

Regd. No. MH / MR / South - 130 / 2006-08

RNI NO : 47090/88

Posted at Mumbai Patrika Channel Sorting Office
Mumbai 400001. Licensed to post without pre-payment of
postage on 1st or 2nd of every month.
License No. South - 74

Amil Samachar

عامل سماچار

(Bi-Lingual Monthly Paper)

To,

Price : Re. 1

VOL. 20

No. 01

2nd May 2007

An organ of Khudabadi Amil Panchayat of Bombay
1-A, Sindhu House, Nanabhai Lane, Hutatma Chowk,
Mumbai - 400 001. Ph. 22041655

EDITOR : RAMESH T. MANSUKHANI
E-mail : amilsamachar@gmail.com

ART OF DIVINE LIVING -Brahma Kumaris History

Perhaps few organisations have stimulated as much change and discussion at the time of their inception, or have undergone such expansion in succeeding decades, as the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University. Yet, throughout its growth and development, the BKWSU has managed to maintain its original principles and adhere to its original purpose.

When the University came into being under the name "Om Mandali" it consisted of only a handful of men, women and children living in Hyderabad, Sindh (now part of Pakistan, but at that time part of colonial India). After a respected and wealthy member of their community, **Dada Lekhraj Kripalani**, experienced a series of visions in 1936, these spiritual pioneers were inspired to transform their lives.

Founder's Visions

Dada Lekhraj's visions revealed a body of knowledge about the nature of the soul, of God and of time – concepts so simple in their expression but so profound in meaning that they awakened a powerful sense of recognition in those with whom the visions were shared.

A year after Om Mandali's establishment, the organisation moved from Hyderabad to Karachi. For

fourteen years, until two years after the partition of India and Pakistan, the founding group of nearly 400 individuals lived as a self-sufficient community devoting their time to intense spiritual study, meditation and self transformation.

World Headquarters

In 1950, the community moved to Mount Abu, a quiet place reputed for its ancient heritage and regarded as a sacred destination by many in search of spiritual rejuvenation and empowerment. Nestled high in the Aravali Mountains of Rajasthan, it provided an ideal location for reflection and contemplation. After a few years in a rented building, the community moved to the site which remains the University's world headquarters: Madhuban (meaning 'Forest of Honey').

Expansion of Brahma Kumaris in India

In 1952, Brahma Baba, as Dada Lekhraj had become known – being aware of the devastating scars the troubled independence process and partition had left on peoples' lives – felt that it was time to share with the rest of India the knowledge that he had received. He therefore sent a few young women members to Bombay and Delhi 'on service'. Their task was to establish study centres where the knowledge of Raja Yoga could be taught. Today there is scarcely a town in India without a Brahma Kumaris (BK) study centre.

Perform action as a detached observer by understanding the deep secrets of Karma Philosophy

Since the fifties, the organisation has progressed in leaps and bounds. In 1971, permanent centres were established in the UK and Hong Kong, which soon led to worldwide expansion and consistent, progressive growth, both geographically and in overall membership.

World Spiritual University

Today there are hundreds of thousands of students attending thousands of meditation centres in nearly one hundred countries. While Madhuban itself serves as the nucleus of these BK centres, the Madhuban complex currently includes two other campuses, The Academy for a Better World, also known as Gyan Sarovar (Lake of Knowledge) located elsewhere on the mountain, and Shantivan (Forest of Peace) located at the mountain's base. Altogether every year the three campuses attract over 2.5 million individuals (students and visitors) from all ethnic and religious backgrounds. From humble beginnings, the organisation has come a long way.

Brahma Baba - Founder (DADA LEKHRAJ KRIPALANI)

On a physical level, Brahma Baba was a man of stature, with soft white hair and a handsome visage. On a spiritual level, his presence was soothing and gentle, and from his eyes emanated wisdom, understanding, compassion and strength.

Brahma Baba, born into a humble home as Lekhraj Kripalani in 1876, was the son of a village schoolmaster. Lekhraj was brought up within the disciplines of the Hindu tradition. He did not follow in his father's footsteps as a teacher; instead he entered the jewellery business, earning considerable fortune as a diamond trader. As a businessman and as a family man, father of five children, Dada Lekraj maintained a highly respectable position within the local community and was known for his philanthropy.

