



# RAJYOGINI DADI JANKI

Chief of Brahma Kumaris

## BIOGRAPHY

Rajyogini Dadi Janki has had a distinguished career in developing and administrating the work of the Prajapita Brahma Kumari Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya of which she is now the Administrative Head at the great age of 91 years.

Overcoming the constraints of social conventions including the caste system, Dadi Janki became one of the few active women spiritual leaders, just following India's independence, travelling throughout India, teaching self-reliance and empowering women to become leaders in their communities.

From Dadi Janki's early days, a concern for the well-being of others was a driving force in her life. Her primary education consisted of the study of the Indian scriptures, many of which she learnt by heart.

Through much of her life, Dadi Janki endured a series of illnesses that both tested and helped her to develop and refine her ability to conquer physical infirmity. These early experiences helped to prepare her for a unique role during the foundation years of the Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya, which was later to become a world-wide educational organisation. Between 1937 and 1951, 400 pioneers, mostly women, lived together in conditions that were sometimes physically daunting. Dadi Janki was appointed nurse to the community, a role that demanded arduous work as well as skill.

Dadi Janki reached Britain in 1974 to coordinate the first centre of Brahma Kumaris to be established outside of India and to inspire self reliance and the development of spiritual values in a Western society. She inspired women to develop greater self-esteem and self-help skills. Thousands from all faiths and cultures have benefited from her wisdom, unfailing encouragement and support in times of need. Through her equality of vision, Dadi inspired millions to go beyond their differences and live together in harmony.

Under her guidance and inspiration centres of the Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya now exist throughout the UK and in over 100 countries world-wide. All centres are involved in outreach work, supporting positive change in society and strengthening the people. Teachers and students conduct programmes in hospitals, schools, prisons and hostels with refugees, street children, prostitutes, terminally ill patients and addicts and in other community contexts. Dadi has personally visited and participated in many of these projects in over 100 countries.

Dadi has pioneered the development of several international projects (in 129 countries) developing vision, values and action at a grass roots level, empowering individuals and communities to improve their own quality of life and the environment.

Dadi is one of the 'Keepers of Wisdom', an eminent group of spiritual and religious leaders, who advise political leaders on the fundamental spiritual dilemmas which underpin current worldwide issues of the environment and human settlement. The

Wisdom Keepers were convened at the United Nations Earth Summit in Rio and at Habitat II in Istanbul.

In 1997, the Janki Foundation for Global Health Care was established and launched in her honour in London.

Throughout her many years of work, Dadi works for an integral approach of education to include healthy emotional, spiritual, creative and social development.

### Published Books

- *Wings of Soul* published by Heath Communications, Inc, 1999
- *Pearls of Wisdom* published by Health Communications, Inc, 1999
- *Companion of God* published by BKIS, 1999, and by Hodder & Stoughton, 2003
- *Inside Out* published by BKIS, 2003

## DADI JANKI PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS

### 2007

- She became Brahma Kumaris Chief on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2007 after passing away of Dadi Prakashmani.
- Keynote speaker at the Centre of Excellence in Women's Health, Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya of California, San Francisco, USA June, 2007
- Secrets of Transformation with Rev Michael Moran Senior Minister of Sacramento's Spiritual Life Centre 28 Jun 2007

### 2006

- Robin Gibb's new song Mother of Love dedicated to Dadi Janki at the launch of just-a-minute September 2006
- *I know how TO LIVE and I know how TO DIE* Dadi Janki and Dr Andrew Powell, in Oxford Town Hall in January 2006.

### 2005

- *BE THE CHANGE* -a 3 day seminar in May, London. Dadi was a keynote speaker on People and the Planet on the second day. Event was hosted by Lawrence Bloom and Ursula Capell
- *COURAGE OF CONSCIENCE AWARD* received by Dadi Janki in Cambridge, Massachusetts USA. Lewis Randa, founder of The Peace Abbey spoke on the importance of the Award. John Levoff presented the award in June 6<sup>th</sup> 2005
- *WHAT THE BLEEP DO WE KNOW?* Special guest speaker at the conference in Miami June 2005
- *KASHI HUMANITARIAN AWARD* Presented to Dadi by Ma Jaya in June 2005. The award is given each year on Ma Jaya's birthday and the theme in 2005 was "Living in the River of Compassion
- *II International Congress of Mothers [in conjunction with MAMA, Moscow]* - In Om Shanti Retreat Centre, Delhi - Dadi Janki gave the keynote speech. February 2005

