

Purity

39th Year of Publication
E-Edition - Printer closed due to COVID-19 lockdown

Vol. 39 No.7 Pages 8

Monthly Journal of the Brahma Kumaris, Mount Abu, Rajasthan, India

Dadi Janki ascends to Angelic World

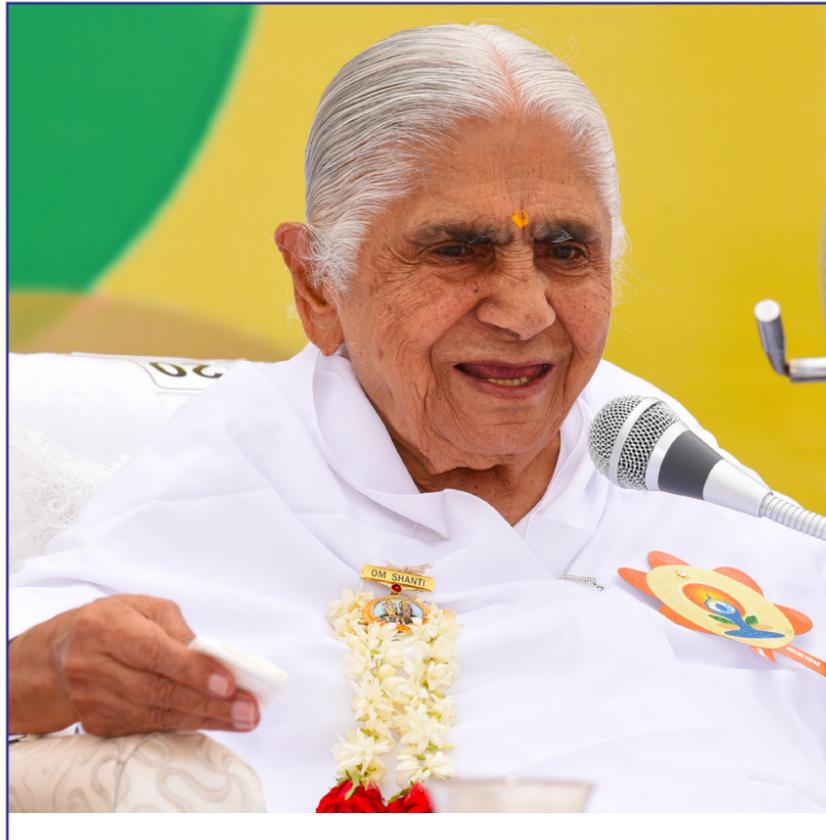
Dadi Janki, Chief of the Brahma Kumaris, the world's largest spiritual organisation run by women, left her mortal coil at the age of 104 on March 27, 2020.

Dadi breathed her last at 2 am in Global Hospital in Mount Abu, Rajasthan. She had been ailing from respiratory and stomach-related ailments for the past two months.

Dadi's body, wrapped in plain white cloth and simply adorned with garlands of sandalwood, was taken in a glass-topped box to Pandav Bhavan, the headquarters of the institution, where old-time members of the institution paid their respects to Dadi.

The body was placed before each of the four spots sacred to the members of the institution: Baba's room, Baba's hut, the Tower of Silence, and History Hall, which serve as memorials of the spiritual effort made by the founder of the institution, Prajapita Brahma, and the perfection attained by him.

The cortège then proceeded to Gyan Sarovar, the other campus of the institution in Mount Abu, where members of the Brahma Kumaris family, including many from abroad, stood in silence along the roads as a mark of



respect for Dadi.

After tributes were paid to Dadi in a brief ceremony by BK Nirmala Didi, Director of Gyan Sarovar, and others, the body was taken to the Shantivan campus of the institution in Abu Road, where the cremation took place in a lawn in front of the Conference Hall.

Senior members of the institution, including Dadi Ratan Mohini, Joint Chief of the Brahma Kumaris, BK Nirwair, Secretary General, BK Brijmohan, Additional Secretary General, BK Karuna, head of the Media Wing, and BK Mruthyunjay, Executive Secretary, were present on the occasion.

Also present were BK Jayanti, Director of Brahma Kumaris in Europe, BK Sudesh, Director of Brahma Kumaris in Germany, BK Laxmi, Programme Manager, and BK Hansa, the long-time companion of Dadi Janki who diligently and tirelessly took care of her.

