

My Reminiscences

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Before relating my experiences with BA'BA', I would like to tell a little about my convictions before joining Ananda Marga. Seven or eight years before joining Ananda Marga my mother told me that all our family members should, in their lives, follow a Guru. I objected and told her it was not essential to accept any Guru. Rather, in the temple of Hari, every day with devotion and deep regard we should do Pranam every morning and evening, and we should do charitable work for the poor, liberally. The reason I refused to accept a Guru was that I had already come in contact with several priests and so-called Gurus, and I was not impressed by their character. They were not following Yama and Niyama, they were greedy and did not know austerity.

After seven or eight years when I heard the name of Ananda Marga and the arrival of one A'ca'rya, I tried to contact him immediately. I wanted to know about the organization and its function and asked whether anybody could be great by the meditation they were teaching. The A'ca'rya answered that only by spiritual practice one can be great and he gave the examples of different spiritualists. I was convinced and also felt such attraction to the name Shrii Shrii Anandamuruji, as if I had a relation with Him from previous birth. No other Guru or organization had attracted me in this manner until that time.

Later on that day my A'ca'rya told me about Yama and Niyama and I was more impressed and decided to take initiation. But before taking initiation I began to propagate the name of Ananda Marga. After a couple of days I took initiation, and tried to practice sincerely.

After one month when my A'ca'rya came back and saw me, he gave me further lessons and proposed to me as to whether I would like to meet BA'BA' (I readily agreed). I heard from my A'ca'rya that BA'BA' is God and that also I believed fully, I don't know why but in no other case I could agree that any other man could be God. However my faith in BA'BA' as God has stayed with me all my life and He, by His different actions has kept the same feeling in my mind all that time.

I went then and there and had personal contact with BA'BA' in Jamalpur in

the year 1963. I was inspired by Him to serve the humanity and I promised to be a monk. I still felt some attachment for my parents however and so mentally I told BA'BA' to make me unattached to my family members.

In this regard I received BA'BA's great help. Quickly my mind became strong and I felt no attraction towards my family members. In the year 1964 in one Ananda Marga magazine "Prabhati Ba'rta" I saw BA'BA's vanii. "Be great by your sadhana, your service, your sacrifice".

It also inspired me very much and very soon I left home. I came to Calcutta late to miss DMC but I was in time to see BA'BA' leaving Dum Dum Airport. I went and stood before Him. BA'BA' asked me "I didn't see you in DMC?"

I answered, "BA'BA' I could not reach in the right time due to certain circumstances". I explained.

From Calcutta BA'BA' then flew to Siliguri and I went to Ananda Nagar with the intention of becoming WT. I was thinking that if I was to become a good worker and orator I needed to be highly qualified.

Something happened however which changed my mind very quickly. In Ananda Nagar when BA'BA' was in His quarter somebody was going to BA'BA's room with a glass of juice. He asked me whether would I like to carry the juice to BA'BA'. I was very happy to accept his proposal and I went to BA'BA's room to deliver it to Him.

After taking the juice BA'BA' told me, "If somebody has lakhs of rupees and if he donates 100 but another has 100 rupees and if he offers one rupee then who is greater? Hanuman is great but a squirrel is not small".

By these two examples I understood that BA'BA' wanted to finish my desire for acquiring different academic qualifications. So in Ananda Nagar, I lost all my attachments for the material things and from there I proceeded to my posting at Laheriasarai as a teacher in the first school of Ananda Marga.

After one or two months BA'BA' was going to DMC at Muzaffarpur and He was passing through Samastipur Railway Station. Many margiis and workers came there to see BA'BA'. He remained inside the compartment. All the

devotees rushed towards the window where BA'BA' was sitting. I was not at a distance of more than one and a half meters from BA'BA'. Besides me, another devotee was pushing the margiis in front of him and trying to be closer to BA'BA'. I felt some reaction to this, but did not say anything to him. Rather I felt as BA'BA' is the all knowing entity, so it is not needed to go before Him to show one's face. After thinking this I went and stood behind all the people.

