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Edinburgh (UK)

Interview with Dadi Janki

Q: In restoring balance and peace in our world many people are talking about a new understanding and respect of the spiritual feminine. Could Dadi say something about the qualities of the spiritual feminine?

A. In Bharat, the ancient name for India, there was a great deal of praise for the mothers. Mothers were considered to be gurus because they looked after, sustained and taught the children very well. The children used to be very obedient, even when they had grown up. They would look after their parents and be obedient to such an extent they would claim the blessings from the parents. But in today's world, the mother has lost her character, it's as if mothers have been trapped in material things and caught in jealousy. It is jealousy that causes a great deal of sorrow and makes one lose one's character. These personality traits or sankars, as we call them, are then instilled in the children. Mothers are in the darkness of ignorance - that is they are without spiritual knowledge. So first they need to awaken and realise what they have to do in their lives. There are three virtues that are essential for mothers; mercy, love and honesty. Many mothers have lost these virtues and

Q. So there is fear, sorrow and worry. What impact would there then be on their children?

A. I believe it largely depends on the mother whether a home becomes a heaven or a hell. Hell is a place where there is constant conflict, battle and fighting. Heaven is where there is purity, honesty and truth; a world of harmony. So at the present time it is important for the mothers to awaken to the realisation of what they need to do. Nowadays women fight for their rights and claim them. Women should now should make their characters so elevated and perform such good actions that they earn those rights.

Q: To take that question further, could Dadi say something about how people in an ordinary family life can conduct themselves to bring about this change of character or this re-strengthening of character?

A. This spiritual knowledge is of benefit to everyone, whether on a personal level, within the family, extended family, at work, for the world family; it is something that will give spiritual strength to everyone. A child from a royal family is distinctly different from everyone else. Their conduct, way of life, the way they look after themselves – all are totally different. As we become the children of God that royalty enters us through God's teachings and our lives become different. How we look after ourselves, how we conduct ourselves; our behaviour changes and we change from ordinary to being very royal. Wherever a royal person is, everyone's attention will be drawn to them because of their behaviour and conduct.

Anyone who engages in a good task and whose interaction with others is good, is thought to be an elevated individual. So it is very important to have the attention that what I am doing in a practical way is both good and worthwhile. By paying attention on this our personality automatically becomes real and very royal, it's filled with truth. There is a lot of impurity in today's world. People have become negative through the influence of bad company. They use pictures of women in degrading poses to sell things. Wherever you go nowadays you can see this type of advertising. Women need to realise that this is not what they are for and that

this is how people are abusing them. As much as there is good conduct, good behaviour, elevated character and one follows disciplines in their lives, to that extent one is protecting their own life.

In fact it is purity and honesty that bring greatness. The other day, Dadi was meeting an audience and as she entered the hall she was looking at everyone with that spiritual vision. Dadi was asked, 'How are you seeing us, how are you seeing the gathering?' Dadi said, 'I was seeing everyone with the vision with which God sees me, I was seeing everyone with that pure spiritual vision'. If I see others in that way, that is a reciprocated and no-one can see me with impure vision. God sees us with such pure vision and He says to us "You are a soul who is completely pure, a beautiful soul, what are you doing with yourself?" In this way He uplifts you and brings out your potential. God's praise is that He is the One who is the Truth, the One who is the Benevolent One and the One who is Living Energy. And He says to us "You too are that, you too can be the essence of that and make others like yourself." This is what inner beauty is about.

When one does good work, work of benevolence, bringing benefit to everyone then that person is loved by everyone. Even a good individual is tested by people sometimes. What we have to do is be like a tree, a tree that is laden with fruit. A tree gives shade and offers its fruit. If someone throws a stone at a tree, the tree just tolerates and is not affected by that. So just as God sees me with that pure vision let me have that elevated vision for myself, see others with that pure elevated vision. Learn not to see differences, not to compare in any way and to have pure elevated vision for everyone.

