

Amiya Roy Chowdhury
- Dadaji -
by Nanigopal Banerji

Publishers Note: Pujya Dadaji has always been reticent to talk about his birth and his early life before he revealed himself as Dadaji, Elder Brother, Apostle of Truth. This is, perhaps, because a life story in time, for the one who is beyond the kingdom of Time, could be misleading. All the same, I was on the look out for someone who knew Dadaji well in the years gone by and who could tell us something about our Elder Brother. My search ended when I met Sri Nanigopal Banerji. He is the Founder Principal of Bengal Music College and was at one time the Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts and Music, University of Calcutta. He knows much about Dadaji as their mutual love for music brought them together in their youth. --- G.T. Kamdar

Shri Dadaji, a scion of the renowned Barbhuiya, was born at Fultali, a prosperous village in Comilla (now in Bangladesh). Raja Ramsharan Ray was his grandfather. Dr Haranath Roy Chowdhury, the famous physician of Comilla, was his father. Dr Roy Chowdhury was a very pious man; as was his wife Saratkamini Devi. She was very dear to all for her charity and hospitality. One day Saratkamini Devi became aware of the presence of a Saint who predicted that the Divine Himself was going to be incarnated through her; her husband also had this perception. At the time of his birth, the Divine fragrance of his holy body aromatized the house revealing to his father his Divine nature. Time passed and the child named Amiya Madhab* was held in great reverence by his father.

There were quite often congregations of saints and sanyasins in the house of Dr Roy Chowdhury. The strange behavior of his son was an object of wonder to them. The child was curious to know why they had matted hair, ashes on their body and the like. He asked them, “[Are these the means of finding God?](#)” The wise, logical queries of the child made them dumb with wonder. Most of them felt embarrassed. Once the famous aged sanyasin of Varanasi, Alek Baba, came to visit Dr. Roy Chowdhury at his home. The child, Amiya asked him, “[What is the utility of preserving this body?](#)” Alek Baba kept silent for some time and then prostrated himself before the child.

Mysterious incidents would take place one after the other. One day the child was admitted into a local village primary school. The perspicacity of the child made his teacher and others perplexed. But the luster of the child's body and his handsome appearance and personality charmed them all. The child did not care a fig for the class room lessons, yet he was at the top of the class in very respect.

During this time the boy's profound knowledge stupefied everyone who met him. When he was in Class 5, his explanation of “whether the pumpkin falls with a sound or makes a sound as soon as it falls” surprised them all. An altercation ensued regarding the explanation of the famous Michael's epic Meghnad-bdh. The boy recited Slokas (verses) in Sanskrit from Ramayan and explained them elaborately; his elucidations made everyone spellbound with wonder.

At the age of six the boy explained the Gita and the Bhagawata to his father. During that time Amiya once dined at the house of his Muslim neighbor Yasam Ali. This led to a great commotion in the orthodox Hindu society. Shri Banga Bhattacharya, the eminent Pandit, advised ceremonious atonement for this. But the boy refused to comply.

* Dadaji's first given name Amiya means Nectar. Madhava or Madhab, his second given name is a name of the Lord. Ma means Mother, the manifesting aspect of Divine Energy, and Dhava means Husband. The exact date of Dadaji's birth is uncertain. His passport gives a birth date of January 13, 1910. He himself has said he was born on January 13th, on Pausa Samkranti day. Pausa is the name of the ninth month of the Indian calendar corresponding to December-January of the English calendar. Samkranti means the passing of one month into the following one or the juncture of the two. Pausa Samkranti is the time when, after winter solstice, there occurs the Uttarayana; that is, the sun starts moving northward toward the equator. In Indian mythology this symbolizes the Lord waking to world consciousness leading to regeneration of the Divine Spirit in His Creation. Dadaji may have been born in 1906 or 1909, instead, since Pausa Samkranti happens to be on January 13th in those years.

An altercation ensued between the Pandit and the boy and the boy tried to convince him that this social inequity between people was abominable and meaningless, saying, “All the Shastras (scriptures) and rituals are a matter of the mind and laden with superstitions. Therefore,” he asserted, “forsake all these social customs and prejudices and devote your mind to Him. He is within you, do not forget it. He makes no distinctions between one person and another. Try to realize Him and become aware of Truth. Sanatana Dharma (eternal religion) preaches that Truth is One, Language is One. There is but One human race, One religion. God is Eternal and an all-pervading Entity.”

As was then in those early years when Pandit Banga Bhattacharyya was no exception to what the boy said, still today we hear the orthodox cry of denial of this great message ringing in every stratum of the society.

