

A tribute to Prajapita Brahma, founder of the "Brahma Kumaris."

Every sensitive Hamlet among us, lost between the marvels of creation and despair of decadence. will echo his diction of distress: "I have of late. - But wherefore I know not, -last all my mirth, forgone all custom of exercises, and indeed it goes so heavily with my disposition that this goodly frame, the earth, seems to me a sterile promontory; this brave over hanging firmament, this majestically roof fretted with golden fire, why, it appears no other thing to me but a foul and pestilent congregation of vapors. What a piece of work is a man! How noble is reason! How infinite in faculty! In form, in moving, how express and admirable! In action how like an angel! In apprehension how like a god! The beauty of the world! The paragon of animals! And yet, to me, what is this quintessence of dust? Man delights not me; no, nor woman neither, though, by your smiling, you seem say so.

And yet in this harsh world was born a soul wrapped in human flesh, tall and stately as he grew into manhood, possessed penetrating eyes and pleasing countenance, and stoops steeped in wealth as dealer in diamonds. This peerless person, sweet to all he came across, was born in 1876 in Singh and bore the name Lekhraj. Business prosperity made him a flourishing millionaire. He suddenly underwent a transformation. Renounced opulence and, through a divine process of dreams, trances and visions, incarnated as a personalized confluence of human ascent and divine descent designed to undo the darkness within, light up the candle of self awareness and catalyse the deliverance of mankind from this earthly fate of blood, toil, tears and sweat to that status of nobility, that age of dignity and that universe of purity which is everyone's authentic birthright. The lofty technology of planetary transformation through personal transformation which he adopted was by using the softer, gentler, potentially compelling instrumentality of womanhood in white clad like swans set an example of simple living and taught straightforward truths of meditation yoga and tapasya.

His revolutionary goal was the renewal of the world and the Supreme Power alchemist Dada Lekhraj into Prajapita Brahma for this highest target. He gave up the business of diamonds and switched over to discovering the lustrous diamond latent in everyone. Know thyself, realise thy divinity, make the rewarding journey into the inner space of the soul you are and abandon the seductive rush to the outer space of lust and lucre, like a fly getting stuck in honey unable to extricate its wings in contrast to a bee which gathers sweet honey and flies back to the hive, the house of peace and joy.

Prajapita Brahma, into whom a divine presence descended, was a radical proselytizer of bad people into good people, through a super process of Raja Yoga beyond all religious and theologies. He left the devotees of particular faiths unmolested but used the distilled essence of all the great teachings of prophets to a new awakening of the soul within. Body consciousness, in its broader semantic sweep, makes man, woman and child tamarisk addicts to the fast life of consumerism. Five-star style of enjoyment and vulgar materialism of bhoga. Of regime man from the opium of skin-deep sensations and animal pleasures is the first task. To raise one's consciousness to the sublime level of life divine or transmutation of one's being into soul awareness is the salvatory route to attain the celestial dimension which truly belongs to us.

HOPE OF HUMANITY

Lekhraj himself became the cardiac surgeon of all humanity, using, not the knife but the knowledge which kindles deadened divinity into lively activity. Such a leader of spiritual

radicalism, adopting scientific methodology, may well be called a great revolutionary. He lived long, gave up riches, instituted a global movement from small beginnings, overpowered, by his infinite confidence and silence and supportive living presence, all animosities, adversities and violent upsurges. Today, haw is no more biologically, having physically died on January 18, 1969. Biologically he may be dead, but spiritually he is expanding his hold on the five continents and their inhabitants. It is blasphemy to say he is no more. He is ever more in the hearts and meditative moods of many millions behind and beyond the mental iron curtain of obscurantism and obdurate cults, sects, and religious dogmas, which obfuscate divine light. It is such divining missionaries of global jurisdictions who are the hope of humanity and beat back despair distress and beat back despair, distress and brutality.

Baba is on the march. His story is an inspiration. In Carlyle's words "No great man lives in vain. The history of the world is but the biography of great men." Prajapita Brahma, encountered difficulties and battled against satanic forces, but the struggle always ended in favor of Shiva who used Baba as the engineer. Social reactionaries attacked the Om Mandali of which Baba was the visible Founding Father and Shiva Baba the invisible Supreme Commander. Organising missiles of public resistance, spreading scandals, keeping devotee women captive, using misinformation and political intimidation and other foul propaganda --- all in vain --- were the futile stratagems of the hostels. The History of the world, from ancient yoga's, has been the war and victory of the divine over the as uric, and here too. Pitashri Ji was unshakably moving forward for the renewal of the world through virtue, humanism, compassion, universal brotherhood and vision of the light within darting forward to that Supreme Light which illuminates the universe and heralds a New World Human Order. The current degeneracy of the material civilization has vulgarized the social systems of the earth to such a savage point that its collapse is inevitable; and out of its ashes will blossom a fresh spring of harmony and peace.