Due to the countrywide lockdown imposed by the Indian government to stem the spread of the coronavirus, only a few members of the Brahma Kumaris family, besides some local officials, were present during the last rites. However, the funeral

(Contd. on page 8)



COVID-19 : What nature seems to be telling us

Hon'ble Ram Nath Kovind, President of India

The outbreak of COVID-19 has created an unprecedented situation around the world. Humankind is no stranger to calamitous outbreaks of diseases. However, this is the first viral outbreak of this nature and scale in our lifetime.

My thoughts are with all those battling the virus, with the families of all the victims around the world, and also with the doctors, paramedics and health officials and all others who have put their lives at risk for the rest of us.

I commend people for their mature response in the face of the crisis. Their support is helping all institutions to work in a coordinated manner to fight the outbreak. Our healthcare system, our leadership and administration have proved their mettle in these testing times. I believe that together we will weather the storm. I also commend Prime Minister Narendra Modi for taking pre-emptive measures in right earnest to contain the pandemic at the very beginning and reaching out to our neighbours in SAARC to launch joint efforts to check its spread in the neighbourhood. Even the World Health Organization has acknowledged India's efforts as worthy of emulation.

Quarantining oneself

The outbreak has forced us



Nature is reminding us to acknowledge, with humility, our quintessential equality and interdependence.

to keep a respectful distance from others. This isolation, self-imposed or medically mandated, can be taken as an ideal opportunity to ponder about our journey so far and the future path. Let us try to decipher what nature has been telling us through this crisis. The messages are many, but for the purpose of brevity I will dwell upon a few here.

Hygiene is the first and obvious lesson. Precaution is the only cure for this new strain of coronavirus. What doctors advise is basic hygiene, apart from social distancing. Sanitation and cleanliness are among the humblest of the civic virtues, and it is easy to underestimate their significance. It needed a Mahatma to attach the utmost priority to them. In South Africa and in India, his historic campaigns ran parallel to the question of sanitation and hygiene. In 1896, Gandhiji was visiting India, and plague broke out in Bombay. He offered his services to the State. As he was in Rajkot, he inspected latrines and exhorted people to pay attention to cleanliness. We need to imbibe all his

lessons, and in this year of his 151st birth anniversary we may begin by rededicating ourselves to the cause of personal and social hygiene. The nationwide 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' is a precursor to this great social awakening.

Respect for nature may be the next lesson intended for us. Homo Sapiens is the only organism that has overpowered all other animals, taken control of the whole planet, and even set foot on the moon. Now it stands humbled by a microorganism. Humankind's craving to control nature and exploit all its resources for profit can be wiped out in a stroke by an organism we cannot even see with the naked eye.

Let us remind ourselves that our ancestors saw nature as mother, and asked us to respect it. At some point in history, we forgot ancient wisdom. When pandemics and abnormal weather phenomena are becoming the norm, it is time to pause and wonder where we lost the way, and how we can still make a comeback.

The whole world is a family

Nature tells us that we are all equal. This new virus strikes beyond man-made distinctions of religion, race and region. The world has been busy drawing distinctions and waging wars over 'us vs. them'. But we suddenly realise that in the face of a grave mortal threat like the present one, we have but one identity — we are human beings.

Interdependence is also



something we tend to overlook in normal times. In my speeches, I have often referred to the Sanskrit dictum, "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", which means the whole world is but a family. Today, it turns out to be truer than ever before. We realise how deeply we are connected. We are as safe as we take care of the safety of others, not only of human beings but also of plants and animals. Faced with an extraordinary crisis, most people tend to be selfish, but this is a crisis that teaches us to think equally of others.

Every citizen can contribute towards raising awareness and equally by refraining from spreading panic, taking prudent precautions advised by the government. Those who can should also share resources, especially with less resourceful neighbours and senior citizens who are vulnerable to the disease. The coronavirus challenge underscores the necessity for "action in absence of crisis".

