



ASHA RANI GUPTA
May 11, 1941 - October 28, 2021

**"...When it's over, I want to say all my life
I was a bride married to amazement.
I was the bridegroom, taking the world
into my arms..."**

-Mary Oliver

On the evening of October 28, 2021, Asha Rani Gupta died peacefully at home surrounded by loved ones. In the months before her passing, she continued to demonstrate and expand all the qualities she modelled for us over her lifetime: how to live life with grace, trust, devotion, joy, and an openness to lifelong learning. Her legacy lies in the quiet yet profound ways she touched so many people, imprinting everyone she met with a sense of awe and of being loved.

Born in Moradabad, India, Asha was raised in a caring home which included her grandmother, whose connection to earthly rhythms and spirit of service deeply influenced her. The eldest of seven siblings, her limitless capacity to nurture and support others showed itself early. After marriage to Ramesh in 1960 (Lakhimpur-Kheri), she immigrated to Canada in 1966 and began to raise three children with focused devotion. Settling in Winnipeg in 1967, she earned a Master's degree in sociology, worked at the University of Manitoba library for over 20 years and became a pillar in the South Asian community. Her home was a gathering place to celebrate communal joys, sorrows and worship; she embodied generosity, empathy and sage counsel. A woman of deep inner strength, Asha often travelled independently and drove through Winnipeg blizzards, astonished by the prairie sky. She creatively embraced western cultural ways while also proudly sharing her ancestral expertise with everyone she met through flavourful cuisine and ancient practices that awakened connections to Mother Earth. Her knowledge was innate and exact, never needing recipes or instructions to convey the customs that brought meaning and vitality to life.

Throughout the years, Asha was comfortable with duality. Being passionate about style and travel, she was always immaculately dressed, alive with colour, and ready for another adventure. At the same time, she treasured spiritual life, increasingly drawn to devotional prayers, meditation, yoga, silence, and communities of service. In her presence, one couldn't help but care

for both - the material and the divine. Asha never ceased to marvel at the beauty of a blooming orchid, the joyous sound of a waterfall, or the luminous shape of the moon. To be with her in nature always brought a sense of wonder and delight. Nature responded in kind - in every garden or household she entered, she resurrected endless vegetation with her loving touch.

Perhaps her greatest contribution came in the wise, patient, and intuitive ways she navigated pain, loss, and discord. She always found graceful ways to forgive and adapt while preserving her dignity and integrity - and she never let suffering extinguish her playfulness. Right to the end, she immersed herself in joyful activities, be it reading poetry, playing bridge, home decor, acrylic painting, knitting, imparting recipes or smelling jasmine flowers.

We feel deep gratitude to the many care providers in Manitoba, BC, and Quebec who supported her, especially the CLSC Lac St. Louis palliative care team. With loving adoration from her husband Ramesh; children, Arpita, Namta and Rahul, son-in-law Raghu, daughter-in-law Kim; grandchildren, Mika, Maya, Nalin, Kian and Sathya; her brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, extended family and lifelong friends across many continents. May we all continue to experience her radiant presence and remarkable guidance.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Asha's name to: the Kidney Foundation of Canada, the Winnipeg Sai Centre or any spiritual/charitable organization of