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in a twinkling of an eye, looking after her dearest grandchildren.

"I have eight grandchildren. Their existence stirs such an omnipresent emotion in me that I feel they were always there with me. This life seems so familiar to me. This is the life I have been living from the beginning. I want to rear and nurture them." This is Suchanda's dream about her grandsons and granddaughters.

The sentiments and emotions are

mutual. Her grandchildren share a natal bond with her. To some of them she is a great cook and to some, an eternal light-house.

Eid with Suchanda is always fun and happening. "All of them are before my eyes, traipsing all over the house, laughing. I tell them my life stories. They sit around me and I become their center of their attention. Thus the day ends in a moment. My grandchildren love eating the food cooked by me. That is a different level of satisfaction. I

sometimes hand-feed them and they devour the food in a second", said Suchanda.

"Once my grandkids had organised a play. It was a surprise. They brought all of us and made us sit together. All on a sudden one entered the room and started imitating me. Then Babita in disguise entered. And Champa came to sum up. We laughed a lot. At the same time I was very happy and proud to have them as my successors.

My Eid is all about them now. I breathe for these flowers. Their fragrance keeps

beguiling my heart and soul. I want their essences to cross all the boundaries to offer help to all. I will not live for eternity. But my ideology and principles can obtain immortality through their lives. May they learn to walk barefoot on grass." Mariam, Suchanda's granddaughter, suddenly interrupts, "We won't let you die Nani. You will live for us, within us, forever!"

By Sharbani Datta

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