

**21/07/2021, 12:20pm, KITCHEN, 10 Heuvel Ln, Hutten Heights, Newcastle, SA.**

**Mrs. Rajmathie Mathanjit Singh Prithiraj. Grandmother. Aged 68 (Born 1963)**

1. What is your full name and why were you named that? Did you have a nickname growing up?

**Rajmathie Mathanjit Ragbeer Singh. Why I was named that, I was named by my grandmother, and she just liked that name I suppose. My nickname was Stiffien, named by my uncle because he was reading a German novel and he liked the name.**

2. What were the occupations of your parents?

**My ma was a housewife and my dad was a builder, but today his work would be that of an architect.**

3. What do you remember most about your mother?

**My ma was a humble lady. Loving and she was very very caring and kind. She was quiet and just took things as it was given to her. She never questioned anything, not like today's mamas.**

4. What do you remember most about your father?

**My dad was also a nice person. He was just quiet and hard-working. He was just too good.**

5. What do you remember most about your grandparents?

**My grandparents were also hard working. My nana used to drive a bakery van and deliver cakes for us in Dundee. He used to go around and deliver so he used to always leave cakes by my mosie and for us every week. That time mom only has me endra and bhai. I was the smallest.**

6. Are there any other family members you particularly remember? What makes them stand out in your mind?

**Paternal side, it was my uncles they were teachers and used to love articulating properly and caring yourself properly. My aunts also were teachers.**

7. Where were you born? Were you born in a hospital, at home or elsewhere?

**I was born at home I think, I never asked. I was just born. Apartheid didn't allow for us at hospitals at that time.**

8. How many children were in your family? What are their full names?

**My family. There were five boys and four girls. The eldest was Indira (deceased age 65), Dharamraj, Rajmathie, Ray or Rai (because apartheid), Ashwin (deceased at age 4/6 leukemia), Himansurai, Charmaine, Ashrina and Raveen. All were named Matanjit Singh.**

9. What are the earliest memories about your first home?

**A very big yard, lots of fruit trees. I remember seeing in my mind's eyes – three dwellings along us – massive properties. Wire barbed wire). One house was corrugated iron, one was mud house, and one was mortar house. The house belonged to my baba (grandad) and ma (grandmother) – he was Ragbeer Singh and Ganagajal was my grandma.**

10. What occupation did you dream about as a child?

**Dancer. I liked dancing. I used to really like it. But that was every girls dream because of the movies.**

11. What do you remember most about your childhood?

**Happy moments. I was just playing and being me.**

12. Where did you grow up? What was your neighborhood like?

**I grew up in Rawat lane in Glencoe, it was a happy pace. Good neighbors' good area. No break-ins and riots.**

13. Could you tell me a story or a special memory about your brothers and sisters?

**Um, dancing and playing and just being looney. It was a very happy time. Climbing trees was one, and shooting games.**

14. What was your favorite pet when you were a child?

**We had one pet for the whole place, no two. One was a cat called miano and a dog called rexi. The cat was grey and white. I never sued to play with them, I don't like pets. Rexi used to follow us everywhere.**

15. What did you family do for fun when you were a kid?

**We used to sit around and have foods from the garden and talk and tell ghost stories.**

16. What were your favorite toys as a kid? What games did you play?

**One doll. And cars. They used to make paper dolls and my mom used to sew dolls too. Playing little houses and general stuff. Toys were scare then.**

17. What kind of books did you like to read?

**Romance. And I used to like BC ... like before Christ, what they call those books. Like before people started being civilized. I used to like those stories. Then space stories like fiction.**

18. Who was your best friend as a child?

**My best friend, my school friend was a lot like a group. We used to visit their houses and eat pancakes and things like this. Tea parties and all.**

19. Who was your best friend in high school?

**There was a girl called Shanta Jagan, she was my best friend. Also Shakuntra Gayaparsad. Theres lots.**

20. Did you work during high school, what was your first job?

**I didn't work in high school. I never worked ever. We were poor but girls weren't allowed to work and we accepted it. Indira worked though.**

21. Did you and your friends have a special place to hang out? Tell me about that.

**No not at all. We just went everywhere.**

22. How would people who knew you in high school describe you?

**Yes, very I was popular. Your grandad will bare testimony. I was an allrounder in sports and debate.**

23. Were there any subjects or teachers you particularly liked or disliked? Why?

**I like English and history, I hated geography, I dunno why.**

24. Were you involved in any school sports or clubs? Did you receive any special awards?

**Debate team and netball.**

25. What did you wear to school?

**Uniform. It was ugly, with green and white. With like a butcher shop coat.**

26. What did you do after high school?

**Got married.**

27. What was your first car? What did you pay for it? How did you pay for it?

**My husbands car, I dunno what it was and stuff. It was never mine it was the families. It was for all. It was Anglia Ford car.**

28. Who was your first date?

**Your grandfather. Its true.**

29. How long did you date? What was that like?

**Like four years or two years. It was so fast.**

30. Where was your wedding? How many people attended? Tell me about the ceremony.

**So many people were there, two busses came like 500 people. There was massive marquee. It was in Glencoe at buttercup road. Tommy (grandad) put the marquee. The wedding used to start like one month in advance. Excitement.**

