

TRUST 9848 93234 PATAVA
KINGDOM OF RAJASTHAN
RAJASTHAN
The 3rd Birth-Day

18th February 1926

An Unique Occasion.

Great preparations were made in anticipation of a large number of people coming on this occasion for their shelter and water arrangements, but the labour of so many days in this direction proved hopelessly ~~inadequate~~ inadequate. From the early hours of the morning people simply began to pour in from all directions. Thousands of villagers from all round the surrounding country ~~were~~ were arriving on horse back, by the bullock-carts ~~and on foot with~~ as well as on foot with women and children dressed in a wild medley of holiday colours. While the city people and outstation visitors were no less. There was a continuous line of carriages to gas cars and motor lorries wings, full of people of all castes and ages and returning empty. After sometime however about half a dozen ~~regular~~ motor lorries began to run regularly to & fro Ahmednagar throughout the day and were always found to be full of passengers on both sides of their run. In spite of many people returning back immediately after the Darshan the standing crowd could not have been ~~that~~ less than ~~than~~ five thousand! At 8 A.M. Baba was begun to be bathed. The ladies were the first to bath him with due ceremonies followed by the male members.

Everyone was allowed to use ~~over~~ him one tumbler of water only and yet Baba had to silently and ~~he~~ cheerfully undergo the thousands of tumblers and

pooned on him and the same number of pairs of hands that unconsciously worked havoc with his weak body. The village music, consisting of various kinds of drums and flutes and a band that was brought over from Ahmednagar played on continuously. The roaring music was just in conformity to the wild hustle bustle of thousands of visitors near the bath room. Later on the rush of our sides in trying to catch hold of the ever moving tumbler and pouring the same over Baba got so great that He was almost locked in between a surging and struggling crowd. At this the ^{whole} mandali took to the task of driving away the mad on rush and afterwards forming a cordon of hands round a Baba leaving out a reasonable open space about him and allowing the public one by one. At 9 o'clock to the disappointment of a large number of people the bathing was declared to be finished and after a change of linen Baba was conducted amidst a cordon ring of the mandali to the stage - platform in the Sai-Darbar. Baba took his seat in the wooden box that was only recently made ready and which was exquisitely decorated for the occasion.

Mr. Angal began his Puran. With suitable similes and parable examples in history & mythology he very beautifully dwelt upon the birth and early life of Baba. The dream that Sheerinbai had witnessed ~~in~~ just before the birth was also narrated publicly for the first time. At 10 A.M. the actual ceremony was gone through; when there was quite a rain of Ash, Gulal and ~~gub~~ and flowers over Baba's seat. The farlands and ~~gub~~ were presented to him

were so many as to completely cover up the whole of the wooden room in heaps. The final Arti being finished the mandali retired for the meals at 11.30. Besides the usual Dal & rice there was a side dish of potatoes for the dinner. In addition to the mandali and ^{all} the best of the colony people hundreds of outsiders also took their meals which was being cooked by Baba Brahmia ~~through~~ almost throughout the day; being finished up the moment it got ready only to be cooked again.

After the meals the chief occupation for Baba and party was to give ~~Darshans~~ to the surging and struggling crowd that was but ~~swelling~~ swelling beyond imagination with the advancing day and to keep the same in check and in order respectively.

The rush continued throughout the day without a break necessitating the continuous cordon of the mandali around Baba and also ^{their presence} in regulating the wild rush of those who were always impatient for coming in Shri's presence. So much so that the supper was done away with and all had to remain satisfied with the morning meal. In the evening at about 6. P.M. the Palangin procession was got out. Baba was induced upon by the ~~same~~ joint request of the mandali ~~in accepting~~ to get in the same. To the accompaniment of numerous singing parties, bands and music-companies the procession was started from the Sai Darbar to the Tank on the hill where special arrangement was made for Arti Pujas etc to be offered by the ladies. The mandali and party near the palangin ~~were~~ ~~seen~~ ~~had~~ simply ~~gone~~ ~~wild~~ with enthusiasm. Amidst scenes of great animation and enthusiasm the procession

advanced slowly towards the hill. By now the number of crowds could not have been less than ten thousand. At the hill the ladies paid their homage & devotion under Mother Gulmai's direction when again a ringing Arti was gone through. While returning back the ~~a~~ ^{tea} party palanquin was carried empty as Baba walked with the procession. Before coming back into the Sai Darbar the procession wended towards Kalesh Shahui's house. Here again Arti Pujas were made and tea served to all in the immediate vicinity of Baba whether ^{they} belonged to the mandali or not.

~~After the tea party which was inspite of such an unusual held as on every Thursday~~ And thus inspite of the extraordinary excitement and animation the usual Thursday tea party was not missed.

After that Baba again came and took his seat in the new room over the stage affording the eager crowds to take his Darshans. Firm arrangements were made by way of suitable railing of human hands forming a way in and out allowing the visitors one after the other failing which many people would have been crushed to death. The crowds and hustle bustle was no less outside the Sai-Darbar.

Throughout the colony there was a close assemblage of men women and children, which was increasing steadily towards the evening. Dozens of refreshment flower and toy shops had sprung up on both sides of the road near the 'Darbar' while there was no end to the comings and goings of tongas and motor vehicles which were always full to the utmost. In the evening beautiful fireworks were displayed for about a couple of hours giving the finishing touches of

grandeur to the great occasion. The crowds were
freely estimated to be nearly 15 to 20 thousand in
the evening. In the night lights, ^{which were} liberally spread
all over the place, the scene was all the more lively
and bright. The visitors continued pouring till
midnight and consequently Baba had to remain
continually in his seat to afford them Darshans.
At least fifty thousand people might have had his 'sight'
today. However after midnight Baba retired to
his usual seat near the Dhoomi and stopped seeing
visitors and the Mandali also got in their beds
at 1 o'clock overstrained and dog tired with the days
work of 'fighting' with a unruly and enthusiastic
crowd in keeping them in order. Even then many
people were reported having gone back disappointed without
Baba's Darshans on their arrival ~~after~~ long after the mid-
night.