Autograph Diary Pages Relating to G.S. Khaparde's First Visit to Shirdi

5-12 December 1910

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Diaries of G.S. Khaparde, 1910,
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Last night I & my son Baba left by 10.15 P.M. train as proposed. Purandare Pathare, Dhanjisha, his woodman, Bapu & others came to the station to see us off & the first two brought flowers. I slept as soon as I got into my compartment though I was awakened often. We reached Manmad about 9 A.M. Today & stayed at the Railway station till nearly 1 P.M. I met one or two young men, on the station staff who very kindly helped us with things. One Harispant of Yeola also met us. In the train to Copargaon, we met an Englishman who appeared exceptionally good mannered & obliging. We reached Copargaon Station about 2 P.M. hired two conveyances, one for things & the other for ourselves to travel in. Bhaskar Rao assisted us with Tongas & gave us guavas to eat at his house & accompanied us to Sheudi, which we reached about 4 P.M. We put up in the Wada built for the convenience of people by Mr Chandavalkar. Madhavarao Deshpande was very obliging & helped us & treated us like guests. There are in the Wada Tatyasaheb Nulkar with his family, Bapusaheb Jog and Babasaheb Sahasrabuddhe. We all went to see Sayin Maharaj soon after our arrival. He was in the Masjid. After salutation I & my son offered the fruits brought by us & gave some money at his request. The Sayin Saheb then said that he has not been well for the last two years & more, that he used to eat only Barley cake & take a little water. He showed his foot & pointed to a small sore, said it was the string worm, that it was extracted but the string snapped & then it re-appeared & soon. He said he heard that it would not be well with him till he went to his native town. He said he kept it in view but that was all, he cared more for his people than even for his own life. He said he found no rest as people troubled him. It could not be helped. Then he told us to withdraw which we did. Towards evening he passed by the Wada & we went & saluted him. I & Madhavarao Deshpande were together. After we saluted he "Go to the Wada & sit quiet." So I & Madhavarao returned. We all sat talking. They have many miracles to relate. I, Baba & Babasaheb Sahasrabuddhe had something to eat at night and after I retired to bed, a strange thing happened. The wife of Das Ganu who has written the "Arvachin Sant Lilamrit", & known as Tai came & lay down by my side. I do not know how long she lay

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In the morning, the poor woman Tai was much discussed & they blamed her. I feel pity for her insanity. I had a walk, & after bath we all saw Sayin Maharaj going out with an embroidered big Umbrella held over his head. Later on we went to Masjid. Sayin Maharaj was talking. He said, speaking to himself there is no use being threatened. It does no good. Why should one threaten? There are very high officers of God. They are very powerful. The same thing was repeated very often. He appeared to be somewhat excited. Then he got up, distributed the food accumulated there, and after giving udi-ashes requested us to withdraw. We did so. The midday meal was not served nearly half-past two in the afternoon. After it we sat talking, saw Sayin Maharaj in the evening when he came out for a walk. Later on we went to the Chavadhi where Sayin Maharaj sleeps tonight. He was accompanied by the Umbrella of state, silver stick, chowries & fans &c &c. The place was tastefully lighted. The lady who is known as Radha Krishna came out with lights. She is related to Babasaheb Deshpande of Ahmednagar. I sat her from a saw distance. Madhavanas Deshpande said he would be away tomorrow & return the day after. He asked for & obtained Sayin Maharaj's permission to go.

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told him that he should ~~not~~ assured that the story would be told before he left. I asked him why he was angry yesterday. He replied that it was because the Tali said something. Then I asked why he cried out "Do not beat Do not beat" today at the time of the distribution of food & he replied that he cried out because the Patil family was quarrelling & divided among themselves. Sayin Saheb spoke with such wonderful sweetness and he smiled so often & with such extraordinary grace, that the conversation will always remain engraved on my memory. Unfortunately

