



Lisetta Carmi / Janki Rani

Babaji and the Sacred Fire
of His Cisternino Ashram





Babaji e il fuoco sacro del suo ashram di Cisternino
Babaji and the sacred fire of his ashram in Cisternino

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Om Namah Shivaya

LOVE and SERVE all humanity.

ASSIST EVERYONE.

Be happy. Be courteous. Be a dynamo of irrepressible joy. Recognize God and Goodness in every face. There is no saint without a past and no sinner without a future. Praise everyone. If you cannot praise someone ...let him or her out of your life. Be original, be inventive.

Be courageous, take courage again and again...Do not imitate. Be strong, be upright. Do not lean on the crutches of others.

Think with your own head. Be yourself.

All perfection and every divine virtue are hidden within you: reveal them to the world.

Wisdom – too – is already within you: let it shine forth.

Let the Lord's grace set you free. Let your life be that of a rose: in silence, it speaks the language of fragrance.

Shri Babaji





Babaji fotografato da Janki Rani nel 1976 a Jaipur

Lisetta Carmi / Janki Rani

**Babaji and the sacred fire of
his ashram in Cisternino**



BABAJI HERAKHAN BABA, IL MAHAVATAR DELL'HIMALAYA

Babaji Herakhan Baba lived on earth (in his ashram of Herakhan) from 1970 until 1984. He took on the human form of a handsome young man after his earlier incarnation had left the body at an old age in 1922 in a flash of light, at the confluence of two sacred rivers and in presence of a small group of indian devotees and disciples. At that time Herakhan Baba said that he would have come back to earth in 1970 for the sake of humanity, in order to bring to human beings his message of Truth Openness Love with the “OM NAMAH SHIVAYA” mantra. In his new incarnation Babaji gathered for the first time western devotees and disciples.

Babaji Herakhan Baba is the guru of all gurus, he is “the one who reaches”, the one that all human beings would like to encounter to purify the inner soul, to find the truth within.

The ones that have lived with him have received the highest blessing in order to go beyond the I and My, to look within with complete honesty and surpass the boundaries of their own personality.

The ones that have met Babaji have been given everything, including his own self as a means to go beyond the suffering and diseased human race, to die and be reborn, to reach that inner peace that – if attained – could bring peace in the world.

Babaji taught us by giving the example, offering us that complete honesty, that empty space, that void that we call god, that we call shiva, who gives inspiration and guides all the incarnated souls, regardless of religion, race, creed and culture.

The time that humanity is living in is perturbed and dreadful, but the good and the evil go hand in hand. Beyond the awful tragedies that afflict the world, the wind of change and of spiritual research brings

hope and transformation. Babaji told us that soon a huge revolution would arrive, that we would have to be prepared to face water and fire with courage, faith and a pure spirit, that he would come back in a physical body after the Mahakranti, after the destruction, to help us create a new human being and a new world.

In India this golden era is called “Satya yuga”.

I live with a total faith that is the foundation and the strength of all genuine human existence: I am aware that each difficulty that appears on our way is the highest of all blessings, that the reason of our being on earth is to open our heart and go through an internal transformation.

The attention and affection towards all human beings, the unbiased process (karma yoga), the willingness to offer oneself should be our daily objective, through the teachings that Babaji has spread with that divine love, with his presence-absence, that has enlightened our lives forever.

MY ENCOUNTER WITH BABAJI

*“Tvameva mata cha pita tvameva
tvameva bandusha sakha tvameva
tvameva vidya cha dravinam tvameva
tvameva sarvam mama deva deva”*

It is not easy to talk about Babaji, the truth on earth, the divine love which sees everything that the soul needs, simplicity that lives through pure essence.

Babaji Hairakhan Baba completely changed my life by calling me in 1976, and revealing himself like a clear mirror where I could see my true and deep inner self, by giving me a task (to create and take care of his ashram in Cisternino) that gives meaning to each second of my



Janki Rani nel 1990 (fotografia di Fattechand)

life on earth.

Bhole Baba Ki Jai!

Before I met Babaji I had already been in India and Afghanistan, but I wasn't looking for a Guru, I didn't go to ashrams; I was searching for truth and love in this life, in human beings, in nature, but I didn't belong to the "movements" that gathered lots of people around a Mentor or a belief. God was my guide, I believed in a cosmic justice that unified all human beings within the Universal Self.

Maybe this is the reason why my first meeting with Babaji in Jaipur was total and absolute: I recognized him, I saw in him what I had always been looking for and I understood that the Guru had called me because I was ready, because my life had to change and become an existence of "service". All that I had lived until then had been the preparation for this encounter with the Divine personified on earth, with the Guru of all Gurus who had given me the highest gift by calling me to him. I met Babaji in Jaipur on march 12th, 1976 in the house of Jain Sahib. On that day I arrived at noon (called by Babaji through a vision that He had sent to Gora Devi, Babaji's devotee who lived with him for 12 years); there was an incredible atmosphere of devotion, everybody was preparing assortments of flowers, it was as if we went back to the time of Jesus when the disciples where waiting for the Guide. There was huge serenity, love and peace. Babaji came by car, I saw Him get down and walk as if he wasn't touching the ground. He went to sit on the bed adorned with flowers in front of a crowd of devotees who were waiting for Him and who immediately started bowing at His feet, offering gifts and sweets, expressing pranama to ask for His blessing.

