

Jetuka
2015

জৈতুকা

অ' মোৰ আশোনাৰ দেশ!
অ' মোৰ চিন্তাৰ দেশ!
এনেখন সুখলা,
এনেখন সুখলা,
এনেখন মৰমৰ দেশ ॥

অ' মোৰ সুৰীয়া মাত!
অমৰ সুখদি মাত!
পৃথিৱীৰ যত
বিচাৰি জনমটো
আশোনাৰ কবিতাত পাত ।

অ' মোৰ ওপজা চাই!
অ' মোৰ অমলী আৰু!
চাই নতুন ভোমাৰ
সুখনি এফাৰ,
হেঁতায় মোৰ পালোৱা নাই ।

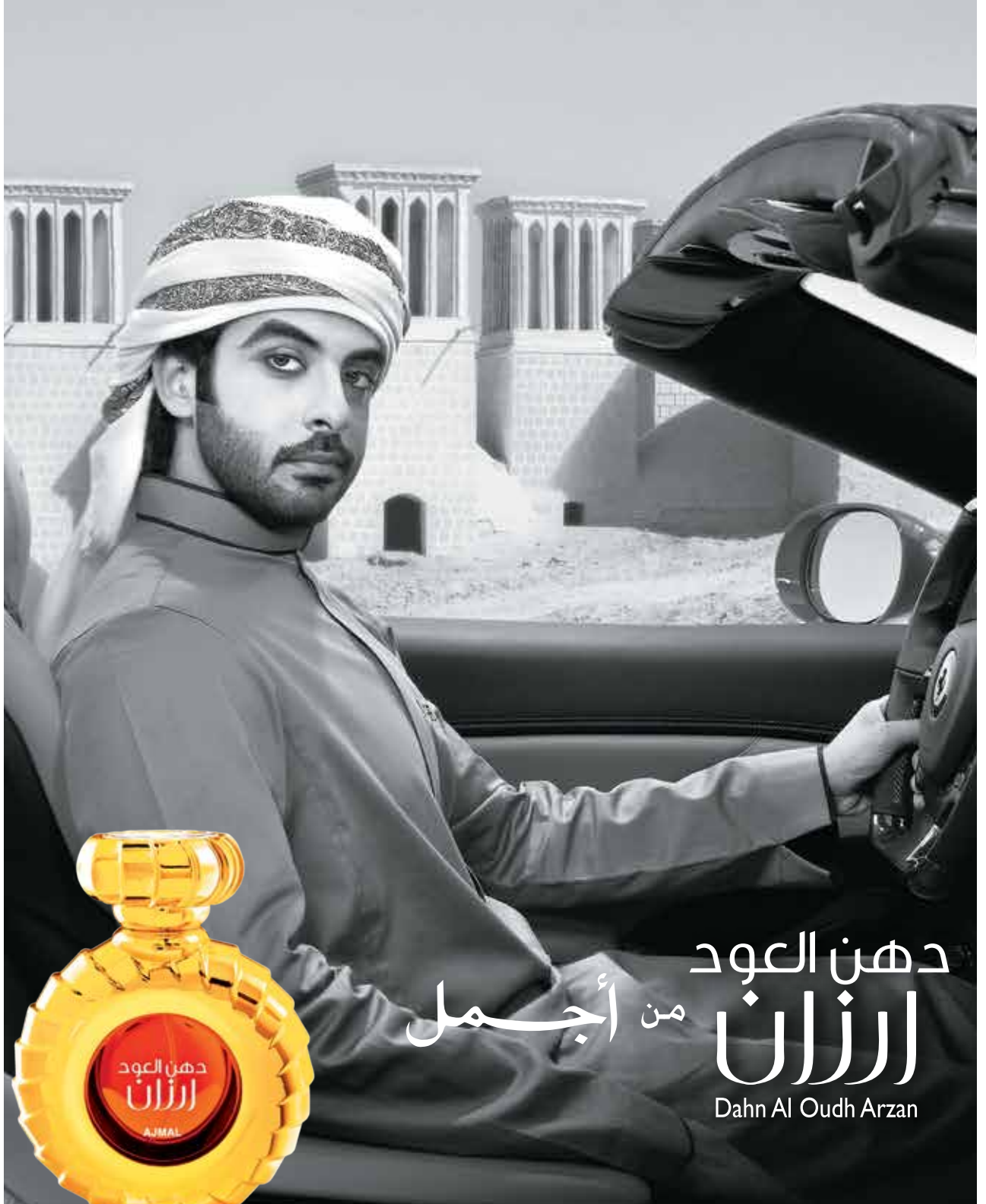
ৰসৰাজ লক্ষ্মীনাথ বেজবৰুৱা



Annual Souvenir, Volume 8-2015
Asom Association - Kuwait



منذ عام ١٩٥١



دهن العود من أجمل أرزان

Dahn Al Oudh Arzan

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The Amir of the State of Kuwait



H.H. Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah
The Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait



H.H. Sheikh Nawad Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah
The Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait

Members of Executive Committee, Asom Association, Kuwait, 2014-15



From left to right: Mriganga Das, Anupam Rajkhowa, Rajib L. Rajkhowa (President), Ashis Gohain (Vice-President), Mrs. Pranita Goswami Devichoudhury, Bhaskar Hazarika (General Secretary), Amitabh Talukdar, Alok Das
Not in Picture : San P Pradhan, Bikash J Gogoi, Mamoni Gogoi

Members of Bihu Committee, 2015



From left to right (Front row): Mriganga Das, Alok Das, Atul Shah, Nurul Huda, Dr. Sabina Tasnim Rashid, Masum Rajkhowa, Atrayee Barua, Mouchumi Sharma, Debahuti Kakati Das, Nilakshi Bora, Mitali Goswami, Pallabi Saikia, Mousumi Talukdar, Pompei Hazarika, Bharati Sharma, Kalpana Talukdar, Abhijit Sharma

From left to right (Back row): Chiranjit Barua, Anup Bora, Bijan Goswami, Jayanta Madhab Saikia, Iqbal Hussain



AMBASSADOR OF INDIA
KUWAIT

4 March 2015

Message

I am glad know that Asom Association, Kuwait is celebrating Rongali Bihu on Friday, 10 April 2015 and releasing its souvenir highlighting the literary talents of its members.

An enchanting sangrila in the North-East of India, Asom is known for its rich cultural heritage. It is industrially an advanced State, rich in oil and natural gas. Half of India's tea production comes from Asom.

While extending my warm greetings to all members of Asom Association, Kuwait, I wish every success to the 2015 Rongali Bihu celebrations.

(Sunil Jain)



Tarun Gogoi

**Chief Minister, Assam
Guwahati**

Dispur
3/3/2015



MESSAGE

I am happy to know that Asom Association, Kuwait is going to celebrate Rongali Bihu on 10th April, 2015 in Kuwait with a cultural programme and a souvenir is being published on the occasion.

I hope the event will aptly showcase the rich cultural heritage of Assam with all its colours and hues. I also hope the celebration will be the harbinger of peace, progress and prosperity for all and it will help build bridges of understanding between the people of our State residing in Kuwait and the people of the foreign country.

I wish successful publication of the souvenir and grand success of the celebration.

(TARUN GOGOI)

From The Presiden's Desk



Dear Friends and Families,

As the President of Asom Association Kuwait (AAK) it continues to be a great pleasure and honour for me to serve our community. The executive committee's tenure of 2014-15 with AAK has been joyous throughout and has personally been a wonderful journey with memories to cherish in the years to come. On this special occasion of the year, on behalf of AAK, I would like to welcome you all and invite you to join us in celebrating the biggest festival of Assam, Rongali Bihu. This time around in Kuwait, we strive to bring back and recreate those joyous and fun-filled moments of Bohag that we experienced back home. As a community we come together every year to celebrate this special occasion while being so far away from home and loved ones.

The Asom Association which formally came into existence in the year 2009 has been growing steadily over the years and has established itself as one of the most vibrant, active and leading associations amongst the Indian diaspora here in Kuwait. Away from our home land, the members of the association come together to celebrate with equal fervour to relive the fond memories and recreate them for our younger generation growing up in Kuwait. It is through these moments that we can help them see through our eyes and go through the same feelings of joys and ecstasies that we lived in our childhood days. This year we continue on the path of making Rongali Bihu celebration in Kuwait an enjoyable and memorable event for you and your family to cherish.

AAK believes in getting the community together not once but several times during the year. Though Rongali Bihu continues to be our main event, we also celebrate Magh Bihu, Sarodiya Utsav, Children's Art Competition, Children's Cultural Program and many other events with equal enthusiasm. We strongly desire that our youngsters should get suitable forums to participate in the activities that foster the main facets of our heritage and traditions.

The warmth and feeling of gratitude towards homeland that has naturally made home in the hearts of the Assamese community in Kuwait has to find an outlet. AASHA was launched by the members of AAK some three years back to establish a reliable channel to pay back to the motherland in whatever little way possible. This is one aspect that we all draw inspiration from. While we know that it is never possible to repay fully in kind for the loads of gratitude that we carry with us, the members contribute with constant zeal to the growth of AAK funds and consolidation of its charity efforts in all ways possible. AASHA has certainly become a strong pillar of strength for all of us, and this year hasn't been any different.

As AAK continues to grow, we warmly welcome our new members to the AAK family and thank the existing members for their continuous support. AAK thrives on the spirit of voluntariness and therefore, it is my fervent request to all members to be involved in creating an organization that is full of spirit, vibrancy and dynamism.

Rajib L. Rajkhowa
President
Asom Association, Kuwait

General Secretary's Report 2014 - 15

At the outset, I take this opportunity to wish all the members a fun filled Rongali Bihu and a very happy & prosperous New Year.

It has been a great privilege to serve our esteemed organization Asom Association Kuwait (AAK) as a General Secretary for the period of 2014-2015. Treading the path of our predecessors, we have tried to live up to the expectations of all sections of our members by offering a mixed bag of activities stretching throughout the year. It has been a great opportunity to fulfil the expectations of our members with the active support and guidance of a team of dedicated Executive committee members led by our ever-enthusiastic President. From showcasing our cultural diversity and literary flair of our members to organizing pleasure cum adventure trips, we at AAK kept no stone unturned in achieving the best.



Xarodiyo Utsav/Autumn Festival: Celebrating the incoming of Autumn, Xarodiya Utsav was celebrated on 7th November 2014 with a diverse & colourful cultural program at the banquet hall of Mughal Mahal restaurant, Fahaheel. Conceived and performed exceptionally well by our own talented children of AAK, which included songs, dances, instrumentals, recitations etc., the program was an instant hit where a record 31 number of items were presented. Our ever enthusiastic AAK ladies team performed a mirthful comedy skit which left the audience ecstatic. The stellar performance by the anchor was as much appreciated as the briefs rounds of trivia quiz that many of us cracked right and received spot prizes. AASHA team gave an update about humanitarian and charitable initiative. There was also a short initiating session for our newly inducted members while the evening culminated with an exciting round of raffle draws, and a sumptuous dinner.

Charitable Initiative (AASHA): Continuing with the legacy of the past years, this year too "AASHA" (Asom Association Salve for Humanitarian Aid) took up an important assignment of "Aid to Flood Victim" which turned out to be a big success. Blankets and Mosquito nets were distributed as relief materials in four flood affected villages in Bolbola area of Goalpara District on 1st of November 2014 benefiting about 490 flood affected families.

Magh Bihu 2014: The harvest festival of Magh Bihu was celebrated on 16th January 2015 in Egalia Beach Park, Fintas. The day's activity started with huge variety of traditional Assamese "Jalpaan" which included Ladu, Pitha, Sira, Holung etc.. The day-long program of Fun-n-Games which was enjoyed by members and children alike included some traditional games also. The highlight of the day was presence of large numbers of new members to AAK. The celebration ended with a tongue teasing "Bhoj-Bhaat" which was relished by everyone.

Fun-n-Overnight Stay in Wafra Farm House: Coinciding with the festival of Magh Bihu, the AAK organized a camping activity in the idyllic environs of Wafra at a sprawling farm house dotted with greens. The cold January night was rendered memorable with special barbeque and Bhoj arrangements followed by spontaneous sessions of music and Adda around the bonfire. The next day activity started with breakfast followed by a variety of adventure activities and fun-n-games. Children and ladies especially enjoyed being away from the monotony of busy life. Finally, there was a delicious lunch with hot food cooked by our own skilled culinary talents.

On-the-spot Art and Creative Writing Competition 2015: As part of the mega celebration of Rongali Bihu, an art competition for children and a creative writing competition for adults were organized on 25th February 2015 at Fintas Park, Mahboula by the Jetuka Souvenir Team. The park with its close-to-nature ambience was ideal for a creative day out. No wonder a large participation was recorded for the competition.

Photography Workshop: AAK organized a workshop on photography by our ace photographer Mr. Abhijit Sharma on the evening of 20th March 2015 which was attended by a large number of interested members. The workshop focused on various aspects of photography including functions available on the cameras as well as techniques to be used to achieve best results. It has opened up new vistas for all beginners to the interesting world of creative photography.

Bohag Bihu 2015: This month onwards all of us have become engrossed in preparation for the upcoming mega event "Bohag Bihu" scheduled for 10th April 2015 at the auditorium of Indian Embassy Kuwait. Final touches are being laid on all fronts like cultural, decoration, souvenir etc. For the first time in the history of AAK, two famous singers from Asom, Zubeen & Zubleee will enthrall the members with their golden voices. Adding more diversity to the program, Guru Ramkrishna Talukdar and Kashmiri Kakati have agreed to come all the way from Asom, especially to perform the famous Xattriya Dance. Honorable Ambassador of India to Kuwait Mr Sunil Jain has kindly consented to be the chief guest of the evening.

Before concluding, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the members and patrons who have enthusiastically helped, supported and guided us in all aspects and made all our programs a stupendous success. As Bohag Bihu is round the corner, let me request all of you to come, join and make it a colourful and joyous event to be remembered forever.

ভয় আই অসম !

Bhaskar Hazarika
General Secretary
Asom Association, Kuwait





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EDITORIAL

Let's say you have gone to Lulu to buy organic vegetables. You see a flux of the same fresh organic vegetables on the shelves that you'd see in the vegetable market back home - nemu tenga, outenga, jati lau, dhekia and lai xak and many other green leafy ones. And to your surprise you find that the vegetables carry a brand name Assam Greens.

But when you read the fine print from the tags it teases you by claiming "An organic farming produce from Andhra Pradesh, India". You are disappointed but accept the truth and go on a vegetable buying spree. After all, it is highly unlikely that some enterprising private company from Assam would start an organized organic farming revolution and begin exporting to the world at competitive prices. In all likelihood, organic food could be exported by a western European country, or at most from an 'advanced' state in India and sold at exorbitant prices.



We would all agree that with the current climate of entrepreneurship (rather the lack of it) in Assam is at best dismal. Is there a lack of exportable farming products from Assam? You'd say a big No. Is there a dearth of experts and expertise in Assam to make high quality yield possible? Certainly not. Is there a complete lack of infrastructure to encourage export of farming products? Umm, maybe yes. Is there a lack of government support? If you are aware of all types of government loans and schemes for farming available, you would disagree. Is there a lack of entrepreneurs? That would certainly be an emphatic Yes.

Isn't it sad that while all pieces of the the youth in Assam are still not able to a lack of will or a paucity of knowledge do a quick check of the stakeholders of in Assam, the two crucial stakeholders Assam and the foreign markets for all do exist. The channels, the government albeit practically mostly on paper. All enterprising entity that would help

নিজৰ জন্মভূমিৰ লগত জড়িত হৈ বিদেশত থকা অসমীয়া সকলেও নিজৰ নিজকে ধন্য মানিব। চকুৰ আঁতৰ হৈয়ো মনৰ আঁতৰ নোহোৱাৰ সুখৰ ভাগ পাব। চৰকাৰ, অসমবাসী ৰাইজ আৰু প্ৰবাসী অসমীয়া সকলৰ মণিকাঞ্চন সংযোগে সঁচাকৈয়ে সোণৰ অসম নহলেও অৱতা: মাটিৰ অসম গঢ়াত সহায় কৰিব। এই উমৈহতীয়া মৰ্কই সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলোৰে উপকাৰ সাধন কৰিব।

entrepreneurship jigsaw puzzle exist, put them together either because of about putting them together? If you the jigsaw game of entrepreneurship – the raw materials for growth in good things from Assam – certainly schemes and loans also do exist, one needs is some leadership, some the youths put the pieces together.