Nature is reminding us to acknowledge, with humility, our quintessential equality and interdependence. It is a lesson — imparted at a heavy price — that will come handy in mitigating global challenges like climate change as well as in building a better, common future. In the meantime, I join you in reaffirming our resolve to come out of the present crisis at the earliest, stronger than ever as a nation. ■

It's a Loud Wake Up Call

Time is a great leveler. So is Nature. The whole world is in the grip of coronavirus pandemic, with many countries in complete lockdown for several weeks now. The pandemic has affected almost all countries in the world barring a few. Life has come to a standstill and people are confined indoors at home with limited access to move out for essential chores.

It is as if in one sweeping stroke the virus has pushed the Reset button on human life on the planet. The frenzied pace of human activity – all kinds of social and professional gatherings, meetings and travelling – has come to a screeching halt that is accompanied by disbelief, shock, confusion and despair. A thick cloud of fear and gloom is hanging over cities across the globe as the virus continues to infect and kill more and more people every day.

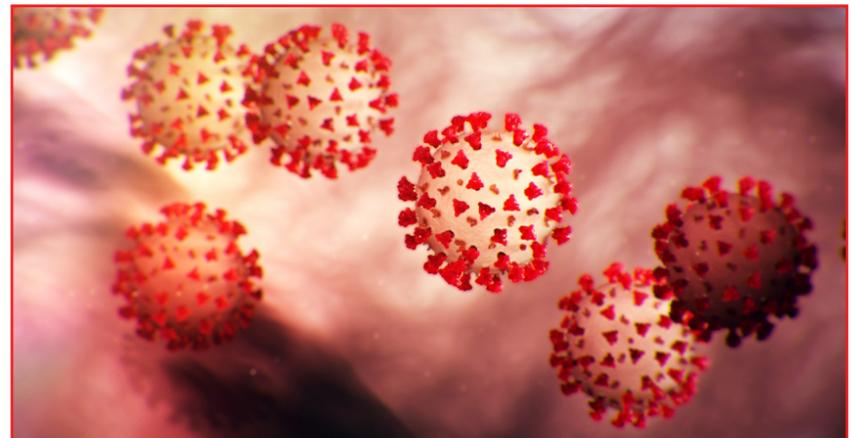
For all the conceit about their scientific know-how, mankind is shaken to the bits by the display of virus' destructive power. The writing is very bold and clear on the wall. Humans have been slaughtering the elements of nature like the golden-egg-laying-goose. For long, nature has been

The real quarantine that we require is from excessive sensory pleasures, lustful indulgences, greedy acquisitions and crass consumerism.

bearing the ruthless onslaught by avaricious humans on its vital resources. Humans have ravaged every resource of nature to fulfill their greed. They kill animals of all kinds for food and for trade of animal products.

Instead of taking serious note of our wrong actions, we explain away calamities as aberrations that can be tackled by some vaccine or medical intervention. Whenever we are faced with calamities we turn to more materialistic solutions that are riddled with inadequacies and flaws.

In reality, the most dangerous viruses cohabit in the human mind. Most of the excesses committed by humans



stem from vices such as greed, ego, anger, lust and attachment. Hence, the lasting remedy to all these problems lies in the purification of human minds through spiritual awakening.

The real quarantine that we require is from excessive sensory pleasures, lustful indulgences, greedy acquisitions and crass consumerism. Social distancing also points to distancing from engagements where people indulge in unhealthy and sinful pleasures. It is isolating oneself from all vices and negativities. See no evil, hear no evil and talk no evil. We can also add think no evil and eat no evil. The lockdown will automatically help reduce criminal activities.

This pandemic also reminds us that the planet we live in can survive only if we learn to respect Nature and remember that even animals have a right to co-exist with us. In fact, as humans are confined to their homes and all public spaces are deserted, many animals and birds are seen to be reclaiming their natural habitats and roaming around freely at normally crowded human spaces. People are now appreciating simple joys of family time and helping each other doing daily chores. We are reminded that earth's resources are to be shared with all and we need to show compassion and kinship to help others tide over such crisis.

When we look at the present world scenario we wonder what is the solution or way to end all our problems and suffering. No situation can continue forever. Even problems escalate and

come to an end. So when will the end to all our problems begin?

It has already begun. Time, nature and the happenings in the world are all giving us loud and clear signals about the impending change. The end is here but it is a benevolent and beneficial end. It is the catalyst that will open the door to liberation from all evil and suffering. It will establish a new world of purity, peace and happiness.

