

Sunday 5th December '26.

All got up early this morning at five thirty o'clock and began forthwith to prepare for the "march out" to Bombay. The mountain load of all the luggage, was for the most part brought to the station by bullock carts, yet some of the mandali who had to come walking to the station ~~carried~~ had to carry a part of it themselves. The rest of the party were brought to the station in small groups in the carriage and car that were at their disposal.

Baba and the ladies were the last to come to the station by the motor-car, and they had not long to wait for the train which steamed in at about twelve thirty. The mandali had succeeded in getting a whole of ^{the} class compartment with the accommodation ~~for~~ ^{for} twenty seven persons reserved from Poona and hence ~~boarding this empty carriage was not very~~ it was easy for Baba and all to get soon comfortably accommodated in the train.

There was a large number of the public on the station to see the party off, and consequently with a deafening cheering of "gai" the train rolled out of the station. Ramjoo accompanied the party upto Khandala when he was instructed by Shri to keep a sharp look out for Gushon who had gone away from the mandali ~~at~~ ^{on} the impulse of sudden anger which he got while carrying on an unpleasant discussion with Shri in the morning. There was a ~~humorous~~ humorous situation at the station of Khandala during the few minutes that the train stopped there. Dr. Ghanis brother Aburrahman, when he was asked by Shri ~~some~~ through signs some formal questions, the latter too in the

excitement forgot the use of his tongue and began to reply back through signs and gestures! The journey was found to be exceptionally comfortable. Baba was in a very pleasant mood. And even draughts were played for sometime in the train. At Kalyan each of the mandali was allowed to take a cup of tea. At 4.50. P.M. the party reached their destination - Dadar and the tables turned.

Trouble stared them full in the face! Naval & Ramdas reported that owing to "Amas" and Sunday being combined no motor truck, bullock carts, or even taxis were available at that time at Dadar! However a ~~charter~~ ^{shay} victoria was luckily spotted out and Baba and two of his orderlies drove in it to Santa-Cruz where it has been decided to put up in Mr Ramdas's bungalow. While the ladies too were sent away with Haraji by a local train but the rest of the mandali and a small pyramid of luggage containing nearly hundred packages remained a tough problem to be solved for their ~~quick transportation to Santa Cruz~~ under the existing circumstances. The chief difficulty being about the luggage removing from the G.S.P. platform to the B.S. & C.S. station and then accommodating the same into a local train, which stops only ~~for~~ but for a few minutes at Dadar! A headman amongst the coolies offered to undertake the removal and its complete ~~delivery at Santa-Cruz~~ ^{delivery at Santa-Cruz} ~~by~~ ^{local} train but wanted the exorbitant charge of Rs 30/- to be paid to him for that! ~~At last~~ ~~Ramaji ordered the mandali themselves~~ In the meanwhile the station authorities began to insist upon a quick removal of all the luggage, so Ramaji ordered the mandali themselves to remove one by one the packages out of the platform. It was nearly six thirty, that is ⁱⁿ an hour and half that the mandali could make the

6
'remarkable' progress of getting all the things cleared and brought near the B. B. & C. S. level crossing, a distance of nearly thirty yards only! But here another difficulty propped up. Quite a number of idle spectators had collected round the heap of the extraordinary luggage and the sweating mandali struggling with it. It was a novel site for the former to witness a new type of respectable people ~~acting~~ looking "coolies" working with a vengeance. But all this hum-drum and the consequent obstruction on the Public road naturally attracted the attention of one of the inevitable Yellow Puffs of Bombay - a police-man who now began insisting upon the mandali for a quick removal of the luggage from the road side. It was like falling from the frying pan into the fire! Just as they had succeeded in pacifying the Ry authorities by removing away the things from the Ry premises that they began to receive the all too uncomfortable attention of the Police! However by this time the mandali succeeded in enlisting the service of some half a dozen coolies and a four wheeled trolley on reasonable terms. The luggage was then heaped up on the trolley which on account of its worn out rubber tyres got its wheels stuck up in deep ruts on the road through the heavy load ~~set~~ on it. Somehow the truck was moved out and brought just near the gates of the level crossing when the same ^{were} ~~was~~ on the point of being closed for some on-coming trains!

In their hurry to finish the job soon and be done with, the coolies persisted in squeezing out of the closing gates with the blessed trolley but it was no easy work to get ^{it} safely over the projecting rails. At the first rail the wheels of the trolley got entangled with it, and

with strenuous labours and a lot of sweating and howling on the part of the coolies it was somehow detached and moved on. At the last rail the trucks again stuck up. It was a dangerous position. The head lights of the on-coming train were now clearly visible in the distance, and it was very dark too.

In a frenzy to get off the rails all the coolies gave ^{it} a violent push and almost lifted the whole trolley off the ground, but for the timely support of a ~~few~~ few of the mandali all the luggage would have been upturned on the railway lines and then crushed under the on-coming train, but somehow the trolley was safely cleared out and the same moment two trains on both the lines rushed past each other! The delay of ~~the~~ a moment might have caused glaring headlines to appear in the day's press but luckily such an unhappy catastrophe was avoided.

Yet the troubles of the mandali did not end there.

There was yet the question of loading the luggage in a ~~fast~~ quickly moving local train! Two of such trains were ~~missed~~ already missed merely while thinking ~~about~~ ~~some~~ about a way-out of the difficulty! A bullock-cart was however fished out by this time. A part of the luggage was filled in it to its full capacity and despatched directly towards the bungalow at Santa-Cruz with a couple of the mandali riding over it! The third local train contained a considerate man as a guard. He not only allowed the mandali to fill in all the ~~lugga~~ remaining luggage in the train but personally lent a hand in the work himself. While again at Santa-Cruz the good guard helped the mandali considerably in unloading the luggage. At Santa Cruz three victorias were hired out to remove the things in Mr Ramdo's bungalow. Hardly one was finished being packed up that the other two

slipped away after seeing what kind of fare they had to carry. Even the one whose carriage had been already been packed with goods began to show signs of a revolt on the plea that a victoria was not a bullock-cart. He was pacified somehow and taken to the destination. The rest of the things had to be removed by the mandali themselves to the bungalow. And thus it was nearly ten thirty in the night that all the mandali and luggage reached ~~at~~ the destination safely and completely. In all this hum-drum it was only natural that some mistake be made and as a strange coincidence Baba's own bedding, the basket of food, and other necessary things got mixed up and were the last things to reach the destination. Consequently those who had reached the bungalow earlier had also to wait for their food till the end! After all had arrived in the bungalow Baba allotted respective sites to everyone of the party to be occupied by them during the stay in different parts of the same. Then supper was served, and it was nearly half past eleven that all could retire for the night for so much needed rest.

~~And and Ajjin were the only~~

Before leaving Lonavla Baba had paid a last visit to Ajjin in the morning at the Health Home. The latter is still lying there without any remarkable improvement inspite of all the careful treatments. Shri decided for him to remain there till his recovery and imparted elaborate instructions in great details about the future treatment. Karim and Sabnis were left to remain in his attendance and Dr. Ghani was asked to let no stone unturned for Ajjin's quick recovery at whatever costs.