

Saturday.

1st Jan? 1927.

The Christian New Year today was observed as a holiday. All were provided with milk tea and a specially prepared, ^{sweet} dish of rich "Rava" at breakfast this morning. The days post contained many new-year greetings to Shri from his Christian devotees which were all shown & read to the mandali. There was also an interesting letter from a friend of Vishnu. The writer described how he saw Shri Baba the other day (27th of December) in the Poona-Express near Kalyan! Not only that but he said he talked with Baba about Ajin's death too, and when he described his meeting and talk with Baba with Vishnu's mother and others at Poona he was laughed out, since they all knew for certain that at that time Baba was at Inkerabad and that He has been observing silence. In spite of it all the writer said He could swear to his having seen Baba and talked with Him. Is this not a miracle? ✱ The letter from Baboo at Poona was also read and discussed about which described the present ill-health of Babajan when one of Baboo's remarks was "इतने बड़े उमर के लोग" "These old-men are very sticky".

Thereafter a discussion followed upon the 'Sabligh Movement' as reported in the day's Daily-Mail in which a prominent Mohammedan barrister was reported having exhorted his audience of 1500 co-religionists to try to convert as many hindos as possible in the Islamic fold, so that when Swaraj is established in India, the mohomeddams may have a decisive voice in the government. Baba conveyed that all this present communal hum-drum in India was the result of ^{the} Internal Workings of the present-day Frashers. This working is invisible but it will in future set the whole of India at logger-heads. Although at present the atmosphere does not look so serious, yet ~~it~~ when the time comes, in a moment it will take a serious

✱ Details of this incident are narrated on page 289 as actually seen by the lady himself.

turn, even through a trifling cause, and then nothing could check it. These days even ~~men~~ a man like Gandhi has been reported to have said "I have studied all the religions but I prefer Hinduism as the best" Such sentiments are nothing but a sign of weakness on the part of those who give vent to it. Although Gandhi is a sincere public-worker he can, but do very little through his gross body which is the only means he ~~has~~ has of serving through. While there are many who have not only gone beyond the realm of the subtle, but mental too.

Gandhi can never be compared with such great spiritual workers. Because that everything appears calm and quite here, it does not mean that there is no work going on here. Spiritual workings can never be guessed, far* short of being gauged from outward signs, which are few and again impossible to be grasped by the laymen. The power-house where all the electricity is produced is comparatively always found to be dark, desolate and deserted, while the dazzling light produced by the same, attracts a gay crowd at a theatre when it also turns the night there into day. Because that the Power-House is in darkness, that does not mean that there is no power there. To give Sri's own words here, as written on the slate "So you must all stick to the Power House (Sadguru)" which also means that much of the Spiritual workings are carried out at Meherabad in spite of being unseen and unknown.

The following story from 'Dargire - Gonsya' was also referred to by Baba with a few changes:

"There was a mohomedan Sadguru who always went about alone, had no mandali, or a fixed

place of residence, and was almost an ~~new~~ unknown man. Once while this Master happen to pass through a town he saw an animal falling down into a well. Now just near this well a spiritually advanced person, a Vali or a Gyogi, was living in a one storied-house. He too saw the animal falling into the well, and from where he was sitting he put down his hand into the ~~side~~ the well and brought out the fallen animal through the spiritual powers. At the sight of this miracle-like work the Sadguru came near the Vali house and shouted out to him "Learn Fakiri (the true asceticism) and leave out jugglery" and walked away. The enraged Gyogi decided to ensnare this master for those cutting words. He got a 'Pular' prepared of Dog's flesh, and then sent it along with a bottle of wine with a beautiful woman asking the latter to try all her wiles and smiles upon that ~~of~~ Fakir. The master who had taken his seat at a quiet spot beyond the river, when he found the wine, woman & the food before him, did not take long in 'doing away' with them all, and sent a word to the Vali that "Enjoyed well, thanks". Thereupon the Vali thought it was time now that he had his own back upon the Master and challenge his 'Fakiri', and so started towards the other side of the river on horse-back.

While crossing the big swiftly flowing river, right in the middle of it, the horse committed nuisance.

The master from the other side cried out "Oh your horse has spoiled the good clean river with that dirt"

The Vali could not ~~refrain~~ help laughing out and shouting back "Can ^{ever} such a trifling nuisance spoil the big river" But the retort of the Master was equally prompt "Can any amount of wine and such rubbish as you sent

can spoil the Infinite Divine Ocean" and thus the aspirant in the Divine Line was brought to his senses by the Master. "Don't be misguided with outward appearances" was the moral impressed upon the mandali by Baba. The holiday was well enjoyed by all as throughout the day Baba frequently distributed sweets and fruits amongst them. At two o'clock in the afternoon another meeting of the mandali was called together, when Shri declared His intention of doing away with the use of the pen too from tomorrow.

Necessary instructions in this connection were given to all concerned. Baba finally added "When the writing or even speaking will be resumed is not certain. It might be begun within a few days, months or even years. It all depends upon Babajan"

In the evening when all were playing a cricket match a party of Walhi villagers came in for Baba's Darshan. Amongst them was an ascetic who was referred to by the rest of them as Maharaj and worshipped by them. In spite of it, this Maharaj when he came before ^{Baba} did not hesitate in paying to Shri due humble respects in the presence of all.

Baba placed His hand over the "Maharaj's" head and blessed him, upon which the ascetic told his companions that while Shri Baba touched him on the head he felt queer experiences! The ascetic also told Baba that he was yearning to be put on the 'Path' and with this end in view had decided to go and see all the existing Saints and Masters. He had already been to Karayan Maharaj. Baba encouraged him in his plan and also told him to come and stay with Himself after finishing with

seeing other Masters, when he was promised to be given a 'push' towards the Path. At night Baba enquired as to who were willing to sleep near Him outside His Ghopdi in the open. Many came forward, but Shankarnath and Gnasaji were finally selected by Baba to sleep every night outside His Ghopdi. Some time back there was excessive cold fall at Aherabad. Somebody complained to Baba about it when Shri conveyed as if in joke that "He will ask the cold to subside" And strangely enough the last few days the climate here was very moderate! However the cold has again begun to make the mandali chatter their teeth since this morning.