Dadi would like to share a secret; If I want to help transform the world, let me think about what I need to do to reform myself first. Firstly I have to become detached from everything here because there are many things that we are attached to and there are things that we have ego about. With realisation I want to first free myself from ego and attachment. God also cannot tolerate to see the suffering of the world, so if I am an obedient child of God, somebody who is good and wants to have a good character, I will also have that feeling of wanting to bring benefit. I will be inspired to do God's work and so God will look after me and empower me.

It is through human beings that bad actions happen, actions that have led to the detriment of matter, the five elements that make up matter. Human activity harms birds, animals and the environment so much; there's such a big impact of the human consciousness on our surroundings. It's as if the world has become a jungle of thorns. I say to God that I would like to help in His task of changing this world into a garden of flowers. If I help Him in this way, He will definitely help me.

I don't want to be pricked by a thorn, nor do I want to be like a thorn that pricks others. I want to be God's lovely child -a flower. Everyone loves roses. I don't want to be an ordinary child of God, I want to be a really lovely child who is loved by everyone. If I become lovely then others will get the inspiration to become the same. When people see a practical example in front of them they are inspired to be like that one. This is something that you can't publicise or advertise but it is something that is advertised through your eyes, through your face, through your smile. It is something that radiates and others feel from you. It is contagious; others want to take it and learn from you because they see you have peace and happiness and love in your life and they also want that. If you have truth and humility, if your language is very sweet and you have a good way of conducting yourself, then people are attracted. They will feel you are unique; that there is no-one else like you.

Q. So now is the time to study this spiritual study with full attention. You will then become one who is full of experience and others will also experience through you and that will make them want to study themselves. Currently there are more than half a million Brahma Kumars and Kumaris around the world, so ask yourself how that happened?

A. It would be very good to think that I want to be like this, not that others should be like this, but first I want to be like this. And then God will help the soul become that. Dadi has been on this spiritual path for over 65 years. She has always had the thought 'I want to practise this'. Others then see her and feel inspired and they too start to create a good life for themselves and belong to God. In this way we'll appear to be totally different to the rest of the world and we'll be seen as unique. If you think of what you were in the past and what you are now, you have changed. But you are also different from the people of the rest of the world because in your lifestyle there is cleanliness, honesty and simplicity.

So what is it that I want to become? What is my future? I want to become like an angel so I can be up above. Previously we lived very basically... we were just normal people but now we can become angelic. Previously we were very dependent on the world, I was either dependent on others or they were dependent on me. Now I am completely free, independent because internally the soul has the power of purity, of cleanliness, of peace. I have the treasures of purity, peace, love and power in me and also the power of happiness. This has become my personal property. Because of this I have become completely light. People give what they have to others so if I have these beautiful things within, this is what I will share with others.

Q: Many traditions associate the feminine with wisdom, could Dadi speak of the true meaning of wisdom, why it's so valuable? And also what does being one of 10 Keepers of Wisdom mean to you?

A. At the time when the 10 Keepers of Wisdom were in front of a gathering of about 20 thousand people there was a special delegation, invited 3 days before the summit happened. There were about 300 special delegates and out of that, 30 were selected to be speakers and out of those 10 were awarded the title of Keeper of Wisdom.

What people witnessed was that speaking is one thing but when someone is practising what they are saying that makes a huge impact on souls. An interesting story is that Dadi was staying on a mountain top in Brazil and a fire was visible down the mountain. Dadi said that someone should go and put out the fire. The reply came that the fire was not in their area and so the fire brigade will come as their duty. Dadi was seeing the fire with her own eyes - how could she ignore it? She sent someone to investigate and put out the fire. People saw this and felt that Dadi was taking care of the land and the people as if it were her own – with that type of love and care.

Wisdom means to give co-operation and backing to others as soon as it is needed. If you see that someone is drowning in a well the instinctive thing to do is to try and save them.

The following morning there was a prayer meeting where countless people gathered. Dadi spoke and conducted meditation and there was pin-drop silence. As Dadi was speaking a wave of silence spread and no-one wanted to give the signal for it to stop. The whole programme was for 5 or 6 days; wherever there were workshops people were inviting Dadi to lead them into silence. So when we ask how the world can change, it can change in this way. Dadi feels that you can also bring such change in your life to bring about a better world.