

Thur. 14th Apr '27.

Although Shri continued to be indisposed with "stiff and straining" neck and head He came out of the zhopdi and sat in the Dispensary from eight to twelve in the noon. During this time Baba allowed Darshans and interviews to the usual Thursday visitors which also included a party of "Kontemis" who were specially out in a motor lorry for pilgrimage, having already visited Sakori and Sherdi. Shri also had some stray "talks" through signs with some of the mandali, particularly in connection with the preparations that are now in full swing for opening the new Ashram on the 1st. In view of Shri's indisposition it was a very suggestive fact that Bhassabeh, the blind, did not come to-day for the usual Thursday-Bhajan. After twelve o'clock Baba again retired into the zhopdi and remained there throughout the afternoon. At about seven in the evening Shri came out of the room but took his seat on the verandha of the zhopdi itself.

The mandali soon gathered round Him but quite an unusual silence prevailed amongst

all for the following hour. About eight o'clock Kaka and family unexpectedly appeared on the scene. As they were going to Kolahapur, they said they had come for Shri Darshan. Baba conveyed he felt concerned about the time that they had selected for coming here in view of the danger from thieves and robbers, particularly since there were ladies in the party. They said it was moonlight and moreover they were coming for "Eka Darshan" Darshans and hence did not fear any molestation. During some stray talks that followed Mrs Shalme asked Shri's permission for one of her family to take tea in case they were insisted upon doing so at Kolahapur against Baba's first order of not taking tea at all.

Shri granted the permission, but later conveyed to Kaka "It was a mistake to ask for changes in orders once given. An order once given was an order until withdrawn by himself of his own accord, otherwise all should stick to it at any cost. His words must never be broken.

If permission will be asked to do anything contrary to the standing order, he will never ~~withhold~~ refuse, but the effect of the first word and order would be gone and the party concerned would necessarily suffer"

The usual Asti was repeated by all at eight-thirty and after that for about an hour Champi narrated a story, and then all ~~retired~~ were allowed to retire for the night.

Fri 15th Apr 1927.

Shri Baba came out of the zhopadi this morning and had his seat at first in the school and then for sometime in the Dispensary. In the noon, Shri called a meeting of the mandali, and asked someone

to read a chapter from Sri Ramkrishna Param-Hansa's Life before all. The book was opened at random and the first ~~page~~ subject that greeted the eyes of the reader was about the peculiar "Throat illness" with which once Ramkrishna had suffered!

This was indeed something more than a mere coincidence, as Baba Himself has of late been suffering with a illness very like that described in the book. It was as if Baba wanted to explain His present illness through a book which He had never read! The passages were then read out.

It first described the illness with which Sri-Ramkrishna suffered at that time, and then the reason for the illness was tried to be explained.

The gist of the explanation meant that the illness with which that great Master suffered was not His own. Personally Sri Ramkrishna had nothing at all to suffer for, far short of a physical indisposition. His illness, as described by His wife, was of those physically diseased, and morally debased persons who fell on His feet, and ~~so a case~~ that is the Master contracted the sufferings and sins of those whom He allowed to fall on His august feet. And it was for this reason that when ill, the Masters seldom took regular treatment, and even when taken in nine cases out of ten it proved of no avail. The name of Sri Ramkrishna's medical attendant which began with S. reminded all of Dr Sathe who has tried to treat Baba for this "Stiff neck" and who comes off and on for the mandali too these days since the sad demise of Dr Karpal. (Today Dr

Datta was presented with a pearl-pen, an electro-plated feeding cup and the promise of a son being born to his wife, by Baba, for the services medical services so sincerely rendered by ~~to~~ him to the mandali.)

Further readings of Shri Ramkrishna's biography brought out another fact about Him which was also noticed about Baba in the past. This was, the abrupt way in which Ramkrishna used to ask for food at odd hours of the day and night and particularly when there was ~~not~~ no food ready or available!

During the stay in the "Mangil" at Dadar, Bombay, and also in the course of the following tours and tramps, as has already been narrated earlier, the same was the case with Baba. He also in the same way used to declare Himself hungry and requiring food at equally odd hours and under most unfavourable circumstances.

At four o'clock in the afternoon another meeting was convened, and the school authorities came in for a severe criticism from Baba. 'Chauji' was the first to be "attacked". He was asked to stop henceforth all his writing and other work, and pay full-time attention to the school affairs. In the course of the following ~~re~~ 'silent' remarks Baba conveyed His great dissatisfaction and displeasure with the bad and loose management of the school affairs, and as an example pointed to such things as pieces of card-boards, chess-boards and Draught-pieces that were lying about in the school rooms. When Dhakray was asked as to what he had to say about these disorders, he said, he was much disappointed to find Shri grieved with his work ~~in~~ in spite of his doing the duties so very sincerely. This reply

from Shabai was taken by Baba as if it meant that Shabai was no longer willing to continue to work as a Principal of the school, and so Shri conveyed to others to come forward for this post including 'Champi, Vishnu Padri & Giral. But none seemed to be willing to shoulder this responsibility, while 'Champi put in that the man who was already on the post (Shabai) was the best selection made by Shri and he did not mean to leave the post, and that all concerned were doing their best in carrying out the respective duties.

All these replies Baba seemed to be as much displeased that after some more discussions Shri abruptly left the meeting and ~~retro~~ retired into the Ghopdi.

After sometime Shri again sent for 'Champi and Shabai and continued the discussions. In view of the present state of affairs Baba conveyed to them that either the school be completely closed up or conducted without any connection from Him.

'Champi said in that case, not only the school should ~~be~~ be closed but all other activities be stopped and the mandali be sent away to their respective places. But Baba replied that he was not going to go back on his pledge to the mandali that they will stay with Him whether there was a school or not and so let all stay even if there was no work. However after some such more discussions the matters were settled up and everything was allowed to go on as already arranged, while Shri also agreed to come in the Mekan and grace the same with his inspiring presence. So after the gap of many days Baba once again came to the Mekan late this evening, and all the unpleasantness ended.