

# Wedding in Hyderabad<sup>1</sup>, India

## May 20-23, 2003

Nini<sup>2</sup> has been after me for some time to go to India. I resisted until now even though the country and its people had always fascinated me.

I would only go to India, or anywhere else for that matter, for some kind of a reason, be it business or pleasure. To go as a tourist, even to India, did not interest me nor do I have the time for it.

It was well worth not giving in and waiting for the right occasion to arise.

It did with Mr. Y.P.K's<sup>3</sup> daughter's wedding.

The trip turned out to be a tourist's dream. - What can be more out of the ordinary, exotic and fascinating than a traditional Indian wedding, especially if you are treated as a guest of honor? Nini even received a precious gift from the K. family!

There were actually two wedding ceremonies:

- The traditional wedding ceremony.
- The dinner reception.



Mr. K., Nini and the bride

- The traditional wedding ceremony attended by about five hundred guests from all over the world was a very beautiful, almost theatrical, event. Indeed the ceremony was held on a stage and the guests were seated in exactly the same fashion, as one would be in a theater. Some of the guests deposited their gifts on the side of the stage.

The event was rendered even more pleasurable by the courtesy of our hosts that are genuinely wonderful people who made us feel as though we ourselves were special! The beauty, natural elegance, traditional make-up and dress of the bride and the very special courtesy that Indians are famous for of course also enhanced the affair.



The bride



The bride and groom



Bride's hand decoration



Bride's feet decoration

The food was the finest Indian vegetarian that I have had. No alcoholic drinks (but plenty of fresh and exotic juices) which viewing the weather – hot and it being a luncheon - was a very wise decision!

<sup>1</sup> City of the “Nezams” and main Muslim city of India. Famous for pearls and textiles.

<sup>2</sup> My wife

<sup>3</sup> A dear friend and business associate

- The dinner reception was held on the balcony of the hotel Taj-Krishnan, where the guests were staying. With an overview on the beautiful gardens and swimming pool, it was more of a Western style event but also very pleasant and more of an occasion to mix with our hosts and the other guests. Both Indian and European dishes were served.



Yours truly with friend  
at the hotel entrance

Cooler weather and the fact that the bar was in an air-conditioned salon adjacent to the balcony, allowed for “normal” drinks!

The rest of the gifts were given here. Unfortunately they were not opened and I could not glimpse at some of the probably beautiful traditional offerings. With our limited imagination, we had just brought a small unworthy Iranian carpet.

All in all, a perfect day.

Apart from the wedding itself, we were taken care of and pampered during our three-day stay from our landing in Hyderabad till our departure. Hotel bookings and discount, transportation, sightseeing, shopping, entertainment, restaurants, visits to the bazaar and museums, even light and sound show at the “Golconda Fort and Tombs”<sup>4</sup> were all taken care of by our hosts. - My special thanks go to the two Indian gentlemen, schooldays friends of Mr. Y.P.K., that had the very difficult assignment of taking care of the guests and accompanied us to all the places we went to! Many thanks also to Mrs. Afshin A. who kindly copied her photos on a CD that she gave me – I am using some of them in this report.



Nini by the pool (before the  
reception!)

One of the fun and unusual (although a little time-consuming) experiences was the purchasing of pearls and jewelry the last evening at a very “typical” sort of “pearl-jewelry” supermarket.

All the bargaining skills of Nini and the final touch of Mr. Y.P.K. himself were required to get the best possible deal!

All in all, a perfect trip.

Sincerely,

J-M Houtcieff

**PS:**

I almost forgot:

Mr. Y.P.K. has another daughter. I hope that I will have a chance to write a report on her wedding too!

<sup>4</sup> Original home of the famous “Kohinoor” diamond