Is there any role the NRAs can play residing abroad, have certainly used advantage and have come thus far, haven't we? Shouldn't we start thinking like the Gujaratis and the Malyalis and the Punjabis and channel just a minute part of our efforts for the development of the unguided uninitiated youths of Assam? We love our motherland and like to relive the traditions. But when it comes to payback why do we limit it to our immediate family? We feel grateful to our parents who made us competent enough to earn fat salaries. But why don't we feel any gratitude towards the infrastructure in Assam, the atmosphere of our educational institutions and the encouragements of our teachers that made all possible?

Is it too hard to dream of the entrepreneurial dream? It certainly is for the disoriented youths back home. They have somehow developed the habit of not dreaming. They think prosperity is for other states, not Assam. We, the NRAs, are at a high advantage of leading the dream to reality. What is stopping us? If getting our hands dirty is what we are afraid of, then we can at least help them to dream the dream. We have already taken the first step. Our humanitarian efforts through the noble mission of AASHA are already saving lives.

Maybe we should take a step further. Maybe we should help them dream again. We owe this much to them.

It is an established fact that stunted economic growth leads to all social problems. The need-of-the-hour is to set up some model project in rural Assam with the objective of growing produce organically having international demand. Small success stories will fuel the growth of more such projects and ultimately self-reliance. One kindled passion can lead to another. But the chain reaction has to start somewhere. By the ones who are insane enough to dream big for their motherland.

Let's not limit ourselves to teaching our kids at home to walk. The kids back home need us too. Let's not limit ourselves to feeding them with fish, let's teach them how to fish. They are smart enough to take up from there.



AASHA – The year 2014

Dr. Ranjit K Dutta

National Highway no. 33 in Goalpara district was very busy that night. Not with its usual traffic, but with lost and confused people sitting wet and shivering in their makeshift plastic camps. There was a continuous influx of humanity coming from either side of the road. After their tin-roofed thatched houses had been washed away by the menacingly increasing flood, the highway was their only resort. Most people had lost all their precious possessions, for some that included lives of dear ones. Nilakesh Medhi sitting under his moist plastic tent was very silent. He mutely watched a little girl passing by in the drizzle and wailing, "Where is my maa? Have you seen my maa?" Nilakesh couldn't say anything. Tired and hungry, he had just stopped searching for his two children and eighty-year old mother. The flood had probably engulfed them. For him that was a very long dark night. That was when life had been robbed of all hopes.

The Assam Association Salve Humanitarian Aid (AASHA), a welfare foundation under the umbrella of Asom Association of Kuwait (AAK) was formed in the year 2012 with a mission to empower lives of the downtrodden in the state of Assam. AASHA has a three-year history of supporting underprivileged people in Assam. More distinctively AASHA has been working to help the flood affected people in Assam, facilitating development of infrastructure such as schools for underprivileged and rehabilitation aid for the physically handicapped.

At the start of the year AASHA took up FIT-4-PURPOSE, a project involving collection and distribution of household items for flood affected people of Assam. AASHA members collected about 250 kg of used items and sent them to Abakash Majuli, a Majuli-based socio-cultural NGO, for distribution of the items among the flood-hit people in the Brahmaputra river island. Mr. Amlandeep Borah, president of Abakash Majuli coordinated the distribution at three different locations in Majuli. Pen and paper stationeries were also distributed among underprivileged students of that area.

Vocational Rehabilitation Center for Handicapped located in Rihabari, Guwahati is a pioneering institution of its kind in Assam providing a full range of support and assistance to people with disabilities and to families facing multiple economic hardships. AASHA volunteers visited the rehabilitation centre in early 2014 and they were all overwhelmed on seeing the dedicated work being

carried out by the institute. AASHA members initiated a discussion and decided to extend help by providing few rehabilitation aids to the disable peoples. AASHA procured a few rehabilitation aids and made arrangements for their distribution. Vocational Rehabilitation Centre organized a small distribution event which was attended by Abhijit Sharma, the general secretary of AAK and two other members. When the event began with a chorus by the handicapped people the whole atmosphere was very moving. A total of two arc welding sets, two sewing machines, one pico machines, four electrical repairing sets, two typewriters and two cameras with printers were distributed among the physically handicapped to help them earn their livelihood.

In the month of September 2014, Assam was hit by a devastating flood affecting about 10 lakh people in 13 districts and rendering many of them homeless. AASHA made an appeal to all its members to come forward and donate generously to support the victims. AASHA collected and sent INR two Lakhs for procurement of flood relief materials. AASHA members procured 450 Blankets and 450 Mosquito nets for distribution among the flood affected people. Mr. Preetam Saikia, the Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara District was approached and he helped us distribute the materials in Goalpara district.



The flood affected people of Goalpara were not just thankful. They showered blessings on the Assamese community of Kuwait. Some even cried and some tried to touch the feet of the people who distributed materials as if they were godsend. The poignant stories of the flood affected people were so heart-rending that after hearing their stories I silently promised myself to do whatever I could do in the future to alleviate their pains. Mr. Saikia congratulated the members of AAK and handed over a letter appreciating our efforts.



AASHA is a continuous effort; it is not a destination but a journey with a purpose. As more hands join together, the stronger it becomes and the more far-reaching its impact. In fact AASHA needs not only more number of hands, but also a stronger resolution. If the intent is right and resolute, an impossible mission becomes possible. I invite you all to reinforce the resolution with more

help, more ideas and more support for this mission.

Sleeping Lines and Standing Lines – Life is like that

Chinmoy Dutta

In a kindergarten school there was a little girl named Asha. One day she was very happy. Her teacher told that they would soon learn how to write the letters of the alphabet: I, L, T, A, B, C and so on. But, before that they should be able to draw Sleeping Lines and Standing Lines. One Sleeping Line placed on top of a Standing line makes a 'T'! 'So easy', she thought! After coming home, Asha waited eagerly for her father to come home from office. Her papa would help her draw many Sleeping Lines and Standing Lines!

Up and standing, she was looking out of the window with hope and joy.

Bhabuk reached home from office at usual time. Tired, exhausted and dejected, he slumped down on to the sofa. "It was so tiring, office works were so stressful, the traffic on the way back home was so terrible!" he grunted and lied down on the sofa.

Bhabuk's actual name was Bhuban. However, because of his ever worried, apprehensive and stressed disposition people started calling him by the disgusting name Bhabuk. Some of his good friends even advised him to try clearing off all his negative thoughts and be more positive. But, how to do that?

Asha came running to her papa with a smile on her face and pencils in her hand, ready to do something new.

"Papa I want to draw Sleeping Lines and Standing Lines. But, how to draw the eyes of a Sleeping Line?" Asha enquired.

"Does a Sleeping Line also snore like you?" she giggled. Asha's mother must have told her something funny about his snoring! Bhabuk felt amused.

Seeing his cheerful daughter, Bhabuk's frowning forehead straightened a little. He beamed briefly like the sun peeping for a moment through a heavily overcast sky. These were some of the few moments when he could elevate himself from his usual somber mood and feel elated. He smiled and sat up; legs, however, still stretched on the sofa. He cuddled his daughter and showed her how to draw a Sleeping Line and a Standing Line.

"A line doesn't actually sleep. A line is just a line. A line that is upright and standing like you are now, is a Standing Line. A line placed like me, sleeping straight on a bed or a sofa, is a Sleeping Line", explained Bhabuk and drew two sample lines for her on the paper.

Bhabuk then lied down again slumbering in to his own thoughts. "So nice naming of the lines! Sleeping Lines and Standing Lines! Even a child could understand easily how the lines would look like", Bhabuk thought.

He would have, however, described the Sleeping Lines as horizontal lines; like the negative (-) sign, and the Standing Lines as vertical lines; like the boldly standing victory flag poles.

Asha finished drawing the lines with many different colours and brought the papers to her papa. "It is colourful", remarked Bhabuk.



But, in many places the Standing Lines crossed the Sleeping Lines making them look like crosses. The Sleeping Lines which would look like a negative (-) sign, looked like positive (+) signs.

Bhabuk asked Asha to draw the Sleeping Lines and the Standing Lines on separate pages. Then he reclined again on the sofa.

Suddenly something flashed in his mind. A Sleeping Line, which look like a negative (-) sign can be made positive (+) simply by putting a Standing Line across it!

Bhabuk sat up. Could the negative thoughts and attitude be also changed so easily to positive thoughts?

"Yes, indeed!" quickly responded his mind. "Just as a Standing Line across a Sleeping Line makes it positive, you too should just stand up and start acting rather than 'Sleeping' on all your worries."

Negative apprehensive worries evaporate to a great extent when one starts taking action to straighten out the disturbing causes of the worries rather than just only thinking on and on.

Physical and mental stress arising out of work or studies are different from worries. Majority of the worries that keep people bogged down and depressed are mostly imaginative, which never actually culminate in to the apprehended and feared things worried about.

"So, just 'stand up' and get rid of those worries and negative thoughts!" Bhabuk realised.

He also remembered reading somewhere that human minds are like gardens where one can plant flowers of only positive thoughts. Allowing weeds of negative thoughts to grow and smear would steal the liveliness of one's own life.

Bhuban's mind cleared. He would just have to inscribe a Standing Line across the Sleeping Line! He would just have to stand up and do whatever he could to try resolving the causes of the worries. Some of the worries were, of course, beyond his capabilities. There was no point worrying about the things that he could not resolve. Such worries were simply meant to be shaken off!

He jumped off the sofa and stood smiling. His ever present frown was gone!

An astonished Asha looked at her father with joy and hope.



The Greenhouse Effect and Global Warming

Jayanta Bardalaye

All of us keep hearing about these two phrases now a days - the earth is getting warmer every passing year because of the greenhouse effect and if something is not done about it urgently, our survival on planet earth is doomed! So what

is the greenhouse effect?

Sunlight from the Sun is the primary source of energy for the Earth. The surface of the earth absorbs some of this energy and heats up. It cools

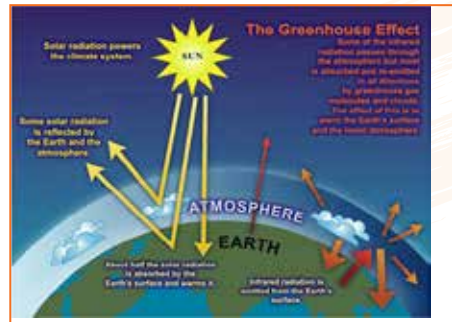


Fig-1: Global Warming

down by giving off a different kind of energy called infrared radiation. But before all this radiation can escape into outer space, gases in the atmosphere absorb some of it, which makes the atmosphere warmer (Fig-1). As the atmosphere gets warmer, it makes the earth's surface warmer. The gases which absorb this radiation and keep the earth warm are known as greenhouse gases.

If it were not for greenhouse gases trapping heat in the atmosphere, the earth would have been a very cold place. Greenhouse gases keep the earth warm through the process explained above. This is called the greenhouse effect. Four gases are the major contributors to the greenhouse effect – water vapour (36 – 70%), carbon dioxide (9 – 26%), methane (4 – 9%) and ozone (3 – 7%). Cloud, the major

Global warming is the gradual heating of earth's surface, oceans and atmosphere. Scientists have documented the rise in average temperatures worldwide since the late 1800s (Fig-2). Earth's average temperature has risen by 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit (0.8 degrees Celsius) over the past century, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Temperatures are projected to rise another 2 to 11.5 degrees F (1.133 to 6.42 degrees C) over the next 100 years. Global warming is expected to have far-reaching, long-lasting and, in many cases, devastating consequences for planet earth.



Some of the effects of global warming are: increase in average temperatures and temperature extremes, changes in rainfall patterns, extreme weather events, melting of the ice caps, melting glaciers, rise in sea level, widespread vanishing of animal populations, spread of disease, bleaching of coral reefs due to warming seas and acidification due to carbonic acid formation, and loss of plankton due to warming seas.

Human-caused global warming occurs when human activity introduces too much greenhouse gases (mentioned above), such as carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from burning fossil fuels or from deforestation, into the atmosphere. More of this gas equals more warming.

Some atmospheric CO₂ is natural. For example, before the Industrial Revolution in the 1700s, there were about 280 parts per million (ppm) of CO₂ in the atmosphere, and during most of the past 800,000 years, CO₂ fluctuated between about 180 ppm during ice ages and 280 ppm during interglacial warm periods. Since the Industrial Revolution, though, the amount of CO₂ has dramatically

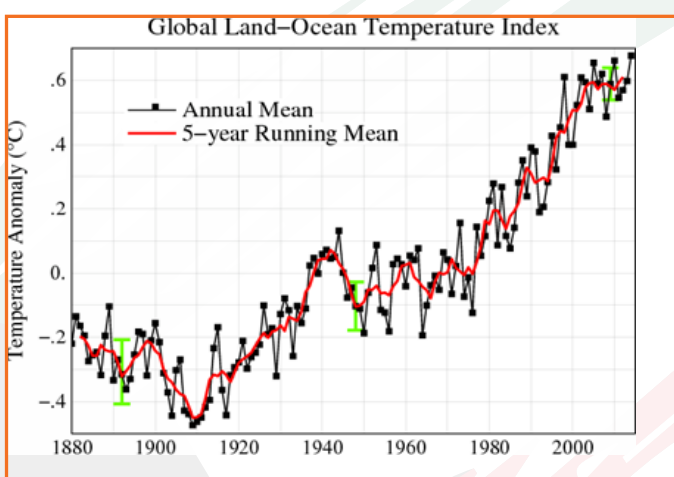


Fig-2: Rise in average temperature in last 135

non-gas contributor to the earth's greenhouse effect, also absorbs and emits infrared radiation and thus has an effect on radiative properties of the atmosphere.

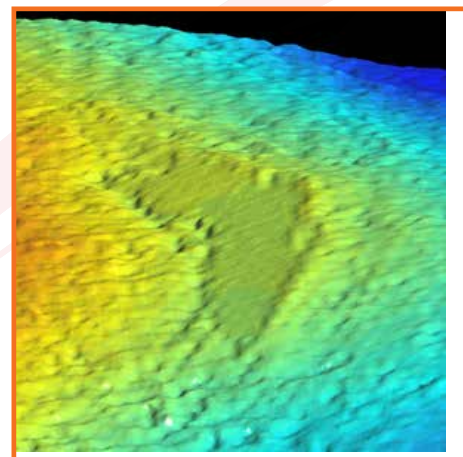


Fig-3: Ice sheet above Lake

increased. Currently, the increase is 100 times faster than that when the last ice age ended, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Is industrialization

and human activity the main culprits for global warming? Let's examine what happened in the geological past.



Fig-4: Lake Vostok drilling rig

Lake Vostok, the largest of some 400 subglacial lakes scattering Antarctica's frozen depths, has been the subject of ambitious research for at least the past 15 years. It is the fourth-deepest lake on earth and is the largest of all sub-glacial lakes known in Antarctica. In the 1960s, Russian scientists hypothesized water beneath the ice sheet based on results from seismic soundings. In the 1970s, a joint US-UK-Denmark airborne radar mapping project discovered areas with flat reflections from the bottom of the ice sheet suggesting water beneath the ice. The full size of Lake Vostok was first revealed in 1996 by the flat ice sheet surface mapped from the European ERS-1 satellite (Fig-3). The ice that is covering the lake has done so for the past 25 million years.