I approached Him and said: "Babaji, I am Lisetta."

He said: "Your name is Janki Rani."

And added: "You sit here."

He asked for a chair and made me sit next to Him, I was in ecstasy, I

was looking at Babaji and I could “see” Him, I had recognized Him, I was looking at all the devotees, feeling the joy of being with Him, their simple and touching devotion. And Babaji told everyone:

“This lady is coming from Italy”

as if it was an important thing, and then he asked people to touch my feet. My encounter with Babaji was extraordinary ... everybody was touching my feet, and I was thinking:

“How can he treat me like this after only five minutes...”

Ten minutes had passed since I sat close to Him, and Babaji sent an indian with white hair:

“Babaji said that you will tell me something to get closer to God.”

I told him the first thing that came into my mind: “God is love.”

The old indian went to Babaji and told him what I said: then he came back to me and replied:

“Babaji is happy.”

Babaji gave me a fruit and then sent Malti who told me:

“Babaji said that you need to give a speech.”

I was in ecstasy. I looked at all those people who came to Babaji, they were indians, they were lucky to live in India, to talk to Him, they didn’t have to travel from Italy like me. I saw that Babaji was truly the incarnation of the Divine and the atmosphere around Him was of total pureness. I replied: “I am ready”, I could only say what I felt deep in my heart, the joy of being there, to have found what I had always been looking for.

At the end of my speech Babaji said: “Thank you.”

That first time I stayed with Babaji for 25 days, half of the time in Jaipur and the other in Vapi.

During that wonderful period Babaji gave me so many teachings and so much love. Every action had a particular meaning, His smile, His way of looking arrived straight at the heart.

On March 15th there was the first and famous Mahakranti prophecy: I remember that – after having talked about disasters that would change the world and erased entire lands and cities from the face of the earth – Babaji smiled as if to say: “Now that I have said what is going to happen, it is your turn to get ready and purify yourselves in order to be able to deal with all difficulties with a pure heart and courage: I will stay close to you and help you.”

While Babaji was talking about the disasters – I was hearing the word “liberation”, as if God gave us the opportunity to cancel all the negative in order to bring love, brotherhood and let harmony win in a new world, in the Age of Aquarius. Now more than ever I feel that all the things that Babaji told us are real, that we have to be ready for a complete transformation that will involve the earth: that our main objective is to purify ourselves, to be connected to the Divine, to be “humans” in the way Babaji told us to be. God descended upon earth for 14 years to show us the right way, to change our hearts and our minds. He told us that he wants a world where the lion and the goat drink from the same well. This is the world that will rise from the cosmic catastrophe, this is the divine wish that people who have lived with Babaji keep strongly in the depth of their heart. We know that the difficulties are huge, but they can be overcome when there is total faith.

After 25 days Babaji asked me to join Him for a new mission, but I told Him that I had to go back to Italy.

“Why?”, asked me Babaji.

“Because I have an old mother that is waiting for me and I also need to work.”

“Then please go, I will always be with you, I will come with you to Italy.” And from then on, it is true, Babaji has never left me.

In August 1977 I went for the first time to Hairakhan, the sacred

place where Babaji has His ashram and where he appeared in 1970 in the cave on the sacred river Gautami Ganga.

This new encounter was even more profound than the first one. Living with Babaji in Hairakhan is an amazing and unique experience, there are no words to describe it. All is truth, all is spontaneity, all is love. I completely put myself in His hands, and told Him in my heart:

“Babaji, You see everything in me, I have nothing to hide from you, I only ask you to help me become a better being.” I stayed with Him many hours during the day, I went with Him to the river for his afternoon bath together with Mahakhania and Ibrahim, a young man who was missing an eye. Those were divine hours, both for the walk we took together between the tall sacred trees while I had to sing a mantra that Babaji had given me, and also for Babaji’s bath that was always a moment of joy, love and veneration for the sacred Ganga water.

One day Babaji let me wash Him, His body was strong as an ox and delicate and soft as that of a child. I felt that it was a special body, with an otherworldly vibration. It was on earth but came from above, from the continuous-infinite-present.

One day Babaji took me by the arm and told me:

“Janki, you have a simple nature, I like your nature.”

He asked me if I understood and repeated those words as if He wished that I caught their deep meaning. Yes Babaji, I understand: I have to keep the simplicity of my heart which is the biggest treasure that God has given to me. His words have always helped me in pursuing the objective, helping me to see things the way they are and not how our mind sees and evaluates them, to be aware of my real nature and happy to be a genuine person;

OM NAMAH SHIVAYA.

One day we were with Babaji in the garden of the ashram, and He asked me:

“Who is this man for you?”

“I have been with him for 10 years, Babaji.”

“Do you wish to follow my advice?”

“Of course, Babaji.”

“Marry him.”

And so Babaji celebrated our union through an indian ritual, I was dressed up in blue with a sari and Mauro was wearing a red costume with a gold turban. It has certainly been a karmic wedding that has brought us together after many lives in which we were united by a deep feeling, by a common faith. When we left Hairakhan I came back to Italy while Mauro stayed in India for 4 years, a long period during which I didn't see him. Each year when I returned to Hairakhan, I bowed in front of Babaji and when I straightened up to look into His eyes, He asked:

“And your husband?”

