

Mon. 12.10.25.

Today was Baba's first day of fasting. But this new restriction along with the vow of silence did not at all hinder him in any way in His multifarious duties of supervising, grinding, inspecting and writing which were all carried out with the characteristic thoroughness of His super-nature.

At 9.30. Shri retired for the ~~new~~ night again in his new seat which has been slightly altered to be just sufficient to accommodate <sup>just</sup> ~~Baba's~~ ~~small~~ ~~body~~

Tues. 13.10.25.

Shri is continuing his fasting very strictly and takes a little water or weak tea without milk occasionally.

A snake was marked near Baba's new seat and killed by the party at night. The day ended amidst the daily routine.

Thurs. 15.10.25.

Besides His own fast that Baba has been continuing observing since the 11th. He prepared a list of about 40 to 45 of the mandali and ordered them to remain on water and weak <sup>tea</sup> for 24 hours from tomorrow morning till Saturday morning at 7.8.30. Amongst the usual Thursday crowds of visitors was a Gramlatdar who had come to see Baba in company with a local Pleader friend of his and at whose place he had come for a holiday, being on leave.

On being introduced to Baba as a Gramlatdar and ~~and~~ a P.A. Shri remarked with writing "In spite of your so called attainments you are an ignorant man and I have little regards for such distinctions" Instead of taking offence at such remarks the worthy gentleman began to weep in acknowledgement of his 'ignorance' and proved

that his worldly attainments had not made him blind towards Truth and ~~humble~~ humbleness as is the case with the majority of such worldly people. With a simple single sentence Baba had made him manifest his true nature.

After the evening Bhajans Baba retired soon at 9.30. P.M. ~~to~~ <sup>in</sup> his new seat under Him tree for the night.

Fri. 16. 10. 25. Baba personally saw that those who were observing fast that day were supplied with ~~tea~~ <sup>tea</sup> regularly the weak tea without milk properly at the fixed times by the general superintendent and also warned them in avoiding smoking ~~and~~ snuff and tobaccos eating very scrupulously. The day was passed generally in fixing details of the Divali holidays that are to begin from tomorrow. The schools director has been instructed to close the institutions for Saturday and Sunday. Similarly the Heads of other departments have also <sup>been</sup> given the same instructions. Distribution of fire-works & sweets to the boys, Bath to Baba, Aris Bhajans etc has all been arranged according to the majority of opinion amongst the mandali. In the evening Shri allowed those who were addicted to tobacco <sup>use</sup> in various forms to indulge in their habits for once but to continue the fast strictly in other respects till tomorrow morning.

Sat. 17. 10. 25.

## Diwali Holidays.

The mandali broke their fast with "Karanjyas" (sweets, prepared generally at Diwali) that were distributed to all by Baba with his own hands in the morning.

Besides the Karanjyas ~~the~~ the boys were also given <sup>by Baba</sup> different fire works from the lot that Mother Gulmai had brought for this purpose. After this Baba was given a bathing by all the mandali including the ladies. The visitors present also took part in this function irrespective of any caste distinctions. Gallons of water, a few cakes of soap, perfumes, oils, were all exhausted completely over Baba to the accompaniment of the village music that kept on playing all the time. It was a scene of great enthusiasm and animation but for Baba himself who silently bore away the ravages of soap and water for a couple of hours. At the conclusion of the Bath Ceremony Arti Pujas were held with equally the same rejoicings and hustle bustle followed by a serene atmosphere of Puran recitation which continued ~~at~~ from 8.30. to 10.30. And with this last ~~sermon~~ item the ceremonial side of the day came to an end.

In the afternoon ~~all were~~ a meeting of the mandali members was called together when Baba held before them a programme of fasting for all.

A list was prepared dividing the party into three divisions. The first was asked to remain on water and light tea without milk for three months. The second was instructed to observe 24 hours fast every Thursday & Sunday and the last group was ~~also~~ enjoined upon to go without food and water every Thursday only.

Thereafter all were given a tea party with Bhajyas which was greatly enjoyed, and then some exciting games of Atā-Patā was played for a few hours.

## Reason for Baba's Fasting.

Baba took a little food today after his continuous fasting since the last six days. Explaining the reason of the present fasting, Shri said, the particular spiritual working that he was carrying on at present necessitated his breathing to be done in the contrary direction of that of <sup>the</sup> ordinary human beings and consequently he ~~fast~~ found an empty stomach a great ~~help~~ help and convenience for such breathing.

In the evening instead of the Bhajans the boys were allowed to indulge themselves freely in fire work lighting etc which turned the comparatively silent colony into one of a miniature battle field, with all the explosions, cracks, flares and shouting of the scores of boys dancing and jumping here & there with delight. With another tea party to the mandali at Mr Shahane's place at night the ~~holy~~ holiday hum drum came to an end at about 10.45 P.M.

Sun. 18. 10. 25.

Amongst the outstation visitors, <sup>visiting</sup> there were a number of Baba's old devotees including Sadashivrao Patil's family members from Poona, Hari Bhau Borowke from Kopergaon and Messrs Bailly & Ruston Adair from Bombay.

The newly constructed residential quarters of the 'Director of Education' Arjooonrao were duly occupied by him after great ceremonies when all were treated to tea and a variety of Diwali sweets.

A 'Kirtan' Lecture was held in the night delivered by Sitaram Bua which was to be very fascinating.