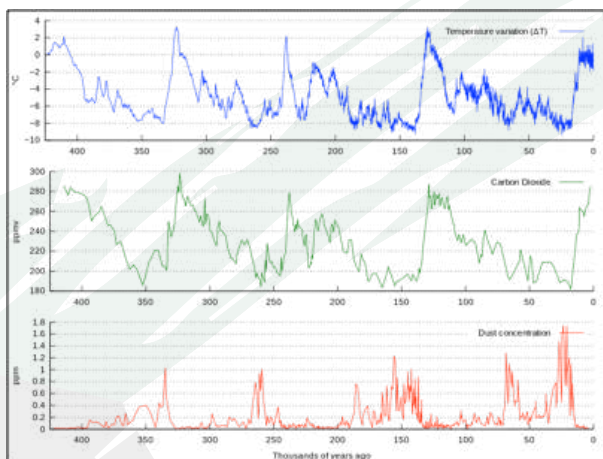


Fig-5: Paleo climate from Lake Vostok ice

The lake was drilled into by Russian scientists in 2012 (Fig-4). The overlying ice provides a continuous paleo-climatic record of 400,000 years, although the lake water itself may have been isolated for 15 to 25 million years. On 5 February 2012, a team of Russian scientists claimed

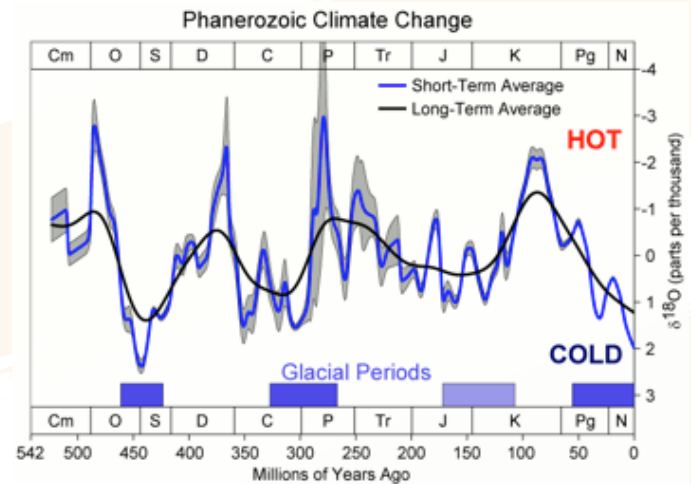


Fig-6: Paleo climate (last 542 million years)

to have completed the longest ever ice core of 3,768 m (12,400 ft) and pierced the ice shield to the surface of the lake.

Analysis of the ice core (Fig-5) revealed that temperature, carbon dioxide and dust concentration in the atmosphere has gone up a number of times in the past 400 thousand years. The earth warms sharply every 100 thousand years followed by gradual cooling. In fact around 320 thousand years ago, the average temperatures were about 3 degrees higher than at present! Modern humans did not exist then. If we look longer into the geological record over a period of 542 million years, including the time when dinosaurs roamed the earth, similar hot and cold cycles could be seen in the rock record (Fig-6) at different times. As far as I know, dinosaurs did not drive cars and had no factories!

The warming and cooling of the earth is a natural process that has been going on for millions of years. Human activity has added to global warming but it is not the only reason. Even if we close down all our industries and stop using all modern means of communications, the earth will still become warmer. Why it happens periodically is the subject of another article.

Winner of IIK Best
Travelogue award in 2014

For A Stay In A Faraway Farm

Abhijit Sharma

It was May 2014 when my brother called me from Bangalore and asked me if we would prefer to go for a 'farm stay' near Ooty in India during our summer holidays this time. I knew he always came up with the best offbeat ideas for family holidays and this too, as ever, should be interesting enough. Frankly, with the soaring summer temperatures here in Kuwait, which could almost grill a potato out in the open, the idea of a stay in a lush green farm seemed quite enticing. And with the adorable super active four-year-old son of my brother for company along with my eleven-year-old twins (son and daughter) it all sounded even more fun to look forward to!

So off we started on an early morning in July 2014 from Bangalore with all of us aboard a Mahindra Scorpio, rented sans a driver. We were eight members in all – my wife, our twins, my brother, sister-in-law, their kid and our mother and me, of course! My brother and I took turns on the wheel of the 4X4.



The route we followed was Bangalore-Channapatna-Maddur-Mysore-Gundlupet-Bandipur-Ooty, six-hours' drive in total. By the time we approached Channapatna, the kids were on the verge of staging a protest for breakfast. So we stopped by at an impressive restaurant and had a hearty South Indian breakfast with Idli, Vada, Kesar Bath and hot filter coffee. Right next to the restaurant were shops selling handcrafted wooden toys and artifacts for which Channapatna is well known. The products are so attractive, even eco-friendly, that no one, young and old alike, can leave without buying a few items. There were even some handmade wooden wearable ornaments that the ladies just could not resist picking up.

Carrying down the road, as we passed by the town of Maddur we could not stop ourselves from relishing their famed 'Maddur Vadas'! This hot spicy bliss is a savoury item made of rice flour, semolina and maida flour, all mixed with sliced onion, curry leaves, grated coconut and asafetida and fried as small patties in oil.

The drive through the Bandipur National Park, which is located right on the borders of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, was quite a scenic one with the road passing through the thick lush green forest on either side. It is a tiger reserve under Project Tiger and was once a private hunting reserve for the Maharaja of the Kingdom of Mysore.

We could even see some deer prancing about as we drove along. The kids were trying out pranks to fool everybody into seeing tigers as we passed by. There were tourists coming specifically to this destination.



Finally, by early afternoon we reached the town of Ooty and had lunch at a restaurant. And yes, we had to pull out our warm clothes by now as the temperatures were fast dipping as we climbed into the altitudes of Ooty. The drizzle that followed added to the chill. But we were simply loving it all! Having travelled from Kuwait, where temperatures had already soared to the 50s in Celsius, it just felt like heaven! Though the old world charm of the British era of this town seems to be waning with time, landmarks are still well maintained, specially the Botanical Garden where we spent some time to relax after lunch and took some pictures.

Then came our last stretch to the farm where we had booked our stay for the next three days. It was very a long winding road through the hills around Ooty. As we drove further away from the town, the sights turned more and more spectacular. You could see miles and miles of sprawling green meadows and farms on the slopes on the hills. The roads became narrower and narrower while the trees and growth on either side of the road became thicker and thicker. With the area around looking more and more isolated we started getting seriously worried. Where was all this leading to? Then we reached a rusted sign that showed the direction to the parking place for the farm stay. It was a neat green, fenced compound with a small reception area that looked more like an army barrack than a holiday destination. Out came a smiling red-cheeked youth who welcomed us with warm greetings and pleasantries. His demeanour was very typical of the pleasant and warm-hearted hill people. Then to our surprise he told us that our vehicle cannot go any further from there! This was so because this vehicle, a 4X4 at that, would not be able to endure the difficult road ahead to the farm accommodation. Reading our concerned faces the smiling guy asked us to relax and offered us some hot tea. He then told us that a special vehicle was on its way and it would be carrying us to the final destination. We waited with bated breath, but with a secret sense of pleasure for the adventure that was unfolding now! Finally, there it

came. It looked like an old green Army Truck modified to carry passengers only. The smiling guy ushered all of us into the truck and he himself carried the entire luggage and loaded them in. The mustachioed tough looking driver of the truck surely must have been an ex-army man. We started seriously wondering what we would be doing for the next three days at such an isolated godforsaken place! We won't even be able to go out to Ooty town easily if we ever felt like it!

That was one unforgettable ride on that truck, crazier than the Dubai Desert Safari! It was no less than a roller coaster ride, only with the difference that you were riding through a winding and undulating slushy muddy road through thick forest area! We had to hold the railings on the seats real firmly to avoid being thrown all around! It took almost 45 minutes to reach the destination. But as the truck finally came to a halt and we disembarked.... we were rubbing our eyes in disbelief! The view was breathtaking! We were now atop a hill overlooking miles and miles of lush green hill slopes in all directions and a lake below which had a magical hue of emerald green. You could see the green patches of farming and meadows on the slopes all around. And right next to where the truck was parked was the quaint farm stay resort. There were rows of green roofed wooden cottages overlooking the breathtaking scenery. All the tiredness of the long arduous journey just melted away!

The charming lady in charge, dressed neatly in a saree and a professional blazer, welcomed us and led us to the reception and offered us some refreshing fruit juice. The whole place was very tastefully done up in a 'Wild West' theme with the main reception hall and the restaurant looking like a 'Saloon' from those cowboy movies. You could almost anticipate a gun-slinging cowboy entering any moment!

The place turned out to be a resort spread over a large area amidst a sprawling real functioning farm. They were growing various vegetables like cabbage, cauliflower, carrots, tomatoes and zucchini. Besides that, a dairy farm, and a stable were also being operated. You could see the cattle, and quite a few sheep, grazing in the meadows below and the horses being taken out for rides. There was an activity center where you could play sports or engage



the kids on creative activities like glass painting, paper-mache craft etc. For sports there were badminton, table tennis and foosball. There were many outdoor activities available like trekking, rock climbing, fishing and zip lining. They even had a little wooden cottage for a library which was amply stocked, even with comics and story books for the kids. There was enough material to keep us busy for the next three days.

The early morning trek that we took was literally a walk in the clouds. It was cloudy with the sun playing pica-bo and even the kids loved the trek along the pristine hills and among the trees. Everyone was awestruck with the



view of the lake below from the top. The guys at the resort even handed out raincoats, umbrellas and gumboots to us to endure the occasional rain and mud. While the kids kept themselves engaged with the horse rides, glass painting and rock climbing, we the adults indulged in blissful massages at the in-house spa. The kids were really excited when they could catch a fish after almost an hour of patient waiting. But they just could not bear to see the fish suffering and so it was carefully released back to the pond! The evenings were pepped up with a bonfire and barbeque under the night sky followed by karaoke singing by the resident guests. My wife did not fail to grab this opportunity and sang a few of her favourite numbers and the audience applauded. All this while, the rest of us enjoyed the music and had hot freshly brewed coffee served on the table. The restaurant served multi-cuisine fare and everyone including the kids had their choice of food. Having no TVs in the rooms and having poor mobile reception made things even more enjoyable and helped us stay soaked in the real beauty around us. For once it was quite a relief to see the kids away from their ipods and ipads!

By the day of our departure we all felt thoroughly rejuvenated by our unique experience and yet we felt we could have stayed on and on for more. But life beckoned, and we had to leave. After a warm send off by the resort staff it was the same old rickety army truck that took us back to where our car was parked. As we embarked on our journey back to Bangalore it all felt like a dream of a faraway land. It was a sojourn of surprises and a blissful encounter with nature which we will nurture forever.

Treasures of Assam Villages

Nurul Huda

After almost a decade had passed life gave me an opportunity for a short trip to some villages in Assam which I used to visit earlier. When I passed by the roads, I observed that the old traditional villages were vanishing and new glimpses of modernization appearing at every corner. Financial prosperity with social upliftment had created a good sign of development, tis transformation had wiped out some important traditional assets and structures. Let me describe a few of such invaluable treasures here with a strong sense of nostalgia.

Japi (জাপি)



Every Assamese knows about Japi. In fact it has become a state symbol for Assam. It is used as an article for felicitation in Assam as well as a prop in Bihu Dance. But the actual use of Japi for most of Assamese people is in the villages during raining seasons.

The farmers wear the Japi on their heads to protect themselves from sun and rain. Due to its design and light weight, it is very handy to work with. The material of Japi consists of two simple layers, one consisting of a bamboo frame, and the other of dried palm leaves or tokou leaves placed in between the frame and spread wide enough to protect from sun and rain. Depending on the requirement, different types of Japi are used by farmers like Pani Japi, Garakhiya Japi, Haluwa Japi etc. There are some other types of Japi that were used by royal families from the Assam history like Sorudaya Japi, Bordaya Japi, Tupi Japi etc.

Kher(খেৰ) Puji (পুজি)

One of most commonly seen structures usually seen in the backyard of Assamese traditional houses in villages is Kher Puji. After harvesting, rice crops are tied in bundles in the paddy fields and brought back home. Straws i.e. Kher is obtained



after separating the rice grain from the bundles and carefully stacked in mound-like structures which is known as Puji. Puji is a common feature seen in every farming household. The size and number of Puji in a household is indicative of the size of the harvest that year. The top of the Puji is usually covered by a woven bamboo so that the dried Kher does not get blown away by wind. Kher from the Puji has different uses like fodder for cattle, preparing roofs for houses, cushions for beds, torches for creating smoke in the evenings for gohali for cattle. Sometimes children also have lot of fun playing atop the mound.



Bhoral

The rice (ৰুঁচাল) after each harvest is kept in a separate store house known as Bhoral. It is usually constructed in the backyard with some special considerations. The size of each Bhoral depends on the amount of rice available after



each harvest and the amount that needs to be stored for the coming years. Its shape is similar to Chang-ghor and is made of wood and bamboo. The floor is usually constructed around one to two feet above the ground with

enough gap so that dampness does not reach the rice. In some cases instead of wooden pillars the complete Bhoral sits on huge stones called as Udhan. Now-a-days the roof is either made of straws or galvanized tin sheets. The door for loading and unloading is always placed at the top of a wall so that enough space is available for storage. A platform constructed outside this door helps to have access to the Bhoral.

Dheki

Dheki (ঢেঁকী) idely used traditional Assamese wooden equipment to grind rice, spice etc. Its function is similar to today's modern household kitchen equipment grinder-mixer which is operated by electric motor. But Dheki functions on the simple principle of Class-1 Lever, that is pressing the short end by the leg to lift the other heavy end and then releasing it to hit the ground to grind rice, spices. The lever of the Dheki is made of solid wood usually



7 to 9 feet long. The fulcrum is made of two strong wood or bamboo supports. The Dheki rests on the supports of a wooden shaft passing through it. The location of fulcrum is 2 to 3 feet from the short end where pressure is applied by legs. Most important part of Dheki is the selection of the grinding shaft, which should be strong enough to bear the impact for years. A metal ring provided around the 2 feet long grinding shaft which hits the rice or spices is kept inside a hole made of wood or stone placed at the ground level. Even though over the years the Dheki has been taken over by mechanized equipment, it still has wide use for making Atta, Chira, Pitha guri, Xandah guri, Hurum etc.

Nongola

The entra (নঙলা) traditional Assamese house is barricaded by Nongola. But this traditional entrance gate has been



disappearing very fast and now it can be seen very rarely. The design of Nongola is very simple, which consists of two pillars made of strong bamboo fixed at both the sides of the entrance. Four to five holes are made on each pillar at equal distance. Small straight bamboo poles pass through these holes from one end to the other forming a barricade. It can be opened by sliding the bamboo poles away from one pole. Due to this simple design, it lasts for years without any damage. Kids always play around it by hanging and climbing.

Wafra Picnic

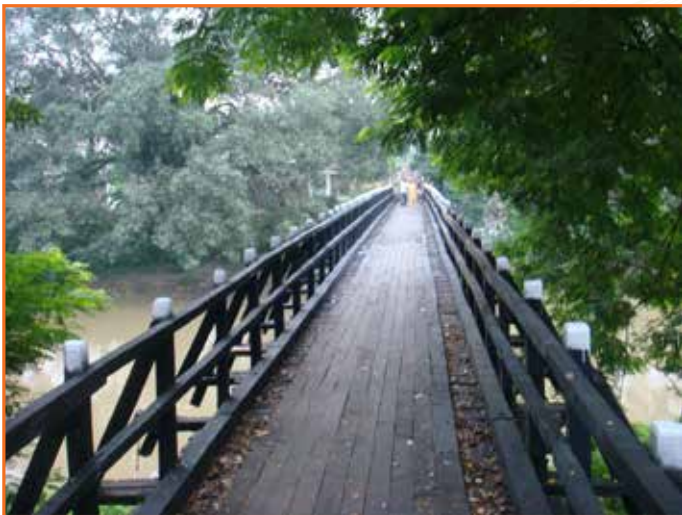


Never Land

Dwaipayan Bora

The road to our school was a phantasmagoria of landscapes. There was a steep-down gatch street that led to the Kollong riverbanks, which was covered by a grove of tall Semul, Sal, Wood-apple, Star-fruit and Tamarind trees. This stretch was like a walk through an age of the past. Sun rays even in bright summer days could not pierce these majestic trees, thus making the ground below damp almost round the year. They were a veritable habitat of baboons, crows and sparrows. The greater adjutant storks (Hargila) would make the area lively with their endless jumping, chirping, grunting and bill clattering, and attracting us with their bright orange inflatable pouch. While walking they had a stiff military gait of a disciplined soldier. We would savour the sight of pranks played by the monkeys on uninitiated travellers, trying to snatch a thing or two from them.