### 2003

- *World Council of Religious Leaders* - Dadi Janki participated at the executive meeting in Jerusalem, December 2003
- *The Women's Partnership for Peace in the Middle East* under the auspices of the Global Peace Initiative of Women Religious & Spiritual Leaders, Dadi Janki spoke at the launch event in Oslo, June 12-14, 2003
- *Meet the World's Most Stable Mind* Dadi inaugurated the Quiet Room at the Mind Body and Soul Exhibition at the Olympia Conference Centre in London in September 2003
- *Through the Brain Barrier* Sheldonian Theatre Oxford - a dialogue between Dadi Janki, Prof Colin Blakemore and Dr Peter Fenwick, May 2007

### 2002

- Joined HRH The Prince of Wales and other spiritual leaders in an interfaith initiative, launched in Birmingham, entitled "Respect, It's About Time"
- Addressed the Second UN World Assembly on Aging, Madrid
- Led a delegation to the UN World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg

- As an outcome of the Millennium World Peace Summit, The Global Peace Initiative of Women Religious & Spiritual Leaders was convened in the UN's Palais des Nations, Geneva, 6-10 October 2002, in which Dadi Janki participated
- 2000**
- Launch of Dadi Janki's second book, '*Wings of Soul*' published by Heath Communications, Inc
  - Launch of Dadi Janki's third book: '*Pearls of Wisdom*' published by Health Communications, Inc
- 1999**
- Led a delegation to the UN World Summit on Social Development, Geneva
  - Panellist and presenter at the Geneva 2000 Forum, Switzerland - 'The Human Aspects of Social Integration'
  - Head of Brahma Kumaris delegation and presenter at the Millennium World Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders - UN General Assembly Hall, New York August 2000
  - Plenary presenter at the State of the World Forum - New York
- 1997**
- Gave her name to the '*Janki Foundation for Global Health Care*', a charitable trust supporting the work of the Global Hospital and Research Centre in Mt Abu, India and promoting greater awareness of holistic health and the spiritual dimension of health care
- 1996**
- Launch of Dadi Janki's book in English, '*Companion of God*'
  - Led a delegation to Habitat II, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Istanbul, Turkey
  - Addressed world governments at Habitat II on the need for people-centred development and the pivotal role of human and spiritual values for survival
  - Initiated '*Living Values: an Educational Initiative*' in consultation with representatives from the Educational Cluster of UNICEF, providing guiding principles and tools for the development of the whole child. A kit for educators is now being implemented in 60 countries
  - Speaker at the State of the World Forum, San Francisco, USA
  - Launch of Dadi Janki's book, '*Companion of God*', in Chinese, to an audience of 5,000 in Singapore
  - Initiated the '*Young Women of Wisdom*' project in honour of UNICEF's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary to celebrate the Girl Child - developing self-esteem and dignity in young women across the globe
- 1995**
- Led a delegation to UN Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, China
  - Launched '*Sharing our Values for a Better World*', a world-wide project promoting values centred development in politics, science, education and health
- 1993**
- Hosted the UK launch of the Year of Inter-religious Understanding and Co-operation bringing together 600 people from all faiths and communities
  - Elected Vice-President of the World Congress of Faiths
  - Opening of the Global Retreat Centre, near Oxford

**1992**

- One of the 'Keepers of Wisdom' an eminent group of spiritual and religious leaders, convened at the United Nations Earth Summit in Rio and 1996, UN Habitat Conference in Istanbul

**1991**

- Opening of Global Co-operation House, London; bringing communities together and running a variety of 'people-centred' educational programmes for personal positive change

**1988**

- Launched the first United Nations Peace Messenger Initiative, *Global Co-operation for a Better World*, at the House of Lords, London. People of all walks of life, from street children to Prime Ministers, in 129 countries, initiated and participated in a variety of self help community projects towards a better world

**1986**

- Launched the *Million Minutes of Peace Appeal*, the largest non-fundraising project for the United Nations International Year of Peace. Peace activities took place in 88 countries. This project won seven United Nations Peace Messenger awards

**1983**

- Appointed Co-administrative Head of the BKWSU

**1974-present**

- Overseeing the expansion of the work of the Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya into 84 countries, demonstrating the universality of spiritual truths and human nature across the cultures of East and West
- Travelled to more than 80 countries visiting community projects, addressing major conferences and events and meeting world leaders in many fields, including those of politics, religion and science

**1951 - 1974**

- One of few women spiritual leaders in India (and the world), establishing teaching centres across the length and breadth of the country. She empowered individuals to bring spiritual values into their lives and women in particular to develop self-reliance and leadership skills, setting aside the constraints of social convention and the caste system

**1938 - 1951**

- In charge of health care and general nurse for the community

**1937 - 1951**

- Training in leadership skills which, for women, was an unprecedented challenge to the social conventions of the time

**1937**

- Joined the Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya, at that time a 400 strong community of mainly women

**1916**

- Born in the Northern Indian province of Sindh (now part of Pakistan)