Amiya did not pursue conventional education for long. The boy disappeared from home about this time (age 6 yrs). After about two years he reappeared just before the Durga Puja celebration. Once again an altercation ensued with Banga Bhattacharyya in the presence of Amiya's father and others. It was in regard to the practice of Bali (sacrifice of beasts, animals). Using interpretations of several Slokas from the Shastras the young boy explained, “Bali does not mean the sacrifice of beasts on the altar to please a Deity, but rather the annihilation of the ego in a person with the extinction of the six Ripus* (six Indrias) within that person. Any desire,” he said, “for consuming meat should not be satisfied in His Name, but should be fulfilled in the natural course of living as part of a normal diet.”

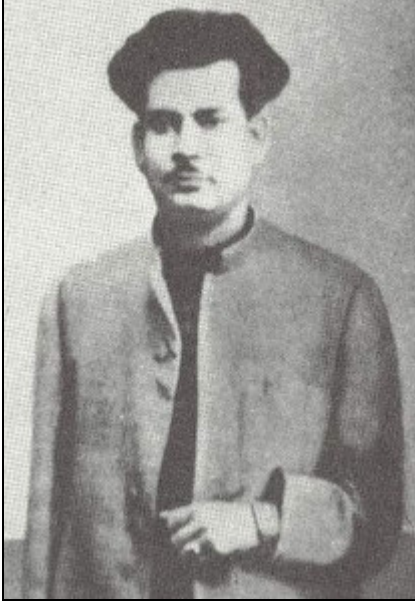
As a result of these discussions the custom of offering animal sacrifices in the Name of God was abolished in his father's household. This touched Banga Bhattacharyya deeply. In 1941 Banga Bhattacharyya was the first person to receive Mahanam on a Billa Patra (leaf) in the presence of Amiya Madhab. Saratkamini Devi, Amiya's mother, was the second person to receive Mahanam. His father, who had left his world years before when Amiya was still a young boy, had always been devoted to the Supreme Name and was fully aware of his son's divinity.

Years later Puja Dadaji in the course of conversations with eminent Pandits, scholars, philosophers, such as Mahamahopadhyaya Dr Gopi Nath Kaviraj, Mahamahopadhyaya Dr Srinivasan, Dr. Gourinath Shastri, Dr. Radhakrishnan, etc., gave the same interpretation of Bali that he had given as a boy to Banga Bhattacharyya. He also explained the real meaning of the word Puja. Dada said, “Puja is the identification of worshipper with the worshipped. Without this identification with the Supreme Being no worship is possible by ritual offerings or observing certain rigid religious conventions. But in faint heartedness and fear we reject the direct approach to Truth and grope in darkness. Can a puny mortal ever be a Guru? Mantra comes only from the Supreme Being. Therefore no human being can initiate another. It is the Lord alone who can dispel the darkness and introduce one to Mahanam. This Mahanam is the Eternal Truth which will enable the devotee to reach the transcendental Reality. This is possible only by the annihilation of the ego and by complete surrender to the Absolute by having faith in Mahanam. Jap and Tapasya as commonly understood are totally meaningless. Brahmin does not mean wearing sanctified thread. All are born with Brahma within; in that sense all people are Brahmins.”

Right from a very early age Amiya often disappeared from home unconcerned about comforts available in his wealthy parental home. He wandered about in dense forests and cold mountainous regions of the Himalayas to extricate yogis and Sadhus from the false path of tapasya they had undertaken and put them on the correct path for realizing Truth.

From his boyhood onward Amiya had an inborn inclination for music and was fond of singing. He went to Samarendra Pal, the imminent musician of Comilla, for instruction in the art of vocal music. With his ardent devotion to music, in a short time he achieved great skill in singing and became Samarendra Pal's favorite student. When he completed his music studies in the theory and performance of vocal music, he attended various music conferences throughout India, eventually achieving a topmost position. His handsome appearance coupled with his sweet and sonorous voice soon bright him into the popular limelight as a famous vocal artist.

* Ripus - Lit. enemy. On the subjective plane, the six mental drives that are apt to disturb and liquidate mental integrity and equanimity. They are: Kama (lust, carnal desire), Krodha (anger), Lobha (greed, avarice), Moha (infatuation, stupefaction), Mada (vanity, egotism), and Matsarya (jealousy). Sometimes called Sat-jala (a sixfold net) or Sat-chakra (six plexus) by Dadaji.



From 1929 to around 1943 Amiya Roy Chowdhury was closely associated with All India Radio in Calcutta where he was a distinguished performer and advisor on art and music. During that period he also became well-known in the world of theater and movies. He came in contact with many famous people, including Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, novelist Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyaya, Dr. B.C. Roy, Sri Nalini Sarkar, Birlas, Goenkas, Ustad Faiaz Khan, Ustad Allaiddin Khan, Badal Khan, Janendra Prasad Goswami, etc.