The wooden bridge on the river was narrow and could serve only one-way traffic of rickshaws, bicycles and scooters. As



we waited for our turn to cross we could hear the ringing temple bells, ululations and smell of fragrances of fresh flowers and incense sticks offered as obeisance. Our reverential young minds made us bow our heads seeking the Almighty's blessings. The river meanders slowly in this area giving the traveller an opportunity to catch a glimpse of its underneath treasures. Glistening silver shone bright with sunlight in the clear water. Fishermen could easily grab a catch which was bought by the eager buyers. Just a few meters downstream, Bihari washer men were hard at work cleaning dirty linen of others. Their unbroken groans synchronizing with heaves were music to ears. Their better halves would help by spreading the clothes in the greens for drying. At some distance Nepali herdsmen would bathe their livestock.

As we entered the main street of the town, we could perceive the sudden rush of people – rickshaws, handcarts,

horse carts, cars, buses, bicycles all vying for some space on the road. There was lot of noise in the air. Every second shop played songs of innumerable types on their cassette decks. Owning a "music system" was considered elitist. The din inside the store compelled the seller and the buyer to speak loudly which almost looked like a precursor to the yelling game of hard bargaining.

Street peddlers exhibited their tawdry collections of cheap wares (like fake Rolex watches, Ray ban glasses, Wing-sung pens) on the pavements and cries out to attract attention of passers-by. The street urchins vigorously tried to cajole the travellers to board their buses. The one's losing prospect would become obstreperous. The cinema hall in the main square was effulgent in bright yellow. It looked like the leader amongst the pack of buildings, which had comparatively a dull façade. It stood taller by means of high roof with its name etched on the marquee. On either sides of the grand entry, large posters of the currently featured film and its stars were displayed. We would stare at those hoardings and imagine a story in our minds. As we did not have a yardstick of box-office like the one available nowadays, the length of queue in front of the booking



counter became a measure of the movie's popularity for us. The elderly sweeper cleaned the entrance littered with peanut shells, newspaper scraps, and cigarette butts left over by the avid cinemagoers of last night's second show. The restaurant, teashop, paan-shop owners readied themselves for the day by sprinkling water on the ground and chanting mantras. The popular restaurants that found favour amongst young lovers were dark and dimly lit to give the admirers a bit of privacy from prying eyes. The famous dishes that were served were paratha, pulao or chowmein - all cooked to a typical Indian taste.

Once we left the hustle and bustle of the main road we would enter an institutional area of schools, colleges and public offices on either sides of the street. The priest at Durgabari, the community arena would be leaving the prayer hall after consummation of his morning prayers, as he had to reach his office. The sprawling public park with beautiful landscape and gargoyles looked elegant yet provided a serene atmosphere to the area. The stately gazebos inside this park gave the park-goers a good resting place. The lovebirds made ample use of these and the park was hence popularly re-christened 'Lover's Park'. It had a well-maintained swimming pool, which was the only one of its kind. The nearby District Congress office housed in an old building usually remained deserted except during election time. In those days, Congress had not caught fancy of the Assamese mind as much as it has now. The electric substation was just behind the park. This area remained deserted and the constant humming of transformers and other electrical equipment gave an eerie feeling, which we dreaded. Ours was a joyous life and anything weird was deemed undesirable. As we went further we reached a turn that led to our temporary school building, which was housed in the ITI Hostel Building.

The two storey building was an outcome of an ambitious Government's early skill development plan. But technical training as an education for career development had few takers within the Assamese society and this hostel lay vacant for many years. The sprawling campus served as our playground. The surrounding area was low-lying and had two big ponds filled with water hyacinth. Many a times

we had to fish out our cricket balls from these ponds. This school was set up after intense work and persuasion of like-minded enterprising individuals of then Nowgong town who felt the necessity of setting up a Kendriya Vidyalaya in this historical district headquarter. But Nagaon being primarily an agrarian district did not find favour amongst the Central political class, which were bound by the convention of setting up such schools only in towns which had sizeable number of Central government employees. My father as the Convener of the parent's committee along with other proactive members made several rounds of the power corridors of the state and centre, who were now obliged to grant permission for setting up this school in 1976. The same year we were enrolled in Class-I as the first batch and the Central Minister visited our school. Thus the idea of a school that incubated in our thoughts came to life and became a part of our greater family. The bonding we shared between students, teachers and parents were like no other, as the thought of "our own" school still bears a resonating imprint on our minds.

As I look back, I understand that we were from a world full of our own idiosyncrasies far away and different from the world where my progenies now tread. There's no way we can re-create that world the memories of which I treasure with so much fondness. Is this like the Never Land where Peter Pan dwelled?

Tasty Kalakand

Sutapa Dey

We all love sweets. But nowadays everybody is health conscious. So, this is my recipe for healthy Kalakand.

Ingredients

Full Fat Milk	2 litres
Full Fat Yoghurt	6 small pots
Condensed Milk	2 Tablespoon
Pistachio to garnish	

Method

Heat the milk. When it is about to boil, add yoghurt and keep the flame low. Keep mixing until the water separates.

Take a muslin cloth and pour the curdled milk, filtering the whey water completely. Wash it well in running cold water, squeeze the excess water and hang it aside for approximately 1.5 hours. Add 2 tablespoon of condensed milk to it and knead for 10 minutes. Now spread this mixture in a baking dish. Garnish with pistachios. Bake this for 20 to 30 minutes at 100 deg C. When it has cooled down, cut it in small sizes and serve.

Try this recipe – very easy to make and tasty too.



Snoring And Sleep Apnea

Dr. Sabina Tasnim Rashid

Snoring is a common problem experienced by many adults. In fact, one in four adults has snoring issues. As an ENT Specialist, it is one of the most common consultations I have encountered with the patients, during my tenure of practice and in general as well. People get perturbed seeking medications to tackle snoring. It is indeed a task of some patience and quite challenging at times to explain to the patients about the pathophysiology of snoring and the possible line of management. And that no medications are available over the counter as with most other medical conditions. This leaves a few of the patients highly confused.

The National Sleep Foundation estimates that 37 million adults in the United States are chronic snorers. If you count yourself in that mix, you are in good (and loud) company. Let me discuss in brief about Snoring and Sleep Apnea, which may be of some help to you all.

What can snoring lead to:

- Sleep deprivation can cause irritability, mood swings, low energy, decreased productivity, muddled thinking and even makes you unsafe at wheel while driving
- Habitual snoring is nearly always a social problem for a bed partner
- It also leads to health problems like compromising the

Why do we snore?

There are many reasons, but the most common one is that at night while you are sleeping, your body and muscles relax, including those in and around your throat. This relaxation can cause loose or excess tissues in the upper airway to vibrate as air passes over it while breathing, resulting in snoring.



Other causes of snoring are any obstructive pathology in the nasal airway as DNS (Deviated Nasal Septum), polyp or growth in the nose, too much hypertrophied turbinate compromising the nasal airway passage. Besides, hypertrophied adenoids or tonsils, macroglossia (large tongue), edematous mucosa of the nose or soft palate (roof of the throat) are some other causes of snoring. All these invariably result in subtle reduction of the airway size in a majority of the patients, compromising the patency structurally. The narrowed airway during sleep, inevitably results in snoring. It is more common in obese males over 40 years and drinkers. But it can occur with anyone over the years, more so with added pounds.

Snoring can be habitual and intermittent, soft or loud. Habitual snoring is nearly always a social problem for a bed partner. Sleep deprivation can cause irritability, mood swings, low energy, decreased productivity, muddled thinking and even makes you unsafe at wheel while driving. It also leads to health problems like compromising the immune system. Snoring is also one of the primary sleep apnea symptoms.



What is Sleep Apnea?

Intermittent cessation of airway during sleep is defined as sleep apnea. Sleep apnea is a sleep disorder, wherein you actually start and stop breathing repeatedly as you sleep. During a 6 hour sleep interval, if there are at least 30 apneic (cessation of breathing) episodes lasting for 10 seconds, a person is considered to be suffering from sleep apnea, which can be diagnosed by an overnight sleep study known as Polysomnogram.

Snoring and sleep apnea can be caused by vibration or collapse of the upper airway tissues including the nasal airway, soft palate, adenoids, tonsils, tongue and the pharyngeal walls (throat). These constant sleep disruptions impede your ability to sleep soundly and awaken refreshed. As a result sleep apnea sufferers often feel tired and lethargic even after a "full night's rest".

Interestingly, nearly everyone has brief episodes of apnea or pauses of breathing during sleep. The situation becomes serious and alarming when apnea episodes become regular and prolonged, which is when it becomes important to seek medical advice.

Types of Sleep Apnea:

1. Central Sleep Apnea:

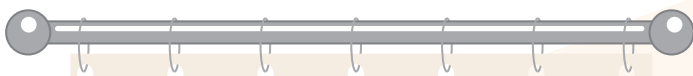
Central Sleep Apnea, though less common is a condition, wherein the brain simply doesn't transmit the correct signals that controls breathing.

2. Obstructed Sleep Apnea (OSA)

OSA is the most common form of sleep apnea and described as obstructive, because the soft tissues in the throat collapses during sleep and thereby constricting the flow of air through the throat and to the lungs. This leads to a 'choking' sensation and a lack of breathing, which ultimately results in fitful sleeping where the apnea sufferers starts and stops breathing throughout the sleeping period. In other words, they are literally choking themselves each night. Many are unaware that they have sleep apnea and wake during sleep. A sleeping partner is often the first person to notice it.

It is well established that sleep apnea can lead to

hypertension, increased risk for stroke, depression and heart diseases. Now researchers have discovered a link between sleep apnea and cancer. In fact, sleep apnea sufferers may be 5 times more likely to die of cancer. The simple translation to this is that, as sleep apnea leads



Most common symptoms of sleep apnea

- Loud snoring – A person with sleep apnea falls asleep quickly and begins snoring loudly.
- Periods of quiet interrupting the snoring
- Loud snorts or gasps following a period of quiet
- Feeling lethargic and tired during the day.
- Regular irritability and impatience (which can be wrongly attributed to 'bad day' stress)
- Daytime Somnolence while working, driving, reading or watching TV.
- General forgetfulness and inability to focus
- Headaches, especially regular morning headaches

Red
Alert!

to deprivation of oxygen in their systems and thereby promotes angiogenesis (growth of new blood vessels) which in turn feed all cells, including cancer cells.

Treatment

It may seem quite amazing that these two interrelated common medical conditions – of snoring and sleep apnea



– do not have any over the counter medication as a line of treatment.

The first therapy is Nasal CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) which is essentially a mask which fits over your nose and blows air to keep the airway tissues open during sleep. CPAP is considered the most effective non-surgical treatment to alleviate snoring and OSA and eliminates the necessity for surgery. It is 100% effective for those using it regularly with significant improvement in day time function. Those who are not able to tolerate Nasal CPAP and find it cumbersome, need permanent treatment in the form of surgery.

Only recently the adverse medical effects of snoring and its association with OSA (obstructive sleep apnea) and UARS (upper airway resistance syndrome) have been recognized.

Various revolutionary methods have been adopted to alleviate snoring and OSA. This includes lifestyle modifications such as losing weight for the obese, quitting smoking, avoiding alcohol and sedatives before bed, having new exercise regimen, sleeping on the sides rather than on the back. Use of nasal strips to widen the nostrils is also helpful.

The good news is that surgery that can help you stop snoring or at least dramatically reduce the intensity or frequency of snoring exists. Surgery in the forms of UPPP/ UP3 (Uvulopalatopharyngoplasty) and LAUP (Laser Assisted Uvulopalatoplasty) are done. These “tongue twisting” surgical procedures basically aim at improving the obstructed airway by removing the soft tissues responsible for compromising the airway .

Also nowadays, a new innovative technique known as the Pillar Procedure is done when the soft palate (roof of the throat) is the main contributing factor for OSA. This is an implant surgery wherein three tiny highly sophisticated polyester implants are placed in the tissues of the soft palate, thus avoiding the need of removing the soft tissues with conventional surgeries. This procedure stiffens the lax tissues of the soft palate thereby preventing collapse into the airway during sleep.

Robotic Surgery can help cure sleep apnea as well. It can precisely repair the throat tissues that may impede the airway and eliminate OSA, without visible scarring. There are devices and procedures to alleviate sleep apnea.

Sleep Apnea is a serious sleep disorder and a life threatening condition. Some physicians refer to sleep

apnea as a Silent Killer! Yet many people are unaware that they actually have sleep apnea which can eventually lead to health problems like hypertension, stroke, heart diseases, headaches, chronic feeling of sleepiness, dizziness, irritability and depression.

Regardless of which avenue you choose to pursue, one must realize that OSA is dangerous to your health and can be potentially life threatening. A treatment plan addressing the specific anatomy of an individual patient may include lifestyle modifications to sometimes surgical treatments to alleviate sleep apnea.

So, my simple advice is do not hesitate at all to notify your physician if you think you might be suffering from a sleep disorder such as Sleep Apnea because a cure exists.

At the same time, it does not mean that all snorers will have sleep apnea, though it is invariably one of the symptoms. It may be just as simple as any obstructed pathology in the upper airway, in the domain of ENT (Ear Nose & Throat) as a cause of snoring and can be tackled accordingly. One only needs awareness, guidance and the right approach to manage such disorders. Health should be of utmost priority in the present fast world, as many diseases are attributable to the sedentary life style.





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Creating Wonders through Water Hyacinth

Parimita Barooah Bora

Water hyacinth is one of the fastest growing plants known to man. It is a free-floating plant, rising in height from a range of few inches to a meter above the surface of the water. Known as Panimeteka in Assamese, Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) in English and Jal Kumbhi in Hindi; it is considered as one of the most notorious aquatic weeds. It proliferates rapidly in lakes, ponds, irrigation channels and chokes them in no time.

The problems related to this plant are many. It causes hindrance to water transport, reduces bio and other aquatic diversity. Other aquatic plants have difficulty in surviving because of this plant and it thus cause imbalance in the aquatic ecosystem. Diversity of fish stocks is often adversely affected because of proliferation of water hyacinth. Sediment levels increase with increasing water hyacinth. Mosquitoes and other disease carrying organisms thrive in the water hyacinth.

However, a joint initiative of sustainable development in Assam has successfully converted this menace into a "wonder weed" by the use of Thai technology- a step that has changed the face of rural Assam. The North East Development Finance Corporation Limited (NEDFi) and North Eastern Council (NEC) under the Ministry of Department of North-Eastern Region (DoNER) have successfully trained many artisans on the use of dried water hyacinth. Through a system of interlacing elegant artifacts and accessories of great aesthetic appeal can be created.

Scientists have now shown that the infamous weed is a rich source of carbohydrate and can be used to make biodegradable plastic, dried and processed into paper, fiber board which is sufficiently good for partition wall and ceiling; the fiber from the stems can be used to make ropes bags, wallets, home accents, jewelry, bedroom slippers, magazine holders, photo frames, table mats, coasters, lamp stands, baskets, bags and other handicraft products.

