

Sum 17th April 1921  
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RITAYA

Shri came to the Mahan at seven thirty this morning when the boys were out playing the game of 'Thali' haphazard. Shri divided the boys into two groups. The elder boys were directed to play the game of Khs-Khs and the younger ones allowed to continue playing 'Thali' but in a orderly way.

Baba himself played for sometime with Inastan and then with 'Champi' asked 'Champi' to take his place and play on with Inastan. When the games were over Baba sat with the mandali discussing general subjects. Mr. Christain's family was also amongst the visitors today. The young ailing mother and her sick child when came near Shri, He managed to get out from them that they had not quite followed Baba's instructions to them and as a result both of them were suffering. Baba reminded<sup>ed</sup> the lady that once before she had failed to carry out Baba's his instructions and as a consequence was almost on the death bed but was saved, and that instead of being prewarned she had again committed the mistake and as a result both she and her child were suffering. ~~He then said~~ One of Shri's <sup>further</sup> remarks in this connection conveyed that "Either not to ask the advice of a Saint at all or if once asked, one must act strictly in accordance to the advice. For breaking the words of a Personality whom one bows down to and considers as God-Realized, entails the person to a very severe punishment, though it is never known how it happens. One cannot imagine the serious consequences. That's why I warn you." Shri came in the noon with some water melons which were distributed amongst the mandali and the boys. In the afternoon there were again some discussions

various subjects besides

between Shri and the mandali on the life of Shri Ramkrishna. Many more striking facts about Ramkrishna were found to be strangely coinciding with those marked about Baba's own activities, although Baba had never before read this "Life"!

Then "talking" over the question of Sanskars Baba remarked "Small children owing to their innocence, were more out of the grasp of Sanskars, and hence easily susceptible to spiritual training as they get spiritual impressions very easily, and thus could be lead to the Path equally easily. On the contrary grown up men and elder persons, being victims to certain vices that are most undesirable for this line of spiritualism, are hard nuts to crack, and are not easily affected" Here Baba marked Penu to be dozing away and conveyed "Dozing on in the day time and under such circumstances by Penu showed what a care-free mind he had. He ~~is~~ like Napoleon who actually used to sleep on horse-back" Baba also remarked in joke that one of these days He would give a good thrashing to Adli who was now so very free with his tongue, speaking anything at any time to anybody. Never mind even if He - Baba - is called upon by the Police for the assault. At the most He would be locked in a cell. Well, He would remain there quite for the prescribed time, but would again come here at the expiry of the sentence and take up the workings as usual! ~~again!~~

Another interesting visitor today was a

Sanyasin who after taking Baba's Darshan expressed his desire to stay here after paying a visit to Sri - Upasni Maharaj. This 'aspirant' was out on a ramble at the orders of his Guru, and was said to have already passed nearly 24 years in going from place to place. It was in the course of this very rambling that he had come to Ahmednagar where Anna first saw him on the road-side. Thinking of serving an ascetic Anna arranged for his food and lodging, and also brought him here today.

In the evening a "Bhendi" competition was arranged between the mandali and the boys with an attractive prize of sweets to the winning party.

Happily there was a tie between the contesting parties and so the sweets were equally distributed amongst all.

By this time Baba once again began to suffer severely with a fresh attack of "stiff neck and straining nerves" after an interval of only one day of relief. Consequently after the usual Arti repetitions Sri retired early at 8.30. ~~for~~ for the night.

Mon 18th Apr '27.

In view of the sudden and serious indisposition of Baba last night, none expected to see Him ~~so~~ early in the Mahan <sup>this morning</sup>, much less to be prepared for a 'storm'. But Sri did grace the Mahan with His august presence very early this morning, and not only that, but also seemed to be on the war-path ~~in~~ in right earnest!

Immediately on arrival Sri questioned 'Chanji through signs as to why Dhakay and Fisal had not

come yet from Ahmednagar on their respective duties and also whether he - 'Chanji' - had personally supervised the morning sweeping and cleaning of the school or not? And thus the ball was set rolling. Many more questions and answers followed in the course of an unpleasant discussion; ~~in the course of which~~ Dhakay and Kisal also having arrived in the meantime and joined in the wordy warfare. The gist of Baba's repeated remarks was that He felt greatly dis-satisfied with the way the school authorities were carrying out their respective duties. He wanted all work done either well and quite sincerely or not done at all. His haphazard "pulling on" work was not liked by Him.

That He did not like the chief school authorities like 'Chanji and Dhakay to be going out of Maherabad every now and then for one reason or the other, and so in short it all meant that somebody else should take the place of Principalship vice Dhakay.

But as it happened only a few days ago, in the course of a similar discussion, none was found ~~was~~ more fit for the post than Dhakay as well as none came forward for the honour and distinction of Principalship too!

A position of distinction is not a bed of roses in Baba's atmosphere. Every one thinks twice before accepting responsibilities. It is no joke to give entire satisfaction to Baba, no amount of precautions, ability, alacrity is sufficient enough to satisfy Him, once He begins to find faults!

How can an imperfect being satisfy a Perfect One?

Although Baba is quite justified in finding faults with the mandali in the discharge of their duties from His own point of view, besides it does no harm but good as these occasional chastisements provide a right stimulant to jaded nerves and tired ~~brains~~ minds, it can never be taken to mean that the mandali members are supposed by Baba to be purposefully avoiding the proper discharge of their duties. On the contrary, for example, the <sup>two</sup> present principal 'accused persons' 'Chanji & Dhakay feel the responsibilities of their respective jobs to be very telling upon their minds. They continually feel uneasy and not free minded during the hours of their duties lest they may cause displeasure to Shri.

And for all the apparent display of displeasure Baba did not seem to be unmindful of this situation. In His own peculiar way of scolding and appreciating a person at one and the same time, Shri did convey during the present discussions

"This sufferance ~~was~~ (to the mandali) was in one way very good, even necessary from the spiritual point of view. But this - sufferance - should not distract you from the path of your duty, should never be allowed to become a "stumbling block" or a "disturbance" in the discharge of your duties. On the other hand this "uneasiness and non-freedom of the mind" should rather encourage and enliven you more towards your duties. Leave aside all other considerations, if your own conscience felt satisfied that you did the duty properly, that was enough. It is the best judge. It is human to err,

and there may be mistakes, you should only try your best. Be on the spot in time, look after and supervise all work personally, in short do your duties well. If in inspite of all this any mistake happens, it will be overlooked or pardoned, but even if I 'speak' to you harshly about such mistakes, you should not take it to heart. It is enough if your own conscience tells you that you have done your best." And after many more such remarks of encouragement, appreciation, and scolding from Beba the 'storm' came to an end! The principalship was left to Dhakay with Chanji to assist him and there the matters ended. But the most-