After one or two months I came to Jamalpur and saw BA'BA' in General Darshan. Afterwards I approached His Personal Assistant (P.A.) to allow me to see BA'BA' personally. P.A. wanted to know why was I demanding to meet BA'BA' personally again as I had already had personal contact with Him. I replied that I didn't want to tell him why I wanted to meet BA'BA' and that he should go and tell it to BA'BA' Himself. BA'BA' told His P.A. to allow me to go inside and I went in, did sastaunga pranam before Him, and sat in viirasana position a small distance from Him. Then BA'BA' asked me, "Have you learnt Hindi?".

I replied, "No BA'BA'." BA'BA' told me, "You learn it very Quickly". By my hands with my voice exclaimed, "Have I come here to learn Hindi, or have I come for spiritual progress?"

Then BA'BA' reminded me of the incident at Samastipur Station. "That day at Samastipur Station when you went behind all the people, in that moment I paid all my attention to you and I blessed you, and from that very moment your spiritual progress started.

After getting the blessing I was very happy, and I felt BA'BA' is Avaghardanii (Avaghardanii is Hindi, for one who gives blessing without any hesitation. So Shiva is known as Avaghardanii because He gave blessings very easily).

At the end of 1964, I was posted in Jamalpur. Every day BA'BA' was coming for General Darshan in the morning and every morning when He was coming either His P.A. or I was going to open BA'BA's room.

One morning I saw BA'BA' had come little bit earlier. I ran for the key to open the room and came out and saw BA'BA' was not there. So then I understood BA'BA' can take any physical form anywhere in any moment.

Though I had heard this type of story before, personally I saw it BA'BA' left Jamalpur in December, 1966 and came to Ananda Nagar, and after the incident on 5th March, 1967, He went to Ranchi. At Jamalpur every morning I was seeing BA'BA' and was enjoying His darshan everyday. After His departure I felt very sad and felt I was missing something greatly necessary for me, and that I was compensating only by meditation. I gave permission to other workers to go to see BA'BA' but personally I did not want to go because I would have to come back and lose His physical presence again.

That time I was sick. Still one day it came in my mind to go to Ranchi with all the papers of the Acarya board. When I was leaving the ashram compound mentally I was telling BABA. "As I am sick if people do not disturb me on the way it will be good. I reached Ranchi safely, noting that non-margiis had co-operated with me on the train very nicely. When I reached Ranchi Ac' Dharnadevanandaji asked me. "Did you get any telegram?" I replied, "No, what type of telegram?"

He replied, "Now you have been posted here. BA'BA' has created a post for you which is known as E.I-III. So you will now be E.I-III and secretary of the education board and also you will be the trainer of PTPC training center here. Also you will be the private tutor of BA'BA's house in His drawing room. So I was very happy to know that again I would get BA'BA's close contact and every day darshan.

As the trainer of PTPC one day BA'BA' told me, "Now we must create many workers very quickly, and start many schools quickly because a lot of trainees will come soon. In the training period you have to pay more attention for them such that they can finish their training quickly. Regarding their food arrangement etc it will not be your job. ERAWS secretary has been given that responsibility".

I was buying the food for the trainees from a local shop on loan, dues were increasing and I was demanding more from ES (Eraws Secretary) for the payment.

When ES saw inevitability of payment he announced that very soon he was going to stage a charity programme where a famous mime artist, Yogesh Dutta, would give his pantomime programme. I was very happy to hear it and I was ready to offer some time for ticket selling. One day, I went to the

doctors of Ranchi Medical College Hospital. Some of them bought tickets. One man after buying a ticket advised me to go to the students hostels, where he said they would surely buy more tickets. I knew that there were five or six margiis amongst the students in the hostels. Among them Ramesh was well known to me and he was the best scholar in the university. I thought I would meet him first, so I went in one hostel and saw on the list of those staying there one Ramesh. But it was not that Ramesh whom I knew, Rather their Ramesh was of completely opposite character in every respect When I reached upstairs some students surrounded me and I began to talk. They talked a little then criticized Ananda Marga as a political group and I answered that our organization was not a political party. They asked me to give a lecture in their hall about Ananda Marga and I was ready to do this. But instead of taking me to the hall they took me to such a small room which I disliked very much. It was not properly clean also; there was a bed and the students asked me to accept a seat on the bed but I gently declined the offer as it was unclean.

I told them you are all my younger brothers so you first should sit. There was no other place to sit except on that bed. So repeatedly they requested that I sit. We were all standing and by the exchange of our talk I understood their intention was not good. Generally students of medical college are from easy to go families, and they don't have good habits.