In August 2008, NEDFi launched an initiative in Assam to popularize the use of water hyacinth products. The main reasons for this initiative were: abundance of raw material, and the plant's potential to replace jute, cane and bamboo. Artisans experienced in braiding and weaving work easily pick up the trade once provided the training. This unique eco-friendly project of NEDFi has proven to be a success story. Since 2008 it has transformed the lives of the rural poor and at the same time turned the water hyacinth from being merely a wild water-weed to 'pearl of water'. Unlike many other experiments with eco-friendly products developed and designed as sustainable livelihood options,

the unconventional and innovative water hyacinth craft has gained popularity among artisans within a very short period of time. The craft is highly flexible as there is no fixed time for the artisans to make their products. They are free to work at any time, day or night. It is also less laborious than other means of livelihood available in villages, such as daily wage earner or agricultural labour. Further, artisans need not come out of their houses in search of jobs. No wonder this craft has received such prompt and wide acceptance among the rural women.



NEDFi also provides district mentor who regularly visit the artisans, help and, guide them to improve the quality of their products and finally collect their products for sale. The mentors also create awareness among the artisans regarding the need for small savings. The NEDFi officials organize regular meetings between mentors, master artisans and the marketing team to discuss introduction of new technology, review of prices, and other matters relating to the craft.

Last vacation I was lucky enough to visit such a training centre at Dimow, Nagaon. I was thrilled to see ladies making attractive products from water hyacinth. Assam has three more such centres at Khetri, Dhubri, Mangaldoi and another one at Dhing will be soon coming up.

Today, the water hyacinth project covers over 2000 skilled and expert artisans in the five northeastern states including Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Tripura and Manipur. However, the project has become most successful in some districts in Assam including Darrang, Nalbari, Nagaon and Dhubri with more and more artisans coming out to adopt the craft.

Earlier, the Kottapuram Integrated Development Society (KIDS) of Kerala, in association with the India-Canada Environmental Facility, had tried similar technique since the backwaters of Kerala have water hyacinth in abundance. However, they could not turn this into a large scale process. Many environmentalists claim that the saline water systems of Kerala hamper the growth and depth of weeds. The climate in the Northeast certainly offers better scope.

This initiative developed and promoted by NEDFi of developing innovative eco-friendly handicraft using this abundant raw material has improved the economic conditions of rural artisans and crafts-women in the Northeast and given their lives a new meaning.



The Story of the Extra X Chromosome

Arunav Bora (Romit)

There are very few events in our lives, which we can look back and remember exactly where we were and what we were doing. Everyone will remember 9-11, or the day princess Diana died, or the time the Indian Ocean tsunami played havoc. But most of us can add another day into that list, 16th December 2012. As the gruesome details of the night started making it rounds through the global media and with the outrage and reaction that followed in Delhi, it was quite clear that there was something different about this case. The brutality of the gang rape and the fact that it had happened at a supposedly safe hour of the night, shed any semblance of safety that Indian women felt about living in their country.

I clearly remember the days that immediately followed the incident. The whole day people came up to me and asked me if I was aware of what had happened in my home country. Social media was abuzz with activity and it was unfathomable that such an animalistic crime could still take place in the modern world. It was a shocking reminder of how backward our society just might be. When the poor victim was brought to Singapore to receive medical attention, it was the talk of the town with nationwide prayers for her recovery. It saddens me to think how such a promising life was snatched away at the blink of an eye.

There are probably thousands of statistics that one can find regarding the abundance of rape in India or the mistreatment of women in general, but rather than using a plethora of statistics to get my point across, let me just ask a simple question: How many more “Nirbhaya’s” do we need before we take a concrete action to make a difference? It is one thing to have demonstrations; to lash out at the government, or to tweet an angry message; but are we all consciously making a difference in our everyday actions? Each one of us needs to walk away from mere

sensationalism and endeavor to take small positive steps.

It can start from something as simple as saying thanks to that maid who sweeps your floors, that waiter who brings you food or the person who holds the lift for you. We need to create a culture of mutual respect and appreciation.

The BBC documentary on the incident, titled “India’s Daughter”, showed how the culprits were the low-lives of society, residing in slums and barely making a living. Their background is not an isolated one. Millions of Indians are victims of their circumstance, being brought up in dysfunctional homes and resigned to a life of toil and hardship. If society hadn’t shunned them and they had positive influences growing up, maybe Jyoti Singh could today be a respected doctor, making her parents proud.

I am currently living in a country where women can roam around freely at night without having to look over their shoulders; where parents don’t have to frantically wait for updates and worry when their daughters are late; where the very fact that you were born with that extra X chromosome should not let you live your life in fear. One day I hope India can become

such a country. Until then, it is up to you and I to take that extra step and make a difference.



Arunav Bora (Romit) is an NRI currently working in Micron Semiconductor at Singapore. Having left home when he was 14, he misses it very much and wishes to go back soon. He is an avid Liverpool fan, horrible bathroom singer and a closet romantic. He muses that he was coerced into writing this article at his parents’ demands but he believes it’s a message worth sharing.



Don't Let The Good Die Young

Chinmoy Dutta



*Priestess Cydippe, with all her motherly affection,
Begged her goddess Hera the best gift a god could give,
For her two sons, for their true devotion.*

*What had been asked was granted, and
The two brothers Biton and Cleobis died;
Taken away from the earth; welcomed to the heaven!
The earth deprived of two good souls!*

*"Only the good die young!"
Don't let it be so.*

*She is a mother,
He is a mother,
You are a mother;
Mother of your own thoughts.*

*Thoughts of good intent;
To do good for others and all,
Not infrequently bubble in our minds.*

*Don't let these bubbles be suppressed,
By the demanding daily chores.
So suppressed that they die a nascent death and vanish!*

*Neither beg goddess Hera for the greatest gift of god
For the devout thoughts, that you have mothered.*

*Let these bubbles be buoyant
And see the light of the day.
As under the sun,
These bubbles would one day prism rainbows on the earth.
It is too early for the bubbles to be welcomed to heaven.*

Don't let the good die young.

Food Corner

By Madhuchanda Nath

COOKING DELIGHT

These recipes will tickle your taste buds on all occasion.

SHRIMP REZELA

INGREDIENTS:

500gm shrimps(big or small)
whole garam masala few
2 whole red chilli
Ginger-garlic paste(2tbs)
Green chilli paste(1tbs)
yoghurt 100gm
10 cashew nuts
Poppy seeds(2tbs)
Charmagaz or melon seeds(2tbs)
1/2 cup fresh coconut milk

METHOD:

Clean the shrimps and marinate with yoghurt and salt for an hour Take a pan and heat oil.Then fry them in oil and keep aside. In the remaining oil add whole garam masala,whole red chilli,ginger- garlic paste,green chilli paste.Stir fry for 5-6 mins.adding salt to taste. Now make a mixture of yoghurt ,cashewnuts,poppyseeds,charmagaz in a blender.Pour this mixture into the hot pan.Cook for another 8-9 mins. Add the fried shrimps and mix the coconut milk gently.Cook for another few mins.and serve with steamed rice.



BANANA FLOWER-DO-PYAZA

INGREDIENTS:

1 whole banana flower

For batter

1/2 cup besan
1/2 tsp kashmiri red chilli powder
1/2 tsp haldi
1 tsp baking powder
salt to taste

For curry

Onion paste
Ginger-garlic paste
salt to taste
red chilli powder
Roasted zeera powder

For Garnishing

1 Onion sliced and deep fried for garnishing

Clean and cut the banana flower keeping the tiny bud petals as bunches and boil in a micro-oven for 10mins .Make the spicy besan batter.Dip each bunch of tiny bud petals in the batter and deep fry in oil.Heat mustard oil in a thick bottomed pan.Put whole garam masala,bay leaf ,onion paste,ginger garlic paste,pinch of sugar.Sprinkle salt to taste.Cook on low fire adding all the spices for 10 mins.Finally add the fried tiny banana bud petals.Add little warm water for gravy.Cover with a lid till the veggies are tender. Pour a dash of ghee for flavour.Garnish with fried onion and serve as a side dish.

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Dr. Anjol Saikia

Clean India – an initiative to empower this great country of ours to unprecedented success and development.

“Cleanliness is next to Godliness” – a concept ingrained in Indians and well established in its ancient culture. Our great leaders have always conceptualized the fact that cleanliness, health and discipline come as a package. A clean country is a positive step to greatness.

Our ‘Father of the Nation’ Mahatma Gandhi always emphasized on simplicity and cleanliness. Our present day leaders have picked up the loose ends of that concept and launched a nationwide campaign under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. “Trivial things are not perfect but trifles make perfection” and “Tiny drops of water make the mighty ocean” stand true here where a small act of cleanliness by small groups or individuals can make a significant contribution to the overall momentum of the campaign. Keeping this in mind, nationwide agenda has been set by Government Institutions whereby at weekends, groups of interested individuals go about cleaning up public places.

Television and social media like Facebook and Twitter are doing their bit in the propaganda. The ball has definitely started rolling, the sail has caught the wind – Yes! But how do we keep this momentum going.

This is indeed a Herculean task; an ultra-marathon, not a sprint race, which needs constant focus, a huge budget investment, perseverance, dedication and sincerity on the part of volunteers and leaders. This indeed should be looked upon as a project “By the people of India... and for the people of India”.

Cleaning just the Ganga is not enough... It should only the momentum for a similar campaign to clean the Brahmaputra too and all the other rivers.

Holding a broom for a group photo with a banner “**Swaach Bharat**” on the background for a daily newspaper should not be the norm, rather the photos of the unsung heroes in every nook and corner of the country who have been struggling in their own way to propagate the soul of the campaign of a clean Bharat should be sought out and encouraged with financial and logistics help.

We need more “Anna’s” in this country to set up exemplary work of cleanliness for others to follow.

We need to forget about the difference of religion, caste and creed; get together as fellow human beings, activate our social sense and revolt against the true enemies of

humanity – poverty, illiteracy, morbidity and mortality burdens.

Cleanliness of our country should also embrace the use of clean energy sources like solar energy and preventive measures like putting a halt on deforestation.

We must understand that with a population of about 1.2 billion, most of whom are struggling for a daily living, promoting literacy rates and educating this hungry population is indeed an uphill task but a significant factor and a major player in the success of this campaign.

Scientific and industrial development could have a role in this campaign too. Imagine what a difference it would make if we discovered a practical way to utilize fusion energy from Uranium in our own country or developed superconductors in our own IIT centers. Wouldn’t that be a great beginning to decrease nuclear waste dumping in to our rivers which takes tons of thousands of years to decay or develop “mag-rails” which require extremely low fuel running on superconductors which are active at environment temperature.

Wouldn’t that be as significant as decreasing use of non-biodegradable plastics in malls and markets which are clogging all our rivers and waterways?

Or how about our own Bharatiya scientists developing “planktons” genetically engineered to absorb excess carbon dioxide to prevent

further “greenhouse effect” ; of course at a lower cost which would also earn revenue by selling to the developed countries.

So, to me, the “Swachh Bharat” campaign is not just about the “broomstick banner” or the contemplation about whether it is a potential agenda or not, but rather a dream of our own country, India, our Bharat, as a superpower which caters to the needs of its poor citizens by providing them basic toilet facilities, clean drinking water, hygienic living conditions, healthy environment etc. This dream of mine also envisages my country as a forefront runner in the scientific and industrial frontline with pioneering projects in use of clean energies and as a global partner of countries in prevention of global warming.

But at the end of the day, this global cleaning starts right in our own backyard and within our own hearts. Pray this campaign of Swachh Bharat succeed with the individual effort of each and every Indian.

LONG LIVE INDIA.



What Comes With Bravery

Anchita Hazarika, Yr. 6

As I was looking around, I heard someone coming up the creaky stairwell. I hid behind an old stack of boxes. The person had now walked in. Apart from their loud heavy breathing I could hear nothing. Just as the person walked away, I let out a huge sigh of relief that I had been holding in for a long time. I climbed out of the window and slithered down the wet roof onto the ground. As I walked back home, I recalled what had just happened to me.

Just half an hour ago, mum had sent me down to the Fish & Chip shop with a ten-pound note and strict orders of no vinegar on her chips. When I got to the Stroud Roundabout I couldn't help looking at the old house at the end of the street. My friends and I used to play there. We still do, sometimes. It was an empty house that we treated as our playhouse. Just as I was having a last look at the house,



while it was set up for demolition, I noticed something through the top floor window. It was a girl mouthing the word 'HELP!'

She looked scared and desperate. I told myself I had to help her. It was starting to get dark and I had to get home soon, however I sped towards the house. As I got to the front door, I was almost regretting coming here, but before I could change my mind, I had pushed myself against the door. The house looked more dusty than usual. I was already starting to think this was a bad idea. Just as I was striding back to the front door, I heard a noise. I was certain there was nobody else in the room because it looked empty. My curiosity got the best of me and before I knew what I was doing, I walked up the creaky and ancient stairwell. The floorboards of the house were just as old as the crumbling stairwell. When we played here, we never really went up the stairs.

As I continued on to the source of the noise, the feeling of regret came back as I was keeping my focus on not falling into a random hole. Just then, another disturbing noise came from the anonymous source. This time it seemed closer. Soon enough I knew I was standing in front of the room from where the mysterious noises were coming. My heart was in my throat. The door creaked as I opened it. There was absolutely nothing inside besides old boxes stacked on top of each other. The air was stale and dusty. But before I could explore some more, someone was walking up the stairwell. What had happened next was a blur. I dove under the shelter of a broken down desk and hid myself with a few boxes. Thankfully the person did not notice me and I hastened of the house in a tick. It had been raining outside so it was easy to slide down the roof.



Finally as I was walking back home, carrying a bag containing our dinner, I figured I was an hour late. I had told Mum I would take about 15 minutes, but boy, was I wrong! Mum must be so worried and angry.

The next day I had to stay home, because I was grounded. I decided not to tell Mum about the house or the girl. Later that day on the news, they had a story about the house that was ready to be demolished. Vanessa Collins, the girl in the window was rescued last night. Right after I had left.

The 'breaking news' column on the bottom of the screen said – "American Ambassador's daughter rescued after almost a week of being held hostage." I just hoped this was a bad nightmare. Quickly turning off the TV, I decided to read a book. It always calmed me down.

Turned out the girl was the American Ambassador's daughter. The person who hadn't noticed me when I was hiding was not the suspect, he was the rescuer. In an interview, he said he had been looking around the house and heard rustling coming from the abandoned office, where I was hiding. After he hadn't seen anyone inside the room, he looked around some more and eventually found her in the storage room. A few minutes after I left, the house was swarmed with police cars and ambulances coming to her aid.

I couldn't believe what I was hearing. When I had ran away from fear, someone else had the courage to do the dangerous stuff. Now he was known as a local hero. I couldn't help but wish that it were me on the front page of today's paper, instead!

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CHILDREN ART COMPETITION



Meghna Dutta - Class V



Krishnangshu Talukdar - Class IV



Debanga Mishra - Class V



Arhant Saikia - Class III



Adit Kashyap - Class IV



Amisha Talukdar - Class IV



Reeda Shinaz - Class V



Rudrakshee Goswami - Class IV



Shreya Kashyap - Class VIII



Anchita Rajkhowa - Class VIII



Shubhangi Sharma - Class VI



Shubhankar Sharma - Class VI



Tonmoy Hazarika - Class II



Anoushka Das - Class IV



CHILDREN ART COMPETITION



Anushka Thakur - Class VII



Isha Hazarika - Class VII



Anushka Dutta - Class II

Prize Winners

Children's Art Competition Group: A



Tonmoy Hazarika



Arhant Saikia



Anushka Dutta

Creative Writing Competition – Assamese



Debahuti
Kakati Das

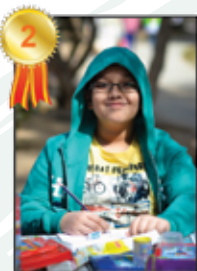


Rubi Dutta Bordoloi

Children's Art Competition Group: B



Anushka Thakur



Debanan Mishra



Rudrakshi Goswami



Krishnagshu Talukdar

Creative Writing Competition – English



Dr. Anjol Saikia



Sanjukta Hazarika

Children's Art Competition Group: C



Shreya Kashyap



Anchita Rajkhowa



Swarina Rajkhowa



Dr. Anindita Medhi Saikia



Trip To Rio de Janeiro

Anushka Thakur
Class VII



The city of Rio de Janeiro is famous for its breath-taking landscape, its laidback beach culture and its annual carnival. This marvellous city possesses some of the most spectacular views in the world. In November 2013 we got a chance to visit this

beautiful city. In a bright sunny November morning we landed in the beautiful city of Rio. Although it was a long and tiring 16 hours flight from Kuwait, all our tiredness vanished as we stepped out of the airport and saw the statue of the Christ the Redeemer standing atop the Corcovado Mountain.

