

Monday 21st March 21.
TAVARA
1000

Jamshedji - Navroz!

The dawn was ushered in, in quite a novel way. As soon as the first bell of the day went out at five o'clock, the mandali proclaimed the advent of the New Year, with the beating of drums, cardboard boxes, empty kerosine oil tins, bells, and in fact through anything that could make a sound and big noise, and came handy in the way.

It was, as if the mandali had suddenly taken it into their heads in competing to compete amongst themselves in producing the ~~fastest~~ ^{loudest} possible din and noise. Some of those who could not succeed in getting hold of any high-sounding thing, made up their ^{loss} deficits through the blowing of bugles and shouting out joyous cries at the top of their voices. For some time quite a strange atmosphere prevailed over Meherabad! For all its usual dignified silence and serene tranquillity this sudden outburst of wild hum-drum, indeed made Meherabad a very different place. The greatest wonder was, that Baba who is always so very particular about discipline and order, simply overlooked this wild display quite unconcernedly! (Before becoming a Sadguru, was He not a great machine of innocent mischief Himself?)

At six o'clock all were served with milk tea and (21c) ~~macaroni~~ macaroni and then preparations were begun for a ceremonial bath to Shri. This came off at ~~six~~ nine o'clock in the special bath room stretched near the Dhoni for this very ^{purpose} occasion.

The following hour was passed busily in worshipping Baba after He had dressed up. During these ceremonies and Pujas, a Persian Monajat, composed by Kaikhosro

specially for this occasion, was ^{also} sung by Ardesher, in his usual Persian style, which left him gasping for air at the end. A group photo was then taken of all the mandali and visitors with Baba sitting amidst them in the centre. It was all a fairly large gathering. Besides the mandali and the school boys there were many visitors from the city and the local village. After the photograph was taken the different sweets and fruits were ~~to~~ liberally distributed amongst all, including the visitors. A loot was also made amongst the mandali. In the noon the specially prepared dishes of Dhan-Dar were served to all as dinner with curd and lhee in plentiful. In the afternoon all assembled in the Makaan to hear the Quawall (singer) that Rustomji had brought from the city. Baba also graced the assemblage, but the singing proved a failure as the poor Quawall had a very poor voice and did not seem to know the art of music well. Consequently within the first hour he was dismissed away.

At two o'clock all were provided with milk tea. From 4 to 6 in the evening a good and exciting game of Aka-Patas was played by all near the Dhoni. The supper was served by Shri Himself to the mandali in the open compound of the zhopali.

During the day Mr Sorabji was shown ^{round} all the remaining places at Meherabad including the Jambh Hill and the Vitthob's Temple in the local village by Vishwas. After the supper

till nine o'clock, Baba sat with the mandali talking through signs and gestures various subjects specially with Mr Desai, ~~who was then asked to retire for the night. He was asked to leave for Kedgaon tomorrow accompanied by 'Chauji, and after paying respects to Karayan Maharaj there, to return to his place. After nine o'clock Messrs Padri, Pandor, Shubay, Borkhaji, Pethramji and Saitor performed some comic dramatic farces and thus entertained the rest of the mandali for a couple of hours. All went to sleep at ^{then} retired for the night late at eleven o'clock. During the two days of stay Mr Desai seems to have been immensely impressed with Baba's Personality and surroundings.~~

In spite of his learning and intellect his great devotion to Baba made him see and feel miracles everywhere. The one hobby of his life is to collect different things and relics, belonging to or connected in any way with ~~the~~ Spiritual Personalities. He has almost ~~a quite~~ quite a little museum of such things in his house at Kavari. According to Mr Desai has made a good haul of many such knick-knacks for his museum, during this stay too, ~~It includes presents from Baba and the mandali~~ such as the dust under Baba's feet, the milky water with which Sri's feet were washed, photos, rings, ~~the~~ Kuchti, 'cherchives, sweets, fruits, coconuts, flowers, the Dhooli-ash, hairs and so on. Many of the above things were specially presented to him ~~by~~ by Baba with his own hands, and others were secured by himself from the mandali and others.

In view of getting so many things Mr Desai was hesitating to ask for certain other photos which attracted

him much. To his great surprise Baba again presented him with the same photos he was yearning for!

Then while collecting the dust under Baba's feet at many places he felt he would be ridiculed by the onlookers when again in the evening without any reference to the subject Baba explained how Swami Vivekanand used to collect the dust under his Guru ~~Ramkrishna~~ Ramkrishna's feet and applied the same over the foreheads of others. And also dwelt at lengths over the importance and significance of even trivial things connected with Masters. In short Mr Desai was simply taken aback with these manifestations of his mind reading by Baba.

Mr Desai also informed Shri that their high Priest at Karsari was also much devoted to the Spiritual line and often went to see a local Nyogi who is believed to ~~be~~ be 30 years old.

And when ^{some} members of the community tried to persuade him - since they did not like to see their high priest going after saints non-gorastrian saints and rages - he actually told them to ~~take~~ ^{take} away the "Shawl" ~~the~~ from him which is the sign of his high-office, but that he would never go against his own honest convictions. Hearing this narration, Baba conveyed that it was a pity that people did not allow one to seek Truth through false prejudices and a hollow sense of prestige, and asked Dastoji to advise the High-Priest to stick to his convictions firmly and go on striving after Truth. And that in future if the Dastoji chanced to see

Then, Baba 'said' He will explain to the Dasturji all about Truth convincingly and guide him to ~~Truth~~ the Path. Mr. Desai then invited Shri to Navsari upon which Baba 'said' He will surely come there one day in the future, and also conveyed that all will be well with the Parsis in the future.

Mr. Desai was then asked to retire for the night, and also told by Baba to leave for Bedgaon tomorrow morning in 'Chanji's' company, and after paying his respects to Karayan Maharij there to return to his own place at Navsari.

Then after ~~sine~~ nine o'clock Messrs. Padri, Pender, Shabay, ~~Chanji~~ Rustomji, Behramji, and sailor performed some comic farces before Shri and the rest of the mandali and ^{thus} entertained all for nearly two hours. Late at eleven o'clock in the night all retired for sleeping.