

## THOSE EARLY EXPERIENCES

By Acarya Candranath

Those early It was the beginning of March, 1955. I was posted as sergeant Major at Dumka, the district headquarter of Santhal Parganas in the state of Bihar, India. A senior sub-inspector of Police who was an officer in-charge at a Police Station requested my superior officer, the district Superintendent of Police, for his posting in Reserve office. I was in charge of this office. The S.P. was good enough to consult me about this posting to which I objected. After all, why should a senior S.I. of police relinquish his posting at a P.S. as officer-in-charge and would like to come to Reserve office when he would be no better than a head clerk. At the P.S. the officer had both power and money at his disposal. In my office he would face only hard work with no power or extra gratification. The SP. convinced me that the officer desired to live a peaceful life and for that reason he had made such a request A curiosity developed in me and I welcomed his posting.

After his joining I used to call him every evening at my residence and talked to him in confidence. He made a clean breast confession that he wanted to lead a clean and peaceful life free from vices for which the Police Station was not a proper place. He talked about Yama and Niyama and about spiritual practices (Sadhana), too. He talked against dogmas and rituals. I appreciated his talks very much. He was not prepared to accept any thing which did not appeal to reasoning. One day while we were talking another officer came and he put a question about evil spirit and ghost. The reply was very reasonable and convincing. Brain is the seat of mind. Mind can not function without it. Physical body, therefore, is necessary for the mind to work. When a man dies his body is either cremated or buried meaning thereby that the physical body has become unworthy of functioning. How Can then a dead man function as ghost or evil spirit. This argument has now become very common. But, in the early fifties it was novel, reasonable and very convincing.

From his talks I developed a feeling within myself that he had definitely come in contact with a great soul. I was myself in search of a spiritual master. I have already written, earlier somewhere about this and how I came in contact with Ba'Ba', in details. On my persuasion he confessed that he had taken initiation from a "Guru" and thereafter he had been able to give up the bad habits of drinking, smoking, meat eating and had been able to free himself

from many other vices that had crept into his life experiences gradually during the Police service. But, he requested not to be pressed to disclose the identity of his Guru. He was forbidden to do so without His permission. On my request he went to his Guru to seek permission for my interview with Him. The permission was readily accorded to me. Without delay or hindrance of any kind I reached Jamalpur when He lived in a rented house in Keshavpur area of the town. Jamalpur is a small town in the district of Monghyr (Monger) in the State of Bihar. Instinctively I stood before a house and decided to step into it. This was the house, I got initiation. Every thing seemed to be prearranged.

After giving initiation Ba'Ba' gave certain instructions. Of them these have often been ringing in my ears.

1. "Keep the glory of my place".

2.' 'You have enjoyed many lives in past Why not for go wordly enjoyments in this life".

These two have played a valuable role in shaping my life in making me what I am today. The change in the way of living of Shiva Shankar-that was the name of the sub-inspector - I had watched closely and was really very much impressed. But more than that was influenced by the glimpse of the great personality. The attraction that I felt towards Him at the first sight is beyond expression. I felt I got Him whom I was searching for.

During initiation I felt highly exhilarated. After Ba'Ba' permitted me to go I left the place reluctantly but thoroughly satisfied and full of joy. While on my way back to Dumka I was feeling I had got all that I needed and wanted. Even today I feel so. I feel I have no desire to be fulfilled. But, at times the pangs of separation makes me restless. To overcome this I sit in Dhyana and I do succeed through this process.

When I was departing Ba'Ba' asked me to visit regularly for receiving further lessons. He also assured to allow me to accompany Him in evening walks during later visits. I paid regular visits and also accompanied Ba'Ba' in His evening walks. He used to walk so fast that, though then a young sportsman, I used to get perspired. After jogging round the big railway lawn at the foot of the Jamalpur hill he used to ' enter into the lawn and sit at the grave of the tiger. On the first occasion when I accompanied Him I sat down the grave thinking that I should not sit equal to Him. Ba'Ba' ordered me to get up and made me sit by His side on the grave saying that was the rule there at the

grave.

During one such sitting at the grave-where He used to sit for long and narrate stories and incidents-He spoke about KaliKanandaji, It was a dark night Ba'Ba', then only about nineteen years of age, was sitting alone in a lonely place on the bank of Ganges in north Calcutta. A tall stalwart young man stealthily approached Him with a dagger in his hand. Ba'Ba' asked who He was and what did he want Further more, He asked him to move forward, do whatever he liked and take whatever he wanted.

