

My Life with Anirvan

Part - VII

We find a vivid picture of this phase of the life of Sri Anirvan in his diary 'Vichitra' published by Haimavati Anirvan Trust in 1993; and also in the short biography of Sri Anirvan by Dr. Gobinda Gopal Mukherjee in his book Mahajana Samvada.

Anirvanji did not come down from Shillong to Kolkata in the winter of 1959. The Whole of 1959-1960, he was extremely busy with the work of writing the manuscript for his magnum opus – Veda Mimansa. Dr. Gourinath Sastri, Principal of Sanskrit College, Kolkata had requested him in 1958 to write something on the Vedas for their Sanskrit College Research Series.

Since 1959, after my visit to Shillong, Haimavati in 1958, I was thinking and planning to go to Almora Haimavati for a spiritual retreat which took place actually in July-August 1960. On 14.6.59 Anirvanji writes to me from Shillong Haimavati –

My dear Gautam,

Your letter of the 5th reached here last Monday. The rains have earnestly set in. It is raining always incessantly since yesterday.

I hope the week of sickness is definitely over in your house & you are now passing weeks of health! I am glad you are improving. Mother always presents us with a riddle to solve. Good, bad and indifferent things will be coming to you & you have simply to go beyond them. You die to live. That is the only solution to the riddle. Almora is quite nice during the rains. It is pleasantly cool there and it does not rain so heavily or continuously as in Shillong. You may very well go there in July or August.

Is Mono (Manu – another girl from Shillong who stayed with us from some time after Sandhya left.) still with you or has she gone to Navadwip? Is her friend (I think it is Chameli) still in Calcutta? If she is still there and if you can contact her, can you send with her a "janata" kerosene stove for me, by Burmah Oil Company. It cost Rs. 7.50. But here they charge Rs. 12 or 14! I shall pay later on.

My best wishes & love for you all.

Ever yours.. A.

This is the first letter of Anirvanji in my file! As it was difficult for me to read his Bengali handwriting, A. used to write me in English. I too, as I could not write in Bangla script, wrote to him in English. But I did keep the copies of my letters to him and he did not return them to us unless it was necessary!

Om

Haimavati
23.8.59

My dear Gautam,

Your letter of the 13th Mr. Das of Allahabad is seriously ill. It is a long protracted illness which is slowly sapping away his strength. I might go down in winter to see him and stay with him for a few days. On my way to Allahabad I may stay at Calcutta for a few days. But please keep this strictly confidential. I shall not make any decision before January.

Conference achieve very little that is true. I too have not much faith in them. But I have a great faith in the good will of the convenors of these conferences. It is Her light. This is the "Shubha buddhi" – (Written in Bangla – meaning "good will")



Sree Sree Maa with Sree Gauri and Gautam Dharmapal

spoken of in the Shruti. The Last Sakha of Rig Veda too treaties this same idea. Let us join forces with this And work silently in full support with those who work Noise will attract a big crowd. They will come and hear and then conveniently forget.... Let them who cares.. work without seeking fruits of the work...

I hope you are all well. With love for you all,

Ever yours.. A.

During this period there were anti-Bengali riots in all parts of Assam – ‘Bengal Kheda’ driving away the Bengalis as they said in Assamese! I had seen some of the things, the same spirit amongst the Assamese people when I was staying in Assam during 1950-53 for my relief and business work. I had written a long letter to Anirvanji requesting him to come over to Kolkata. To this letter of mine, A. wrote –

Om

Haimavati

13.9.59

My dear Gautam,

I was glad to have your long letter. The disturbances have quieted down by this time. The outcome is, people have been alerted. There appears a change in tone of Nehru's voice. Some of his recent utterances appear to be inspired not by his ego but by some higher power.

We are all instruments in Her hand. To realize this gives a poise & a dignity to all our doings & thoughts.

I feel we are before a great dawn. I am not thinking of India only but of the whole human race. Those who have dedicated themselves to Her should now be vigilant & wait for orders.

Sandhya is alright. She had been dead tired & is now almost her old self again. She says, she has written to you.

My love & best wishes for you all.

Ever yours.. A.

P.S. Mono might come to Shillong during the Poojas. If so I would like her to bring a few things from Calcutta? The Janata stove is one thing. I shall inform you when, I am definite she is coming.

In 1959, I was suffering from low blood pressure and I was undergoing a course of Naturopathy under one Sri Ananta Sastri who had come from Bangalore and joined us in our business. And then I had started taking eggs – one or two – with a table spoonful brandy! I was all along a vegetarian – as Anirvanji was! So he writes on 3.1.60 from Shillong

My dear Gautam,

I am glad to hear that egg & brandy are doing good! They are making you a full-fledged Tantrik! In Bengal Mother has invariably a partiality for the Tantriks. You are surely to win this time!

I think Bani (Bani Majumder later Bani Ghosh - a girl from Shillong who had left her parents and had come down to Kolkata and was then living with us. I know her, when I had gone to Shillong-Haimavati in 1958 and was staying at Sri Aurobindo Path Mandir – Sri Jasoda Narayan Ghosh who was a friend of Dilip Kumar Roy and stayed at Sri Aurobindo Ashram Pondicherry for some time, was then in-charge of Sri Aurobindo Pathmandir. Bani was intimated with J. N. Ghosh and used to go daily to the Pathmandir. She had come in contact with Anirvanji too! A. had even given her a new name ‘Aparajita’ – a name of a flower as well as goddess Durga – meaning one who is unconquered, invincible! Jasodababu too had come down to Kolkata and was staying together with Bani. Later both of them had married, I being one of the witness of their marriage certificate! Bani had a sad but adventurous life, there-after and always remained invincible in-spirit! They had a son, named Divyajyoti - Divine Light, as he was born on 24th Novenmber, the Siddhiday

of Aurobindo! Jasodababu passed away in 1965 when A. had already come down to Kolkata. Till I heard last about Bani, she was living with her son who is a businessman at Bangalore!) should go back to her parents. What is the use of dragging an existence which does not help her in any way?

Sandhya caught a chill & was bed-ridden for a few days. She is still very weak. Perhaps she is going down to the plains this week.

Love – special brand for new year – impartially for all of you!

Ever yours.. A.

-Sri Gautam Dharmapal

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