Om Mandali faced a crisis of survival, the enemies being Hindu orthodoxy. Then came the political division of India, and Pakistan became the geographical home of Om Mandali. Paradoxically, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, impressed with the purity, innocence and high-minded divinity of the sisters-in-white and Pitashri Ji himself, pleaded with Data to remain in Hyderabad [Sind] or karachi. The call to move to Bharat from a higher source was restless and Mount Abu, the land, where the marble marvel of Dilwara stands, was the hallowed spot Baba chose for the sublime installation of the World Spiritual University. The peaks, the lakes, the temples and the tranquility of the place, with Prajapita Brahma Baba as the protagonist, is now the spiritual capital of the Brahma Kumari movement. Pitashri Ji is still there, not in physical form but as an astral, universal figure, with penetrating eyes, inspirationally magnetizing tens of thousands round the seasons, from far and near, from the high and the low, from the West and the East where the twin do meet. The devotee progeny are pilgrims of spiritual progress. They reach the summit, Mount Abu, to break worldly bondage and seek a new conquest of the spirit. I too have been to Mt. Abu, several times, hoping that there I will be robbed of my worldly concerns and re-charged by the oxygen of divine awareness.

Often, with Brother Jagdish Ji, Too ask my self: "Why? Why, with all of our technological sophistication, have we been unable to create even a minimally healthy, peaceful world? Why has happiness and prosperity eluded us? Why has our garden world become a jungle of thorns, squeezing the joy out of existence at the very moment when we would be able to rejoice?"

"We have misunderstood the eternal relationship which we have to Nature and to God. In our pride of scientific achievement, we have forgotten thither are laws upon which this Universe is run, laws which we transgress only at our peril. We have broken those laws, and now the peril has arrived. "

"In the effort to explore and exploit our physical surroundings, however, we have lost the knowledge of who and what we are. Thus, in the headlong rush for material gain self-mastery has been utterly lost and our problems have slowly, inexorably mounted, until now they nearly crush us." [Adi Dev --- First Man-- BY Raj Yogi Jagadish Chander.]

We must discover our deeper being and ask 'Whom am I'? Through true meditation, through constant consciousness of the presence of the Supreme Being making us instruments, we reach the end of the tunnel. Brother Jag dish in his book "Adi Dev " tells us an experiential truth: "When we have reached the peak of our own long-latent powers, and when the forces of good and evil have fully polarized, as they soon will, then the long-awaited transformation will arrive. By changing our own mental environment, we shall change the face of the earth itself. The axis of the planet shall straighten from his angle of 23 to the truly vertical. The continents shall come together once more. There will be no more seasonal variations but springtime all year long. The rebelled earth shall give birth to a new society, technologically advanced yet also completely, divinely virtuous."

Most astonishing is the fact and feat of Baba making white clad women run the whole world movement through masterful management, fascinating preaching and ever expanding contentment.

The small Om Mandali struggled to find a habitation in Hyderabad once. Now it wings forward all over the globe. Through perennial sayings and teachings, commandments and classes, Baba educated and uplifted his followers using a transformative process. Education is the manifestation of the perfection already in man." "Religion [in its noblest sense] is the manifestation of the divinity already in man." Baba's words, for those who heard him, were pearls. When I heard those, who had heard Baba in person and changed them totally. I was reminded of Roman Rolland on Vivekananda: "His words are great music, phrases in the style of Beethoven, stirring rhythms like the march of Mandelchoruses. I cannot touch these sayings of his, scattered as they are through pages of books at 30 years distance, without receiving a thrill through my body like an electric shock. And what shocks, what transports must have been produced when in burning words they issued from the lips of him. He had a genius for arresting words and burning phrases hammered out white-hot in the forge of his soul so that they transpired thousands."

May mankind realise its Soul. May it laugh off its materialist body appetites. A new world Spiritual Order, sans which the global social order has no future, may incarnate for sure, if, only if, we practice in life, not in chant or mystic silence, that each one is a soul and That is Reality.