“I haven't seen him again, Babaji!”

And He smiled, aware that Mauro was continuing his path travelling across India while I was following my Guru and the path He was preparing for me. However the bond between us was a deep and lasting one, a feeling that went beyond space and time. Mauro left the physical body in India on January 23rd, 1985.

I came back to Hairakhan in January 1979, the year in which Babaji gave me everything, the most elevated and extraordinary year of my relationship with Him. I bowed at His feet telling Him in my heart:

“Babaji, this year I came to You because You purify my heart, this is the only reason.”

And He gave me all that I ever needed, through the divine love that only He is capable of giving. That year Babaji performed mundan

with His hands. On a saturday he told me:

“Janki, monday mundan!”

And I understood that it was the “mundan”, on Shiva’s day, a day of complete blessing. He told me to offer bandhara to all the ashram, that it would have been a big celebration. He called me on monday morning, asked a pair of scissors and started to cut my hair. Meanwhile he was saying:

“You have such a soft head!”,

and I was feeling that He was giving me something incredibly elevated and particular. When my hair got very short he sent me to the river with Gora Devi to shave and offer all my hair to the sacred Ganga. When I returned to Him, he asked me a brush and a golden color to draw a big gold swastika that covered all the space from my forehead and from an ear to the other. He told me afterwards:

“Starting from today you will receive energy from above.”

I carry this blessing that guides and inspires me, that gives me strength, energy and support in every moment of my life deep within. Thank you Babaji! My thankfulness will never be enough for all that you have given to me, for the way in which you have transformed my existence!

One day we were on the terrace and I was writing to my mother. Babaji took the letter from my hands, drew a bunch of flowers and wrote “OM NAMAH SHIVAYA”. Then he handed it back to me saying:

“Your mother had to die last year according to her karma, but

I blessed her and extended her life because she is a great Mother.”

And from that day on my mother (who was already 93) became stronger and more pleasant, gaining a huge faith in Babaji who made her become even more spiritual. In 1980 Babaji asked me to bring my mother to Cisternino to live near the ashram, so in September

1981 my mother left Genoa (where she lived) for Cisternino. She was already 95 years old and spent her last 5 years with me in the trullo, happy to be close to the ashram in a religious environment, in harmony with the Divine. Her presence has been an enrichment for me and for the ashram, an example of spiritual strength, faith and goodness. Mom used to say:

“I was an Indian in my previous life!”

and she had certainly been a great devotee of Babaji. She left the body in total divine peacefulness on February 26th, 1986 as Babaji had promised her, when she was nearly 100 years old.

In 1979 Babaji started to talk to us with devotion about Jesus Christ, saying that He had been his most elevated devotee, that He had lived with Him in India and Tibet for 9 years. From that year onwards Babaji started to celebrate Christmas in Hairakhan in a magnificent way: and when we asked Him why he celebrated Christmas in India and on the Himalayas, he replied:

“In order to highlight the importance of Christianity for all humanity.”

During that same year Babaji gave me a wonderful teaching about money, on the way to use money with attention without wasting it, on the divine energy that lives in every cent, that has to be spent with generosity and without attachment. Babaji taught me that money is not ours but is given to us by God for the well-being of everyone. Babaji told me:

“Janki, take 100 rupees, go to Fakirananda and convert them into cents”.

And this is how the 100-rupee banknote became a heavy bag full of coins. Every morning I had to go with Babaji (carrying the bag on my shoulder) around to bless the western devotees and the indian labourers that worked in the fields, in the construction of temples,

in the transportation of stones (how many stones in Hairakhan!), in karma yoga through all its expression. Babaji asked me:

“Janki, money”,

and I used to open the bag from which He took and counted the coins: he then gave the money to each man according to what he deserved and needed, 30 paisà to one, 50 paisà to another, to the rich and to the poor. After a week, when the bag was empty, Babaji told me:

“Janki, take other 100 rupees and go to change them.”

And the game went on until the second bag got emptied too.

This was a precious teaching for me. It helped me for the ashram, in order to use each lira with attention, without waisting anything: and later on I understood why Babaji had made up this wonderful game for me, in order to give me the measure of money’s value that has to be used and distributed in the right way.

That year - before I left - Babaji gave me two canes. The first one was smooth and gold-plated, to put in the temple; the other one was all nubby, rough, with many sharp tips.

“This will help you take care of people” - said Babaji.

I left Hairakhan completely bald and happy, with two canes and, my heart healed with Babaji’s blessings, aware of the profound transformation of all my being. Babaji gave me a mala of sandalwood for my mother, a precious gift that she always used to repeat the OM NAMA SHIVAYA mantra, a gift that gave her strength and courage until the very end of her days.

Two days after my return to Genoa, while I was going to buy some milk, a priest greeted me by saying: “Shalom, can I greet you like this?”

I replied joyfully to his greeting and he said:

“Do you realize that you are the bringer of light?”

“Yes, I do - I told him - because I carry God within.”

“I can see that !”, replied the priest.