In Rio our accommodation was near the Copacabana beach. We had a fabulous view of the beautiful beach from our hotel room. Every evening we would go there for a walk and do some street shopping in the night markets of Copacabana. The people of Brazil are very health conscious and are always seen jogging along the beach. Every Sunday, one side of the road is blocked exclusively for pedestrians.



During our stay in this beautiful city, we visited some of the world famous landmarks of Rio. The statue of Christ the redeemer is probably the most important landmark of Rio. It is also listed as one of the modern day wonders of the world. The statue stands atop the Corcovado Mountain at an altitude of about 700m above the city. While ascending to



the top of the mountain we saw the Maracana stadium,

which was being renovated completely for the 2014 world cup. The view up there was beholding though a bit foggy. The sugar loaf mountain was another top landmark of Rio. We were told that it resembles the traditional concentrated refined loaf sugar from where it derived its name. The cable car took us all the way to the top of the mountain for a beautiful 360-degree view of Rio, Guanabara Bay and the blue waters of the Atlantic Ocean.



We also went to see the Brazilian samba dance, which was a very lively and rhythmical experience for us. We visited a Sunday market in Ipanema, known as the hippie fair. It is a great place for food, gemstones, souvenirs, clothing and jewellery. Our visit to the Amsterdam Sauer museum

was a truly unique experience for us as we got to see replicas of emeralds, aquamarines and tourmaline mines. The collection in the museum consisted of more than 3000 gemstones of different types. Another interesting view that we saw in Rio was the world's tallest floating Christmas tree over the Rodrigo de Freitas lagoon.

Crowds of people including us flocked to the waterfront to watch as the 280 feet high tree was lit up by a dazzling display of fireworks and 3.1 million micro bulbs. The tree kept displaying different colours and designs. Everybody standing there was awestruck.

Our trip came to an end on 8th December. I will always remember this trip and forever look forward to visit Rio again.



Weird Animals

Debangana Mishra
Class-V, FAIPS

Have you ever heard of the animals illustrated below? They are really strange and weird.



1. Aye-aye

(Scientific name: *Paubentonia Madagascariensis*)

Type: mammal Life span: 20 years Weight: 2 kg

Aye-ayes are found only in the island of Madagascar. They are distinguished by a bushy tail and are dark brown or black in colour. They are related to humans, chimpanzees

and apes. They also feature big eyes, slender fingers and large sensitive ears. They have pointed claws on all their fingers and toes. Their big toes help them to dangle from branches. Many people in Madagascar consider the aye-ayes an omen of ill luck and they are killed on sight. Due to hunting coupled with habitat destruction they are critically endangered. Today they are protected by law.

2. Dumbo octopus (Scientific name: *Grimpoteuthis*)

Type: egg-laying Lifespan: 3 to 5 years

These octopuses are commonly nicknamed "Dumbo octopuses" or "Dumbo octopods" in reference to the ear-like fins that resembles Walt Disney's flying elephant "Dumbo". As



they live at the bottom of the sea, they have very small food supply. They have been found in the waters of New Zealand, Australia, Monterrey Bay, Oregon, Martha's Vineyard, Papua New Guinea and Azores. They have a distinct habit of swimming. They flap their ear-like fins to propel themselves upwards.



3. Saiga (Scientific name: *Saiga Tatarica*)

Type: mammal Lifespan: 6 to 10 years Weight: between 36 and 63 kg

The saigas are critically endangered antelopes which originally inhabited a vast area of the Eurasian steppe

zone. Their population fell drastically due to uncontrolled hunting and demand for horns in Chinese medicine. Today the population has shrunk enormously, as much as 95% in 15 years. Saigas form very large herds that graze in semi-deserts, steppes, grasslands and possibly open woodlands eating several species of plants including some that are poisonous to other animals.



4. Harp sponge (Scientific name: *Chondrocladia Lyra*)

Its basic structure resembles a harp or lyre. This strange creature lives on the ocean floor of Monterrey Bay in California. Most of them lack circulatory and respiratory systems and rely on ocean currents to move oxygenated water through their bodies. They have no nervous system, no head or tail. They eat living prey. This delicate creature may not look dangerous but the harp sponge's spikes are covered with barbs, which trap tiny creatures as they are swept through it by the currents. It emits sticky goo which envelops the trapped prey and degenerates it. The nutrients are then absorbed by the sponge.



Rainbow Loom

Reeda Shimaz Huda
Class V

It is really fun making bracelets and charms out of just common rubber bands. I mean, just think of it, it is really amazing that the little, common rubber bands can actually be transformed into beautiful bracelets and charms. We can do this on our fingers or on a Rainbow Loom. A Rainbow Loom is a plastic loom with which we can make awesome bracelets and charms.



All this started in 2010, when Cheong Choon Ng, a Malaysian immigrant of Chinese descent saw his daughters make bracelets

out of rubber bands. He got the idea of making a toy loom that could make it easier to make the bracelets and charms when he couldn't link the rubber bands with his

hands. So, he stuck a scrap board with multiple rows of pushpins with which the bands could be linked more easily. The bracelets became popular among their neighborhood friends. After some time, his daughters suggested him to sell the loom and the bracelets. He agreed, and he spent about six months designing the loom kit. His brother and his niece came up with the name 'Rainbow Loom' for the loom kit Cheong created. Thus, now we can buy loom kits in shops and also through websites. We also get only the rubber-bands in packets and boxes for making the bracelets and charms.



Nowadays, Rainbow Loom has become a popular past-time. Children swap rubber-band bracelets in the same way as 'friendship bracelets', and they also post thousands of their own instructional videos online. Some children also try to create their own designs of Rainbow Loom bracelets and charms. I have to admit, I've also tried.

Making the bracelets and charms is an amazing experience and so is wearing them. You should try doing it.

Cartoons

Shreya Nath
Class-V



Cartoons are very funny

but they are irritating to my mummy!

They are soo great,

I wonder how they are made!

I am crazy about them, it's true,

but I have to do my homework too!

I love watching scooby dooby doo,

and of course, I love watching other

cartoons too!

APPLE

Harshini Barua
Class-I



I love Apple. It is my favorite fruit. Apple is a very healthy fruit. Doctor Uncle says "An Apple a day keeps the doctor away". It is also my favourite gadget. I like the Apple iPhone and iPad. I listen to music, watch movies, cartoons and play games in the iPhone and iPad. Life is so much fun with Apple.

Unforgettable Incidents From A Holiday

Shubhankar Sharma
Class VI

I and my family had gone to Europe a few years ago. In Europe, we went to many places like Paris, London and more, but from all these places, my favourite memories were of Scotland. In Scotland, we went to Edinburgh. We stayed in a cottage in a huge farm. The cottage was amazing! And it also had toys and board-games for kids to play. There were many sheep on the farm and we also got to see a shepherd dog chasing the sheep into their gates. Once when we left the house in the morning and had gone out to shop and visit places like castles with bagpipers etc. , while coming back to the farm house late in the evening my mom realised that she had left the door of the cottage open! Everyone got really tensed! Before we booked the house the landlady had warned us to be careful about the sheep as they sometimes got into the house and destroyed the things inside. Everyday hundreds of sheep keep grazing in the grass field around the house and there was no fencing around to save the house from those sheep if the doors were not kept locked! Each of the rooms of the house was decorated very gorgeously. So we were tensed to think what would happen if the sheep got into the house and made a mess.

But when we reached the house everything was alright. We all learned a lesson that day. The next day we went to visit our uncle who lived near Edinburgh. You had to pass through many gates to exit the farm. So I got out of the car and opened each gate and after the car had passed I also had to close and lock the gates. I accidentally locked myself inside the gate and everyone started laughing and so did I! On another day when we returned from Edinburgh city, we suddenly saw that the BBQ stand which was kept at the verandah behind, had fallen down. It was so very



heavy and big that a sheep could not have done it, so I sarcastically said "Maybe it was a ghost!" But we never found out how it actually fell

down! It was our last day in Scotland and we had to leave. My dad had told that the flight was at 7pm the next day and so we were relaxed and accordingly we went to sleep. But suddenly my mom woke me up at about 5 am! I asked her why she woke me up so early. She said that dad read the time wrong and that the flight time was 7 am and not 7 pm! It was raining heavily on the way to the airport. So, while exiting the farm it was difficult as there was water everywhere. We reached the airport, but we only thought we had reached the airport. But that was the cargo airport! We somehow managed to reach the airport but another problem popped out of nowhere. We had to return our rented car but the car rental company office was closed. After some time, to our relief we found out that we could leave the car keys in a box and go. Time was running too short for us, at last we entered the airport only at the nick of time. That was one of the greatest adventures I had gone through in my life. So our trip to Scotland remains very interestingly memorable to me.

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Excerpts from my Summer'14 Travelogue

Sanjukta Hazarika
Class XII



Day 1: Kuwait to Houston, Texas
5 movies (including a 'Toy Story' marathon), a few listens to The Vamps' new album, multiple short naps, three meals, and a while of just sitting in boredom later, we finally land in Houston Airport. For someone who hates flying and was dreading being stuck in a metal container in the air for 16 hours, I didn't have such a bad time after all! (that 'Toy Story' marathon must've helped)

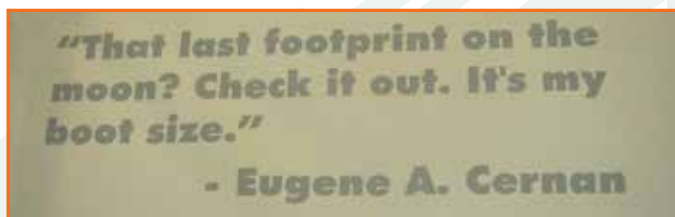
After spending ages in immigration, we met up with our longtime family friends who had come to take us over to their place. From our physical states, it was 12AM, but all the clocks in Houston were screaming "4PM". We had to conquer this jet lag. We reached their house, reunited and reminisced and surprisingly managed to stay awake till 'bedtime'.



Day 2: Houston, Texas
Guess what? We kicked jet lag right in the rear. We woke up fresh and ready to explore! After a nice homemade breakfast, we headed over to the Johnson Space Centre (aka. NASA Mission Control). We

managed to spend a couple of hours in there, saw some amazing stuff including the original mission control center and sat where Queen Elizabeth II sat during the Apollo 11 launch.

Day 3: San Antonio, Texas



Off to San Antonio we go! After a three-hour drive from Houston, through the Texas highways, we finally made it to the charming San Antonio. After a visit to the historical Alamo (a fort that was occupied by Texan volunteer soldiers during Texas' war of independence from Mexico) and a walk around the city, we headed to the vibrant River Walk (a network of walkways along the San Antonio River, full of restaurants, shops, hotels and live bands) and indulged in the glorious Tex-Mex cuisine and BBQ.

We headed for bed at a reasonable hour, as we had to be up early the next day to return to Houston via Austin.

Day 6: Miami, Florida

We were up before the sun on this morning to get on our plane from Houston to Miami. Once we landed, I decided that Miami looked and felt exactly like it does when we see it in the movies or on TV. Today we also had a rendezvous with our old Assamese family friends, from Oman, who are joining us for the rest of the trip.



Day 7: Key West, Florida

Today involved the most picturesque road trip I had ever been on. The three and a half hour route from Miami to Key West is basically a road through the turquoise-blue waters surrounding the Florida Keys. Key West itself is a tropical, historical and bustling island (Did I mention it's the origin of the Key Lime pie?). Before having lunch and heading back, we walked around town, and also visited the iconic home of Ernest Hemingway and the Southernmost point of Continental USA.

Day 9: Orlando, Florida.

Today my dad finally got to fulfill the promise he made to my little sister and me, years ago. We went to the Disney World, the biggest of all Disney parks consisting of 4 huge theme parks, 2 water parks, 27 themed resorts, 4 golf courses and a lot more stuff that would take me much too long to list. Basically, I had the time of my life and one would probably think we were crazy for trying to go to 3 of the 4 parks in one day (when others take more than a week), but our aching feet were definitely feeling it, but I was not going to complain (despite the fact that it rained all day) because after all I was in "the happiest place on earth".

The fireworks and castle lighting were indeed magical and pretty much the best thing I had ever seen. The glorious end to a perfect day!

Day 10: Orlando, Florida

If people would have thought us to be crazy because of us visiting 3 out of 4 Disney World parks in one day, they would check us out to be straight up insane for our plan today. We started off our day by driving to NASA's Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral. We managed to see one of the main launch pads and the actual van that drove many of the famous astronauts to the rockets, out of many other things, in the time we spent there. It was an amazing experience on its own.

Next, we drove over to the Universal Studios Theme Park, where we got very little time, but still managed to get on a few rides. For dinner, we walked over to Hard Rock Café right outside of the park. It also happened to be the biggest Hard Rock Café in the world. Apart from the scrumptious food, the buzzing ambience and the unique memorabilia, one thing that I will remember about it is the rotating vintage pink convertible, smack in the middle of the restaurant.

Day 13: Washington D.C.

'Exhausted' is the only word to describe my feelings at the moment. Maybe even 'slightly more educated'. That is the only way one may feel after visiting 5 museums, going around on a 'hop-on/hop-off' bus tour and the White House (and no, we did not meet Obama!).

Day 16: Philadelphia, PA to Paramus, NJ to Atlantic City, NJ
Today we were up at 7 in the morning ready to check out of our Philadelphia hotel. Although I was extremely enthusiastic in such early hours (a rarity), the rest of my family....not so much. We were in such a situation because after days of persuasion and a lot of drama, my parents had finally agreed to take a detour on our way to Atlantic City, NJ, for my sister and I to see The Vamps. They had just begun a tour in America and had scheduled in to have a free fan event at a mall in Paramus, NJ. For us, this meant an extra two hours to our drive in an unknown land and driving past New York City (where we are driving to in a few days, anyway)

All in all, the experience was one of a kind and extremely fun and even though my parents wouldn't admit it, I know they had a great time too!

Day 17: Atlantic City, New Jersey

This city is basically a holiday city famous for its casinos, entertainment, boardwalk and beach. Might I also add it's terrific for shopping! You won't have the time to get bored here. We had a great time just strolling on the boardwalk, people-watching, eating and just spending some time at our huge, eccentric hotel: The Trump Taj Mahal. We were saving the next day for shopping. Finally!

Day 19: New York City

We were already at the last leg of the tour and took our last road trip on this vacation. I wouldn't be needing the GPS on my phone to help navigate my dad through the roads anymore.

My first impression of New York was : "Wow!". It's just how I'd pictured it to be (except a little smellier and even crowded). But nonetheless, it was exciting.

We were lucky enough that our hotel was just a little off Times Square, so as soon as we checked in, we headed out to Times Square. After getting a little lost, getting bombarded by tour guides advertising their businesses, and having lunch in a café, we finally got to the iconic location.

One thing I learned about New York today was that there are just SO many people, no matter what time of day (or night). You have to be a fast walker to be with the flow. It truly is a city that never sleeps.

Day 20: New York City

The first location we headed out to this morning was the famed Central Park. We decided to go around it in rickshaws and had interesting conversations with the Malian guides/drivers. The conversations did include how much they loved Bollywood and how they were avid fans

of Shah Rukh Khan.

We ended the tour by going into the Central Park Zoo. While queuing up for tickets, I was surprised to hear a family of strangers behind us speaking in Assamese. We spoke to them only to find out that they happened to be from our hometown in Assam!

