

Revered Dada J. P. Vaswani, Sadhu Vaswani Mission, Pune, India: 1918-2018

“Dada J. P. Vaswani...epitomizes the life of Dharma. He is a living example of how the spirit and the practice of our ancient traditions can be purely maintained, even amongst the changes and challenges of this modern age.” – H.H. the Dalai Lama

Universally acclaimed as a humanitarian, philosopher, educator, acclaimed writer, powerful orator, messiah of non-violence or *ahimsa*, and non-sectarian spiritualist, Rev. Dada Jashan P. Vaswani captivated the hearts of millions worldwide. In the eyes of many, he was a man who symbolized the true spirit of the India of the *rishis*, as a harbinger of love, peace, and hope. On July 12, 2018, twenty-one days before his birth centenary, he dropped his physical frame to unite with his spiritual Master.

“*Dada*” has been the spiritual head of the Sadhu Vaswani Mission, and the moving, inspiring, life-giving, and life-sustaining force behind its multifarious activities. By his Centenary year, Dada was widely regarded by many to be the veritable doyen of contemporary spiritual leaders of India. Holding aloft in his hands, the torch bequeathed to him by his Master, Dada carried across the globe the message of India's deathless culture. Through him, the joy of faith and peace flowed out to many. In him, thousands of faithful devotees beheld the image of their Beloved. “Be true to your religion,” he proclaimed. “If you are a Hindu, be a better Hindu; if a Christian, then a better Christian!”

Avid readers who have read Dada's best-selling books regard him as a great inspirational writer. Distinguished audiences who have heard him address eminent forums like the World Parliament of Religions, the Global Forum of Spiritual Leaders, the House of Commons, and the United Nations hail him as a brilliant and captivating orator. Animal lovers revere and admire him as an apostle of non-violence who strived tirelessly for the cause of reverence for all life. And, to the thousands spread all over the globe, Dada J.P. Vaswani has been an unquestioned spiritual leader.

Born on August 2, 1918, Dada J.P. Vaswani was a brilliant student who obtained his B.S. degree at the youthful age of seventeen. His M.Sc. Thesis on “The scattering of X-Rays by Solids” was examined by Nobel-Laureate, Dr. C.V Raman. Although Dada's conclusions were in divergence with those of Dr. Raman, the originality of his views impressed the eminent scientist. Dada gave up a career in academics to follow in the footsteps of his illustrious uncle and Guru, Sadhu T.L Vaswani.

To propagate the master’s ideals, Dada edited three monthly journals – the Excelsior, the India Digest, and the East and West series. He served as the Principal of the Mission’s St. Mira's College for Girls, in Pune, India. He set a living example before teachers and students and was dearly loved by them. Dada authored of over one hundred fifty books in English. His writings reveal practical tips on happy, successful, spiritual, and non-violent living. Many of his books have run into several editions and have been translated into seventeen world languages. Most recently, the Sadhu Vaswani Mission has published the “*Anjali Sangraha*,” a compilation of spontaneous outpourings of songs composed, written, recited, or sung, by Dada in his lyrical native Sindhi language. This 1,001-page volume comprises of heart felt renderings which are seeped with a deep sense of love and longing, gratitude, and glorification of the Lord. Dada uses the ‘nom de plume,’ ‘Anjali’ in his compositions, which means ‘offering.’

**Messenger of Universal Love, Interfaith Harmony, and Ahimsa (Non-violence):
The very essence of Dada’s being**

Dada was born in Hyderabad, Sindh Province of Pakistan. He was born into a Hindu family that was very much influenced by the teachings of the Sikh saint, Guru Nanak. By 1948, as the region frayed into religious chaos caused by political upheaval and the partition of the sub-continent, Dada was compelled to move to India along with his Master. In February 1949, they settled in Pune, India. There Sadhu Vaswani propagated a life of spiritual orientation, promoting the practice of *kirtans* (group chanting), prayer, meditation, and above all, living for others.

In 1966, when Sadhu T.L. Vaswani shed his physical body, the baton was passed on to Dada J.P. Vaswani. Since then, Dada's life journey was an embodiment of the ideals of the Guru's teachings. He continued to travel across India, bringing his master's message of universal love, compassion, and kindness, to people of all faiths and religions. In 1982, at age 64, Dada began his first overseas journey – spreading the Mission's vision of Oneness to the four corners of the world. The pilgrimage we need to undertake, according to Dada, is within us. There we shall discover all the holy places, the holy rivers, the holy music. The great Ones, Sri Rama, Sri Krishna, Guru Nanak, Gautama Buddha, Jesus... are all omni-present within us!