And I told him about Babaji, about his ashram on the Himalayas, about Babaji’s thoughts on Jesus. And the priest replied with bright eyes:

“You are talking about a new Testament.”

We left each other thankful of a mutual compassion, and I understood that the divine light that Babaji had given me was visible to those who could see it. Thank you Babaji, thank you for offering us a gift that we certainly won’t understand in its completeness. But the seed that you have planted in our hearts will sprout up to reflower your message of Truth, Openness, Love.

I went back to Babaji, again for three months, in 1980 and in 1981. It was always a total delight. Babaji was so nice with me, He made me stay close to Him, He didn’t let me work with my hands but I had to learn how to work with human beings. Living with Babaji was a continuous learning, His smile, His strictness, His giving Himself without limits, everything was divine love without preferences.

And then my mother came to Cisternino and I couldn’t leave her anymore to go to India; my mission was in Cisternino with her and the ashram, and Babaji was always close to me as he had promised.

In October 1983 Babaji called me to Hairakhan, offering me this last incredible gift before leaving the body in February 1984. I spent a month with Him, a divine month during which he filled me with love and blessings, giving me the last teachings that would make my life on earth stronger and more intense. I asked him what he really wanted from His ashram in Cisternino and He replied:

“Cisternino is a place to let people transform themselves, purify their spirits, meditate and to practice karma yoga: nothing else.”

One day in which he looked very tired and he was laying close to His

kuthir, I was close to Him and He asked me to pull out His white hairs: it seemed as if He was sleeping, I was touching His head with devotion, discretion and shyness. I had to pluck the white hairs of Babaji? It looked like a dream that wasn't real but celestial instead. He then told me to stop and we stayed close to each other in silence for half an hour: I felt a bond of infinite love. He got up all of a sudden and put on my shoulders the white shawl that was covering him while he was laying and walked away.

This was a highest blessing, almost a farewell: and I understood it later, on February 14th, 1984.

When I left Hairakhan by horse to cross the river that was still deep, Babaji laid a hand on my head, looked into my eyes with infinite love and radiant light and told me:

“Be happy in the name of Lord Hanuman”,

and then quickly added: “Go!”

I climbed on my horse, looked at Him one last time with an endless gratitude and took the way back home.

His words will resound forever in my heart, the bright gaze of His eyes will dwell in mine as the energy of the love that will live within for eternity.

September 1990

THE BHOLE BABA CENTRE OF CISTERNINO

I have always searched for truth since I was a child: I was born in Genoa on February 15th, 1924 from a jewish family. Music filled my life until I was 35, an internal connection with the Divine, achieved with the help of musicians that have sensed the harmony of the universe.

Later on it was photography, humanity seen in its most real essence, a glance over the world. Photography was for me “a voile taken from eternity”. At last - in 1976 - Babaji’s calling, the Mahavatar of the Himalayas, all the instruments that had helped me to understand myself, to connect with the Divine, were left behind. The Divine itself entered in my life in a direct and extraordinary way, leading me to “truth”, “simplicity” and “love”. Babaji taught us to be human beings, to serve humanity “To serve humanity is to serve God. Labour is devotion”

I first came to Apulia in 1970 and bought the trullo where I still live, during the same year in which Babaji appeared in the sacred cave of Hairakhan at the foot of mount Kailash. Apulia’s (and in particular the Itria Valley’s) sacredness is closely related with Hairakhan’s sacredness: and this is the place in which Babaji, in 1979, told us to create His ashram, a place for praying, for Karma yoga, connection and peace. At the beginning we were three women, Malti, Fakiruli and me, Janki. Afterwards, in 1983, Malti returned to Germany to teach sacred dance, Fakiruli went back to Milan, and I stayed here to take care of the ashram because that was the mission that Babaji had entrusted me. The beginning has been very hard and difficult, giving energy and strength inside a Spirituality Center is an enormous task, but with faith and courage and above all with Babaji’s support (who is always here with his infinite love), the ashram began to operate, becoming a centre of attraction for numerous devotees. And the big difficulties that we have resolved have been the highest blessings, helping us to know ourselves, to understand the meaning of an ashram for us and for the others, giving us the measure of our limits and of our capabilities. An ashram is an immense means of spiritual purification, as we have experienced during these last years.



Masanobu Fukuoka, maestro dell'agricoltura naturale, in visita all'ashram di Cisternino, marzo 1999 (Fotografia di Lisetta Carmi Janki Rani)

Babaji gave us both a very noble and a practical teaching: discipline, sadhana, praying and karma yoga (dedication offered to God without considering the individual result). This is what we are aiming to realize in his ashram of Cisternino, trying to spiritualize each action in everyday life, aware that there is no distinction between important and less important occupations. Babaji has given us the OM NAMA SHIVAYA mantra as the highest tool to purify our minds. The most important thing is to repeat the name of the Lord. Since 1986 we have had inside the ashram a temple that is identical to the one in Hairakhan. Babaji Himself wanted this temple in Cisternino as a symbol of union with his ashram in India. In fact He told me many times that “Cisternino is like Hairakhan”.