Nature and Time are silent teachers. Conditions on earth are urging us to move onto higher planes for safety. The most stable and powerful being in the whole universe is God and the safest retreat is inside our own mind. When we raise our thoughts to the elevated awareness of the pure qualities of the self and God, we automatically create a safer and healthier environment.

It is the wake-up call for humans to live righteously. The old world is teetering to an end and a new world is being established. God Himself is now changing this old world Kaliyuga into Satyuga. He is bestowing His Supreme wisdom and blessings to us directly to help us regain our original purity and virtues. He is awakening us to our true nature to manifest our innate divinity.

It is up to us now to become a part of the change towards the new world by connecting with God and His true wisdom which is being imparted all over the world through His instruments. It is now or never. ■

(Purity Features)



The water in Venice, Italy's canals is running clear



Circles, squares drawn outside shops to maintain Social Distancing

Karuna Response to the Coronavirus

BK Mohini, New York

Karuna comes from the Sanskrit *kara*, meaning “to do,” or “to make.” Karuna is a compassionate state of being as part of a shared human experience. Karuna is the compassionate doing of something to alleviate suffering. Karuna is a key element of the yogic path, opening the “eye” of enlightened wisdom to see the harmony, connectedness, and interdependence of all living beings and their natural environments within the whole universe.

Karuna is the highest level of compassion and is comprised of six basic spiritual virtues latent in the soul. These latent virtues are transmitted from the living beings, souls, through the spiritual trajectory of awareness, attitude, vision, and action. These virtues live as vibrational frequencies in the soul, and their expression forms a living system of interrelationships that connects us in the experience of life. Karuna is like a satellite that emits the frequencies of love, kindness, mercy, forgiveness, non-violence, and generosity.

The Coronavirus is a global health and societal emergency that calls for the collective effort of human beings to take informed and effective action to protect the self and others. The virus is an excretion of a toxic cell that has gone viral. It spreads mainly between people through respiratory droplets from an infected person as well as through touching surfaces that may contain germs from the virus, then touching one’s own mouth, nose, and eyes. In order to cope with the sudden-ness of this outbreak and the drastic precautions people are being asked to take, there are a lot of emotional and psychological consequences, such as distress and anxiety, uncertainty and worry, confusion and fear, and over-reaction.

Because there is no immediate treatment available to deal with the virus, people are moving into spiritual domains for strength, support, and signals. Karuna is offered as a collective spiritual experiment to help open our hearts and souls to a more elevated response, one requiring resilience and flexibility.

Compassionate Love

Compassionate love is care and consideration for someone. It is not selfish in its aims and upholds respect, reverence, and regard. Its intention is pure. People who love compassionately,



whether for loved ones, their community, or all of humankind, do so continually, and maintain a relationship with others through selfless service.

Social Distancing – Don’t Be Distressed

In observing social distancing, the space of six feet apart invites us to practice the spiritual principle of “being detached and loving.” The foundation of human life is love. Love brings souls closer. Being detached gives us the chance to be fully present. Social distancing is the opportunity to share spiritual love. With your eyes, emit the vibrations of elevated thoughts, pure feelings. This is called

“drishti” — the sharing of soul conscious love. With your folded hands, honor the divinity in the other. This is called “namaste.” With your smile, acknowledge the other with the peaceful greeting of “om shanti.”

Compassionate Kindness

Compassionate kindness comes from self-compassion – do unto others as you would have them do unto you. It is the ability to be gentle with the self and to go beyond self-judgments. When we enhance this inner ability to really see the self, then we can see and feel what is around us. We would treat others the way we would want to be treated. Compassionate kindness brings stability and satisfaction in relationships. It gives courage and strength to see every thought, word, and action as an opportunity to be kind in large and small ways.

Cleanliness Is Important – Don’t Become Frustrated

At a time when we are dealing with preventative responses, the spiritual tenet of “cleanliness gives the clarity to be safe” is applicable. Every time I wash my hands or wipe a surface, I am being kind and keeping others safe. It takes a clear and clean intellect to discern between choice and compulsion. Choose kindness!



Police distributing food to the needy

Compassionate Mercy
Compassionate mercy motivates benevolence – going out of one’s way to help another. To be of service to others gives a feeling of gratitude, something to be thankful for. It is a spiritual disposition of understanding the essential in the expansion, the underpinning wisdom in the vastness of information overload.