Walking around the park was such an enjoyable experience and the only disappointment was that I did not see 'Alex The Lion' or the rest of the animal crew from the Madagascar movies.

Day 21: New York City

We got on a 'hop on/hop off' bus this morning and headed to the Rockefeller Centre. We decided to walk around and kill some time around here so that we could head over to Times Square after a while to queue up for Broadway tickets. As we were walking towards the Rockefeller, we saw a small crowd gather outside the main entrance around barricades, as a Rolls Royce that said "Cheek to Cheek" on the back window stood. Curious, I asked a man standing there who it was they were waiting for and he replied "Lady Gaga!". Excitedly we grabbed our own spots in the crowd and decided we could wait there for a while as we had a little time to kill anyway. However, after waiting for around forty minutes we decided we had to leave and luckily, as we were walking away, I could here the crowd getting excited. I turned and caught a glimpse of Lady Gaga herself, as she took a few pictures with her fans and got into the car. Close enough, I guess!

After queuing for nearly 3 hours, we finally managed to get last-minute tickets to watch 'The Phantom of The Opera' on Broadway, for our big group of 8. The musical itself had managed to add itself on to my list of 'Amazing Experiences On This Trip.'

Day 23: New York City

After visiting the 'Top of The Rock' at the Empire State Building and the Museum of Natural History (among many other landmarks we visited today), and a cruise on the Hudson River, 'eventful' is the only way I could describe what was today.

On another note, a beautiful and touching thing I found out about on our visit to 9/11 Memorial today, was that a white rose was put next to the inscribed name of the victim on their birthday. We saw many white roses that day.

Day 26: New York City

The reason we were up early this morning was not to discover another new place, but to make our way to the JFK Airport to catch our long flight home instead. Although I was sad to leave, I was also feeling a little excited about just getting home to my own bed and shower...but other than that, I was mostly sad.

A nearly month-long, jam-packed, adventure had come to a close and I couldn't help but already feel the nostalgia kicking in.



A B de Villiers, the ultimate allrounder..the champ...the superman

Antarip Kashyap
Class VII

Abraham Benjamin de Villiers (more commonly known by his initials, AB) was born on February 17, 1984 in Pretoria, Transvaal Province, South Africa. He is the youngest of three sons born to parents Millie and Abraham Benjamin (who AB is named after) – his elder siblings being Jan (9 years older) and Wessels (6 years older). His mother works in estates, while his father is a doctor.

AB is a South African International cricketer par excellence who currently captains the South African cricket team, he also plays for Royal Challengers Bangalore (in IPL) and for



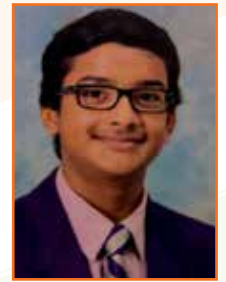
Nashua Titans (in South African premier league). He is widely regarded as the best batsman holding the current ranking of no. 1 ICC test batting rankings since 2013 and no. 5 in the ODIs. He is a very destructive batsman in the shorter formats of the game and currently holds the record for scoring fastest 50 (16 balls), 100 (31 balls) and 150 (64 balls) in ODI cricket. More than his batting prowess, he is an excellent fielder, currently one of the best in the world and an equally competent wicketkeeper - a true all-rounder indeed. De Villiers, was shortlisted by Cricket South Africa for the 2013 South African Cricketer of the Year award.

We have seen many players who play additional games along with their main game, and still many players couldn't excel in a single game. But De Villiers has been someone who has not just played multiple games along with cricket, rather he has achieved a lot and brought laurels in every discipline that he took part. AB is not just a cricket all-rounder but an allrounder in many disciplines. Following is a list of his achievements:

- Shortlisted for South Africa's junior national hockey

team.

- Was a member of South Africa's junior national football team.
- Was captain of South Africa's junior national rugby team.
- Still holds six South African school swimming records.
- Still holds the record in the 100m sprint in South Africa's junior athletics.
- Was a member of South Africa's junior Davis Cup tennis team.
- Was South Africa's U-19 national badminton champion.
- Has a golf handicap of scratch or zero, which means he is a player whose average score for a round of golf is par or better.
- Is recipient of the prestigious national medal from the Late Nelson Mandela for a science project.
- Is a decent singer as well. He has collaborated with South African singer-songwriter Ampie du Preez on the song Make Your Dreams Come True.



Christiano Ronaldo

Adit Kashyap
Class IV

Cristiano Ronaldo Dos Santos Aveiro was born on February 5th 1985. He is a pro-portuguese footballer who serves as the captain for Portugal and plays for Spanish giants Real Madrid C.F. He scored his 400th goal when he was aged 28. He is often ranked as the best player in the world alongside his rival Lipa Messi. Ronaldo began his career for Andorinha. Then he moved to C.D Nacional before he moved to Portuguese giants sporting cp. In 2003 he caught the attention of Manchester united manager sir Alex Ferguson who signed him for 12.2 million pounds.

He became the most expensive player when he made a move to Real Madrid C.F in 2009 for 80 million pounds. Now he is worth 1 billion pounds. Ronaldo won 3 premier league cups, one La Liga cup, one FA cup, two football league cups, two Copa del Reys, one Supercopa de España , two UEFA champion leagues, one UEFA super cup and two FIFA club world cups.



My favourite sport

Krishnangshu Talukdar
Class IV

Earlier I did not know anything about football. When I started seeing the matches of different players on TV I got more and more interested in football. Then I and my friends started playing football regularly in the football court inside our building campus. When Abhijit uncle saw us playing he encouraged us and he took us to a real ground. I was so excited that I went to buy a jersey for the game on the ground. One day I saw the matches of Barcelona and Real Madrid where many good players were playing. One of them was Messi. He is one of the best players in the world. This time he got the golden ball in the World Cup 2014. Now I am going to write a few lines on football.

the world, and millions of people regularly go to football stadium to follow their favorite team. A very large number of people also play football at an amateur level. There are many worldwide international competitions of football. Over 190 teams compete in qualifying tournaments. One of the major international competitions in football is the World Cup organized by the football fédérati  n. It is held every four years. This time Germany won the World Cup 2014.The next World Cup will be in 2018 in Russia. There are many other competitions like La liga, Barclays premier league, Serie A and there are many famous clubs like Barcelona, Real Madrid, Manchester City, Manchester United and Chelsea.

There are many professional players like Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo, Neymar Jr and Sergio Kun Aguero and also there are many professional retired footballers like Pel  , Diego Maradona and Zinedine Zidane who are still involved in the sport in many ways.



Football, which is my favorite sport, is a team sport played between two teams of eleven players each. The winner is the team which has scored the most goals in 90 minutes. It is a ball game played on rectangular grass field with a goal at each end. Football is played at a professional level all over



In Parting With A Friend

Shubhangi Sharma
Class VI

I believe friendship is the best thing ever and this year I will be parting from one of my best friends, Gargi. It is really sad to know about this because she has been here from a very long time, since I was three years old. I still remember when the first time I went to her house, we did not like each other's company but then in school in UKG we were in the same section. So gradually we became very good friends and then in all classes till 6th we were in different sections. So we did not get much time to talk to each other in school until this year when at first I was in a different section but later on I got shuffled to her section. When I saw her there I was really surprised and very very happy. After this we became even better friends and I enjoyed every single moment of class 6 with her.

But when I heard my parents talking about Gargi leaving Kuwait I was extremely sad, I could not believe that she was actually going, I felt like I am never going to see her

again. Recently in one of the birthday parties our friends were telling her that she must be very happy to go to a new place. But then she said, "How can I be happy? I will miss all my friends here and when anybody asks me about this I feel like crying". When I heard all these I also felt like crying and I was thinking that why such days of separation come to the lives of people. Can't we stay together forever? Anyways I wish Gargi a very happy and prosperous life wherever she goes I will always be waiting eagerly to meet her again. I will try my best to keep in contact with her wherever she goes and I will always miss her.

Bye bye Gargi!!!!



My Trip to Egypt – The land of Pyramids

Ms. Ameesha Talukdar
Class IV

I love travelling a lot. Last year, during my winter vacation I went to Egypt with my parents. My parents told me that Egypt is a very beautiful country and ancient Egypt was one of the greatest civilizations in the history of world.

Egypt is located along the river Nile in northern Africa. We stayed for four days in Egypt. Egypt is the land of Pyramids and pharaohs. We started our Egypt tour from Cairo, which has three big pyramids. The great pyramid of Giza is the oldest and largest. It is 146.5 meters tall. We went inside this pyramid which was a great experience. We visited the Museum of Cairo. A lot of ancient artifacts are stored carefully in this Museum. We saw five thousand years old mummies there. This Museum also has the golden, ceramic and wooden articles, jewelry



and precious things received from the pyramids of ancient Egyptian kings. We

also visited some tourist attractions of Cairo like mosque of Mohammed Ali, Cairo

tower, Mosque of Sultan Muayyed, the hanging church, cave church, famous Khan-El-Khalili market etc.



During our stay in Cairo we had a lovely dinner cruise in the river Nile. It was a great fun. The food and dance performance by the

belly dancers were awesome. I found that Egyptian people are very gentle and kind. They love kids very much. In Cairo we went to see the Papyrus Museum where I saw how the Papyrus papers are prepared. Papyrus paintings are very beautiful. Over all my Cairo trip was very exciting. I want to visit Egypt again.

Summer Of Twenty Fourteen

By Anchita Rajkhowa
Class VIII

In the summer of 2014, I and my sister were separated in a way that we would only meet once in 2 months. At the beginning I really liked this idea, but on the day I said goodbye I realized that all these years while we had lived together all I had done was annoy, quarrel and even beat her up and also sometimes get her busted by mama. I never actually knew her value until the day she left.

To a little girl an older sister is very helpful in many ways because their elder sisters have lived through their own childhood and have had experiences in dealing with situations. Also it's always easier for a teenage girl to talk to someone of the same gender and age. I still remember how I beat up a guy named Kevin of my grade recently because he had insulted my sister; honestly if he had said anything about her earlier I wouldn't have cared much but now if someone even mentions the word 'sister' I tend to become emotional.

The girly gossips between two sisters is always very interesting and spicy when it comes to discussing which girls' dress looked the worst or which boy looked good in the picture. I had so many curious topics to chat with my sister under open skies and when we were beginning to get real close to each other, we got separated. How can destiny be so cruel to me? But then it's always great to see her after two long months when she comes home; even though we may not be doing anything together, just the feeling that she is near me is enough to make me happy.

My sister has taught me a lot, helped me in all of my class projects and even lied to our parents at times to save me from imminent punishments. I know she's always protected my back. She has showed me how to french manicure, find the answers to tough math equations and helped me in so many other things that were beyond my capabilities. She has helped me to choose from the best pizza on the menu to the best TV show on air. Imagine if someone who plays such an important role in someone's life and they are then separated how would they feel. Our home has become super lonely without her. I can't get to fight over which actor looks better or whose cake tastes better. Now that she is not here I have learnt her value but it's alright as I always have Runjun for company. I have a dream - after both of us, Kimkim ba and I, pass out of college, we will have an apartment with a TV screen as big as 180 inches and an awesome home theatre and a great collection of our favourite movies and a popcorn machine and also a cotton candy machine. We will chat and chat and chat to our heart's content.

I am pretty sure I will never try liking the summer of twenty fourteen. Just like the Bryan Adams song 'Summer of Sixty Nine' the best days of my life were until twenty fourteen.



Some funny memories of my childhood

Some memories are just unforgettable...especially the ones of our childhood days when life was so simple yet so cool...when we did not know much and we used to say anything without thinking about it twice, when truth was the only thing we knew, when there were no lies, no games, no hatred towards each other. Life was so pleasant those times, as a kid myself I used to be carefree and used to say whatever I used to see. There was a time when I used to go to the bank with my dad and see him operating all sorts of button and money would come out of the ATM, I wouldn't

lie but it certainly did fancy me, so I used to tell all our visitors about the incident not knowing anything but narrating that money can be obtained by pressing several buttons and it was that simple to obtain money....I used to tell everyone how rich my dad was obviously exaggerating on that part, as I didn't know that everyone worked hard for the money they used to get from the ATM.

Shreya Kashyap
Class VIII



Magh Bihu - 2015



Rongali Bihu - 2014





Prothom Bohag - 2014



Autumn Festival - 2014



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✍ দেৱাহতি কাকতি দাস

দুলিয়াজানৰ পৰা যেতিয়া প্ৰথমবাৰৰ বাবে বাহৰেইনলৈ আহিছিলো (২০০৭ চনত) দুগৰাকীমান শুভাকাংক্ষী আৰু বান্ধৱীয়ে কৈছিল — Facebook ত লগ পাম দেই। সেই প্ৰথম Facebook শব্দটোৰ সৈতে পৰিচয়! তাৰ আগলৈকে নেজানো Facebook খায় নে কাণত পিন্ধে!

তাৰ পিছতো দুবছৰ পাৰ হৈ গ'ল। বাহৰেইনৰ পৰা অহাৰ আগে আগে ২০০৯ চনৰ কোনোবা এটা দিনত মোৰ এজনী বান্ধৱীয়ে (Loveena Dantes) এটা Account খুলি দিলে। খুলি দিলেহে— মোৰ কিন্তু কোনো সম্পৰ্ক নাছিল। ২০১০ ত আমি কুৱেইটলৈ আহিলো। কুৱেইটত মোক সকলোৱেই সুধিবলৈ ধৰিলে— তোমাৰ Facebook নাই নেকি? খোলা আকৌ! মাহটো পাহৰিলোঁ— মুঠতে ২০১০ ৰ কোনোবা এটা মাহত মই মোৰ Facebook Account টো revive কৰিলো। তাৰ পিছত কুৱেইটৰ সকলো বন্ধু-বান্ধৱী আৰু দুলিয়াজানৰো বহুতৰে friend request পাবলৈ ধৰিলে। লাহে লাহে আত্মীয়-স্বজন, দূৰত থকা সংযোগ হেৰাই যোৱা বন্ধু বা আত্মীয়ৰ লগতে সংযোগ স্থাপন হ'ল। ভাল লগা হৈ আহিল Facebook — Facebook মই সদায় নোখোলোঁ। সপ্তাহত দুদিন বা তিনিদিন। ভাল লাগে বহুতৰ photo upload কৰা দেখিলে, কোনোবা দূৰৈত থকা ল'ৰা-ছোৱালীৰ achievement ৰ photo দেখিলো, কোনোবাৰ মাক-দেউতাকৰ ফটো দেখিলে....। Facebook ৰ addiction মোৰ একেবাৰে নাই, আনকি Facebook নহ'লেও মোৰ চলি যায়। Facebook ত game খেলি বা অন্যান্য কিবা-কিবি কৰি কেনেকৈনো মানুহে সময় পাৰ কৰে সেয়া মোৰ বাবে আশ্চৰ্য্যৰ কথাই নহয়, বিৰক্তি কৰো!