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In the morning, after my prayer, Babasaheb Bhate, who is a retired Mamledar comes to the Wada and talking with me. He has been staying here for sometime, & has a peculiar kind of calm on his face. We saw Sayin Maharaj as he was going out & went to him in the masjid in the afternoon. I, Babasaheb Sahasrabuddhe, my son Baba, Bapusaheb Jog, & children went together and time. Sayin Maharaj appeared to be in good humour. He asked Babasaheb Sahasrabuddhe whether he came from Bombay. Babasaheb replied in the affirmative. Babasaheb was then asked whether he would return to Bombay. He again replied in the affirmative, but added that he could not be certain of remaining there, as it would depend on the circumstances. Sayin Maharaj remarked "yes. It is true, you have many things on hand & have to undertake more. You should remain here some four or five days. You will be here, you should see for yourself. The experiences gone through are real. They are not fanciful. I was here thirteen years ago.". Then Sayin Maharaj turned to me & pointed me apparently a new truth. He said "This world is funny. All are my subjects. I look upon all equally, but some have become thieves and what can I do for them? People who are themselves very near death, desire & make preparations for the death of others. They offended me a great deal. They hurt me a good deal but I said nothing. I stayed quiet. God is very great & has his officers every where. They are all powerful. One must be contented with the state in which God keeps him. But I am very powerful. I was here eighteen thousand years ago." My son asked him to tell a story as he told him before. Sayin Maharaj asked what story it was. My son replied that it was a story about three brothers who went to a masjid. One of them wished to go out and beg. The others did not want him to, on the ground that the food obtained by begging would be impure and would pollute their chavda. The third brother replied, that if the food spoiled the chavda, his legs should be cut off to me. Sayin Maharaj said it was a very good story. He would tell another when he was in the humour. My son said he did not know when the thing would happen, & if the humour returned after he left, there would be much loss. Thereupon Sayin asked

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In the morning after prayer, we saw Sayinsaheb as usual when he was going out. Later on we went to see him in the afternoon but had to turn back as he was washing his feet. Babu Saheb Schaumschuddle, myself & my son and Mr Pradhan who came this morning formed the company that went & had to return. Tatyasaheb Nulkar did not accompany us. Later on we went again, but Sayin Saheb dismissed us very soon. So we returned. He appeared very much engaged in thinking out something. At night, Sayinsaheb slept at the Chowdhri & we went to see the procession. It was very nice. Pradhan mentioned above is a police officer, I believe, head constable. He was charged with extorting money & tried by the court of Sessions. He vowed to visit Sayin Maharaj, if he was acquitted. He was acquitted & so came to fulfil his vow. On seeing him Sayin Maharaj appeared affected & said "why did you not stay a few days there? The poor people must have felt disappointed." He repeated this twice. We learnt afterwards that Pradhan's friends pressed him to stay & that he did not comply with their request. He had never seen Sayinsaheb before & of course the latter could not have seen him before. The wonder is how Sayin Maharaj knew him & said what he did.

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I & my son intended going away today. In the morning, after prayer when we went as usual to see Sayin Maharaj, he asked my son if he intended going away & added that we may go away. We thought the necessary permission had been granted & made ready to start. Baba packed all things, & engaged a spring cart & another to carry our things, & in the afternoon went to formally see the Sayin Maharaj before actually starting. On seeing me Sayinsahel said "Do you really intend going?" I replied "I wish to go but not if you do not permit". He said "Then you may go tomorrow or the day after. This is our house. The Wada is our house & why need any body be afraid while I am here. This is our house & you should look upon it as your own house". I agreed to stay & countermanded all arrangements for departure. We sat down talking. Sayin Maharaj was in a very pleasant mood, & said many pleasant things but I am afraid, I did not understand him. A young man by name Shridhar Moongi came. He is very good & carefully brought up. Sayin Maharaj got him to stay on. Mr Pradhan is also very nice. We, i.e. I Babasahel Sahasrabuddhe & Pradhan went out for a long walk. My son Baba & Mr Nulkar went out also with us but remained behind.

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Black Gang and Green Shaving ends

In the morning after prayers I told my son Babu never to mention anything about our going away to Sayin Maharaj. He knows all & asked him when to send us away. As usual we Sayin Saheb as we were going out & later on when we went to the masjid. Sayin Saheb was very much pleased & told the story of a former life of a young girl who was playing with him. He said she was an artist & died young & buried. Sayin Saheb feared that & spent a night near her tomb. So she accompanied him. He kept her in a Babul tree and then brought her here. He said he was Hatir before & used to spin yarn. His conversation was exceedingly pleasant. In the afternoon Mr Shridhar Paranjape of Wardha accompanied by one Mr Pandit, another doctor & a third, came. Mr Patwardhan junior of Ahmednagar was there. My son & he are old college friends. They all went to see Sayin Saheb we all accompanied them. Sayin Saheb treated them, the same way as he treats every body, & and talked first of Teli, Marwadi &c &c. Then he talked of buildings that are being put up & added "The world is gone mad. Every man has acquired a peculiarity of evil thinking. I never put myself on an equality with any of them. So I never listen to what they say. Nay, I never reply. What should I reply?" He then distributed "Udi" & told us to return to the Wada. He singled out Patwardhan junior & told him to stay behind, as usual mentioning "tomorrow" as the day of departure. So Babusaheb Sahasrabuddhe returned to the Wada. It appears Paranjape & his companions went to the lady Radhakrishna. Some how Babusaheb Sahasrabuddhe went there. He apparently was not treated as he deserved to be. Bapu Saheb Jog's wife has been ill. She has benefited very much by what Sayinsaheb says & gives as medicine. He apparently she lost patience today & wanted to go away - even Bapusaheb Jog, out of sheer helplessness agreed to let her go. Sayin Saheb, made repeated enquiries about her & when she was going. She, however, in the evening Bapusaheb Jog proposed to go formally to Sayinsaheb for asking permission, she said she felt better & did not wish to go. We wondered.