Be Informed – Don’t Over-react

To be knowledgeable of something is to have mercy on yourself, family, and community. Knowledge makes it easy to follow directions with understanding. Mercy is to stay with what is essential and not to over-listen, over-read, over-speak, and over-react about the information so abundantly available. Don’t keep thinking about the many different opinions. Not keeping the detailed expansion in your mind and heart means to have mercy for the self. Merge the waste of worry and stay with the pure feelings of hope. The mercy of your own heart enables you to have disinterest for the various types of ideas and opinions that could cause over-reaction on your part.

Compassionate Forgiveness

Compassionate forgiveness is an awareness that generates a willingness to let go of guilt and blame that cause disturbance and distress to the soul. It is the wisdom to forgive the self for acting out of ignorance and to reinstate a sense of dignity by acting from enlightened responsibility.

Check for Symptoms – Don’t Blame

When millions of people globally have to face the fact that they may contract a deadly virus, then we know that we are embracing a collective settlement for something that we contributed to in some way and form. The

usual response is to project, to blame, and to accuse. In this particular settlement, it appears the law of karma is enabling the animals to have their karmic revenge. The time of collective settlement is also a time for reconciliation and forgiveness. It’s the time to take our lifestyle seriously and to change our awareness, attitude, and actions especially toward animals, plants, and Planet Earth. Forgiveness is grounded in deep realization of causes, symptoms, and consequences. Forgiveness sets us free.

Compassionate Non-Violence

Compassionate non-violence is to appeal to fairness, not to fear. The human heart is capable of conceiving a complete substitute for violence. The heart’s deepest nature is to trust what is true and real. The roots of this substitute grow from courage, not from confusion. True non-violence is only possible with unadulterated fearlessness.

At Times of Uncertainty – Don’t Get Confused

Some people behave in certain violent ways when their behaviors are driven by fear. Panic unearths exclusion and discrimination, resulting in anger, resentment, and prejudices. For other people, compassionate non-violence is embodied best at times of uncertainty. At these times, these people spontaneously act from the heart, coming together in community as one human family.

Compassionate Generosity

Compassionate generosity is to live from the heart and not from the ego. As a human family, we must accept that in life there are many challenges. In the face of challenges, we must rise with humility, calmness, and courage. Compassionate generosity urges us to open our hearts to our people and our planet.



Compassionate generosity stops us from viewing life through the eyes of greed. It prevents us from becoming small, narrow-minded, lonely, bitter, and resentful. Compassionate generosity is to live from a place of authenticity and abundance. It opens our eyes to see life as it is (a new normal), instead of how it should be (normalcy bias). Compassionate generosity awakens goodness in the soul and helps us to cultivate heart-to-heart bonds and to live pure, unselfish lives.

Lockdown — Enough for Everyone’s Need – Don’t Panic

There is a panic that runs through the society when there’s a lockdown. People begin to stockpile and hoard food and other essential supplies. The supermarkets and stores can sometimes hardly keep up with consumers’ demand. The mindset is “survival of the fittest.” Compassionate generosity can be applied through the simple reminders of “less is more,” “enough for everyone’s need, but not everyone’s greed,” and “sharing is caring.” To practice compassionate generosity at the time of crisis fosters a sense of community and a feeling of interconnectedness. This shifts the focus away from selfishness to a spirit of being in it together.

In conclusion, the thought and deep hope is that the human family will rise and open their hearts with a more

elevated response, moving from the shared human experience of the Coronavirus to a collective spiritual response of karuna. What would this look like?

Karuna is like a spiritual scheme, a subtle vibrational system. The combined concentrated force of Karuna – love, kindness, mercy, forgiveness, non-violence, and generosity — is in the subconscious of every soul. The collective force of Karuna can transform the toxic vibrations present in the current state of our world.

Think of Karuna as a spiritual satellite, orbited beyond the gravity of the universe, and souls as living modems strategically planted across the world. Karuna has to be generated from a “Higher Source” to carry properties to transform matter.

The souls are spiritual beings, and when connected to the “Source” of spiritual power – the Supreme Being — the souls’ collective Karuna can spread across the globe instantaneously. This is the practice of Raja Yoga. It is the way to access “shakti,” or transformative spiritual power, from the Supreme Source and to ignite the spiritual power of Karuna from within the soul. It is the method to purify the energy fields of physical matter.

