Tribute to B.K.S.Iyengar by Kay Parry, Australia

For me to speak of Guruji is very difficult. It isn’t the first time I have found this to be so. After Guruji’s 1983 Sydney Convention I was asked to give Guruji a message of thanks from the Australian community. A spokesperson from New Zealand addressed Guruji and gave thanks. Then it came my turn. I opened my mouth. And found myself at Guruji’s feet. I hadn’t said a word.

Later Guruji noticed that I looked a bit distressed and came over. He asked what was the matter. I started to apologise for not giving him the due message of thanks. He laughed and said, ‘I too am a man of action’ and playfully slapped me on the back.

If action speaks louder than words, with words one cannot do justice to the actions of this great man. Guruji used the power of words with insight and the precision of a micro-surgeon to cut deep into the very core of our consciousness and as if through the process of osmosis his words penetrate the body and are understood at a cellular level.

To speak of Guruji is to speak of an amazing human being. A true Guru, one who removes ignorance and gives knowledge; a shining light. A shining light that lights the path to betterment. A light that penetrates the veils of darkness; the darkness of spiritual doubt.

Generous, funny, astute, kind, caring, sharing, with magical healing powers and the bushiest of eyebrows! He shared all and gave the gift of yoga to the world.

I followed Guruji to many parts of the world and gathered precious moments and experiences. Guruji went wherever he was needed to share his knowledge and inspire dedicated practitioners. He bravely went to Israel during a time of travel alert warnings and taught with open heartedness. When he taught to over 1,000 students in London at the Europe Convention I felt I was there with him and one with my asana. Age didn’t stop Guruji going to China he went and opened their hearts with the gift of yoga.

The list of his life achievements is astonishing and for this he will be known to the generations to come. For he is what legends are made of. The ultimate man of action - a teacher, scholar, researcher, scientist, author, lecturer, practitioner and artist.

Guruji had a natural affect on the people he came in contact with, not only students but everyday people. In 1992 on Guruji’s second visit to Sydney we had the convention filmed by a highly experienced hard-line film crew.

At lunch after the first session I asked the crew how it was going. There was silence. Then this Aussie bloke said, ‘If he treated my like that I’d have punched him’.

But let me tell you the next morning there they were waiting for Guruji. Carefully positioning a special mike attachment. Respectfully calling him Sir. Waiting on his every need. At lunch I asked what had brought about the change. He said ‘I looked into his eyes’.

I too have looked into Guruji’s eyes and found love and compassion.

He had a profound effect and influence on my life. I feel eternally blessed to be one of his students and lucky to have been born in his lifetime.

He is my Guru

My Spiritual Father

He eternally lives in my heart.

Thank you