Since 1990 we have inside the ashram an eternal dhuni - the Dhyana Yogi Dhuni - where there is a sacred fire that is always lit up, a bridge between the earth and the sky that connects us with the cosmic energy. It is a place of harmony and meditation where the puja ritual and the offer to the fire are celebrated at sunrise and sunset, with repetition of mantras and performing arts to worship the Divine Mother. Fire is a strong means of purification and transformation which has the power to make us aware of the task that Babaji has given to us: to let the Divine Light spread on earth for everyone through love. A large number of people come to visit the sacred fire from all corners of Italy and from abroad to meditate, to receive Babaji's darshan, to find that inner peace that is so hard to find in this world devastated by chaos. Miracles happen inside our hearts. This is our biggest happiness, to give others what we have received, becoming the instruments of the divine. Because it is always Him who does everything.

I want to give another example of Babaji's greatness. My mother has spent the last five years of her life in Cisternino, from 95 to 100,

through the will of Babaji who had blessed her by extending her life. Those have been wonderful (as well as difficult) years that have rewarded her courage to leave Genoa, her house and her relations in order to transfer here near the ashram by following what Babaji had chosen for her. She has lived peacefully and full of faith, always working with her dried flowers and her embroideries, writing poems, being for everybody an example of kindness, of patience and detachment. She left her body in the most peaceful way just as Babaji had promised her. Her presence for me and for the ashram has been the highest blessing.

Babaji has always said: "I am not here to bring a new religion, I wish that people live through love, truth and justice. Each person may pray to the God he believes in, Christians may address prayers to Jesus, Buddhists to Buddha. God is ONE". This is why the Bhole Baba Center is a spiritual and not a religious one, we live in the trulli which look like many little temples. The trees that grow in Apulia are sacred, the olive tree, the fig, the oak, the carob tree, the almond tree, are the same that grow in Palestine (or Israel), the land where Jesus Christ lived and preached. The same goes for the stones (sanctified by man's work) found in Apulia, the Holy Land and also in Hairakhan.

We have many hectares of land that we cultivate following organic farming in order to let the ground live and become rich with humus and fertility. We believe that human energy can transform the world, that the land - cultivated with the right tools and in harmony with the universe - can become an endless source of sustenance.

In the ashram of Cisternino we are all equal because in front of God there are no first or last ones. Each of us is responsible in relation to individual abilities and personal levels of awareness. Only people

called from God come to the ashram. Living in Cisternino is a privilege and a blessing, we feel the presence of Babaji inside our hearts, His divine essence lives in us and with us to give us inspiration and guide us through our journey on earth.

We are happy to welcome those who love a simple life lived through the rhythm of the sun and nature, who want to open their hearts to the existence of the spirit, who wish to contribute to spread light and peace on earth. This is our humble and biggest aim. To take part in the important change that the world is undergoing, to the beginning of a New Era of harmony and love.

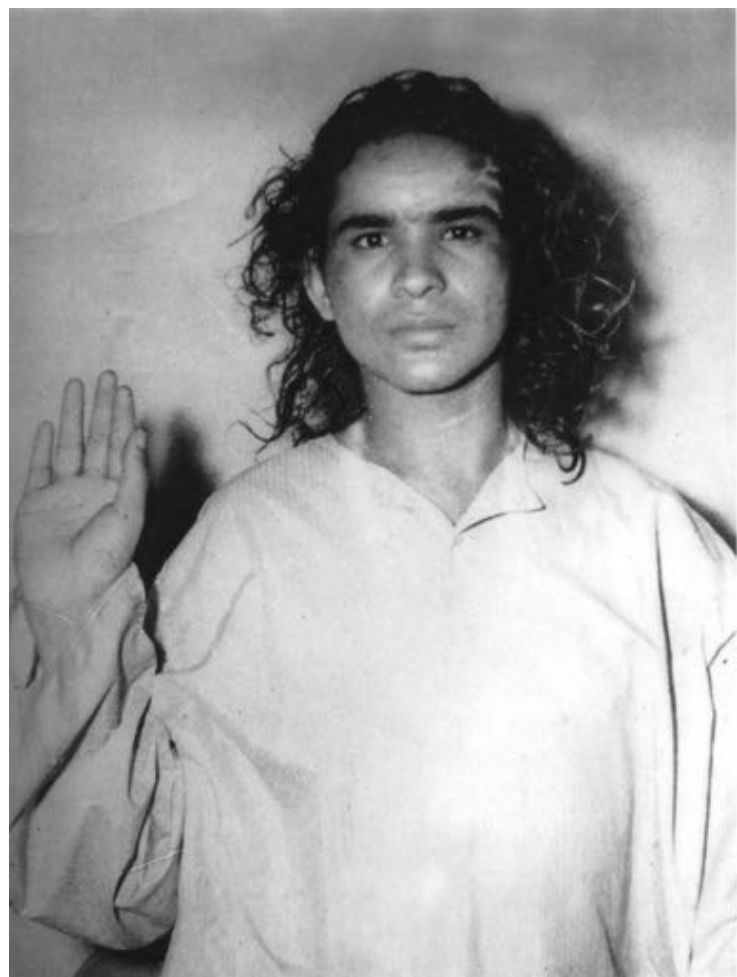
BABAJI HAIRAKHAN BABA, BHOLE BABA

In India, beneath the sacred mount Kailash, at the foot of the Himalayas, the place of birth or the dwelling of many saints from the past and the present, lived Babaji, Shri Hairakhan Wale Baba. To those who asked who He was, Hairakhan Baba sometimes answered that He was Shiva Mahavatar Babaji, known to hundreds of thousands of people across the world from “Autobiography of a Yogi” by the author Paramhansa Yogananda. A Mahavatar is the human manifestation of God, not born from a woman.