When new students, new comers or even sometimes strangers come, they take recourse to 'ragging', whereby a large group of students will systematically insult, play cruel jokes upon or even beat the person who had come. Outside the door of the room also, a large number of students had gathered. As my manner was calm and my talk was in a cool logical way they had no reason to be angry or to make attempt on me.

But I was not liking to lose my time in this way so mentally I told BA'BA', "BA'BA', I don't want to kill my valuable time here uselessly and I don't want to be insulted by these boys. So you take the necessary steps". Immediately BA'BA' performed a miracle it was like I flicked a switch and light came to flood a darkened room. I immediately saw a very tall, fair and healthy person reach behind all the students from the corridor. Like a lion he roared at the students. You scoundrels make way for this gentleman to come out. When I came out from the room I came in the corridor near this beautiful person. He told me, "This place, here is filth. Gentlemen should not

come here. You follow me downstairs".

When I went downstairs with Him he told me, "Here is a rickshaw waiting for you, go to what is the right place for you". By that rickshaw I went back to the central office at Ranchi and told the story to other workers. Some of the workers asked me if it was BA'BA' who had been helping me.

I replied that I could not tell correctly but what I understood in some way that BA'BA' had helped me. I thought it might have been one strong person from the administrative body of the hostel., or may be BA'BA' Himself in different form, or may be a highly developed spiritualist who is BA'BA's devotee and who could take any physical form, had come to help me, following BA'BA's directions.

Before going to Ranchi I was sick in Jamalpur. Also in Ranchi, despite my sickness I was performing all my duties. I was continuing medical treatment both at Jamalpur and Ranchi, but it could not help me so much to improve my condition. At Jamalpur BA'BA' had advised His P.A. to provide necessary treatment and he did. In Ranchi He told Dharmadevanandaji the same to take proper care and make proper arrangements, and it was done. Still when there was not the expected improvement then BA'BA' advised the General Training Secretary (GTS) at Varanasi training Center that he take Dhruvanandaji and provide proper medical care and treatment, and that I should take complete rest for at least three months.

After a few days, office secretary wanted to send me to Varanasi with either one attendant or a first class ticket I disagreed on both counts because in both cases the organization would have to meet considerable expenses.

One morning Pranavanadaji took me by motorcycle to Ranchi bus station. For some time I had been suffering from arthritis but on that particular morning a new trouble, severe throat pain had developed. It was so intense I could not swallow water. Pranavanandaji offered me to drink some hot milk, and I expressed that it was difficult for me even to take liquid. I caught the bus. It was summer and without food or liquid I was going to Gaya Station to catch the Gaya-Benaras Express.

I was very thirsty, and very weak. When I reached the station I saw in the booking counter a big queue and my train was supposed to leave in a few

minute. I did not wait in the queue, but went straight to the guard of the train and explained that it was impossible to buy the ticket.

The guard allowed me to go in any compartment and afterwards purchase a ticket from him. I saw that still the situation was not in my favour, because in the last few minutes before the train's departure there was a great rush of people wanting to board. All compartments were full, people were standing and even hanging outside the door on the steps.

The train was set to leave immediately so I rushed towards one compartment and with much difficulty I pushed two of my bags inside the door, while hanging outside with another bag in my hand. The train left the station and it was gaining speed but I was so weak that I was feeling difficulty to keep hanging there. After a while I understood that I would fall down at any moment--I could not hold onto the handrails any longer. When I understood my situation, I remembered BA'BA', feeling that it w

as my time to die. All of a sudden while the train was in full motion it blew its whistle and stopped quickly just in time before I would fall. Many people came out from the train to see why it had stopped, which gave me a good opportunity to go inside. When I went inside I felt dizzy and fell down and immediately some people caught me and put me lying on a bench. At that time I lost consciousness. When my consciousness returned people were asking me what my trouble was, I explained.

Then passengers wanted to feed me something and I expressed that due to throat pain I could not eat anything. They were insistent. By this time the train reached the next station. Since they were insistent I accepted & told that I could try to eat cucumber. They brought it and I started to eat and felt my throat pain had gone and I could start to take solid food. I realized that BA'BA' takes care of His devotees and responds to their call in the necessary cases.