

Thur. 20.1.27.

The Sacred Bath!

It was a very eventful day. Besides the advent of numerous devotees and visitors to Shri as usual on Thursdays and the musical Bhajan by Bhavonahet, a meeting of the mandali was also held in the afternoon. It was quite ^a bolt from the blues for the mandali to be informed by Baba that He was so very disappointed with them all, for their recent careless tone of speech and attitude that He did no longer think it desirable to have them with Him. All were informed to go away to their respective places and find out means for their respective ~~self support~~ maintenance! He 'said' He did not want anybody to remain with Him forcibly and so preferred them all to go away. The unpleasant

discussion was carried to such lengths that Shri even decided and fixed the respective time and train for all of them to go away leaving Him alone, when He said He would also go away ~~alone~~ where He likes all by Himself! Most of the mandali were greatly touched with these unexpected developments and after sometime again approached Baba and tendered their unconditional apologies for any carelessness and declared their willingness to continue the stay with Him under any circumstances. Thereupon another meeting was called and Baba took the sense of all those present on the question of the stay being continued as usual. An overwhelming majority was found to be in favour of the stay with Baba being continued. Baba granted the request on the following three conditions:

1. All should stay with Him as long as He observed the Silence.
2. He may break the Silence whenever He likes. No time limit be expected. (Might be a day, year or even more)
3. In the meanwhile none of those staying with Him should ask for any money under any circumstances.

When the mandali agreed to these terms, Baba ordered fire and incense (*surat sro zvas*) to be brought, and made each of them take a sacred bath to abide by these conditions under any circumstances ~~while~~ and as a final confirmation of this oath made them all place a little incense over that fire! After ^{this} all were forgiven their little sins of omission and commission completely including Behramji who was not only sorry for his revolting attitude last night but also offered himself to suffer any punishment that Baba may think fit to give him!

Pustunji, who during the height of the discussion had been sent for, post haste, to arrange the final discussion,

When he arrived at Insharabad found the atmosphere quite normal. Peace had already been declared between Shri and the mandali! But Bhotungji's visit did not go in vain. Baba and a party of about six from the mandali went with him for a spin to Pimpalgam, a spot of scenic beauty and the main source of the water supply to Ahmednagar about six miles from the city. An hour or so were passed very happily by the party chit-chatting over very many subjects. Shri too cheerfully participated in the tele-a-tele through gestures and Alphabet-pointing. They came back at Insharabad at seven o'clock. Within these few hours no traces of the 'great storm' and the consequent fact^{that} the whole mandali was very near to being disbanded once again, remained about. An atmosphere of perfect peace and harmony prevailed.

Baba has left food once again from today, and so throughout the day he took nothing but an occasional few sips of plain water or milkless light tea. After the Aarti tonight, while returning to his ghopdi, Shri declared that he was going to keep himself locked in it for an unknown period. In fact, he said, he had decided to remain in, from this very morning, and had even passed some hours inside but he was forced to be out, to see through the mandali's "attitude affair" in the afternoon.

Fri. 21. 1. 27.

Baba remained in the 'hut' throughout the day and did not take any food. Once in the day Shri called 'Chanji' before Him and played a game of draughts with him, and then began to discuss for the

first time after the return, the question of reopening a boarding school. However the idea was soon dropped as Shri conveyed He did not like the work of persuading and goading the mandali in working out the scheme. It was sufficient that He remained quiet at one place, and the mandali was kept aloof of the two greatest weapons of Maya - Women and Wealth! which alone was ~~practically~~ practically impossible for them (the mandali) to do elsewhere, while here they were also advancing spiritually through His contact (Sahvas). Baba also declared His displeasure that in spite of solemn promises to stay with Him and not to talk about money some of the members - particularly Dhake - were trying to go away to their respective places for one reason or the other.

Sat. 22.1.27.

Again the whole day, today Shri remained locked up in the zhopdi without any food and took only a little water. However the mandali and visitors were allowed interviews today through the small window. Once again Baba discussed with some of the mandali the question of reopening a regular school. Eventually a meeting was decided to be held tomorrow to discuss in details a scheme which Shri conveyed He had drawn in this connection while sitting in, in the zhopdi.