

Kaka Singh

My one and only Annabel,

It's your birthday this 27th September and you'll be five. That's a special milestone in your tender life. What a young lady you have become! You looked so lovely in your 'lenga' at Bublee's wedding. You so graciously 'matha tek' (bow) at the Gurdwara (temple) just like I instructed you. You made Dadima (grandma) so proud when you sat in my lap to watch the 'lavan' (wedding ceremony) and we took photographs together.

You know Annabel, each time you speak to me on the phone my heart leaps with joy. When you ask to speak with Dadaji (grandpa) as you have something special to say to him, I realise that you have not forgotten us and you have a very good memory. That's a trait your mom says you inherited from your Dadaji, who at 67 is still working full time and is a mentor to many young executives including your Dad. When your Pua (aunty) Simran and Chaca (uncle) Aman visited you in June, you were so natural with them that your mum commented that 'blood is definitely thicker than water'.

Your impeccable lady-like manners impress all of us. During your last visit, your ballet steps melted your Dadaji's heart that the next day, he rewarded you with a generous gift.

We all love it when you sit with us at the dining table and enjoy your food like a real Panache. You eat everything by yourself without any help. You love your vegetables and meats and even fried rice cooked by me. You conspire with me to get extra helpings of ice creams and chocolates. You are so appreciative with expressions of “yummy yummy” that I can’t help but allow it against my better judgement. One so adorable as you is a precious gift from God.

Dear Annabel, you start school in October. Your enthusiastic spirit, energetic nature and eagerness to try new things will appeal to your teachers. I am sure you are going to be a leader in class. At the same time, you are looking forward to a new baby brother as you so proudly announced to everyone. These changes in your life will bring you much pleasure and joy. So, Annabel, after 5, you can look forward to new challenges, excitement and more seaside holidays when you visit Singapore.

I love you very much.

Your Dadima