

## My Life With Anirvan

### Part - XIX

Next, we visited the temple at Prabhas-Patana the place where Sri Krishna is believed to have left his body after the self-massacre of his Yadu-clan.

The same night of 23<sup>rd</sup> we reached Rajkot via Junagadh and passed the night at the Ambassador Hotel!

Next day in the early morning of 24<sup>th</sup> we left Rajkot, reached Jamnagar at about 10-00 in the morning; visited the famous Lakhota palace and the Solarium- where patients are being treated with Sun-rays! We left Jamnagar in the afternoon and reached Dwaraka in the evening. We could not go to Bet-Dwaraka – the island where the actual Dwaraka is supposed to have been situated, as no more boats were available. After visiting the local famous temple Dwarkadisha – seeing the evening prayers we returned to our railway waiting room and passed the night there.

Next day morning, that is on 25<sup>th</sup> January we paid our obeisance to Dwarkadisha and the Gomati river nearby, we left Dwarka; back to Ahmedabad late at night, passing the whole day in the taxi! We were dead tired - Anirvanji the most, as he took the attack of the Sunrays on his body all the day; would not exchange his seat to me or Dasgupta!

As the whole programme till our return to Calcutta was so tightly fixed and railway bookings etc. were made in advance, there was no time to relax! The penalty was paid at last at Jabalpure – but to that we will come later!

On 26<sup>th</sup> morning we left for Abu by train. It is again a hill station, the highest in the Aravalli hills of Rajasthan. Abu is situated at the border between Gujrat (north) and Rajasthan (south) and exchanged suzerainty between the rulers of Gujrat and Rajasthan.

The famous Jain temples of Dilwara and the cave temple of Goddess Ambaji, The

Jain temples of Achalgarh – the highest peak, Vasishtha Ashram, the beautiful Nakhi lake and the sun set point – we visited all these in one day! We had a wonderful experience at the sunset point. We were all sitting on the top of a small hill enjoying the sunset on the far stretched valley below and there was a rumbling sound from below the ground! The sound that generally precedes an earth quake! And the crowd except a few of us, just ran down the hill, some falling down in the process!

Fortunately, nothing happened; we slowly came down; took our taxi and came down the mount Abu to plains to catch the train back to Ahmedabad! Where we reached on 27<sup>th</sup> morning! We did not go out anywhere, the whole day and night of the 27<sup>th</sup> was passed in rest - of course Anirvanji had to meet many people who came to see him in the morning and evening, as we were to leave Ahmedabad the next morning!

We left Ahmedabad in the morning of 28<sup>th</sup> January. On our way to Bhopal we broke the journey at Ujjain on the river Shipra, where the famous Kumbha Mela (A great gathering of saints and pilgrims from all over India at four places on a particular day every twelve years. The four places are Haridwar on Ganga, Prayaga (Allahabad) at the Junction of Ganga and Jamuna, Nasik on the bank of Godavari and Ujjain on the bank of Shipra. The four places are supposed to have been made very holy because of the falling nectar from the pitcher of nectar that was being carried away by Jayanta- son of Indra!) is held once every twelve years. Ujjain is the place where the legendary king Vikramaditya once ruled in whose cabinet called “navaratna” the nine jewels – the famous poet Kalidasa and the famous astronomer Varahamihir held prominent position. Ujjain is also a place of pilgrimage

for the Maha Kaleswar Temple situated there. The whole day of 29<sup>th</sup> January was spent in visiting all the important places in Ujjain and in the evening we again took the train to Bhopal, where we arrived on the morning on 30<sup>th</sup> January.

In Bhopal, Anirvanji and Sandhya stayed with Smt. Susmita Chatterjee – a student disciple of Anirvanji who was a professor in the local Government Girls' college. As she had not sufficient accommodation, I and Dasgupta stayed at the local Sri Aurobindo Centre, where a meeting was arranged for Sri Anirvan in the evening of 30<sup>th</sup> January. In Bhopal, we stayed for two days and left for Jabalpur on 31<sup>st</sup> night.

After arriving at Jabalpur in the morning of 1<sup>st</sup> February, Anirvanji fell ill and we had to cancel our programme of visiting the famous Khajurao Temples. He could not even come with us to see the famous marble rocks in the river Narmada shining brightly in the moonlit night!

For four days, Anirvanji had high fever. Pranob Dhar, Abani Banerjee, Dr R K Ganguly, all friends and devotees of Anirvanji took great care and served him with love and devotion. On 4<sup>th</sup> February, Anirvanji was a little better and we left for Calcutta on 5<sup>th</sup> February, arriving there in the afternoon of 6<sup>th</sup> February, 1963.

**-Sri Gautam Dharmapal**

