

BABAJI MAHARAJ

Bhakta Baba was disciple of **Mahapurush Shri Shri Babaji Maharaj**. Later Babaji Maharaj introduced Bhakta Baba to one of his famous disciple Shri Shri Kamraj Baba who taught him the lessons of Shakto, Shaiva and Tantra.

Mahapurush Shri Shri Babaji Maharaj is both ageless and eternally young. Sometimes he is formless, while at other times, he appears before his disciples in any form he wishes to liberate humanity from its worldly fetters. The Divine Himalayan Yogi is an enigma to many people. With the blessings from Babaji Maharaj only, Bhakta Baba got the direction to worship the almighty & the absolute Universal Lord “**Jai Radhey Govinda**” and then he went to Himalayas to get initiated into Vaishnav Sadhana.

Bhakta Baba during his student life itself in Kasi (Banaras, North India), he got the proud privilege to get a glimpse of his Master “**BABAJI MAHARAJ**”. This Godly ancient Sage, a holy man (Maha Purush) was Bhakta Baba’s Master on his spiritual pursuits and provided him necessary direction. Till his last days of life he is keeping contact with Babaji Maharaj. He also spoke on many occasion Babaji Maharaj’s contemporary a holy mother (Mataji) too. Bhakta Baba got a lot of affection and care from her too and perhaps she was Babaji’s sister as quoted in an Autobiography of a Yogi. It was said Lahiri Mahasaya, Babaji Maharaj, and his sister, Mataji, appeared from a flash of light at the Dasahwamedha bathing *ghat* to Ramgopal, who had been told go there by his guru, Lahiri Mahasaya. Here Babaji Maharaj desired to shed his body, his sister Mataji then said, “As there is no difference between being ensconced in Brahma and the deathless form, pledge before me that you will never relinquish your body form for the liberation of the entire human race.” Listening to her prayer, as a hallmark of his great compassion, he promised it would be so. Mataji (meaning "Holy Mother") is said also has lived through the centuries. It is said Mataji’s level of spiritual attainment is comparable to her brother's, and she lives in a state of spiritual ecstasy in an underground cave. Some say "young and surpassingly lovely" as well as a "glorious woman" & showered her full affection on people around her...

It is learnt: 1. Babaji Maharaj does not use any name. 2. He does not have a normal human body. 3. There is no photo. 4. He is not an *Avatar*. 5. He made Injunction (prohibits) against starting an organization. 6. He reveals many spiritual disciplines. 7. He maintains strict Order of *Guru-Param-Para* (Master&Disciple Relationship). 8. Qualifications for *Kriya* and other marg’s to follow are according to Babaji. 9. He observes very strict rules. 10. He considers Guru’s responsibility is paramount.

It is learnt Babaji is not his real name. Nobody knows his real name. He does not use a name for himself. His principal disciple of *Kriya*, Yogiraj Sri Sri Shyama Charan Lahiri Mahasay (popularly known as Lahiri Mahasay) used to call him “**Babaji**.” Since then he has been known as Babaji (although Babaji is a general term or title for any renunciate – particularly in the Vaisnav Discipline). He loves to remain aloof from society, yet serves the entire world. Also he serves the higher spiritual beings on other planets as well. His influence is enormous in the field of spirituality. In the midst of his wandering lifestyle serving the spiritual beings of the world and the interplanetary systems, he loves to make visits and stays often for a while in two places in the Himalayas. Thus he is called the **Divine Himalayan Yogi**. These two places are: 1. Vaisnabi Shakti Pith – Dunagiri Hill, Himalayas and 2. Badrinath Dham or Badrinarayan, in the Himalayas.

The reason for his consideration to choose these two places is simple. He is the spirit of Lord Krishna, the incarnation of Supreme Lord Jai Radhey Govinda. Vaisnabi Mata, the consort of Lord Vishnu, is the presiding deity at Dunagiri Hill Temple or the Vaisnabi Sakti Pith. Badrinath or Badrinarayan is another name of Lord Vishnu, naturally the Divine Himalayan Yogi loves to visit this place. His works are divine, shrouded in a mystery that eludes precise detail. Time has failed to reveal the facts about his birth, identity, and life. He is primordial and immortal, not remaining captive to the bounds of time and space. He is supreme and unparalleled among all saints and sages. He assumes an all-compassionate, beautiful, luminous form to provide an experience of new life to confused, grieving, fearful, despondent, and doubtful people, showing them the highway to God-realization.

Babaji Maharaj remains engrossed in deep meditation in the dense forests, caves, and snow-covered peaks of the Himalayas, at the same time keeping a watchful gaze on earnest seekers on their paths to the Ultimate. His divine play of miraculous appearance and disappearance, as narrated by his disciples Lahiri Mahasaya, Swami Pranavananda, Swami Shriyukteshwar, Hamsa Swami Kevalananda, Paramahansa Yogananda, Paramahansa Hariharananda, and Shri Shri Bimalanandaji Maharaj (Bhakta Baba) is his unique way of guiding disciples on the path of divinity toward rapid liberation.