Then, in 1936, at the age of 60, when most of his colleagues were planning their retirement, Dada Lekhraj entered into the most active and fascinating phase of his life, during which he became known as Brahma Baba.

Initially he felt called to invest more time in quiet reflection and solitude. Then one day, while in a meditative state Brahma Baba felt a warm flow of energy surrounding him, filling him with light and exposing him to a series of powerful visions. These visions continued periodically over several months. They gave him new insights into the innate qualities of human souls, revealed the mysterious entity of God and described the process of world transformation. The intensity of the messages conveyed by the visions was such that Brahma Baba felt compelled to wrap up his worldly business and devote himself to understanding the significance and application of this revealed knowledge. Although the visions ceased, their Source remained with him for the next 3 decades, guiding his transformation as well as that of those around him.

Brahma Baba's Legacy

70 years have passed since Brahma Baba received that series of visions. Who could have guessed – besides those touched by similar visionary experiences – that the young women he placed at the forefront of the institution he founded would now be on the world stage, sharing platforms with political and religious leaders at the highest level, and leading a lifestyle revolution currently followed by nearly one million people from all backgrounds of culture and religion, race and society? Or that millions of others – at this time when loss of integrity in human hearts and minds has plunged so many into despair – would be taking benefit from the teachings he transmitted, finding empowerment in the present and hope for the future?

The living skills that Brahma Baba taught have stood the test of time. The young women that he put to the forefront, now in their eighties and nineties, have become beacons of love, peace and happiness in a world increasingly troubled by disordered relationships, greed, addiction, anger and violence.

Brahma Baba – Tower of Peace

Brahma Baba passed on in 1969 at the age of 93. The Tower of Peace on the Madhuban campus is a tribute to the invincible spirit of this ordinary human being who achieved greatness by rising to the challenge of the deeper truths of life.

- Courtesy Brahma Kumari Institute

True service is to show the path of Sweet Home to everybody.

Indian buys into Spanish Bank

Courtesy Hindustan Times

In 1956, Wadhmal Bhavnani returned to India after spending 17 years in Tenerife in the Canary Islands, a Spanish territory after his business failed. Three years later, fate took his son Ramchand to Tenerife again. Today he and his in-laws own 14.32% of Bankinter, Spain's sixth largest bank, which has a market cap of 5 billion euros (Rs. 28,700 Crore)

It's also fate, Ramchand (64) believes, that he today stays in a building that used to house a small hut which served as his father's home. "Perhaps the land owed it to my father that I succeed,"

After his father passed away in 1961, Ramchand – then only 17 years old; he had just appeared for his class 10 exams at Saint Vincent School, Pune – took up a job in Hong Kong with Kishoo and Co. for a salary of Rs. 50 per month. While in Hong Kong, he married his boss's daughter in 1965, the 21-year-old was sent to Canary Islands to rescue Casa Kishoo, the family's garments shop the wasn't doing well. He managed to do such a good job the soon the shop was supporting a larger business in Hong Kong that was under strain.

A couple of years later the Hong Kong operations were shut and his father-in-law, with his wife and four sons moved to Tenerife.

Ramchand soon built relationships with local banks and in 1986 started investing in stock market. He concentrated on few stocks, selling them when they accumulated substantial gains. "I was always a long-term investor," he said. He leveraged his portfolio to raise the money from banks. "We got several loans on our portfolio. We were credible company and got good credit facilities with the banks," said Ramchand. Somewhere along the way, he took a fancy to banking stocks.

After the Spanish market crashed in 1987, Ramchand bought Bankinter Shares worth 1.2 million euros after its shares plummeted 66 percent. In six months, his investments had doubled in value. He repeated this strategy, buying new stock or raising his stake when valuations were low in 1997 and in 2001-02. After building his stake in Banco Zaragozano SA to more than 10 per cent from 1996 to 2001, he sold his stake in 2003 for 122 million euros to Britain's Barclays Plc when it acquired the Spanish bank. Casa Kishoo, the family holding firm in which his in-laws hold 75 per cent, gained by 58 million euros.