About the same time I was fortunate enough to be introduced to Amiya and we used to spend long hours discussing the theory and practice of musical arts. During this same period when Amiya was known as an eminent artist in the world of music, simultaneously he was also seen in different places by various credible people, playing other roles using different names although in the same physical form. He was off and on for several years in Varanasi at Pataleshwar living in a small cell of a Mosque where both Muslims and Hindus used to pay

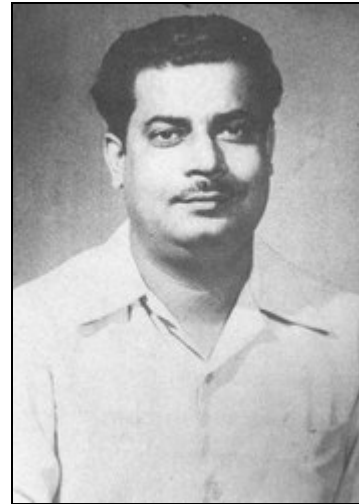
respects to him. He was well-known to great saints and scholars there who came to him to get enlightened on many deep matters. The simultaneous presence of Amiya and thereafter of Dadaji has been experienced by many people.

A recent example of this was when Dadaji was in person at his residence in Calcutta; simultaneously he was seen by Dr. Dilip Chatterji in the USA where Dadaji fed him some sweets; and also simultaneously Dadaji was seen by Dr. Puraby Varatya who talked with him for hours inside her apartment in the USA. Some time back Edward Kennedy, the learned Senator in the USA, had a talk with Dadaji by phone. He expressed his desire to meet Dadaji. Dadaji asked him, "Are you noticing any Aroma in your room?" The Senator replied that the room was fully engulfed with a sweet fragrance of roses.

While in those earlier years he used to stay in the mountains and jungles, at the same time he also enjoyed other walks of life as a Lila (Divine Play). He was at times a musician, then also a successful businessman in banking and insurance, and an accomplished sportsman. He moved in the highest fashionable society and also lived simply in a cell in a Mosque. He would freely change his field of activity, not for earning money for he had enough family wealth and property, but to show everyone that normal work and living a natural life is a must. He at present runs a shop selling toys in the New Market in Calcutta. The world is Dada's toy shop!

In the year 1946 on the 26th day of Jayeshta, Amiya Roy Chowdhury married Miss Amita (Alo) Dasgupta. On the day of the bridal feast (Subhratri) Amiya disappeared from home for about six years. He, as usual, appeared in many places and confronted and convinced many Sanyasins that privation should not be undertaken as the path for the realization of Truth. He convinced many of them to go back home and lead a normal family life. Salvation may be had in the family life itself. In this period his wife suffered many privations for the cause of Truth with exemplary patience.

In 1967 after the passing of his mother Saratkamini Devi, Amiya became known as Dadaji and started revealing himself fully, traveling around the world as our Universal Elder Brother to establish Truth with Mahanam and his well-known Divine Fragrance. In the early 1970s he traveled to Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Madras, Maharashtra, Bombay, Punjab, Delhi in India, then later Dadaji traveled to many countries in Europe as well as many cities in USA. His only purpose





to establish Truth, the formless One Supreme Being, Satyanarayan, with Mahanam, thereby proving that no mortal can be a Guru or priest and no temples or churches are needed for God.

In 1973 a symbolic representation of Truth (Sri Sri Satyanarayan) made of marble was installed in the Satyanarayan Bhavan at Bhavnagar in the Indian state of Gujarat, by G.T. Kamdar under the benign presence of Shri Dadaji. On the very day of the installation, heart beats and respiration could be felt in the marble representation of Satyanarayan by all present. Many eminent physicians and scientists examined this phenomenon.

Since that day, food offering is made to this symbolic representation of Satyanarayan (Creator of Truth within) regularly and the offering is mysteriously tasted and accepted to the surprise of all. This is yet another among the innumerable manifestations of Dadaji recorded by many many distinguished people all over the world.

As a final note I would like to mention that hundreds, likely thousands of people around the world of all walks and stations in life have experienced the essence of Eternal Truth by receiving Mahanam by the grace of Dadaji. Those would include: Dr Gopinath Kaviraj, the world famous scholar; Dr S. Srinivasan, enjoying a universal reputation in Vedanta philosophy; Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, the great philosopher and ex-President of India; Dr Ramdhari Sing Dinkar, the National poet; Dr Marium, space scientist in USA; Dr Karlis Osis, Director of Psychic Research Institute USA; Mr H.S. Hanson of Denmark; Mr Bruce Kell and Mr David of Australia; the great scientist Dr Satyen Bose and other scientists of eminence like Dr R.L. Datta, Dr L.K. Pandit, Dr. H.N. Sethna; the great linguist Dr Suniti Chatterji; and, many other eminent scholars, philosophers, scientists, poets, writers, lawyers and Justices.