to do something truly special. The idea that came was simple but powerful. Blessings of good wishes for the world would be collected from around the globe and hung on the “Om Shanti Peace Tree” as a “Tree of Blessings”. In just a few weeks, hundreds of beautiful blessings were sent in. Many souls, knowing the state of Dadi’s health sent in personal messages of love and good wishes for her which were also hung on the tree.

Earlier that year we had obtained a permit to hold a big event on the National Mall - the large park that stretches between the U.S. Capitol and the Lincoln Memorial in the center of Washington. We had the permit for the event but we had yet to finalize what we were going to do. The Tree of Blessings turned out to be such a special initiative that we decided to continue it. In the following months we collected more blessings and invited souls to come to the event on the Mall later that summer to be video-taped reading their blessings in front of the U.S. Capitol.

The date we were given for the event was not the best time for an outdoor program in Washington. It was at the end of August when the city is very hot and humid and most of the tourists have gone home. But permits for events on the National Mall are very hard to come by so we took the date they gave us. Little did we know at that time how significant the date would turn out to be. On August 25th, 2007 as we were setting up for the event in Washington that Dadiji inspired we learned that she had left the body earlier that morning.

Hundreds of blessings were collected that day. Throughout the day, all of us there on the Mall felt Dadi with us. Collecting blessings, we felt light and joyful as Dadi would have been.

In the years since that day Dadi has continued to inspire service projects in Washington. On subsequent June 10ths there have been "Kites for Peace" and "Dancing for Peace". This year, being the 10th anniversary of service projects on Dadi Prakashmani Day, we brought all the different initiatives together under one big tent for the "Good Vibes Peace Festival". The festival was held outside Baba's new Meditation Museum - very different from the little basement that was Baba's center when Dadi visited in 1999. The festival was a great success as is everything that Dadiji has inspired.

For me, though, the Tree of Blessings is still the project that makes me feel closest to Dadiji. Dadi always did everything that Baba said to do and through this she was an instrument to accomplish amazing things for Baba. But when people speak about Dadiji they don't seem to talk as much about what she accomplished - they talk about how she was. They talk about how loving she was and light. Most of all they talk about how she always had good wishes and pure feelings for everyone. To me that is her greatest legacy. From the seed of good wishes and pure feelings grows a great tree whose seeds will keep giving blessings even when that tree is gone - just like Dadiji.

I know I will never miss you, Dadi, because I know your blessings will always be with us – continuing to give good wishes and pure feelings like they always have and like they always will.

### **Why I Loved Dadi Prakashmani - BK Neville Hodgkinson, Oxford, England**

Millions of people across the globe have benefited from the spiritual energy brought to them from India by the Brahma Kumaris. I am one of thousands of foreigners who have so loved the teachings, the teachers and the lifestyle taught by the organization headed by Dadi Prakashmani for nearly 40 years that I am proud to call myself a BK.

What attracted me, when I became a regular student with the spiritual university in 1981? At the time I was halfway through a 30-year career as a medical and science correspondent with UK national newspapers. I enjoyed my work but there was an ego-driven element in my approach to it which, overtime, led to my feeling quite drained. An addiction to success made it hard for me to set reasonable limits to my efforts, and my relationships were suffering. A materialistic outlook, with lack of appreciation for the spiritual dimension, compounded my plight. There was also distaste for what seemed to me to be the superstitions, empty rituals and divisiveness of mainstream religious practice.

On meeting BK sisters who had come to share the teachings in London, I felt immediately and deeply that here was an energy of truth. The sound came in my head that there could be no greater service to humanity than to be like these people, to acquire for oneself the positive values they radiated. Gradually I learned that the energy came from practicing spiritual wisdom: ideas about the self, God and time that enable one to maintain peace even in difficult circumstances. This peace gives rise to a natural, spiritual love that makes no conditions. It does not ask for anything in return, and does not seek to bind. It just gives.

Dadi Prakashmani was the embodiment of these qualities. She loved freely and openly all who came in front of her, without a trace of attachment. She did not discriminate between us on any superficial grounds such as social status or wealth. If through ego or lack of self-respect you held yourself back, it would be as if she respected that reticence and the love would not flow so freely. If you were open to it, however, the love that came from Dadiji's eyes would fill the soul, healing us and making us whole.

Dadi would not encourage the slightest dependency. Always whole in herself, she needed nothing from us. She would say that what she shared came from Shiva, the incorporeal source of truth.

She showed the same humility with regard to her administrative skill, which saw the organization grow from little more than a sapling in 1969, when she became chief, to a global family with hundreds of thousands of regular students. There are now centers in about 120 countries, partly thanks to an open invitation from Dadiji to the foreigners to visit the Mt.Abu headquarters and the warmth of her welcome for all who came. Even while doing everything, she said she was doing nothing – that it was just Baba, Baba, Baba, who was responsible. She would insist that her only job was to remember God, so that the divine could use her as an instrument for whatever needed to be done.

