

h "I love writing and like a lot of writers, have always dreamt of writing a book," says this 27-year-old freelance writer and spiritual seeker, Sandhya Nankani. In Pune on a holiday visiting relatives, New Jersey-based Nankani has written Moments with a Master: Meetings with Dada J P Vaswani. Having met Dada Vaswani, "a couple of times when he had come to visit the USA, I had also done interviews with him. A couple of articles were published but I thought I would compile the matter and give it to the mission."

But then the idea of writing a book that will comprise a series of one-on-one interviews with the spiritual master struck Nankani. Starting work on the book in August 2001, Nankani explains, "I thoroughly enjoy talking to him. He has the most simplest answers to even a complex question. Initially, I wasn't sure as to what I should ask. But my cousins and I sat put up questions that ranged from spirituality to materialistic to even something like 'what profession should I choose?'" she smiles. What started as a question-answer session became a dialogue and at times went on to become a complete conversation; something I didn't expect."

Nankani is also editor of a multi-disciplinary anthology, Breaking the Silence: Domestic Violence in the South Asian-American Community. "I worked with an independent research centre on Indian studies that was within Columbia University. One of the programmes was a conference on how domestic violence exists and affects the South Asian-American community where 35 NGOs participated." Believing that, "resource in print lends advocacy to the issue, I put together a multi-disciplinary anthology that had a clinical perspective with several testimonials from experts in the field."

Cherished moments



Yusuf KHAN

Her future plans include, "experimenting with writing but what I like most is narrative writing and prose." And her visits to India are usually, "when I need peace of mind. In the US, one tends to get completely involved and immersed in work but it's different here."