

# Call of the Time Dialogue for Europe & the Middle East

## The Global Retreat Centre, Oxfordshire, UK

### 7-10 September 2023



The Call of the Time Dialogue which took place at The Global Retreat Centre, near Oxford, UK from 7th to 10th September was in fact the first retreat for members of the public held at the retreat centre since its official re-opening in July.

There were a total of 25 guest participants from Belgium, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and various parts of the UK. Among them were politicians and government officials, business leaders and entrepreneurs, social activists and influencers, academics and musical artists. In addition, an international team of BKs, plus an extended GRC team, were facilitating and co-ordinating all elements of the retreat, sustaining guests and creating an atmosphere in which these people with very busy lives felt safe, cared for and at home.

The theme of the dialogue was: *What is the call of the time for you?* Much of the discussion was around how we can respond peacefully, yet effectively to challenges of today's world and, in particular, in the face of injustice. The group bonded very quickly. There was an openness and trust that gave a safe space for deep and real sharing.

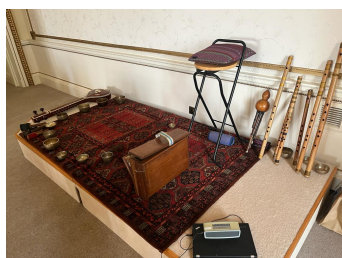
On the first evening, a video of Dadi Janki speaking was shown and it was as if Dadi was really in the room, leading the dialogue and capturing everyone's attention completely.

Sister Jayanti was the main spiritual resource, offering short talks, inviting people to share their own experiences and perspectives and responding with great respect and quiet authority to concerns and questions by offering a spiritual perspective



Sister Maureen led the early morning sessions - introduction to soul, God and time, with meditation. These often sparked off further discussions later in the day. Before the early morning sessions, Sister Marneta led exercise sessions to powerfully uplifting music on the lawn in front of the house, to freshen everyone up and ready to listen and meditate.

Sister Judy and Brother Yogesh facilitated the dialogue, encouraging, clarifying and picking up connections and signals, so that everyone felt heard and included.



Brother Peter Lee provided beautiful music - mainly with flutes and Tibetan singing bowls) throughout the dialogue. He also also teamed up with a number of the participants when they offered to perform a song from their own traditions at various times over those few days.

On the final evening, a rakhi ceremony was held. Sister Jayanti tied rakhi and gave toli and Sister Manda gave drishti, fruit and blessing. Everyone took part and together created a very special, sacred atmosphere. After all had had their rakhis tied, a brother from Saudi Arabia serenaded everyone with a song.

The renovated Retreat Centre was looking especially beautiful - pristine, royal and powerful - and the weather also lent its support, providing the sunniest weekend of the year for them. The attention to detail given by the GRC team, with the dining and serving, decorating, rooms, gardens, etc was truly incredible and the guests were wonderstruck!



In their 'checking out' at the end of the Dialogue, many guests shared a commitment to personal change as a result of the retreat, as well as a desire to stay connected and work alongside us.

They also expressed how touched they were to be served with so much love.

*"Thank you so much for this special opportunity to learn about the Brahma Kumaris and to experience the beautiful practice in community with you and the extraordinary leaders you convened for the Call of the Time Dialogue. You helped me keep my heart rooted in a place of love and compassion, in the wake of a devastating loss. I will do my best to continue to incorporate the learnings from our time together into my daily life."*

*"What a life-transforming experience this whole retreat was, and the impact it leaves will stay with me for so long. So many eye-opening moments, so much that stays with me and the generosity from the BKs team was so overwhelming. I will give this generosity back in any way that I can. THANK YOU. I look forward to seeing you all again."*

Om shanti.