



Vallabhbhai Hirabhai Bhagwanji Patel



Vallabhbhai was born on 21st October 1926 in a small village called Soyani near Bardoli in the state of Gujarat. He was born in an ordinary family and was the youngest of five brothers. His father passed away in 1942 and unfortunately, he had to abandon his high school education in order to support his family. He joined farming at an early age and struggled to make ends meet.

He got married to Gulabben Govindbhai Patel (Puna-Kumbhariya) in May 1944. During 1947-1948, he played a major role in Gam Panchayat and had to resign from his post due to personal reasons. In July 1953, his older brother Jivanbhai called him to Nyasaland, now known as Malawi, to help in the family owned business. He had to adapt and learn the local language quickly. He ran the business with honesty and integrity. In 1965, he came to the UK with the intention of settling down and providing a good education for his sons. Unfortunately, he had to return to Malawi, as the family owned business was expanding and needed experienced manpower. During difficulties, his wife Gulabben, stood by him and supported him.

In 1975, due to the political situation in Malawi, he decided to come back to the UK with his family. In 1976, he moved to Wembley, after staying in Hammersmith for a short period. He joined Brent Indian Association as a committee member and provided useful services and suggestions. He later



founded the Brent Elderly Group Association where he organised Bhajans, coach trips and holidays at discounted prices. He later changed the name to London Elderly Group in order to attract new members outside of Brent and at the start of the Covid pandemic (early 2020), this group donated £2,551 to the NHS. In 2012 he received the Community Champion award from Brent Council for his services to the community.



He is a good Bhajanik (Bhajan singer) as well as Bhajan writer. He has published fifty-five bhajans in a book format. His Bhajans can also be enjoyed by searching youtube for “Bhajanamrut Vallabhchai H. Patel” or by scanning this QR code.



Now, during his retired life, he gives prime importance to Bhajans/ religious activities and says, “SERVING PEOPLE IS SERVING GOD”. He has written articles on a regular basis in the GUJARAT SAMACHAR weekly newspaper. He also donates to charities on a regular basis and encourages others to do the same.



Vallabhbai is in good health and still has his original teeth, as well as being able to read without glasses. He also has very good hearing at the age of 94! He is a pure vegetarian and believes that even meat eaters need to eat vegetables.

Vallabhbai believes his life's true achievement has been providing a good education to his children, and he instilled the prime importance of education in his children and grandchildren. His family comprises of three sons, a daughter, nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. They have all achieved a high standard of education and are successful in their respective careers. The whole family is looking forward to Vallabhbai reaching a grand milestone of 100 (century).

