

Calcutta And

Hardwar 1

Departure From Madras.

According to the latest plan the party which now consisted of only Baba, Gustadji, Behramji & Padri came to the station to start by the Calcutta Mail.

Owing to great rush of crowds the 3rd class booking was stopped. Using his discretion Padri took Inter class tickets, but he was greatly rebuked for the extravagance, afterwards by Baba. If he had not taken the Inter class tickets in time, then also he would surely ~~have~~ had been taken to task for being inactive and unresourceful! Such is the method, to which one who works the hardest is subjected to by Baba under the most trying circumstances. While boarding the train some english dressed Parsi gentlemen were encountered. In spite of their hailings Padri put off them off but Behramji was caught hold of by them. ~~But~~ Although all have been instructed never to disclose Baba's personality, Behramji made the slip and in reply to their enquiries as to who were they he blurted out that they were with Acherbaba. They seemed to have had heard Baba's name as on learning the news one and all flocked about the carriage occupied by Baba. Their spokesman greeted Baba in a outspoken way which sounded very humorous as he walked towards Baba and said "anjon nēbaba" then calling all his companions in Parzi jār nēbaba nēbaba gōn. But with all the lack of ceremonies and formalities they greeted with sincerity and asked the party where they stayed in Madras and why did not they come to the Parsi Dharmashala. Without any further untoward incident the party started from Madras at 8 P.M. (the 9th Aug).

The whole of the following day was passed

in the train speeding towards Calcutta when another 'lecture' was made to the party by Baba just on the same lines of the one given at Madras. On the 11th at 5 in the evening they arrived at Howrah Station (Calcutta). On local information the party repaired to a Mogul hotel in the near vicinity which also had lodging arrangements on the first floor of the building.

The same being found in a dirty and stinking condition they beat a quick retreat telling the proprietor that they will be back after sometime. However they heard the owner telling his assistant that the people once going out back like this never return to his hotel which was a living certificate of for his dirty hole of lodging house.

The next place the party came across in their search for a suitable shelter was the Punjab Hotel!

It was a "much ado about nothing" place but they decided to stay here and engaged a 2nd class room.

The so called II class suite consisted of a small room with ^{an} old dilapidated dressing table having half a glass in the mirror frame and one of the two drawers missing as the only piece of furniture. In the evening the party had a joy ride in a taxi sight seeing the great city for about two hours. The next ^{day} enquiries were made as how to reach the Dakshineswar ^{and} the place ~~where~~ ^{where} Sri Ramkrishna Paramhansa and Swami Vivekananda had lead their illustrious lives. As expected it was not found to be a wellknown place in Calcutta.

However after some difficulty the party secured the directions for reaching the sacred locality, and crossed the 'Hooghly' in a launch to reach Dakshineswar.

On the other side of the river a blind beggar was marked to be sitting neglected in dirty surroundings.

He was removed from the place which was swept & cleaned for him and after feeding him, he was made comfortable again on his ^{seat} by the party including Bebe who personally took part in the matter, and they proceeded towards their destination.

Ramkrishna Math!

A little distance away from the Dakshineswar village proper, the above Math is situated along the Hooghly river in a calm and beautiful situation. The party paid their respects at the room which was used to be occupied by Sri Ramkrishna himself in his life time. Also the surrounding rooms occupied by the circle members in the life time of Swami Vivekanand were also inspected, as well as the things ~~such~~ such as Sandals of Ramkrishna etc preserved carefully as relics to this day, were seen.

While returning from the Maths, ~~at~~ ^{at a} a small Mandir was seen at a ^{good} distance from the main buildings which consisted of a big photo of Ramkrishna - Mohorej and a devotee, who was there for so many years silently observing devotions in the name of the great Personality whose photo he so fondly preserved and praised. Baba gave him some instructions for devotional exercises and then the party came back to ~~their~~ the hotel. The same evening at 7.30. the party started from Calcutta for Hardwar. ~~At~~ Again owing to abnormal crowds they had to book for Inter class. The next day they had to change into the C. R. Ry at Fogal Sarai junction.

Hardwar!

(MAHARASHTRA) INDIA

On the 14th of Aug the party reached Hardwar. It was an auspicious day being the 14th, Thursday, Poonam Sankranti and Hardwar feres! They took shelter in a Dharmashala and then went for a bath in the Ganga which originates from here, with towels etc. Finding a huge crowd there and the bathing places in a very dirty conditions they returned back to the Dharmashala without taking baths. Afterwards a ford car was engaged to take them to Rishi-Kesh a place at a distance of about 14 miles where numbers of Sadhus ~~they~~ are said to be living. The car was found to be in a very run down condition with the seats looking like the inward side of a collar of a well worn coat, and torn here and there. Yet they took their seats therein ~~it being the cheapest~~ as it was engaged for a lowest possible fare. But before it actually started a tyre went down. And when that was inflated some trouble arose in starting the worn out engine. At this it was cancelled and the party took to a better car.

Through a rough and zig-zag road they arrived at Rishi Kesh. Baba bowed down to so many Sadhus ~~and~~ and Lepers here as he has been doing of late.

Baba also had some conversation with a Sadhu known here as 'Nepali Bawa'. From here the party walked towards a rope bridge called 'Luxuman Jhoola' just at the foot of the Himalayas at a distance of a few miles from ~~Luxuman~~ Rishi Kesh. About 1 o'clock the party came back to Hardwar. Preparations were set on foot for the great tramp to Sakori. The mandali ~~which~~ who were observing fast since the morning took food consisting of the 'eternal' Dal Bhat at 4 P.M. Telegrams were sent to Adi & Hormasji, asking the latter to meet them at Sakkar.