(The Author is the
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EDITORIAL

Companion of God



Companion of God is the title of one of the books published by Dadi Janki, the peerless spiritual leader who left her mortal coil at the age of 104 last month. That title gives away the secret of her greatness: she always remained connected to the Supreme, drawing from Him strength, pure love and wisdom – qualities that were the foundation of her life. This enabled her to serve as a beacon of light in the lives of others.

Dadi Janki, who was chief of the Brahma Kumaris, was fond of giving out succinct mantras for achieving success in one's spiritual efforts. These were not mere words, or theory, but wisdom distilled from decades of single-minded pursuit of perfection through the practice of Rajyoga meditation. This wisdom was reflected in her words and actions and shone through her eyes. That is why the diminutive Dadi, dressed in white, could illumine any place with her presence.

'One strength and one support' was one such mantra, which expressed her absolute faith and devotion to God. Dadi once said that the Almighty Authority was her companion, mother, father, friend, beloved and satguru. "This is not just a feeling, but I have the practical experience of this", she said. "Mine is One and none other. When I leave my body, I will have just one companion," she added.

'Truth, cleanliness and simplicity' was another of her mottos, and these qualities were very much visible in her life.

Despite being the head of a large organisation active in 140 countries, Dadi was simple and economical. "Let not a single penny be spent on my funeral. I do not want any garlands of flowers," she said more than a decade ago. And when the end came, this wish of hers was fulfilled. Her last rites were shorn of any adornment, and only a few prominent figures in the Brahma Kumaris family were present during the cremation due to the travel restrictions in India and other countries to curb the coronavirus pandemic.

Dadi was economical at the subtle level too. She attributed her seemingly inexhaustible energy even in old age to the fact that she had never wasted her time or thoughts.

She used to like reminding everyone of their spiritual identity, their relation with God, and the value of time. She did this by beginning every talk with the words Om Shanti, uttered thrice. Why thrice? To get people to introspect, 'Who am I, who do I belong to, and what is the purpose of my life?'

These reminders, she believed, were necessary to keep one focussed on one's spiritual efforts.

But the spiritual life, as she demonstrated, was not just one of solemn study and austere practices. To be enjoyable it had to be embellished with virtues, of which she prized five the most: truth, patience, seriousness, humility and sweetness. These, she felt, were necessary to enable one to progress spiritually, unhindered by one's mistakes or the inevitable obstacles, and undistracted by frivolities and the deceptions of ego.

Dadi served tirelessly around the world for more than eight decades but never laid claim to any success, always telling others that she was merely an instrument in the hands of God. "Baba did it and made it happen through me, and I just had a feeling for that. The whole world is being served through those feelings," she said a few years ago.

It was this selflessness that enabled her to do what she loved — in her words, to "care, share and inspire".

Dadi may no longer be with us physically, but her life will continue to inspire people around the world to achieve true greatness through spiritual power and virtues. ■

Corona Virus and need for spiritual tools of Meditation

Sanjay Mendiratta, Gurugram

These are unprecedented times. The world had not imagined the way a virus emanating from China would engulf the whole world and change their lives so dramatically in such a short span of time in so many ways. It has caught everyone unawares and completely unprepared. Nation after nation is getting impacted with the virus and countries have announced lockdowns... Schools/ colleges/ offices have been shut down and gatherings of people stand cancelled. Organizations have adopted different formats of working from home. Media is relaying COVID 19 related statistics with more and more innovative analytics and, in a sense contributing to amplifying the anxiety levels of people. The virus is also taking severe economic toll. Economists are talking of collateral economic damage that virus would likely cause and the prolonged winter of economic slowdown that it would bring forth. The specter of loss of production, revenues, profits leading to job losses is already staring the world and causing much anxiety.

The whole manner in which virus impact is playing out has exposed the fragility of the world and our own vulnerabilities as human beings. The dismal scenario emerging out of situations from COVID 19 seems to be throwing the mental stability of people out of gear. There are concerns and worries amongst people led by monetary losses, stalling of business activity, travel clampdowns and various other restrictions. To date no medical solution is available though many countries are working round the clock to develop vaccines and medication to neutralize the virus. The number of people succumbing to the virus is only ticking every hour and there is a sense of helplessness all over.

