A Spiritual Odyssey: The Resilience and Recovery of a Camel Family in the Sacred Grounds of Dayalbagh, Amidst the International Year of Camelids 2024

Dr Manju Srivastava¹ & Dr Anjoo Bhatnagar²

¹Department of Chemistry, Dayalbagh Educational Institute, Dayalbagh, Agra UP 282005, India ²Saran Ashram Hospital, Dayalbagh, Agra UP 282005, India

In the expansive embrace of Dayalbagh, a tale of extraordinary proportions unfolded as a distressed adult female camel languished near the ex-tannery gate amid the enchanting sand dunes. Her once vibrant form, now motionless with a neck immobile and eyes tightly shut, projected a disheartening image of impending doom. Echoes of her baby camel's distressed cries resonated through the vastness, accompanied by the somber gazes of the concerned camel family.

The pivotal moment materialized with the arrival of the Most Revered Prof Prem Saran Satsangi, Chairman Advisory Committee on Education, and present spiritual leader of the Ra-Dha-Sva-Aa-Mi Faith (Dayalbagh) whose sagacious advice instigated a holistic integrated treatment approach. Modern medicine along with (AYUSH) from Saran Ashram Hospital doctors' team were meticulously administered under his guidance, the air resonating with the rhythmic chant of Ra-Dha-Sva-Aa-Mi. The Most Revered Spiritual Leader, a paragon of benevolence, devoted significant time near the ailing camel, overseeing her with a watchful eye. Miraculously, signs of improvement manifested, and she partook in nourishment – an unmistakable testament to the transformative impact of his spiritual presence.

As the cultural ambiance heightened, a kaleidoscope of vibrancy unfolded—a tapestry of dances, singing, chanting, and prayers. The speech by Most Revered Spiritual Leader marked a pivotal juncture as one ear of the camel subtly moved, signifying a profound response to his spiritual presence. Despite her momentary struggle, the camel held her neck and emitted distress calls, revealing the gravity of her condition. Careless handling during transportation had inflicted injuries, prompting the Ayush doctors' team to diligently apply holistic medicine, including allopathic braces, support, homeopathic remedies, and Ra-Dha-Sva-Aa-Mi Chant. Through the grace of the Most Revered Spiritual Master and the collective efforts of the medical team, a dramatic metamorphosis unfolded within mere minutes. The once lifeless camel began to open her lustrous eyes, blink, and move her neck with newfound vigor. The poignant calls of the baby camel were answered as the mother rose, her movements still tentative. Patiently, she listened to the speech of Most Revered Spiritual Leader, unveiling a profound connection between spiritual healing and holistic therapy—a testament to their synergistic impact on her miraculous recovery.

Beyond the captivating narrative of the camel family's spiritual journey, a spotlight illuminate the extraordinary properties of camel milk—a elixir surpassing even cow's milk in nutritional richness. Laden with lower chain fatty acids, it proves a boon for heart health. Its versatility extends to addressing lactose intolerance, cow milk allergies, promoting brain health, treating rotavirus diarrhoea, and controlling blood sugar through its insulin-rich composition. Enriched with antioxidants, vitamin C, B, calcium, iron, and potassium, camel milk emerges as a panacea against leukopenia, combating free radicals with its whey protein.

Moreover, the robust nature of camel milk extends beyond its nutritional prowess. With a hide resilient to harsh conditions, it becomes an asset in desert transport and agricultural operations—displaying an adaptive capacity that defies convention. The ability to pull 200-300 kgs over 32 km a day at a speed of 3 to 4 km/hour stands as a testament to its versatility.

As Dayalbagh looks towards a future deeply rooted in sustainability, these resilient camels play a pivotal role in the Agroecology cum precision farming initiatives. Their robust nature and adaptability make them invaluable assets, contributing to the agricultural landscape. The camel family, now on the path to recovery, will serve as ambassadors of sustainable farming practices, aiding in the cultivation of DayalBagh's rich agricultural lands. In a global context, the narrative of Dayalbagh intertwines with the International Year of Camelids 2024, declared by the United Nations. This year-long celebration recognizes the critical role camelids play in the livelihoods of millions across 90 countries, particularly Indigenous Peoples and local communities. From alpacas to Bactrian camels, dromedaries, guanacos, llamas, and vicuñas, these majestic creatures contribute to food security, nutrition, economic growth, and hold profound cultural and social significance.

Camelids, including those at Dayalbagh, play a pivotal role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to the fight against hunger, eradication of extreme poverty, empowerment of women, and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems. From providing milk, and fibre for communities to transport for products and people, and even organic fertilizer, camelids thrive where other livestock species cannot.

In the Andean highlands and arid and semi-arid lands in Africa and Asia, camelids are integral to the culture, economy, food security, and livelihoods of communities, including Indigenous Peoples. Even in extreme climatic conditions, they continue to produce fibre and nutritious food. The International Year of Camelids 2024 presents a unique opportunity to raise awareness of their role in building resilience to climate change, particularly in mountains and arid and semi-arid lands.

As Dayalbagh aligns with the spirit of this international celebration, the camelids within its sacred grounds become ambassadors not only for the region but for the global cause. The International Year of Camelids 2024 aims to build awareness of their untapped potential, calling for increased investment in the camelid sector and advocating for greater research, capacity development, and the use of innovative practices and technologies.

In the heart of Dayalbagh, the convergence of spiritual presence, holistic care, and the healing properties of camel milk unfurl a tapestry of resilience, recovery, and the enduring bond between nature and well-being—a narrative intricately woven in the sacred fabric of spiritual medicine provided under the gracious guidance of the Most Revered Prof Prem Saran Satsangi, Chairman Advisory Committee on Education, and present Spiritual leader of the Ra-Dha-Sva-Aa-Mi Faith (Dayalbagh). As these camels regain their strength, they stand as symbols of sustainability, enriching the Agroecology initiatives and benefiting the residents of Dayalbagh and contributing to the global celebration of the International Year of Camelids 2024.