Furthering one of the Mission's core tenets of 'reverence for all,' Dada popularized November 25th, Sadhu Vaswani's birthday, as 'International Meatless Day' across the world. On Dada's birthday, August 2nd, people observe the 'Moment of Calm' at 2 pm as part of a global peace initiative that aims at bringing calm to one's heart through the power of forgiveness and love. Forgiveness, Dada believed, is the key to happiness.

Despite a quadruple heart by-pass surgery in 1998, and fractures of the collar bone, arm, and hip, from a fall in 2010, Dada continued to maintain a rigorous travel schedule until a day before his hospitalization in June this year. Every breath of his being, he maintained, is a gift of God that must be spent in service of the suffering children of humanity. In the newly released biography, "Guru of None, Disciple of All – The Life and Times of Dada J.P. Vaswani," the author speaks of "his radiant glow, twinkling eyes, energy, and sharp wit." Dada, she continues, "proves that youth is not a matter of age, but a matter of mind." Under his leadership, the Mission has established 70+ spiritual centers worldwide whose volunteers offer non-denominational service to all communities in need; 18 educational institutions, with approximately 20,000 students of all faiths; 7 hospitals that offer free medical services, heart transplants, cataract surgeries, etc., regardless of caste or creed.

The Sadhu Vaswani Mission celebrates significant days in the lives of great ones from all faiths. Scriptures from world religions are often read at the Mission's centers on such occasions. Dada's homilies were peppered with stories of saints from all religions. He encouraged the faithful to enter into some form a loving relationship with God. "If Lord Krishna is my brother," he often exclaimed, "then Jesus is my uncle!" Some of Dada's books that further elucidate his vision for interfaith harmony include, "Many Paths: One Goal," "Many Scriptures: One Wisdom," and "Peace or Perish – There Is No Other Choice!" Notable among his books on love and non-violence are: "The Terror Within," "Face It with Love," "The Miracle of Forgiving," and "Dewdrops of Love." One of the very last books written by Dada in 2018 is a collection of anecdotes, life experiences, practical suggestions, and stories. The book is aptly titled, "Alphabets of Good Life." The book will mark his enduring gift to the world.

Clickable Links:

Short Films at a click:

Global Forgiveness Day (1:15 min): <https://vimeo.com/843474704>

Forgiveness – The Sweetest Revenge | Moment of Calm: <https://youtu.be/Hnf0uigtzE>

Forgiveness – A Gateway to New Beginnings | Moment of Calm: https://youtu.be/KITAlb5Sm_Q

Rev. Dada J.P. Vaswani (4 min): <https://vimeo.com/125703234>

Sadhu Vaswani Mission (12 min): <https://vimeo.com/125702466>

Sadhu Vaswani Mission - Medical Institutions (5 min): <https://vimeo.com/125704980>

Sadhu Vaswani Mission - Educational Institutions (6 min): <https://vimeo.com/125704206>

Sadhu Vaswani Mission Sites:

www.sadhuvaswani.org

www.dadavaswanisbooks.com

<https://www.youtube.com/user/svmission>

<https://www.facebook.com/sadhuvaswani>

<https://twitter.com/dadajpvaswani>

Hyperlinks for book references:

"Guru of None, Disciple of All – The Life and Times of Dada J.P. Vaswani" (<http://www.amazon.in/Guru-None-Disciple-All-Vaswani/dp/9384544752>)

"Many Paths: One Goal" (<http://www.dadavaswanisbooks.com/online-store/books/spiritual-philosophical/index.php?id=243>),

“Many Scriptures: One Wisdom” (<http://www.dadavaswanisbooks.com/online-store/books/spiritual-philosophical/index.php?id=308>)

“Peace or Perish – There Is No Other Choice!” (<http://www.dadavaswanisbooks.com/online-store/books/self-improvement/index.php?id=196>)

“Ten Companions of God – Life and Teachings of the Sikh Gurus” (<http://www.dadavaswanisbooks.com/online-store/books/biography/index.php?id=291>)

“Sufi Saints of East and West” (<http://www.dadavaswanisbooks.com/online-store/books/biography/index.php?id=118>)

“Comrades of God” (<http://www.dadavaswanisbooks.com/online-store/books/biography/index.php?id=320>)

Links of Interest:

1. In the News – Meditation Garden to offer Secaucus serenity - <http://bit.ly/18Oj6ug>
2. TV Asia Face to Face with Rev. Dada J.P. Vaswani - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2CHjBD1Yd8Q>
3. Interview of Rev. Dada on Headline News: http://youtu.be/LI_44Lulahk
4. On CNN-IBN: With Aamir Khan & HH the Dalai Lama - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iL3ek9EaZZ0>
5. Going meatless for world peace - <http://epaper.sakaalimes.com/SakaalTimes/25Nov2013/Enlarge/page2.htm>
6. “Every day is my birthday” - <http://www.speakingtree.in/public/spiritual-articles/lifestyle/every-day-is-my-birthday>
7. On CNN-IBN: Aamir Khan on Forgiveness with Revered Dada J.P. Vaswani & HH the Dalai Lama - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iL3ek9EaZZ0>
8. Young n Happy @ 95 - Maa Gold TV Channel Interview - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4wGsVla6tM>
9. Speaking Tree Cover Story on Dada – Pilgrimage to Love - <http://www.speakingtree.in/spiritual-articles/science-of-spirituality/a-pilgrimage-of-love>
10. Interview with Business Outlook Magazine - <http://www.outlookbusiness.com/cest-lavie/pursuit-of-happiness/there-is-more-to-life-than-livelihood-1726>
11. Dada – Redefining the meaning of Integrity – Jennifer Green Blog - <http://www.namasme.com/useful-advice-for-normalish-people/2015/5/6/guru-dada-redefining-the-meaning-of-integrity>

Select Quotes by Sadhu T.L. Vaswani and Dada J.P. Vaswani:

“Children of the earth, ye all are one!”

“In all religions, the Light is Thine:
In all scriptures, the Inspiration is Thine:
In all Saints, the Picture is Thine!”

“Men and nations alike must either love one another or perish! There is no other choice!”

“Pilgrimages will not help thee!
Thou wilt fail to find the Truth as long as thou wilt not look beyond the books into the Heart within.
Verily, in the Heart is the shrine of all Prophets and Saints.”

“The Baha’i faith teaches us that true religion promotes unity, and that unity is the fundamental prerequisite for the achievement of global peace.”

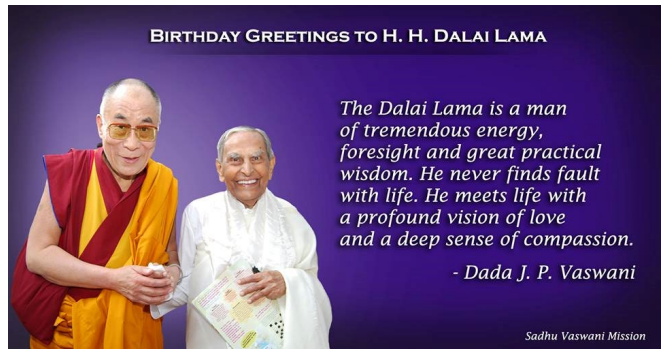
“Buddhism is not a pessimistic faith that dwells on suffering and misery; rather, it insists that zest is essential to overcome suffering and attain liberation. It teaches us to empower ourselves to eradicate suffering through wisdom and right actions.”

“A beautiful Sikh belief tells us that the One Light passed into all the Sikh Gurus. And may I be permitted to say that the One Life has never vanished? It is in each one of us. Only let us break the barriers of passion and prejudice, of separateness, sectarianism, and strife. Only let us remove the obstacles, so that the light may shine with splendor. India needs the Light; the nations need the Light. Civilization needs the Light. And the Light shines through everyone who radiates love. Guru Nanak’s call is a call to all of us – of sympathy, compassion, and love!”

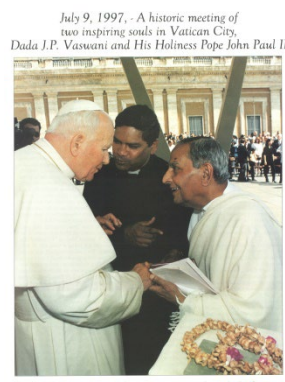
Dada J.P. Vaswani – In Pictures



Dada with Prime Minister Narendra Modi



Dada with H.H. Dalai Lama



H.H. Pope John Paul II



Homage to Guru Nanak



Mother Teresa Inaugurates SVM Hospital



Audrey Kitagawa, Light of Awareness



**William Lesher, Chair, World Parliament of Religions
Discussing Dada's "Many Paths: One Goal"**



Taking a ride with Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni



Dada at the Vatican with H.H. Pope Francis



Sheikh Abdul Aziz Bukhari, Grand Mufti, Syria



Acharya Sushil Kumar Muni



Religious Leaders Greetings on 90th Birthday



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Greeting Muharram Procession at the Mission



Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Swami Chidanand Saraswati