In these times of enhanced worries, concerns and anxiety leading to elevated levels of stress and vulnerabilities, spiritual tools like Rajyoga meditation come to our rescue as a God sent gift. Practicing Rajyoga meditation in these times ensures that we remain calm, stable and healthy and in control of the situation. In the deep silence of meditation through connecting to inner self, I provide positive and powerful self-affirmations to my mind that reinforce positive and powerful thoughts replacing weak thoughts of worries and anxiety.

"I am a powerful soul.... and I have a strong and powerful immune system. I have a strong resistance power that protects my body. I have a healthy body.... The positive energy of my soul supports my body to perform all the work and daily activities. I am blessed to be victorious in all situations and circumstances. I am under the canopy of supreme power and receiving his vibrations of power and healing that is protecting me from the infection of virus. I will be victorious over COVID 19."

It is of paramount importance that we remain absolutely calm and be a detached observer to the flow of events and not allow ourselves to be drawn into fruitless discussions and conversations that is just cascading unabated. Importantly, our own touch points with social media should be bare minimum only for the absolutely essential tasks and communication.

Importantly, Rajyoga meditation not only allows self healing, but when done by a large number of people, allows the vibrations of peace and power to spread from us to all over the globe across boundaries of nations, while sitting at home. This is real service done at the mind level that all of us can and should engage in.

The affirmations go as — we receive the vibrations of power and peace from supreme power... we are embodiment of all the strength ... our physical bodies are strong and immune to the virus and so are the bodies of souls all over the globe in all nations... the souls are free from all worries and are stable and strong to fight the onslaught of virus with victory... the souls are blessed to be victorious under all circumstances... victory is the birthright of all souls.

The positive self-affirmations can be done early morning and later in the night while retiring for sleep.

The small but significant fallout of staying home is in a way proving to be positive for families in general... members of family are spending more quality time with each other leading to improvement in interpersonal bonding and relationships. With lesser cars on the road, air quality has improved too. These are glimmer of light in an otherwise depressed environment. At times like these, it is the strength and power of inner frame of thoughts that allows us to be stable and anchored to our inner self ... and address the situation at hand with equipoise and balance. Our demeanor of stability and calmness would also serve as an ideal example to other souls.

In these times of enhanced worries, concerns and anxiety spiritual tools like Rajyoga meditation come to our rescue as a God sent gift. ■

Aren't we one Global Family?

As the novel coronavirus spreads rapidly around the world, it has created disquiet and fear in individuals and communities.

With the actual number of infections unclear and a vaccine not yet found, the response of many people and governments to the pandemic has been characterised by panic and discrimination.

The crisis is proving to be a test of not only the healthcare and emergency response systems of countries but also their principles and values, and our shared humanity.

As German Chancellor Angela Merkel put it, the pandemic is a “test for our solidarity, our common sense and care for each other.”

After initial reports of coronavirus infections in China began appearing in news media, countries around the world responded by curtailing travel links with that country. Governments across the globe have imposed travel bans to curb the coronavirus. The biggest lockdown has been imposed in India, where the government asked the country's 1.3 billion people to stay at home for three weeks to stem the spread of the coronavirus.

With the number of Covid-19 cases and the death toll from the disease rising steadily, the response of people on the streets has turned paranoid and xenophobic.

There have been numerous accounts of discrimination against foreign nationals in various countries. In some places, coronavirus patients have been attacked by people protesting their presence in their area. Even some doctors combating the coronavirus outbreak have been evicted from their homes by force due to fears that they

As German Chancellor Angela Merkel put it, the pandemic is a “test for our solidarity, our common sense and care for each other.”

may be infected and spread the disease to neighbours.

Foreign tourists in several countries are suddenly finding themselves unwelcome, with hotels and restaurants denying them entry and the locals turning hostile.

Wide-ranging travel curbs, closure of public spaces and the resultant impact on businesses are taking a heavy toll on economies across the globe. Disruption of supplies and a collapse in demand as people avoid going out has left businesses reeling. Fearing an inevitable global recession, governments are unleashing trillions of dollars in stimulus to bolster economies, aid health services, provide loans to struggling businesses and help individuals.