This humility was deep-seated and not at all for show. Once, sitting on the floor at a retreat in a German forest, my splayed-out leg caused Dadi to trip. Instead of chiding me, her instant response was to ask if I was OK. On another occasion, I was with a group waiting with Dadiji for road transport from an event in southern India. I was fretting about the delay, fearing that we would miss our flight. Dadiji commented: “Neville has attachment for Madhuban!” She made her point, to tell me not to waste time worrying, but in such a sweet way.

Dadiji was light, and humorous. Visitors from abroad would always be invited to receive from her a “Madhuban gift”, which they could choose from a selection brought into one of the halls. She would hold up each one in turn to demonstrate its quality. A friend whispered to me that when she came to the cotton quilt, she would close her eyes with a smile and lay her head on it, as though going to sleep. That was exactly what happened. It was a game, often repeated, to convey love and sweetness.

Another favourite memory is of a time when Dadiji sat for half an hour beside me, as I described scientific developments relevant to cyclical time, a key concept in Brahma Kumaris teaching. She listened attentively, nodding and turning her eyes to mind from time to time. When I had finished, she commented that these were useful ideas and that I should research them more, and write about my findings. I do not know what she really thought of them, through the translation, but her concern was always to be positive and encouraging.

I was lucky enough to reach Mt.Abu the day she left her body. I did not feel my sadness at her departure, just an immense appreciation for her rich life and for all that I had received through her leadership and example. In the weeks that followed her passing, it felt as if she was subtly present all over the world in an angelic form, reminding us of the goal of Raja Yoga – to live in light; and, as much as we are able, to become as she was, a jewel of light.

### **Dadiji was very positive & was always open to new ideas - Dr BK Nirmala, Australia**

I came to know Dadiji in 1964 when she was appointed as co-ordinator of Mumbai branch. She was a kumari but had many motherly qualities; she was very loving, caring and sacrificing. She was also very humble and had great interest in all yagya activities. Dadiji used to visit different centers, countries and of course, Madhuban, the headquarters.

In the Brahma Kumaris, a leader does not just take responsibility for spiritual aspects but is also involved in administration and managing household activities such as buying grains, fruits and vegetables, and general stock, the maintenance of buildings and gardens, Dadiji always knew what was in stock. She also knew a lot about construction. She kept tabs on the price of a square feet of land, how much it cost to make different types of tolis. Following in Brahma Baba’s footsteps, she used to visit the kitchen and construction sites every day.

Brahma Baba was a unique teacher and trainer. He trained many senior teachers and trainers such as Jagdish Bhaiji, Ramesh Bhaiji, Nirwair Bhaiji and Brij Mohan Bhaiji. All the dadis had in-house training for 14 years on the subjects of knowledge, yoga and dharna. It was Brahma Baba who established the administration model and Dadiji who followed it.

She had numerous administration specialities. Perhaps, the most prominent of these were:

- a) She was readily available to listen to suggestions and complaints.
- b) She would create plans with the other 2 administrative heads and senior brothers. She would then present those ideas in front of the full gathering of staff before implementing them.
- c) She regularly visited each department and held meetings with them.
- d) She was action orientated and plans were implemented immediately.
- e) Like a mother, she would take the staff for picnics, to play games and on tours of nearby cities.
- f) Because of her friendly and loving nature, whenever she would make a request or ask for something to be done, everyone would do it immediately, even if they had to sacrifice rest, food or comfort.

Dadiji shared the responsibility of looking after various departments with individuals. She personally trained those individuals, trusted them and gave them the authority to co-ordinate departments.

Dadiji was very positive in every aspect. She was always open to new ideas. She would suggest experimenting with new ideas on a small scale to see how they worked before implementing them. In this way, all BKs felt listened to and inspired. Her sanskara of inclusiveness gave everyone a sense of belonging.

She was not only a good administrator, she gave good lectures and had a charismatic personality. Her inspirational tours to various cities and overseas helped local teachers promote the teachings of the BKs and VIPs came closer to the BKs.

In India, one senior sister was appointed in each zone as zone-in-charge to oversee activities in the various zones. Dadis with over 30 years of experience were sent to Calcutta, Delhi, Kanpur, Bangalore, Chennai, Indore, Bhopal, Amritsar, Mumbai, etc. Through exhibitions lectures and seminars service expanded a great deal during the 60's and 70's.

Dadiji loved to meet people. She would sit in the courtyard every day and answer even the smallest questions. Many sought her guidance in all aspects of life.

After Brahma Baba became avyakt in January 1969, Didi Manmohini and Dadiji started training of kumaris to empower and inspire them. At that time many kumaris surrendered which, in turn, helped service expand.

One of Dadiji's specialities was her balance of love and law. Once two brothers had a conflict and one hit the other in the meditation room. The way Dadiji dealt with the situation was to call senior Madhuban Niwasis and ask them if the brother who hit the other should be sent to his home. Only when everyone agreed, was he sent home. Dadiji would sometimes correct someone but afterwards would not carry on thinking about it but would maintain pure vision.

When I first traveled overseas, Dadiji gave a grand farewell. On my return, they gave a grand welcome. When I first went to New Zealand, I stayed in the homes of various contact souls. Living in such an environment was challenging. When I wrote my experience to Dadiji, she replied saying, "You are like a lioness who moves around alone whereas elephants move in herds." This letter of praise and encouragement helped me to stay overseas and establish new centers despite the challenges of unfamiliar environment and culture.