31. Did you have a honeymoon? What did you do?

**No honeymoon baba. Straight into the frying pan.**

32. Are there any funny or unusual things about your children that stand out?

**My daughter is very pretty, she used very Chinese. She was very small when she was born. She had the grandest christening**

33. What was most rewarding about being a parent?

**Seeing her blossom and grow.**

34. Were you strict or lenient as a parent?

**Very lenient I never believed in using force. If I saw her doing something wrong, I would hep her but not shout.**

35. Have you ever been the victim of a crime?

**Ya ya ya. I can't think but ya.**

36. Have you been in a serious accident?

**No. there was a car accident, but I never got hurt. It was a brand-new Toyota. It was a wright off.**

37. Has anyone every saved your life?

**No.**

38. What is your favorite book, movie and song?

**Oh shucks. Any book will do. I wouldn't go back to a movie and watch it gain, I just watch and enjoy. An good drama to follow. I like the songs of jim reaves.**

39. Do you remember the first time you saw a television, car, plane, and refrigerator or just new technology?

**I can tell you that when I saw the sea I was very excited. I used to see planes flying overhead and scream "bring the baby" and clap and enjoy it**

40. Do you remember your family discussing world events and politics?

**There were no politics at that time.**

41. How would you describe yourself politically?

**Politically, I believe a better system can come but the voting system of south Africa is dead to me, there is nothing here to help.**

42. What were the hardest choices you ever had to make?

**Hardest choice was being parted from you'll when you'll bought the new house, from paradise to Heuwel, but it was for good reason. With everything you lose you learn to adapt, but thankfully we were not thrown, and we were respected.**

43. Was there an event that really changed the course of your life?

**There was an event. When my mom died, I said nobody will walk over me now. There is nobody's dignity that I have to uphold. Take me as I am or leave.**

44. Was there a person who really impacted the course of your life?

**Um, that was sugar nani, she was very independent and guided me a lot. I was still a teenage (when going into nanas family) she helped me like a mom and encouraged me. She helped me through bad times. I liked the good parts of her and tried to be like that.**

45. What was the most stressful experience you every lived through?

**My most stressful experience was covid. It was bad. That was only two weeks ago, when it hit my house, I was finished. It is very frightening if you face it. I was also not so clued about it.**

46. What was the scariest thing that ever happened to you?

**The scariest thing was we got robbed but I was not in the house.**

47. What are your hobbies?

**Cooking but no special recipes, tv, reading, nagging my baby. Uh visiting also and roaming all over. Drives too. Every day I find something new.**

48. What are some amazing things that have happened to you?

**Like a miracle is winning the lottery on the slots. Mom being born also.**

49. Have you met any famous people?

**Ya Tabo Mbeki, and who else let me think. I shook his hand.**

50. What organizations or groups have you been a member of?

**The woman circle in Newcastle, I was never in groups in dannhauser. Enjoyed it for four years.**

51. Have you won any special awards or prizes as an adult or a child? What were they for?

**No, in school I used to get like first place, but not now.**

52. What is the most beautiful place you have ever visited and what was it like?

**Best place that I visited was Sri Lanka. No I'm wrong it is India. There buildings and the people and the food made it beautiful. It was secure.**

53. Is there anything you have always wanted to do but haven't?

**I was scared. I am scared. I want to do Sris wedding and Rias wedding.**

54. What are your favorite family recipes?

**Anything my daughter makes is my favorite.**

55. What is something you in your life you are very proud of that no one knows you did?

**Raising so many kids, but nobody says anything. I was such a small child myself when I got married. I would say it was like playing nurse – like giving my father in law his medication and his pumps, it was scary. Like insulin injection. I got married age 18 so I was really small.**

56. Is there anything you wish you could have done differently?

**Ya I would have wish to have taken control of my life and been more vocal. I don't want to be dominated.**

57. What was life pre-apartheid compared to post-apartheid?

**Pre apartheid we felt "freeier" and not afraid, although we were dominated by white people. And ya it was like everything was available with a black and white and Asiatic stamp. I just accepted it and went with it. nowadays we get shot if we go anywhere.**

**Nowadays we have fear after 1994 we had fear, there was no fear before that. Back then people respect you.**

58. How were you treated during the apartheid regime? Were you affected?

**During apartheid we were affected but they treated us okay. In my area it was perfect. Whites and blacks talked and respected to us; we were equal. Now they want to be respected.**

59. Which ruling party made you feel the safest?

**The NP – the national party. The whites were in charge. It was an orange and green looking party.**

60. What was your relationship with God growing up?

**Eish, it was too many Gods. My mother used to pray for all of us. I was never too connected. I saw it all – allah, jesus, Krishna all.**

61. Did you attend regular prayer meetings at the temple, or did you pray from home?

**We prayed at home. We were taught that prayer was at home. In the heart. Within you, around you and everywhere. God is everywhere.**

62. Which manifestation of God do you closely relate with?

**Hanuman because of his strength and his courage and his loyalty.**

63. What legacy do you wish to be remembered by?

**My legacy is I am a loving and kind person. I am fun-loving. Intelligent.**

**64. Are you happy with your marriage (question by nana)?**

Let me not sit here (laughs and goes).