

Thur. 27th Jan '27.

The usual Thursday visitors 'poured in' the whole day, many of them bringing sweets and eatables. The latter were frequently distributed amongst the mandali in equal lots or through a general lot and thus provided them with no little amusement.

and change. A Gyogi from the village of Ralwari who was quonot the morning visitors attracted much attention.

He is believed by many people to be as old as 300 years and also that he has been living continually without a gap for the last 40 hundred years, changing away bodies whenever found necessary through his Gyogic powers! Although there is no wonder that a person may through spiritual powers change his body or keep himself alive for a great many years, ~~with~~ the popular beliefs about this gentleman yet the dividing line between fact and fable in connection with the popular beliefs about this Gyogi are not very well-known.

This much is certain that he is well-known in the district as an ascetic. At times remains for long periods without food and water and according to his own words on "air" when during such time he does not also have necessities. The Gyogi actually demonstrated before the mandali his control over breathing, and raised his belly with long inward breathing ~~as if it were~~ ^{into a} a great drum! On the whole he looked very extraordinary no doubt. He did not seem to have any ambition save that of serving others and particularly dumb animals. He is said to be serving meals prepared by himself to ascetics and wanderers after truth who chance to come across his seat at Ralwari where he also happens to have a number of cows. He depends for the maintenance of all this upon collections made by him from time to time and upon subscriptions given by visitors. That was perhaps the chief reason for which he came to Shri. Baba presented him with Rs 20/- and also applied on his face the Dhoomi-Ash. And from that moment Shri began to apply the same to all the mandali members too.

Fri. 28. 1. '27.

AVATAR MEHER BABA TRUST
KING'S ROAD, P. O. AHMEDNAGAR
(W. P. (M.S.) INDIA)

It was an auspicious day, as Bhafrat Baba-jan's birthday as arranged previously, was observed today.

But it can also be said to be a day of jumbles. The first of it ~~was~~ happened through the school authorities having forgotten to inform the boys of the holiday, and so when the boys arrived at the school, ^{this morning} they were admitted in and the school work went on as usual till the noon. However for the rest of the day the school remained closed and the boys were given a half holiday. At first Baba had fixed the Arti and Puja ceremonies between 8 to 10 in the evening, but this morning Pandoba committed a slip and reminded Baba that last year the same ceremonies were done at 6 P.M. Baba suddenly accepted Pandoba's suggestion and allowed the change to be made in the programme already fixed. The day on the whole passed away peacefully when for some time the "Thali" play was also held, but Pandoba's "Pozooli" brought over a 'tumult' in the evening. Just at the appointed time, suggested by himself, that is, ^{at} six o'clock Pandoba came out of his residence. He ought to have come earlier and seen that all was in order.

However the programme was gone through exactly according to the time fixed. The Arti was recited, the cradle was swung, flowers etc distributed but on the whole it was "dismal" atmosphere. There was no one else except the Mendali. No villagers, not even the boys of the Babajan School to take part in Babajan's birthday! It was not very difficult to remember the contrast in the past when on such occasions

the atmosphere used to buzz with life and animation.

Baba seemed to be greatly displeased with the poor show that the mandali had presented and particularly took to task the school authorities for not arranging to atleast get the boys attend the function and immediately ordered the removal from about Him all the Arti Puja things! Shortly after this the usual bell for the evening meals rang out. All assembled on the Verandah with their ~~usual~~ respective plates and glasses and were just on the point of being served out, when to their great horror and amazement the big pot of vegetables was snatched up by somebody under Baba's orders and then thrown clean over out in a ditch! The storm had begun, and this danger signal was not missed by anyone. Without being told one and each of the members quietly went back to their places and lay low silently. After some time the mandali was recalled for supper and served ~~by~~ ^{with} only plain bread to be eaten with the clear cold water of the Chetty's. And all were compelled to take the normal quantity of bread as Baba personally distributed it.

After this dry supper a meeting was called together when Baba discussed with ~~them~~ the mandali the day's situation. The late Arjun's great devotional activities on such occasions, his zeal and his enthusiasm in keeping everything ready and well arranged through great personal trouble and interest. Shi 'said' he greatly depreciated such lack of similar enthusiasm & spirit in the rest of the mandali. However a peaceful atmosphere was restored very quickly. Baba forgave all those who were responsible in one ^{or} the other for all that hum-drum particularly Pandoba and distributed Jalebis

amongst all. The order for Milk tea which had been cancelled during the storm was ^{also} restored and Shri passed on special orders to all to enjoy in the best possible ways the two hours between eight to ten o'clock. Accordingly this time the Birthday was observed in quite a novel but very welcome way.

Some amused themselves with singing, a few played different indoor games, others engaged themselves with gramophone playing and so the two hours were greatly enjoyed by all. Baba remained in the Ladies quarters for about an hour between eight and nine o'clock. And when He returned from there Shri brought with Him a pot full of freshly prepared Thalida (a sweet preparation) and distributed the same amongst the mandali. ~~The day thus ended well~~ From one of the records played on the gramophone Shri gave the mandali a very beautiful divine explanation (vide Chanji's notes). Thus the mandali fully enjoyed the last two hours of the rather dull and tumultuous day.