The man was so much fascinated and charged by the very look of the young boy-like Shri P.R. Sarkar that he revealed his mind to Him. This man, whose name was Kalikant Bannerjii, was out on his nocturnal profession of murder and robbery. After hearing a short talk of Ba'Ba' he threw the dagger and surrendered himself at His lotus feet. He begged to be taken to the path of righteousness. He was initiated in Sanyasa (as an Avadhuta) and thereafter leaving hearth and home he went in seclusion to the hills for arduous spiritual practices. The desperate robber who knew only to enjoy worldly pleasures for sake everything and become a hermit being drawn by the attraction of the Great. Such was the magic like wonder wrought by the Great Master at so early an age.

This was not the only instance. There are many more. Here in, I would like to narrate one more instance before I move on to any other subject It was the end of 1954 or the beginning of 1955. I was at Bhagalpur where I was transferred from Dumka. (I will narrate later on some stories about my transfers). There was one gentleman named Jitendra Tyagi. He was a businessman engaged in some apply agency. He was very much addicted to drink liquor and used to entertain Government officials with costly wine. In his house one almirah was always kept full of bottles of costly foreign liquors. Some how or other through the attraction of the Great, he too, become a disciple of the Great Master our Ba'Ba' Shri Shri Anandmurtijii. Only after a few days he developed abhorrence for drinking. One day he look out all the bottles of wine from the almirah, broke, destroyed and drew them away. He did not accept the advice to give them to others because he did not appreciate the idea that anybody should drink. This was miraculous.

He always spoke against miracles. He used to say that miracles mislead a "Sadhaka" (spiritual practitioner). Therefore a man should try to achieve

what he wants to do through human efforts. He often worked wonders but always gave cover of human efforts. He used to say go, work, success is yours. And, it is really so. I have been witnessing such wonders at every step over since 1953 March-how people rushed in for initiation, how AMPS was registered, how all were solicitous to have a glimpse of His face, how land was possessed and Jagrti built at Jamalpur inspite of the opposition of a local notorious criminal, how we not only survived the emergency but expanded and prospered inspite of the extreme hostility of the then Govt of India and their ally the CPI (M) and how we have acquired land and built Tiljala inspite of the opposition and 'hostile attitude of CPI (M) Govt and party in West Bengal. Last of all let us have a look at Anand Nagar. What was there in 1962?

Only boulders, bushes, barren land with no water and shady tress. What is there today one can go and see for himself. On all these volumes can be written. And, I hope some day some body will do the job by His grace.

A few words about His grace I have been experiencing His grace at every step in my life mundane or supra mundane. Take for example one case only-my transfers in Govt service, that, too, only a few and in short otherwise the narration will be very lengthy.

I took initiation from Ba'Ba' in 1953 March when I was at Dumka. It was easy to go to Jamalpur from there only a few hours journey. The same year in September. I received order transferring me to Purnea-a district on Nepal border across the Ganges which had to be crossed by steamer. I felt very sorry thinking that it would not then be possible for me to go to Jamalpur so frequently. The miracle happened and a wireless message came by His grace prohibiting me from proceeding on transfer. I felt very happy.

Only after about a month another order came transferring me to Bhagalpur. This place is nearer to Jamalpur involving only two hours of journey from there it became easy for me to visit Jamalpur every Sunday. What happened at Bhagalpur during my stay for about two and half years formed subject matters of other writings. From Bhagalpur district I was transferred and posted in Constables Training School at Nathnagar on the suburbs of the district town. I was overwhelmed with joy by His grace and my weekly visit to Jamalpur continued.

Not only that Ba'Ba' started paying surprise visits to NathNagar. He was so

kind, so gracious, so benevolent that I can never be free from his debt. The seven years from October, 1953 to September, 1960, I spent at Bhagalpur and Nathnagar are very important years in the history of AMPS and very crucial in my life. Some day in near future I hope to complete the history of those seven years. From Nathnagar, Ba'Ba' sent me to Tatanagar, I will not say I was transferred. It was from there that we went to meet Raja Saheb of Jaipur at the behest of Ba'Ba' and survey the land at Ananda Nagar. See, how He has been gradually fulfilling His mission.

Ba'Ba' had come with a definite mission. He has fulfilled it let us carry on His ideals and ideologies and share the credit Even If we fail his mission will not stop, only the credit will go to someone else. So, let us remember Him and keep on moving ahead with self confidence.