"It's not my money. I just hold power of attorney," said Ramchand, who holds 25 per cent. He hopes for a similar windfall from his Bankinter stake. In fact, his holdings have stirred speculation the bank could soon become an acquisition target, netting Ramchand close to 750 million euros, i.e., Rs 4,305 crore. Ramchand is, literally laughing all the way to the bank.

RELEASE YOUR TENSION THROUGH MEDITATION

By Laxmi R. Shivdasani

The Moment your are in Tension

You will lose our Attention

Then you are in total Confusion

And you will feel Irritation

Then you'll spoil Personal Relation

Ultimately you won't get Co-operation

Then you will create Complication

Then your B.P. may rise Caution

And then you may have to take Medication

Instead understand the Situation

And try to think about Solution

To get real freedom from Tension

The feeling of Trusteeship in actions creates a powerful consciousness.

You have to undergo Spiritual Education
And learn RajYoga Meditation
which is Soul & God Communication
You need to have Determination
To make time for Divine Contemplation
Because only Meditation can replace Medication
Which will bring real Relaxation
Of Mind & body to have Satisfaction

My brother and myself, both are students, but we read this paper Amil Samachar regularly as we get our Sindhi Culture, news & customs of our Sindhi Community.

We are thankful to Amil Samachar.

Yours

Rashmi & Vinay Shivdasani

*Dear Ms Rashmi and Vinay,
Thanks for your articles, keep sending. Please if you can send in your articles by e-mail, we shall appreciate as we can correspond back to you for any queries.*

Editor

MY AIMS DESIRES, EXPRESSIONS

1. Do not desire, you only admire.
2. By expecting too much from others You get disappointed.
3. The lesser your demands, you get comfort more and more!

4. If we listen and serve our Elders, we get their blessings.
5. The real meaning of love is to give only but not to take.
6. Success does not come overnight.
7. We are glad when things don't get ugly!
8. We should always face the negative and analyze our attitude.
9. Men are always slave of their desires!
10. One should always create good atmosphere from unhappy surrounds!
11. Try not to forget, otherwise you may regret!
12. I like to have ability capabilities and compatibility to help and serve others!
13. In everybody's life there are always beautiful moments!
14. For some people everything is nothing and for some something is everything!

- By Gul Advani

Khudabadi Amil Panchayat of Bombay

Tribute

Paying Homage to the departed soul

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1. Shri Gidwani Nikhil | - 04/04/07 |
| 2. Smt. Sitlani Kiran Arjan | - 07/04/07 |
| 3. Smt. Punwani Purnima Kamal | - 07/04/07 |
| 4. Shri Advani Meetharam (Mithu) Harisingh | - 09/04/07 |
| 5. Smt. Jagtiani Duru M. | - 09/04/07 |
| 6. Smt. Lalwani Koshi Hargobind | - 18/04/07 |
| 7. Smt. Hiranandani Mohini G. | - 21/04/07 |
| 8. Dadi Malani Sundri S. | - 25/04/07 |

NOW YOU CAN BE TOTALLY INDEPENDENT COME AND STAY AT SENIOR CITIZEN HOME OF H. H. SWAMI KARUNANANDA AT LONAVALA. (NEAR MUMBAI)

INDEPENDENT ROOMS WITH ATTACHED BATHS AT VERY AFFORDABLE PRICE.

CONTACT : HARGOBIND TRUST

Mumbai Off :

Malkani Mahal, 43, 4th Floor,
Opp. Century Bazaar, Dr. A.B. Road,
Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400 025.
Tel : 24360517 / 0605

Lonavala Off :

R S No. 174, CST No. 244 B/4,
Opp. Hotel Kailash Parbhat, Jaihind Valvani Village Resort,
Taluka Maval, Lonavala, Dist. Pune : 410403 (Mah)
Tel : 95-2114-271674

When you surrender you Mind, Body & Wealth to God, You should not waste anything.