Babaji appeared in June 1970 inside a million years old sacred cave at the foot of mount Kailash in the Kumaon, on the shore of the Gotama Ganga river, in front of a distant village called Hairakhan. Nobody knew his parents or family. He appeared as a gorgeous young man of 18 years old, with deep wisdom and divine powers. To some local people he revealed himself as an old man with a long white beard, and to others as a young man. He was seen in different places at the same time. He knew the Sacred Texts, fasted for many months still preserving and endless energy. In 1961/62 an amazing

boy who seemed to be 12 or 13 years old settled in the area and nobody was capable of knowing who he was and where he came from. He lived alone without staying for a long time in the places where he went, officiating fire ceremonies almost everywhere, and he was seen still, absorbed in a deep meditative state. Many people experienced a strong sense of wellness close to him. There are people who still recall one of his visits to Hairakhan where he stayed in the temple constructed by the old Hairakhan Baba. Once, during a conversation, Nantin Baba said: “You think it’s a boy? Well, you should know that he is the oldest man of Creation!”

His coming on earth had been preannounced both in the ancient scripts and in the words and prophecies of a 20th century indian saint, Mahendra Baba. When he was a child Mahendra Baba was healed from a vision of Babaji and the Divine Mother. On the day of his birthday he saw Babaji who was offering him sweets. As soon as he finished high school Mahendra Baba met Babaji in one of his previous incarnations and received from him the yoga of knowledge for 6 days and 6 nights. When Babaji left him Mahendra Baba didn’t know who he was nor where to find him. After his graduation, Mahendra Baba withdrew himself and went to search for this Guru, walking on foot across the Himalayas, India, Tibet, Nepal, China. All he wanted was to find his Guru. It was only after 20 years that he was guided towards the Kumaon hills where Babaji appeared to him once again as the old Hairakhan Baba inside a hut in a distant ashram on a mountain called Siddha Ashram. It is a divine and wonderful place deep in the jungle. After Babaji’s appearance in a physical body, Mahendra Baba, following Babaji’s instructions, started the mission to prepare the return of Babaji’s human body on earth. For many years he went around India by foot preaching the return of Babaji in order to transform the world by changing the heart and the soul of human beings.



He also described Babaji's aspect, including the scars on the right leg and on the left arm, and he finally said that Babaji would return in 1970.

Mahendra Baba restored old ashrams and temples and constructed new ones, and prepared the amazing arati chant of adoration currently used by Babaji's devotees.

Mahendra Baba lived for many years in Vrindavan, and had numerous devotees such as Shastriji, the wiseman and minister that recognized Babaji in Vrindavan as the immortal Babaji of the Sacred Texts" Mahendra Baba (who left the body in 1969) had told him a secret mantra known only to Babaji and to him. Only the being that had told him this mantra would be the real Babaji.

Shastriji lived close to Babaji for 14 years full of his presence and preaching on earth with endless love and devotion. He is "the wiseman". When Babaji held a conversation he was his voice. He defined himself as "the eternal child of Babaji".

Babaji has revealed himself during all the ages in which mankind needed divine assistance, always trying to take mankind towards God and the spiritual virtues. His teaching is universal, it doesn't refer to any religion but only to the Sanatana Dharma, the eternal and universal law.

Babaji didn't use so-called miracles to attract devotees, even though who was able to "see" noticed supernatural occurrences. Babaji's miracles were softer, they happened in the minds and the hearts of his devotees, there was always an open heart wishing for transformation. I have seen infinite proofs of his endless love, of his ability to read the mind, of giving me what I needed. Without talking, without asking through words, Babaji has always answered my prayers.

Babaji gave us the OM NAMA SHIVAYA mantra as the highest instrument to purify our minds: "There is no place on earth that

shall remain without knowing the OM NAMA SHIVAYA, it has to be widespread in all paths, in all houses: OM NAMA SHIVA YA is like nectar. This is the original mantra, preceding Creation. You will have to repeat it 25 hours a day, it is more powerful than the atomic bomb”.

Babaji taught us a simple way of living, in harmony with the rest of Creation, respectful of all living beings, including those that we consider inanimate such as rocks, plants, water. Babaji told us that all the stones that lay in the stream bed of the Gotama Ganga sacred river were disembodied souls and lived in Hairakhan, the most sacred place on earth.

Babaji taught us to have few personal needs, to use only what was strictly necessary, and to take it without destroying the ecosystem. He used to keep the gift paper of the offerings made to him, strips and ribbons that he used to put together with his own hands, giving them to his Ganas for them to put aside and use later on. Everything is energy and all that came from Babaji’s hands was used until the end and then got recycled. Babaji taught us to spiritualize the matter, telling us that the spirit lives in all the actions realized in daily life if we are concentrated on God, that happiness comes by giving all actions to God without thinking about the result: Karma Yoga is the supreme yoga, “Work and be in harmony! I am in harmony”.