There is a scintillating account of his propping up Lahiri Mahasaya from infancy to ascension to godhood, like a bird shelters its offspring under protective wings. He initiated Lahiri Mahasaya into the liberating and sacrosanct techniques of Kriya Yoga. By Mahavatar Babaji's limitless divine power, Lahiri Mahasaya entered the deepest level of God-realization, the state of *nirvikalpa samadhi*. Crossing the successive stages of Self-knowledge, he remained anchored for seven days in the deathless realm of *brahma loka*. The compassionate Babaji Maharaj instructed him to go back to the world and perform his worldly duties as an ideal yogi householder, blazing the path of liberation for worldly people and *sannyasis* alike who earnestly sought God-realization. In this way Babaji taught that liberation was no longer the monopoly of a few select *sannyasis*, and that worldly people could attain godhood without abandoning their duties. By seeking the soul at every moment during all activities, we can achieve God-realization.

Babaji Maharaj tested the depth of love and determination of an American devotee who was searching for him along the inaccessible crags of the Himalayas. Glimpsing Babaji Maharaj, the devotee's face lit up with joy, and tears streamed down his face. The devotee implored Babaji Maharaj to accept him as his disciple. Babaji Maharaj sternly declined, and the American devotee suddenly jumped from the cliff into a rocky chasm below the ledge. Babaji Maharaj instructed his disciples to collect the corpse. With Babaji's divine touch, the American devotee came back to life and was accorded the rare privilege of being Babaji Maharaj's disciple. Like a director who remains in the background instructing the actors, Shri Babaji Maharaj oversees the worldly stage, appearing only rarely. At Kumbha Mela, he addressed Priyanath (Swami Shriyukteshwar), the dear and close disciple of Lahiri Mahasaya, as "Swamiji," to Priyanath's utter astonishment. He instructed Priyanath to write a book combining the essence of Indian metaphysics with that of the West, promising to meet him the day it was finished. True to his word, Babaji Maharaj visited him on the day the assigned work was completed, as Priyanath exited his bath in the Ganga at Seerampur. It is learnt Bhakta Baba was in close touch with Babaji Maharaj till he left his earthly body and still continues to remain so.

During the twelve-year period Swami Satyeswarananda Vidyaratna Babaji (popularly known as Baba and in earlier life known as Narayana) was living at Dunagiri Hill, many times the Divine Himalayan Yogi visited him; the happenings of one such visit was as follows. One evening, Baba

was sitting outside, gazing at the Bharat Court Hill, when Babaji arrived from the forest side. Baba received him with *Pranam* (bowing). Then both went into the holy hut (the temple of Silence), where Baba arranged the cave for Babaji. Babaji entered the cave. The next morning, Baba prepared *suji* (with semolina, sugar and milk) and offered it to Babaji. His body is beyond the rules of nature and, as such, does not need food; yet Baba offered it as he learned to do so from Mataji. Babaji accepted it kindly. Babaji looked into Baba's eyes and smiled gently. The following evening, Babaji proposed to move Babaji said I would like to take you somewhere now. Narayan, you will accompany me. Babaji further said you will see some scenes of Narayana (Baba's previous life) there. Babaji came out of the hut; Babaji locked the hut and created a balloon out of the sky using a yogic Process. On being instructed Baba closed his eyes and concentrated between the eyebrows. Babaji took Baba in his arms, and Baba had the feeling as if his body levitated from the ground, and they were moving forward in the sky while his legs hung limply. After some time, they landed from **clairportation** (*Atibahik*), airborne system. Baba said, Babaji...It seems that we are in Bengal. Is it not so? Babaji said "Yes, we are. Look, here is a hermitage where you lived with an old swami". Baba asked "It seems we are clairported about thirteen hundred miles. What is the name of this place, Babaji"? Babaji said it is Sanyasgar (place of *Sanyasi*, or Swami, or renunciates). Babaji touched the top of Baba's head, and Baba remembered his previous life. The young student, Narayana, was from Baba's previous life. On being asked, Babaji said yes, this is your previous life. Look at this old swami. He will leave his body. Baba asked what the name of this Swami is. Babaji said he does not use any name. Baba asked "By what name do people or his disciples call him"? Babaji said "Gobinda Bhagavan, Maheswar Baba (Maheswarananda), Sadhu Baba, Babaji, etc. Babaji questioned "It means you were in Bengal. Would you kindly tell me where that old swami's body was born"?

Babaji remained silent. He refused to comment. It became clear that the old swami was Babaji, and that the body, which he changed through the yogic Process *Kaya-Kalpa*, as is present body: young, bright and radiant. As it was made through a yogic Process, it remained free from the laws of nature.

Babaji Maharaj's divine majesties and the cosmic enactment of his dream are endless. He roams forever in the vast ethereal canvas of divinity, transcending limitations of worldly distinctions such as caste, class, religion, culture, history, and geography.

(Researched by Sri Biswarup Goswami with excerpts from note of Sri Shankar Chakrabarty on Bhakta Baba, Kriya.org, Autobiography of a Yogi, notes from devotees of Kamraj Baba etc.)