

AVATAR MEHER BABA TRUST
King's Road, P. O. AHMEDNAGAR
(MAHARASHTRA) INDIA

FRAGILE
HANDLE WITH CARE

The Combined Diary.

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(I)

Includes Padris, Pawar's, Paudobis
Padris' shaw's And 'Chanjis';
covering the following periods
in continuation of the II
part of "Two Years With-
-Meherbaba".

(Shown on next page.)

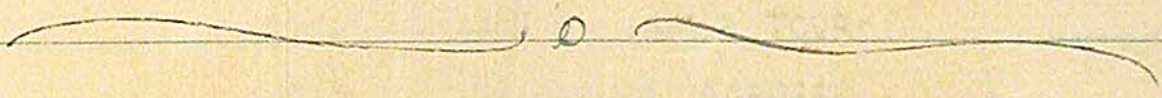
1924 - 25 - 26.

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From End of July to December 1924.

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From Jan to December 1925.

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From Jan. to 6th November 1926.



To Madam

1924

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SEARCH FOR 5000 SADHUS,

UNDER THIS APPARENT REASON MEHER-
BABA AND A FEW COMPANIONS UNDER-
-WENT UNTOLD HARDSHIPS AND IN-
CONVENIENCES WHILE TOUR-
-ING AND TRAMPING ACROSS
INDIA IN 1924. A *
GLIMPSE THEREOF
IS RECORDED HERE-
-IN FROM * *
PADRI i.e.

*Fardoonji Navrozji Druver's
Note-Book.*

To Madras,

— And —

The Nilgiri Hills!

Preparations.

By the end of the month - July - the mandali at large was completely dispersed and all went away, one after the other to their respective ~~fit~~ places and occupations. Only Gustinaji, Behramji, Padri, Baiji Inasa & Vajifdar remained with Baba.

Baba talks of starting on extensive tramping and travelling throughout India for months together in search for Sadhus and Saints and bowing down to ^{5000 of} them, with the first four named remaining in the company. Vajifdar and Inasa are instructed to remain in Bombay and Poona respectively until further orders. Those who are to accompany him are instructed to get ready with sufficient clothes foot-gear, beddings etc ~~to~~ to last throughout the journey, because in case of shortage of any necessities nothing new will be furnished once they start on the tour. Even those who lose or get unfit their shoes or chappals will have to go without them and travel barefooted! Consequently the luggage with the party became very heavy, comprising of a heavy overcoat spare foot-gear clothes and full beddings with ~~to~~ each ~~man~~ of the party of them. Padri is appointed the manager, to look after all arrangements and conduct of the tour. The party came over to Poona to make a start from here.

To Raichur!

It is decided to go towards Raichur and the party start from Poona on 2nd August (Friday) for that place by the afternoon train. Sadashive, Vishnuo, Bala, Doctor, Ramjoo, Rustom, Jal & Inasa were on the station to see the party off. Just a short while after the train had left Poona that the beginning of bowing to Sadhus was made by Baba. Two of them were found to be travelling in the same carriage. Baba greeted them,

gave them some loose coins and ~~bowed to them~~ ^{touching their feet with his head}. After some time Baba enquired at what time the train will reach Raichur. It was found out that it will arrive there the following morning at 4 A.M. and under the excuse of its arrival at Raichur at ~~an~~ ^{an} inconvenient hour Baba decided to proceed direct to Madras. Padri was asked to manage for the difference of the Ry fare to be paid out for Madras as tickets had been purchased ~~upto~~ for Raichur only.

At Madras.

Accordingly the party arrived at Madras Central Station on the 3rd at 9.30. P.M. and took shelter in Shalib Siddiqi Choultry i.e. Dharmashala near the station.

The following day preparation ^{and enquiries} were made to go to Porto Novo and that side of the country, as Baba said that, besides touring, they will have a chance of serving the people in distress, there, owing to heavy floods that were reported having swept over that part of the country, causing great damage to life & property. Grams, cheese and bread were taken as provision for the journey. ~~It came~~ While Padri was asked, to ~~always~~ ^{always} carry handfulls of loose money with him throughout this tour to enable Baba to distribute the same while ^{he} bowed to Sadhus who has ~~been~~ already been started by Baba.

In the evening the party came to the Madras Beach Station of the S. S. Ry to start towards Porto Novo. On account of the floods, it was said many branches had osceured along the Railway line and hence only one train was running every day. Consequently enormous crowds were witnessed on and about the station eager to get tickets & room in the train.

Somehow Padri managed to squeeze in through

the crowds and reached the booking office window, only to be informed that the issue of tickets was stopped owing to the train being overcrowded! He had to wade back ^{through the crowds} with all the odds and ends about his person, such as the time tables, papers, loose coins, and what not. Being the manager he was expected to be a ready reckoner a general directory and a store house of miscellaneous articles required on the journey.

In spite of the booking being stopped, it was marked that the Station Master a big, bulging fellow, all red in the face, was issuing slips to some passengers who ~~would~~ used to get tickets on presentation thereof at the booking office. It was a funny sight to see the fuming and fumbling officer moving about the platform, going ⁱⁿ and out of this room and that with ~~over~~ a small crowd always kicking about his heels. It was to some of these that, he was marked to issue the slips. Perhaps he was 'making ^{hay} while the sun shined'. Baily also managed to approach the worthy but both of them being hot tempered the result was only a heated breeze! Upon this Baba asked Padri to book for II class and when this was also said to be stopped he was ~~not~~ instructed to get I class tickets but even these were refused, and ~~during this~~ ~~attempts at getting~~ by this time the train steamed out!

Padri was severely taken to task for his alleged carelessness and ~~not~~ improper management by Baba specially for not coming earlier on the station under the abnormal circumstances of short train ~~or~~ service and crowds. However the programme was cancelled and the party returned back to the Choultry. ^{Then} Baba gave a short discourse on the reason of the present travel which came to this, that by approaching 5000 Sahdhus he wanted to be rebuked and abused to bring about the downfall of

his divine pride. Similar incidents from Sri Maharaj and Ram's lives were also quoted as examples. The following day it was planned to go to the Nilgiri Hills instead of Porto Novo and fresh arrangements were made for the new journey. The party left Madras on the 5th at about 6.30 P.M. for Ooty. As the next change was to be made at the junction of Metro Palayam ^{on} the following morning, ~~at about~~ the party somehow managed to ~~go~~ go to sleep under the benches and over luggage carriers making room on ~~the~~ a part of the bench for Baba. The next morning station after station was passed but there was no sign of the Metro Palayam junction. A fellow passenger was asked as to when the train would reach that junction. He simply looked amazed and said the train was not going to Metro Palayam! It transpired that at Madras the party had boarded a direct carriage going to some other destination and at a certain junction overnight while they were asleep the carriage was detached and put on this train! Hence on the first next station with great hustle bustle they all got down, and came back by another train to this junction. The way Baba was lectured by Baba for this, can alone be appreciated by himself. He simply smarted under the wordy lashes!

Anyhow, after some delay the party came to Metro Palayam or as Baba used to refer it as 'Petroleum'!

By this time Baba became very ill as ~~to~~ he had begun to have motions after leaving Madras, in spite of it the journey was continued.

On The Nilgiri Hills!

About 12.45. they started in the small