He often told us “Labour is devotion, to serve humanity is to serve God”.

When Babaji was asked what was Kriya Yoga, Babaji answered “Everybody does Kriya, everybody here does Kriya”. But what is Kriya now? “Ab nam jap” he replied (Now is repeating the name of God).

On another occasion Babaji said: “Your daily routine, from morning

until night, is your Kriya Yoga. The real Kriya Yoga is the connection between morning and night (a day's labour). I do not wish to brainwash people. People have been already brainwashed many times and those who do it to themselves do not understand the meaning of 'Kriya' and 'Yoga'.

There is nothing as Kriya Yoga. There is nothing in this world that is not Kriya Yoga. Kriya Yoga is the perfection within labour.

Each action that is realized, including eating and drinking, is Kriya Yoga; your body's digestive process is Kriya Yoga. Kriya Yoga is the process of union between two or more things.

All the scientists are Karma Yogis. Focused and meditative people are Kriya Yogis. Kriya Yoga does not exist as a separated entity. People have been cheated, thousands of people have been locked in this trap. Realizing positive actions is Kriya Yoga, the puja ritual is Kriya Yoga, the adoration of all forms of the divine is Kriya Yoga. Kriya Yoga is serving humanity. This is what the world needs today. Do good to others and make them happy in all possible ways. This is Kriya Yoga. Serve humanity. You have to give to your country whatever it lacks, to satisfy these necessities is Kriya Yoga. Give to each individual and each nation what it needs."

Babaji has always highlighted action, labour, and Karma Yoga as the highest tool for purification: and he has always encouraged us to repeat the OM NAMA SHIVAYA mantra 25 hours a day "Only a pure mind can get close to God".

Babaji told us: "I am nothing, Bhole Baba is nothing, only Adesh (the Divine Will) exists. In all the world, in all the universe only the Will exists. No Baba, no Baba, only Adesh".

Babaji often said that he came only to serve, in perfect harmony with all the prophecies that had preceded his arrival. Babaji could have seen under many different roles, such as Shiva, Supreme Guru,

Purifier, Friend, Divine Child, Divine Mother, Divine Father, Christian Yogi, Healer. He is actually all of these together because one can find what he/she is looking for inside him. Babaji was indeed a clear mirror in which everybody could look into. This is how I saw him the first time I met him in Jaipur, and later on he told me many times “I am a mirror in which you can look at yourselves”. Babaji was interested in people’s souls and he addressed the divine spark that vibrates in all human beings in a simple and clear manner. Babaji seemed to vibrate with love in a harmonious intensity that elevated people close to him in a state of spiritual wellness.

When mankind moves away from life’s principles, he causes imbalance in the harmonious motion of the Universe. Babaji comes back on earth from time to time in order to help humanity find the Sanatana Dharma balance. During his last incarnation he showed that living with respect towards the principles of Truth, Simplicity and Love helps individual people and societies acquire a state of interior serenity from which peace and justice can be achieved.

Babaji was pure harmony, I have experienced it staying close to him over the years in which I went to Hairakhan, I travelled with him across India visiting the homes of both rich and poor devotees, assisting miracles that always happened in the hearts of the human beings that turned to him. His love was endless, both in sweetness and severity. Staying close to him was not easy, even for me, who never had doubts, since everything happened in a clear and simple way.

I remember that once I came to Hairakhan and after a few days we went together for a pilgrimage to Delhi, Bombay, Vapi and other places in India, visiting many houses of devotees with thousands of people who came to receive his darshan. I was happy but I was also thinking “of course, it is beautiful here, but it would have been

much nicer to stay with him alone in Hairakhan without all this chaos!” And this thought kept coming back to my mind. One day we went for a pilgrimage on the mountains and he took me with him on a boat with other devotees on a wonderful lake. It seemed to be like Jesus on lake Tiberias. When we got down from the boat Babaji held me by the arm and took me for a walk in a small forest. All of a sudden he asked me, “Are you happy, Janki?” and I answered quickly: “Very happy, Babaji”, and he replied with a sweet voice: “Too happy, Janki, too happy”. It was a big lesson, with those few words Babaji made me understand that we always have to say only what we have in our heart, without speaking in a hurried and superficial manner. He read what I felt, my wish to be with him in Hairakhan in the silence of that sacred and marvelous place: that was the only answer I had to give. And this simple and true lesson has given me more than many teachings found in books. This was Babaji, he had truth and simplicity within, and he could widen boundless horizons with a word. His teaching had an immediate and practical effect: if you were open and receptive you would have received everything in a second.

The same thing happened with the mundam, the head-shaving ritual that we should all do at least once in our life. It’s a religious purification, Babaji asked everybody to do the mundam as soon as they arrived to Hairakhan, they had to leave if they refused to do so. I asked him many times: “Babaji, do I have to do the mundam?”, but he always answered no. One day in 1979, the year in which Babaji gave me everything, purifying my heart and my spirit in a complete way, he told me all of a sudden: “Janki, monday mundam”, and I understood that the mundam was something very high and important, Monday is Shiva’s day, bringer of good fortune. I went to him on Monday morning and while he was cutting my hair with extreme delicacy, he told me “You have such a soft head” and I felt that he

was offering me an initiation that took away endless burdens from my karma.