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1910 [3] Days] Sherdi. 11 Sunday 3 in Advent [315–20] December 11

Ember Week

In the morning after I finished my prayer & had a wash, Mr Hari Bhau Dixit of Bombay with a few companions, Mr Tarkhadkar son of the late Dr Atmaram Pandurang and Mr Mahajani who is a cousin of Annasahel Mahajani of Akola. We went to Sayin Saheb as usual & todays conversation was both important & marked by two incidents. Sayin Maharaj said that he used to sit in a corner, & desired to exchange the lower part of his body for that of a parrot. The exchange came & he did not realize for a near and lost one lakh of Rupees. Then he began to sit near a post & then a great serpent woke up and was very angry. It used to jump up & also fall from above. Then he changed the subject apparently & said that he visited a place and the Patil there would not let him go unless he made a planation & had a foot path through it. He said he completed both. Some people came in at this point. To the man, he said, "you were a Kohilla before & were losted & made later on into a Banian." To the man, he said "you have no body but me to look after you." Looking round he added that she was a relation of his, & had married the Kohillas who losted the man. Then he said, the world is bad. People were not as they were before. Formerly they used to be pious and trustful. Now they were unbelieving & disposed to contemplate the evil side. and then he added something which I could not catch. It was something about his father, grandfather & his becoming the one & the other alternatively. Now as to the incidents. Mr Dixit brought fruits. Sayin Saheb ate some & was distributing the others. Balasaheb Mamledar of this Taluk, was there & said that Sayin Maharaj was giving away only one fruit of one kind. My son told his friend Patwardhan that Sayin Maharaj accepted or refused fruits in proportion to the devotion with which they were offered. My son Baba tried to tell this to me & wished to do the same to Patwardhan. This made a little noise and Sayin Maharaj looked at me with an eye that blazed wonderfully & sparkled with anger. He demanded what I said. I replied that I was saying nothing and that children were talking with each other. He looked at my son & Patwardhan and changed the mood immediately. Towards the close Balasaheb Mirekar remarked that Sayin Maharaj was talking all through to Hari Bhau Dixit. In the afternoon while we were at meals, Mr Mirekar's father who is an Inamdar & a special magistrate at Ahmednagar came. He is a very respectable gentleman of the old stamp. I liked his conversation very much. In the evening we saw Sayin Saheb as usual & at night we sat talking & Mr Mulkar's son Vishwanath did Bhajan as he does every day.

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In the morning after prayer, we saw Sayin Maharaj passing out as usual, & then sat talking among ourselves as usual. Mr Dixit appears to have turned a new leaf altogether & spends a good deal of his time in prayer & his temper which was always mild, appears to have acquired the peculiar sweetness which is entirely due to internal calm. Rao Bahadur Rajarampant Dixit came soon after from Pulgaon. He said he had no intention of visiting Sherdi when he left Nagpur, but somehow, at Pulgaon, he made up his mind to the visit very suddenly and made the journey practically on the spur of the moment. I was very glad to see him. We all went to see Sayin Saheb later on. I was a bit late & missed a very interesting story told by him. He teaches in parables. It was about a man having a very beautiful horse, which, do what he could, would not go in pair. It was taken all round and given all the usual training to no purpose. At last a wiseman suggested its being taken to the place from which it was originally brought. This was done & then the horse went all right in the harness and became very useful. I heard the fag end of the Parable. Then he enquired when I was going. I replied that I would go when he gave me permission of his own accord to go. He replied "you go today after taking your meals," and later on sent curds by the hands of Madhava Rao Deshpande, as prasad to me. I had it at meals, & soon after it went to Sayin saheb. He confirmed his permission to go as soon as I went. My son did not ~~feel sure~~ of the permission & so asked expressly & the permission was given in clear words. The Sayin Maharaj today asked Dakshina of others but nothing of me or my son. I was very low in funds & he appeared to know it. After saying goodbye to Mr Nulkar, Mr Dixit, Mr Bapusaheb Joy, Babasaheb Sahasrabuddhe, Madhavarao Deshpande, Balasaheb Bhate, Wasudeosso & others We left with Patwardhan, Pradhan, Kaka Mahajani, Mr Turkhad and Mr Bhide who came today. We caught the train about 6.30 P.M. at Kopargaon, & travelled to Manmar, Mr Bhide getting down at Yeola. I & my son will soon leave Manmar by the Punjab Mail. Last night I dreamt that I saw Azizuddin & another whom I could not recognize.

G. S. Khupande

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