

Mount abu and Brahmakularis RAJASTHAN THAT STOLE MY HEART

**Brahma Kumaris World
Spiritual University**

WHEN we move from Nakki Lake in, Mt. Abu a ten minutes walk leads us to a vast set of buildings both on the right and left side of the road. The building on our left side attracts our eyes. It looks very majestic. Its architecture has a blend of both western and eastern strands. Its too is like a crown of Indian Gods and Goddesses, with a big clock in the middle and a Rajyogi on one side and a Rajyogini on the other. In fact, the gestalt view of this building, spiritually and architecturally is so rich that at one glance, one finds so many ideas knitted together. One feels cordially invited to go up the stair to the building, which bears the sign – ‘Universal Peace Hall’. And as we moved upstairs, on our left side, we had a delightful view of the peacock – our national bird, on our sight, we see a swan, the symbol of mental purity, and also an elephant, which is traditionally associated with wisdom, strength, memory and loyalty. This is Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University on the calm, clean and green hills of Mount Abu, which is the international, headquarter also.

As we proceed further, we are in a spacious, covered verandah of the Hall. We see here a set of beautiful paintings on our right and left, giving expression to the divine vision.

Mount Abu is very widely known for the places of religious interest of which Delwara Temples are quite famous. But those who are deeply interested in meditation specially visit by tourists and also by believers and Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University – Yoga lovers from as far as Assam in the east and somnath. Dwarka or Bombay in the west, and from Srinagar or Leh, Ladakh in the north, and Kanyakumari in south in India and from about 85 other countries – from places as far as Argentina, Zimbabwe and New Zealand or Canada, Sweden and Japan – where the centers of this institution are located – come in large numbers throughout the year, to visit this institution for advanced studies in Godly knowledge, Yoga intensives, refresher courses, spiritual teachers training etc. The day we visited the place an international conference was going on in which thousands of foreigners (ladies) were participating.

This is an institution where both men and women, grown-up and children study, and age is no bar, but it is mostly the spiritual sisters – Brahma Kumaris – who impart this education. The name –Brahma Kumaris means; Daughters of Brahma. They are thus known because the holy name of the founding father of the institution was Prajapita Brahma.

Prajapita Brahma, who is lovingly known as Brahma Baba, is considered by Brahma Kumaris and Brahma Kumar's to have been a human medium to the incorporeal God whom they call Shiva or Shiva Baba. He gave women the special privilege of imparting God knowledge and teaching easy Rajyoga to mankind for, women had been deprived of their due spiritual status and had been deprived of a social status equal to that of men. They also said that they could be

better spiritual teachers even as mother is the first and the most effective teacher of a child.

About Brahma Baba, before he had this holy name he was known as Dada Lekhraj. He was a well-known jeweler with his business offices, in Calcutta and Bombay and his intimate contact with the Royal Houses, especially of Nepal and Udaipur. He was devout worshipper of the deity in whom beauty, health, wealth, fortune and virtue were fully manifest. In 1935-36, his devotion, introversion and religious contemplation reached their climax. He wound up his lucrative business and surrendered completely to God. He formed a trust of women and dedicated all his moveable and immoveable property to the trust in the year 1937. This is how Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya was founded in Hyderabad, Sindh, now in Pakistan in the year 1937. It shifted to Mount Abu in the year 1950.

The University has now more than 5000 centers and sub-centers in India and in nearly 85 other countries where more than 5,00,000 persons men, women and children daily study Godly knowledge, easy in Raja yoga meditation and moral and spiritual values. Moreover, every center and sub-centre of this institution organizes some programmes of mass- education or group-education in spiritual values. It holds spiritual fairs, festivals, exhibition, projector slide shows, Rajyoga camps, seminars and conferences at all India and international levels. Its aim is to promote the moral health of man, the spiritual strength of the society and the inner self-discipline among the youth and the children and to root out vices and evils so that there may be peace in the minds of individuals and the world.

The institution has spacious hall, which has seating capacity for about 5000 persons and arrangements for simultaneous translations of lectures in eight languages. This is the first biggest hall in the state, 3rd in the country and 5th in Asia. The roof of this hall is supported without any pillar. Here and international conference is held every year in February.

1986: Launched its first international outreach project- the Million Minutes of Peace.

In recognition of a significant contribution to the programme and objectives of the international Year of Peace, proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, the then Secretary General Javier P'erez de Cu'ellar designated the University as a Peace Messenger in 1987.

1987:Received six national and one international Peace Messenger awards from the Secretary General of the United Nations in New York for work during the international Year of Peace. Granted consultative status with UNICEF.

1988:United Nations Peace Messenger Initiative – Global co- operation for a better World was launched.

1990:The Mt. Abu Declaration was formulated and adopted at the Mt. Abu summit climaxing the first phase of Global Cooperation Project. The Mt. Abu Declaration became a UN General Assembly Document.

1991: Global Hospital and Research Center was inaugurated at Mt. Abu when fully commissioned, it will have 120 beds.

1995: The Academy for Better World (Gyan Sarovar) was inaugurated at Mt. Abu.

1996: Launch of the project 'Sharing our Values for a Better World' to celebrate the 50th anniversary of United Nations.

1997: Diamond Hall (capacity 20,000) and Shantivan Complex were inaugurated in Talheti, Abu.

1998: The Institution was granted General Consultative Status with the Economical Social Council of the UN. Formal support is given to Living Values: An Educational Programme by UNESCO.

1999: Commissioning of Peace Village Learning and Retreat Centre, Haines Falls, New York.

2000: Designated " Messenger for Manifesto 2000" by UNESCO to mark the International year for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence celebrating the richness of the world's cultural diversity.

2001-2002: Being celebrated by Organisation as Year of World Transformation Through Personality Transformation.

Dadi Prakashmani is one of the original students of the University from 1936 and became the Administrative Head in 1969. Her name means " jewel of light" and her spirituality. She is renowned for her lightness, generosity and depth of understanding.

Dadi janki is also one of the original members of the University. She joined the university at the age of 21. Her life is dedicated to the spiritual service of others. She campaigns for truth and works tirelessly for world peace. She lives in London since 1974 and is Additional Administrative Head. One rally gets spiritual peace through a brief visit to this place.