Millions of workers are fearing for their jobs, with thousands already laid off or put on unpaid leave. Poor people who survive on daily earnings have lost their livelihoods due to lockdowns, and fear that starvation will kill them before the coronavirus does.

The airline industry, which has suffered a severe blow as people drastically cut down on travel due to fear of catching the highly contagious disease, may never fully recover from the crisis.

The social impact is also likely to be considerable, with nearly a billion children seeing their schools close, not

to mention closed universities and other institutions.

The sweeping measures adopted in response to the pandemic appear to be driven by fear, and they look likely to end up creating serious economic problems.

More extensive screening of people and awareness campaigns based on results would probably have caused less panic and disruption.

A more disturbing aspect of the crisis is the discriminatory attitudes it has brought to light. We seem content to let Covid-19 patients infect others and die as long as they remain in their home or country and do not come anywhere near us.

Coronavirus patients become outcasts as soon as they are diagnosed with the disease. While they are offered medical treatment, they are seen as irresponsible individuals who contracted the disease by their carelessness and potentially transmitted it to hundreds of others.

Such reactions have been exacerbated by misinformation and rumours about the disease circulating on social media.

Fear and discrimination, however, do not solve a crisis. Governments instead must earn public trust through transparent and timely information, work together for the common good, and involve people in protecting everyone's health.

Rumours, fear mongering and hysteria will hamper our response to the pandemic and lead to the victimisation of innocent people.

No country can insulate itself from the impact of the coronavirus, whether physically or economically and socially. It is at such a moment that international solidarity and cooperation are more vital than ever. This has been demonstrated by the World Health Organization, which is helping countries with expertise, case investigation, and vaccine development.

Our response to coronavirus should be based on the awareness that we are all part of one human family, not separate nations that can insulate themselves from a threat even as our brethren elsewhere suffer. This feeling of spiritual kinship will generate the mutual trust, transparency, and empathy for the most vulnerable that are needed at this hour. Only then will we be able to overcome this crisis while upholding the intrinsic rights of every human being. ■

(Purity Bureau)



Dadi Janki ascends to Angelic World

(Contd. from page 1)

was watched live on YouTube and television channels by members of the institution across the world.

In a message posted on Twitter, the President of India, Hon'ble Ram Nath Kovind, expressed grief at the passing away of Dadi Janki.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi too expressed grief and lauded Dadi Janki's services to society.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal sent their condolences on the passing away of Dadi Janki.

The Chief of Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat, and the Chief Ministers of several Indian states, including Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, too expressed their condolences.



Veteran Bharatiya Janata Party leader L K Advani, party president J P Nadda, Congress leader Shashi Tharoor and yoga guru Baba Ramdev were among the others who paid tributes to Dadi Janki. Messages are pouring in from dignitaries in India and abroad.

Born in 1916 in Hyderabad, Sindh, now in Pakistan, Dadi Janki dedicated her life to spiritual service at the age of 21 after coming into contact with the Brahma Kumaris. After serving throughout India in the years following the independence of the country, she was sent by the institution in 1974 to London, where she served for 35 years, expanding the institution's services to more than 100 countries.

Dadi had mastered Rajyoga, and through this technique of meditation she showed people of all backgrounds and walks of life how to regain true self-respect, become free of negative tendencies, and serve the world.

Internationally acknowledged as a great spiritual leader, Dadi's lifelong focus was to align her mind and heart to God's will and purpose. She experienced God as a source of pure love and wisdom and made those qualities the foundation of her life. This spiritual strength enabled her to be a beacon of light in the lives of others.

In 1992, Dadi was invited to be one of the ten Keepers of Wisdom, an eminent group of spiritual leaders convened to advise the Earth Summit in Brazil on the fundamental spiritual dilemmas which underpin global environment issues. In 2004 she was awarded the Medal of Independence by the king of Jordan for humanitarian work.

Dadi Janki became chief of the Brahma Kumaris in 2007 after the passing away of the previous chief of the organisation, Dadi Prakashmani.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had named Dadi Janki as a brand ambassador for the Swachh Bharat mission aimed at promoting cleanliness.

She was an international patron of Rights and Humanity, patron of the World Congress of Faiths and a member of the Global Peace Initiative of Women. ■

(Purity Report)

