

## **An Experience with Baba Ji**

A few years ago, I was very fortunate to go with some members of the congregation to Germany for a weekend to attend a congregation in the presence of His Holiness Baba Ji.

We were to travel by road in a car and minibus and were all excited by the prospect of going on a road trip to meet Baba Ji. We left on a Friday evening and planned to drive throughout the night and to reach Düsseldorf in Germany by mid-morning on the Saturday, the journey taking approximately 12 hours.

The journey was long and tiresome, but everyone was in good spirits and anxious to get to our destination so we could receive Baba Ji at Düsseldorf airport. We arrived in Düsseldorf and made our way to the airport, where we were met by the local members of the congregation who were elated to see us, particularly as we had driven all this way. Baba Ji's flight had just landed, and after a few minutes Baba Ji walked through the arrivals door to loud exclamations of joy by all the Saints.

We greeted Baba Ji who was very happy to see us and asked us how we had travelled and how long the journey had taken. Baba Ji and all the Saints then left the airport to travel to a nearby Saint's home for some rest and refreshments. The programme was that after Baba Ji had rested, He was to attend a congregation at a Hindu temple in the evening, stay the night and then catch an early morning flight on Sunday to Berlin where a congregation had been organised. Having been told the plans, we decided that we should also try and attend the congregation in Berlin and decided that after the congregation at the temple, we would leave immediately and travel through the night to meet Baba Ji in Berlin, a 7 – 8 hour journey.

So once again we set off on another long journey, but again filled with excitement and being able to spend more time with Baba Ji. We were told that the congregation was to be held in a hall close to Berlin airport where Baba Ji would be landing. We thought that it would be wonderful if we could arrive at Berlin airport and greet Baba Ji again as we had done in Düsseldorf. With this enthusiasm, we drove non-stop through Germany, arriving in Berlin at about 7.00 am.

We made our way to the airport and arriving just in time to greet Baba Ji as He came off His flight. Baba Ji looked at us with happiness and surprise that just the day before we had greeted him in one part of Germany and a few hours later we were doing the same on the other side of the country! The congregation was then held to a packed hall, with all the Saints overflowing with happiness to see Baba Ji.

After the congregation had finished, we started preparing ourselves for the journey back to England. At this point we were all extremely tired from the long journeys and were dreading the long drive back. As we were preparing to leave, we had a short opportunity to meet with Baba Ji. We all met with Him and He asked us if we were tired! He looked upon us with such happiness and pleasure that we had put in all this effort in order to see Him and attend the congregations. He gave us all blessings that we can continue to attend congregations and serve selflessly. We then proceeded to leave, where Baba Ji waved us off and wished us a safe journey.

As we travelled back, we recollected on the weekend, the long drives, the congregations and of course, meeting with Baba Ji. While discussing, we laughed at how Baba Ji had asked us if we were tired. We then all realised that we had been part of just one weekend of Baba Ji's hectic schedule. We were all exhausted after just two days, but this was Baba Ji's life the whole year round. We then understood His greatness and self sacrifice and were also put to shame at how much discomfort Baba Ji puts Himself into for us, but we complain after the smallest amount of inconvenience.

May we all remember everything Baba Ji does for us and always appreciate what we have, and try to give to others the happiness He has given us.