

Thursday. }

26th May '27 } The usual crowd of Thursday-visitors was fairly large today. As Baba was for the major portion of the day busy in making various arrangements in the Ashram, Bhassabet was also taken there, ~~and~~ where he recited his musical Bhajan for a few hours in the afternoon.

The addition of some new books in the school library yesterday provided a hot time for Dhakay and Chanji today. While asking the two, to arrange them up properly, prepare a list, type it and place the same over the notice board, Shri also added a veiled threat, "Finish all this work by this evening or" But the pair thanked their lucky stars when through their fully whipped up energy they could finish it all up much earlier than the time allowed to them for it and thus Baba did not have to complete his half-finished sentence of threat.

A Holiday For Baba.

Shri has recently decided to enjoy a day of rest and recreation tomorrow for himself. The picturesque village of Shendi, a few miles away from Ahmednagar, where Mr Borkar's Anath Ashram is also situated besides some houses of Baba's devotees, has been selected as the spot ~~for~~ to enjoy the proposed holiday at. Information to this effect has already been sent to Mr Borkar and other devotees there, and a motor conveyance has also been arranged up. The only question, ^{that} remained, ^{was} as to who should accompany Shri from amongst the mandali in this trip. And this came up for decision in the usual "night club" this evening. At first the names of ^{those} ~~such~~

members were proposed, who had nothing particular to do in the day time and ~~can~~ ^{could} spare themselves without upsetting the daily routine such as the two Masajis, Romanji, Aideshir, and so on.

But this group did not appeal to Baba and the majority of the mandali. They were too old to become lively companions for Shri on such an occasion and could not undertake a long motor journey by way of a pleasure trip, besides none of them could play a good game of cards which Shri seemed bent upon enjoying there. But then those, who very much liked to accompany Baba, and could entertain and ~~provide a lively companion and~~ amuse Him were mostly engaged in the school in the day-time. Hence the only alternative left was to close the school tomorrow. Shri greatly hesitated on closing the school, and first gave His permission for doing so on the condition that it should not be closed on Sunday next as usual, thus making up this extra holiday by foregoing the usual one. But Dhakay said this arrangement would ~~greatly upset his~~ ~~own~~ ^{be} upset the private engagements and cause inconvenience in the home-affairs of those teachers who live in the City including himself. And so the condition was withdrawn by Baba and after all an extra holiday was sanctioned for the school for tomorrow.

Consequently the selection of the party now ~~did not~~ was quickly made and they were asked

to keep themselves ready before seven o'clock in the morning sharp.

Baboo Ubale in Trouble.

However the proposed holiday is still threatened with a disturbance in the shape of a telegram from Baboo saying: "Unexpected turn of events. Permission asked to come tomorrow" In spite of his keen desire to have a day all to himself, as is usual Shri was pleased to decide to let Baboo come, and instructed that ^{on arrival} he should ^{be} asked to wait here at Fasherabad but if it is something very urgent he should be allowed to come at Shendi.

The Watchful Eyes!

Long after the usual story telling had finished at nine thirty, and all had retired to their respective beddings Baba who was himself preparing to retire into the Zhopdi, suddenly enquired of Ghasaji as to who passed along the outer compound of the Zhopdi. Ghasaji replied "Might be some wayfarers" but Shri insisted upon him to go and make sure, when to his great surprise Ghasaji found the intruders to be none else than Padri jal and Vishnoo stealthily trying to pinch some mangoes from the basket left near Shri's seat in the school. Thus surprised the trio confessed their intentions and beat a sorry retreat ~~without~~ with only a wistful look at the tempting fruits offering apologies. On hearing the episode Baba smiled and retired for the night.

Friday.

27th May '27

The Trip to Shendi.

Baba and party started by motor-bus at about 7-30 this morning for Shendi. As Babu and Baily were marked to be in the passing train, the bus was taken to the station and Padri was sent in to bring the two. Baba alighted from the bus and waited for sometime standing outside, but not finding Padri coming back soon, he again took his seat in the car and

ordered for the start. Just as the 'bus was starting Baboo was marked coming out of the station. At first Baba looked annoyed and on the point of an unpleasant mood, ~~however~~ but soon got down again from the 'bus and allowed Baboo to take the Darshan, after which Shri took him aside and 'talked' with him for sometime. Then asking Baboo and Baily to come to Shendi in a tonga, Baba came to Kaka's place in the city. Here Shri was served with a special dinner and the mandali got tea. Many of the devotees in the city came for Shri's Darshans while some of them - Kaka, Raja, Sathe, Boker, Bhansabai's brother etc - joined the party to Shendi by following the 'bus in tongas. The spin from the city to Shendi proved a lively one, the mandali singing the "jabrapiti" poem all the way. About eight thirty the village of Shendi was reached. As there was no proper road right upto the Patil's place where the party was to put up for the day, they had to walk some distance ~~and~~ amidst green shrubberies and shady trees. It was a fine place and the mandali also was in the best of spirits. But no sooner Shri graced the special seat arranged for Him in the Patil's house that a number of villagers flocked in for the Darshans and this was the last thing Baba wanted today. Consequently the next moment Baba was up again and signed for the mandali to return to the 'bus to the great amusement of the host. The latter tried much in inducing Shri to reconsider the decision but it was all to no purpose.

~~Telling him through signs not to worry,~~ that "I have touched your soil, visited your place but I cannot stay for the present. Will come again some day. Don't worry" conveying these words through the usual signs to the Patil, Baba began to walk out and took His seat in the 'bus. Before going to the Patil's place Rustomji had enquired of Baba whether to let the 'bus return to Shwednagar as they were to stay here for the whole day but Baba had asked it to remain and it proved useful now. Hardly the 'bus had reached the main road, that Mr Boker came upon the scene.

Shri took him and Kaka to look for not properly following the instructions for the day with the result that he was disturbed by outsiders the moment he reached the Patels' place. Thereupon Bhausaheb offered his own place at Shendi for the party's stay with a guarantee of privacy, but Shri did not accept it & suddenly preferred a big shady tree nearby to pass the day thereunder. Before the plan could be put into action, at the very moment once again disturbance loomed large before all with the advent of Baboo and Baily. However Shri was pleased to accord a private interview to the pair for half an hour by taking them aside under a tree. In the meantime the mandali enjoyed climbing up and down the big Pipal tree by which the bus had stopped. When Shri finished 'talking' with Baboo and Baily, Mr Borker again made bold to approach Him with apologies and renewed the request to Shri to return to the Patels' place undertaking to ~~avoid~~ ensure strict privacy. And when Baba accepted the proposal, sent word for the necessary arrangements. Soon after the party once again repaired to the Patels' place and found it all to themselves, besides the site selected now was better than the first and was situated in the midst of shady trees and green fields. Tea was at once served to all and then till eleven o'clock Shri and party enjoyed a game of cards. The dinner then served to them was quite in keeping with the rural atmosphere consisting of Bajri bread, hot Dhal and mangoes.