### **Dadiji was truly a great spiritual leader - BK Brijmohan, New Delhi**

I always felt very close to Dadiji, I think everyone felt that way with her. Dadi Prakashmaniji made each person of this divine family feel as if he or she was the most valuable, worthy soul; she could give everyone the feeling that they

were very special. Everyone was special in her eyes and that is why she never gave special gifts or toil (prasada) exclusively to anyone.

She never found fault with anyone but always encouraged and appreciated the specialities of others. Whenever people visited Madhuban (Mt. Abu) she took great care that they are satisfied and staying comfortably. She personally saw to it that everyone had good physical and spiritual sustenance. She played a perfect role as the head of the spiritual family.

Dadiji was completely egoless. As the chief of such a large spiritual organization she exercised her authority with great humility. She always reminded others that it was Baba's (God's) work and He was getting everything done. She crossed all challenges with complete faith and surrender to Baba.

She was a charismatic spiritual ambassador. She traveled worldwide and met numerous heads of state and leaders from different walks of life with whom she shared the message of peace. Her spiritual charm gave them all an instant feeling of spiritual bonding and pure love. She was truly a great spiritual leader. ☺

### **Dadiji a woman fearlessly lived the life of Truth - BK Mohini, New York**

One of the most beautiful praises of God is that He is Satyam, Shivam, Sundaram. It means He is Truth, the Benefactor, and the most beautiful.

These three qualities and the experience of these qualities keeps coming in my heart when I think of Dadi Prakashmani. Dadiji one time stood up in a very big gathering and said "I can say that I have never spoken a single lie in life". The audience was spell bound but the way it was spoken everyone in the audience acknowledged this truth with grace.

During various situations in life there is always the possibility of adulterating the truth with some excuses and reasons. Here this woman fearlessly lived the life of Truth: Truth in thoughts, words, actions and all relationships. It definitely left a big impact on the lives of many of us.

Her pure unconditional love always made her the image of one who will always bring benefit in people's lives. She was a benevolent leader. Her heart was generous and full of compassion. It was very simple for her to forgive. She always had a very pure vision towards everyone. She always created friendship. She was a good friend even to the elements.

Beauty was radiant in her personality. Her eyes always were sparkling with love and beauty. She would make everyone feel beautiful. Her natural quality of giving respect to everyone was coming from her own self respect. Dadiji was natural.

From these three qualities she served every moment of her life. Life and service were very much integrated. This also made her image of simplicity and solutions. We would often walk in her room with some questions and problems. She would simplify everything and make us find practical solutions.

She was very creative, full of pure energy and ever-ready for unlimited action plans. She was able to manage the vastness of a task with great confidence and ease.

She was a leader who always reminded us that for creating peace, you need to be peaceful. Different leaders from all walks of life like politicians, religious leaders, etc. were very inspired and bowed in front of her with respect. She was loving but detached. She was firm but also very flexible. A leader who guided through her life as an example.

Thinking of Dadiji creates a flow of beautiful energy in me. My salutations to Dadiji.



### **Dadiji was a motherly figure - Shantaram Potdukhe, Chandrapur**

It is more than couple of years that Dadi Prakashmani is no more with us. I remember the day I met Dadiji around 18 years back when she came to Mumbai where she was felicitated for her services internationally in the programme of Priyadarshini Academy. She was invited to address a gathering composed of invitees, Guests from all walks of life. It was my proud privilege to address the same gathering along with Dadiji. I was extremely impressed by her speech and the message of purity she gave.

I had visited Brahmakumaris Head Quarter at Mount Abu many times. The first time I visited Brahmakumaris Ashram in Mount Abu was in the 80s when I became Member of Parliament from Chandrapur during 7<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha. Out of curiosity I had gone to Mount Abu and visited the Ashram. It was in the form of development. Present outstanding structure was not there. The multi fold activities being carried out at present was just a beginning. I had a chance to meet Dadiji once more in Mount Abu in this decade. I was extremely impressed to see and talk to her and I told here that I had the opportunity to address the gathering along with her in Mumbai. I cherished these moments in my heart.

Dadiji was a motherly figure dedicated to the cause of Brahmakumaris and will be ever remembered by those who are associated with the activities of Brahmakumaris. I still remember that she had given me fruits while departing the Brahmakumaris Head Quarter at Mount Abu. I remembered all these events when her death was condoled at Chandrapur Ashram of Brahmakumaris.

The message she had given to all those who are connected with Brahmakumaris movement will be remembered by everyone. I specially remember the necessity with which everyone and each of the Ashramite pursuing the movement of Purity by the organisation is admired by those who come in their contact. I am greatly impressed by the management when I saw day to day working with a sense of belonging and the zeal with which they work is admirable. The management skill is being admired by those who visit the Brahmakumaris Head Quarter at Mount Abu and it is a big lesson for those who pursue career in Management.

Dadiji had tremendous influence on associates. She is remembered as a person who gave message of peace in human relationship internationally.