

June 12th to April 27.

Baba's Luceer Illness.

Since sometime Shri seems to be suffering with stiffness in the neck and feeling of the nerves at the back of His head being pulled down. Consequently, besides the rough and warm (All-wool Ghongdi) coat that Baba has been continuously wearing in this full heat of the summer He keeps the head and neck very closely wrapped and tied with a big woolen shawl these days. Today this peculiar illness has begun to show signs of great severity.

So much so that Baba is marked to be almost unable to move or turn His head normally.

If ~~he has~~ He has to look in one direction He has to turn His whole body that way. Even a slight movement of the jaw, Shri conveyed by signs, gave Him pain! That He was ~~not~~ suffering some very terrible agony and pain was clearly visible from the way Baba ~~was~~ ~~to~~ seemed trying to keep His head and neck

as much stationery and at rest - as possible throughout the day. The best possible way to define this peculiar illness will be to give Shri's own words conveyed through signs "All the nerves and veins in the head are felt to be pulling and straining downwards and ^{there is} a rigid stiffness about the neck"

But in spite of it Baba continued to discuss to a certain extent the publicity campaign of the Ahram with the mandali and went through the different letters and drafts prepared by the parties concerned, in this connection! The letters to Aga-Beidool ~~and~~ at Persia, and to some persons at Karachi about the Ahram were duly despatched today.

A well to do Hindoo family of Ahmednagar (acquaintances of Mr Jugal pleader) came to pay their respects to Shri. The old lady amongst them declared her deep gratitude to Shri for the divine help rendered to her daughter in the hour of her - the daughter's - life and death struggle! From what the lady repeated, it appeared, that her daughter recently gave birth to a child. But at the time of delivery the new mother was in a very critical condition.

She went through a terrible ordeal, and after hours of great pains and convulsions there was no prospect of a ~~easy~~ quick delivery in spite of all the help and assistance that the family members could command.

And when the situation was almost ~~totally~~ hopeless the would-be mother as a final effort tried to remember Shri. With all the faith, force and regard she repeated Baba's name and lo! she found herself safely through the crisis very soon, and became a happy mother of a healthy babe! At this the family

members naturally took a vow there and then to bring and place the baby over Shri's feet, and accordingly they did so today.

In the evening Shri tried to while away the time, as in spite of the acute straining and pulling and stiffness that Shri apparently felt about his head and neck, in leading the lead a discussion amongst the mandali as to what may be the reason of this malady. The mandali was almost equally divided, ~~was~~ in their opinions, some held it to be due to heat and some thought it was through cold. These discussions proved a great amusement since Baba kept on a strictly neutral attitude and kept on smiling faintly at the way the members were hopelessly groping in the dark!

Besides this discussion, a detective story was also repeated by Ramji before all ~~the~~ were allowed to go to bed. The further explaining of the half-divulged Secret promised to day was post-poned "Sine Die" owing to his illness and the secret thus so far remains a secret after all.

Wed. 13th Apr '97.

Baba seems to be continuing to suffer with the peculiar malady and which looks to have gone from bad to worse since yesterday. Perhaps to avoid the blasts of wind and dust that are so common here in the summer, Shri retired into the ghopdi since early this morning and remained throughout the day. He was marked to be very uneasy and restless all the time

but continued to attend to errands and enquiries, and also conveyed the usual daily instructions to the parties concerned about their respective duties and works to be done. Late in the evening Shri however came out of the ghopdi, and within a few minutes there also happened to arrive some visitors!

They were four Parsi ladies, two from 'Dagar and two from Bombay. The only male member with them was their Chauffeur of their car in which they had come.

They said they wanted to see Baba, and as Shri too had just come out of the ghopdi, He was pleased to allow them the Darshan. As soon as the ladies paid their respects they prepared to return back in a hurry without asking a single question, quite contrary to what usually the visitors do. Almost ninety nine out of hundred visitors have always to ask some question or seek some blessings but these ladies proved an exception. They were even asked if they desired to put any questions to Shri to which they replied "Nothing, we wanted Darshan and we got it" and with this they went away! No doubt that for such genuine and sincere desire for a mere Darshan without the usual "wants" underlying it on their part, that Shri too came out for them at the right moment!

Thereafter for nearly two and a half hours (till nine thirty) Baba sat out in the verandah of the ghopdi surrounded by the mandali. The most peculiar feature of this sitting was that almost throughout ~~this~~ all this time a perfect silence was observed by all. The usual talks and discussions were strangely absent amongst the mandali; it was as if all were feeling the sufferings of Baba

through that peculiar illness of the Head and Neck! The only exception to this silence was when at 8.30. the usual Arti was solemnly repeated by all. An hour after the Arti Shri signed for all to go to bed. Rampji and Doctor also paid their final respects to Shri as they have ~~been~~ been asked to pack off to their respective places ~~tomorrow~~ early in the morning tomorrow.