When he finished he told me “Now go to the Gora Devi river, shave your head completely and offer your hair to the sacred Gotama Ganga”. When I was done I came back to him, he looked softly to me and said “Bring me a brush and the golden colour”, and when I returned back he drew a big gold swastika that covered all the space from my forehead and from an ear to the other: this lasting sign stayed in me as an immeasurable gift, the sun, the centre of the universe, the last chakra that stretches out towards infinity.

Babaji continued by saying “Starting from today you will receive energy from above”. And this was true, since he continues to give me strength to pursue the mission he has assigned to me, to go beyond the huge difficulties on my path. He protects me, he gives me inspiration and blesses me from the continuous infinite present. I will never be thankful enough for the endless gifts Babaji has given to me, for donating himself to us, his devotees, who are unable to see his greatness. And maybe if we had possessed a higher conscience, we would not have been able to live close to him with the candor and the simplicity he asked us. How can a mortal approach God? The effect would be unconceivable. But he came down to us, taking a human body to communicate with us, to elevate our conscience.

Babaji taught us to live, his teaching was elevated and practical at the same time. He wanted many ashrams in the world so that people could learn the discipline, to love and to unite. He wanted us to give the world a way of living that was higher, spiritual, at the service of humanity. “You have to be humans!” he told us repeatedly. And he added “Nobody is ready to receive what I came to donate”.

Babaji’s message embraces all religions: Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Jews, Sikhs, Parsis, Animists, Atheists came to him to

learn, because his teaching and his actions express the essence of all religions. He used to repeat often: “God is One and is like the ocean to which all rivers that represent the religions converge”. The universality of his message, “love” as the highest means of union, “service” as a daily practice were the instruments that Babaji gave us to deal with and overcome the Kali Yuga, the dark era in which we live. Babaji has also brought back to life the ancient ceremony of the sacred fire, the yajña. He celebrated thousands of yajñe in all India, regenerating the environment and purifying the hearts of millions of human beings. In Hairakhan Babaji celebrated the havan every morning in a dhuni in front of his kutir, with a small group of devotees to whom he had marked the chandan earlier. The chandan is a sacred symbol made with sandalwood paste and camphor that the guru marks on the forehead of the devotee, becoming a very deep bond between the guru and his follower. I used to go every morning to receive this blessing from him, and it was a delight, a meeting of souls that spread light into the day. During my first encounter with him in 1976, Babaji connected me with a german devotee realizing identical and strange chandans each morning. We left his room with these odd yellow symbols on our faces and all the indian people looked at us with curiosity, surprise and a smile.

After a week, he covered our eyes with the yellow camphor paste of the chandan. I asked him the meaning of this strange chandan and he answered: “This is the sign that you will see the divine light”. When I left Babaji to come back to Italy, he told me “You can leave, I will come with you, and I will always be with you in Italy”.

And indeed he has never left, he lives within me and with me, he guides and inspires me, protecting in every moment of my life. I always remember his words “Be brave! You will have to move on leaving behind the fear of death and of life expectancy. Do not fear

water and fire. We will have to be ready to jump into the ocean and into the fire when the moment arrives. The whole world is temporary. You need to have a unique aim, a unique destination: to serve all human beings in the universe. Improve and help others to progress”.

Babaji left the body in Hairakhan on February 14th, 1984, St. Valentine's day, entering Mahasamadhi. He already knew that his mission would ended in 1984, as he had said to various devotees in different years. Nobody wanted to believe him, everybody thought.

“I first came to Apulia in 1970 and bought the trullo where I still live, during the same year in which Babaji appeared in the sacred cave of Hairakhan at the foot of mount Kailash. Apulia's (and in particular the Itria Valley's) sacredness is closely related with Hairakhan's sacredness: and this is the place in which Babaji, in 1979, told us to create His ashram, a place for praying, for Karma yoga, connection and peace. At the beginning we were three women, Malti, Fakiruli and me, Janki. Afterwards, in 1983, Malti returned to Germany to teach sacred dance, Fakiruli went back to Milan, and I stayed here to take care of the ashram because that was the mission that Babaji had entrusted me”.

Lisetta Carmi/Janki Rani





“Ero arrivata in Puglia nel 1970 ed avevo comprato il trullo in cui tuttora abito, proprio nello stesso anno in cui Babaji apparve nella grotta sacra di Hairakhan ai piedi del monte Kailash. La sacralità della Puglia (ed in particolare della Valle d’Itria) è strettamente collegata con la sacralità di Hairakhan: ed è qui che Babaji, nel 1979, ci disse di creare il Suo ashram, un luogo di preghiera, di Karma yoga, di unione, di pace. All’inizio eravamo tre donne, Malti, Fakiruli ed io Janki: poi, nel 1983, Malti è ritornata in Germania ad insegnare danza sacra, Fakiruli è tornata a Milano, ed io sono rimasta qui alla guida dell’ashram perché qui era il compito a cui Babaji mi aveva destinata”.

Lisetta Carmi/Janki Rani