আজিৰ এই যুগত Facebook ৰ জনপ্ৰিয়তা তুলনাবিহীন। Facebook ৰ জন্মদাতা Mark Zuckerberg এ নিজেও কিজানি ভবা নাছিল Facebook ৰ জনপ্ৰিয়তা ইমান অভাৱনীয় হ'ব বুলি।

ইমানদিনে মই Facebook যুৱচামৰ মাজত বেছি জনপ্ৰিয় বুলি ভাবিছিলো— কিন্তু আজি কিছুদিনৰ আগতে অসমৰ জনপ্ৰিয় বাতৰি কাকত 'আমাৰ অসমত' প্ৰকাশিত IRS বিষয়া লীনা শৰ্মাৰ Facebook ৰ ওপৰত লিখা এটা প্ৰৱন্ধ পঢ়িলো। তাৰ পৰাহে গম পালোঁ— যুৱচাম নহয়, মধ্যবয়সীয়া চামহে Facebook ৰ সৈতে বেছি জড়িত। Facebook ৰ উপযোগিতা-অনুপযোগিতা সমাজত কিমান বাঢ়িছে, Facebook ৰ ব্যৱহাৰে সামাজিক সম্পৰ্কবোৰৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত লাভতকৈ লোকচানহে কৰিছে সেইটো তেওঁৰ প্ৰৱন্ধটো পঢ়িলেই অনুধাৱন কৰিব পাৰি। প্ৰৱন্ধটোত তেওঁ Facebook ৰ প্ৰয়োজনীয়তা বা অপ্ৰয়োজনীয়তা তেওঁ ইমান সুন্দৰভাৱে বৰ্ণনা কৰিছে যে তাৰ কিয়দংশ share কৰাৰ লোভ সামৰিব নোৱাৰিলো।

লেখিকাৰ invitation আছিলে তিনিঘৰত dinner ৰ কাৰণে। একেদিনাইনো কেনেকৈ তিনিও ঘৰলৈ যাব, তাতে বেলেগ বেলেগ ঠাইত থাকে। গতিকে তেওঁ দুগৰাকী বান্ধৱীক ফোন কৰি ক'লে যে সেইদিনা যোৱাটো সম্ভৱ নহয়— তেওঁৰ পেটৰ অসুখ হৈছে। যথাসময়ত লেখিকা অন্যগৰাকী বান্ধৱীৰ ঘৰত dinner খাবলৈ গ'ল। Dinner start হোৱাৰ লগে লগে বান্ধৱীয়ে ঘণ্ণপকৈ কেইবাখনো ফটো তুলিলে আৰু লগে লগে upload কৰি দিলে। পিছদিনা ৰাতিপুৱা দুয়োগৰাকী বান্ধৱীৰে ফোন— যোৱাকালিৰ dinner টো বৰ tasty হৈছিল নহয়? Chicken খিনি কেনেকৈ বনাইছিল? দেখিবলৈ বৰ ধুনীয়া হৈছিল। কি কি বনাইছিল? তোমাক কাপোৰ যোৰাৰে সৈতে বৰ ধুনীয়া দেখিছিল! লেখিকাৰ অৱস্থা কি হ'ব? অনুমান কৰক।

এইবাৰ অন্য এজনী বান্ধৱীৰ কথা। তেওঁ south ৰ ফালে ফুৰিবলৈ গৈছিল। ঘূৰি আহি ফটো upload কৰিলে। ৰাতি ডেৰ বজাত লেখিকাক ফোন কৰি সুধিলে— মই যে ফটো upload কৰিছো দেখিছা নে নাই? লেখিকাই উত্তৰ দিলে— দেখিছো। লগে লগে বান্ধৱীয়ে সুধিলে like কৰা নাই কিয়? কৰিবা আকৌ.... এতিয়ালৈকে ৮৭ like আহিছে!

এগৰাকী বান্ধৱীয়ে আকৌ like নিদিয়া বাবে লেখিকাক মাতিবলৈ এৰিয়েই দিছিল। এয়া এগৰাকী মানুহৰ ব্যক্তিগত অনুভৱ যদিও বিষয়বস্তুৰ সাৰ্বজনীনতা সকলোৰে ক্ষেত্ৰত প্ৰযোজ্য।



Facebook ৰ অপ-প্ৰয়োগৰ ওপৰত থকা এটা কৌতুক share কৰাৰ লোভ সামৰিব নোৱাৰিলো—

‘ককায়েক দৌৰাদৌৰিকৈ ঘৰলৈ আহিছে — ডাঙৰবিধ কৰিবলৈ বাথৰুমৰ দজ্জা জপাবলৈ ধৰোতেই ভনীয়েকে খেচেকৈ mobile ত ফটো তুলি upload কৰি দিলে— ‘Going to toilet’! বিয়াৰ শেষত দৰাঘৰলৈ যাবলৈ ওলাওঁতে কইনাই কান্দিছে— মাকে কৈছে— pause ভালকৈ দিবি দেই! ফটোবোৰ upload হৈ আছে। ককাক ঢুকাইছে— চাবি দেই বেয়াকৈ নেকান্দিবি, photo বোৰ upload হৈ আছে! এনেকৈ আমাৰ emotion, সামাজিক বান্ধোন আৰু ব্যৱস্থাবোৰৰ ওপৰত Facebook এ কিমান বিকল্প প্ৰভাৱ পেলাইছে এই উদাহৰণ কেইটাই যথেষ্ট।

Facebook ৰ ভাল দিশ মোৰ মতে বেছিনাই। Times of India ত এজন লেখকে লিখিছিল— ‘Facebook is the only book that wastes your time!’

Facebook এ পুৰণি বন্ধু-বান্ধৱী, আত্মীয়-স্বজনৰ সৈতে সম্পৰ্ক ৰখাৰ এক সুবিধা দিয়ে।

ইয়াৰোপৰি গণ আন্দোলনৰ সময়ত ব্যাপক জনসমৰ্থন অথবা message কৰিবলৈ Facebook অতি জনপ্ৰিয় আৰু সুবিধাজনক মাধ্যম। উদাহৰণস্বৰূপে— আন্না হাজাৰেৰ গণ আন্দোলন আৰু ইজিপ্তৰ গণ অভ্যুত্থান।

আনহাতে Facebook ৰ অপকাৰিতা অনেক। সময় নষ্ট হোৱাৰ উপৰিও বহুতৰে family life নষ্ট হোৱাৰো উদাহৰণ আছে। Facebook ত fake account খুলি কিছুমানে আকৌ নিজৰ আখোজ পুৰাবলৈ কোনো কোনোৱে কাৰোবাৰ অন্তৰীল ফটো upload কৰে, সামাজিক ভাৱে উপলুঙা কৰে, ইতিকিং কৰে।

শেষত এটা কথাই ক’ব খুজিছো facebook ৰ প্ৰয়োজনীয়তা-অপ্ৰয়োজনীয়তাৰ সম্পৰ্কে আমি যিমানেই তৰ্ক নকৰোঁ কিয় Facebook আমাৰ সামাজিক জীৱনৰ এটা অঙ্গ হৈ পৰিছে। Facebook ৰ ব্যৱহাৰৰ ওপৰতে নিৰ্ভৰ কৰিব আমাৰ ভৱিষ্যত সামাজিক জীৱন আৰু সমাজ ব্যৱস্থা।

— : সপোন : —

শ্ৰী আলোক কুমাৰ দাস



কল্পনাৰ নিহালিখন

লৈছোহে মাথোন

এনেতে মোৰ বুকুৰ মাজলৈ

কুৰুকি সোমাই আহিল

এটা নিটোল সপোন।

মোক জপতিয়াই ধৰি

শুই থাকিল সপোন

ওৰোটো ৰাতি।

কৈ থাকিল কাণে কাণে

দুখৰ দিনতো সদায় নাথাকে সোণ

হিলদল ভাঙি আহিছে চোৱা

অমৃত নে সুখৰ বিৰাট বিপুল ঢল।।।

== অন্তহীন অপেক্ষা ==



✍ দেৱাহুতি কাকতি দাস

দুপৰীয়া দুইমান বজাৰে পৰা ঘৰটোত ইফাল-সিফাল কৰি থকাটো বৰষাৰ এটা পুৰণিদিনীয়া অভ্যাস। দৰাচলতে এই সময়খিনি অসমীয়া মানুহৰ ভাত-ঘুমতিৰ সময়। তাই কিন্তু কোনোকালে এই অভ্যাসটোক প্ৰশ্নই নিদিলে। তাতকৈ ভাল লগা কিতাপ বা আলোচনী অথবা ফুলৰ টাব খুচৰিয়েই সময়বোৰ পাৰ কৰিছিল। বিয়াৰ পিছত সীমান্ত অফিচৰ পৰা আহিয়েই তাইক বাৰান্দাত দেখা পোৱাটো এক অভ্যাসত পৰিণত হৈছিল। হাত-মুখ ধুই তাই যতনাই খোৱা জলপানেৰে আবেলিৰ চাহকাপৰ জুতি লৈছিল। খোৱা-বোৱাত খুউব চখ আছিল সীমান্তৰ। সেয়েহে পুৱা অফিচলৈ যোৱাৰ পিছত দিনৰ সাজৰ লগতে ৰাতিৰ সাজৰ কাৰণেও ঠিক-ঠাক কৰি থৈছিল। কাৰণ অফিচৰ পৰা অহাৰ পিছত সীমান্তই তাই পাকঘৰত সোমাই থকাটো পচন্দ কৰা নাছিল। বাহিৰত কমকৈ কথা-বতৰা কোৱা মানুহটোৱে অনৰ্গল কথা কৈছিল তাইৰ ওচৰত। দৰাচলতে বৰষা আছিল শ্ৰোতা। সৰুতে মাক-আইতাকে কি সাধুকথা কৈছিল, মাকে কেনেকৈ স্কুলত কাম কৰিও

এটাৰ পৰা উভতোতে অলপ দেৰি হ'ল, বোধকৰোঁ চাৰিমান বাজিলে, সীমান্ত সাধাৰণতে চাৰে তিনিমান বজাতহে ঘৰ সোমায়। 'উফঃ.. সেইদিনা সীমান্তৰ কি অভিমানে! গায়ে-মূৰে কাপোৰ লৈ শুই আছে— কত দেৰি কাকুতি-মিনতি কৰাৰ পিছতহে উঠি আহিল। মুঠতে অফিচৰ সময়খিনিৰ বাহিৰে সীমান্তই অনবৰতে তাই তাৰ ছাঁ হৈ থকাটো বিচাৰিছিল। সৰুতে মাকক হেৰুওৱা কাৰণেই নেকি সীমান্তৰ মনটো বৰ মৰম আকলুৱা আছিল। পুৰুষে পত্নীৰ মাজতে বিচাৰে প্ৰেমিকা, পত্নী আৰু মাতৃৰ প্ৰতিচ্ছবি। সীমান্তৰ সকলো হেঁপাহ, মৰম, আব্দাৰ পূৰ কৰিছিল বৰষাই। একো অভিযোগ ৰখাৰ সুযোগ দিয়া নাছিল সীমান্তক।

এনেকৈ বিয়াৰ তিনিবছৰ পূৰ হওঁতেই সিহঁত দুয়োৰে জীৱনলৈ আহিছিল সিহঁতৰ যুগ্মজীৱনৰ সাক্ষী স্বৰূপে একমাত্ৰ সন্তান— সাক্ষী। সাক্ষী নামটো ৰাখিছিল সীমান্তই। সাক্ষীক লৈ সীমান্তৰ কিমান যে জল্পনা-কল্পনা। তাইৰ তিনিমাহ নৌহওঁতেই তাইকনো কি পঢ়ুৱালে ভাল হ'ব তাৰো সপোন দেখিবলৈ আৰম্ভ কৰিলে। কেতিয়াবা বিৰক্ত হৈ তাই কৈ উঠে— তাই হ'হা আৰম্ভ কৰিছেহে, কেনেকৈ তোমাৰ কথা বুজি পাব লাগিলে **tension** তে তাইৰ হ'হা বন্ধ হৈ যাব! আকৌ সাক্ষীৰ **Birth day** ডাঙৰকৈ পাতিব, নে অন্তৰ্ভাসন ডাঙৰকৈ পাতিব; কি কি খুৱাব; ঘৰতে ৰভা-পৰলা দি পাতিব নে ক্লাবতে পাতিব। — উফ্ কিমান যে কল্পনা মানুহজনৰ! অফিচৰ পৰা আহি সদায় ওচৰৰ **park** খনলৈ সাক্ষীক এপাক লৈ যোৱাটো আৰু গধূলি গাড়ীখনেৰে **colony** টোতে নতুবা ওচৰৰ বজাৰ খনলৈ যোৱাটো সিহঁতৰ এটা অভ্যাসত পৰিণত হৈছিল।

এনেকৈ দিনবোৰ পাৰ হৈছিল। এদিন হঠাতে **office** ৰ পৰা আহি সীমান্তই ক'লে সি হেনো অফিচৰ কামতে ২৫ দিনৰ কাৰণে কুৱেইটলৈ যাব লাগিব। কুৱেইটখন তেলৰ চহকী দেশ বুলিয়েই বৰষাই জানে তাৰ বাহিৰে একো নেজানে। বিয়াৰ পিছত সীমান্তই দুবাৰ বাহিৰলৈ গৈছিল— এবাৰ দিল্লীলৈ আৰু আনবাৰ পাৰাদ্বীপলৈ। দুয়োবাৰ তায়ো লগত গৈছিল। দিল্লীলৈ যাওঁতে আত্মা আৰু ৰাজস্থানো চাই আহিছিল। পাৰাদ্বীপলৈ যাওঁতে তেনেকৈ চোৱা হৈছিল কলকতা, পুৰী, ভূৱনেশ্বৰ। আত্মাৰ পৰা অনা তাজমহলটো কিনোতে সীমান্তই কৈছিল— মইতো আৰু তোমাৰ কাৰণে তাজমহল সাজিব নোৱাৰিম, সেইকাৰণে এইটো কিনিয়েই দিলোঁ। ফুৰিবলৈ কাৰ ভাল নালাগে? সেয়েহে মুখত হাঁহি লৈ তাই সুধিছিল— মোক নিনিয়া এইবাৰ? সীমান্তই কৈ উঠিছিল— নিবলৈ নো কাৰ মন নেযায়, পিছে সেইবোৰ দেশত **Visa** পোৱাটো বৰ টান, তাতে মাইনাও সৰু হৈ আছে। যদি ভগৱানে কৰে **London, America** ৰ ফালে **Training** হ'লে তোমাকো লৈ যাম। সেইবোৰ দেশহে চাবলৈ ভাল। শুনিছো



তাঁত-শালত বহিছিলে, দেউতাকৰ লগত পঢ়োতে খোৱা এচাৰিৰ কোব, স্কুল-কলেজৰ সহপাঠী আৰু শিক্ষকৰ সতে হোৱা ঘটনা আৰু অফিচৰ কাম-কাজৰো খুঁটি-নাতিৰ বৰ্ণনা দিছিল সীমান্তই। তাই কেৱল ছঁ-হাঁ কৰি থাকিছিল। কেতিয়াবা আমনি লাগিলেও উপায় নাই, শুনিবই লাগিব। নহ'লে সীমান্তৰ ওফোণ্ড লাগে। এবাৰ সীমান্তৰ বন্ধু অনলৰ পত্নী মানসীয়ে দিয়া **Ladies party**



Middle East হেনো সোণৰ কাৰণে বিখ্যাত। তোমাৰ আৰু মাইনাৰ কাৰণে দুডাল ধুনীয়া chain লৈ আহিম দিয়া হ'বনে? তাই কৈছিল— তুমি ভালে ভালে ঘূৰি আহা, সোণৰ চেইনৰ কথা পিছে পৰেও হ'ব।

যোৱাৰ দিনবোৰ চমু চাপি আহিছিল। বন্দোৱস্ত হ'ল তাইৰ মাক আহি তাইৰ লগত থাকিব। তাইৰ ঘৰ যিহেতু ডিব্ৰুগড়ত, গতিকে বৌৱেক, ভায়েক, ককায়েক সকলোৱে মাজে মাজে খবৰ লৈ থাকিব। যথাসময়ত দিনটো আহিল— সেইদিনা ৰাতিপুৱা কামৰ ফাঁকে-ফাঁকে সি সাক্ষীক বুকুৰ মাজত সুমুৱাই মৰম কৰি থাকিল। যথাসময়ত Office ৰ গাড়ীখন আহিল। সাক্ষীক কোলাত লৈ তাই আৰু তাইৰ মাকে গাড়ীখন নেদেখা হোৱালৈ চাই থাকিল। তেতিয়া হাততে পোৱাকৈ mobile টো বাদেই telephone ও ঘৰে ঘৰে নাছিল। সেয়েহে সীমান্ত দিল্লী আৰু তাৰ এদিন পিছত কুৱেইট পোৱাৰ খবৰো office ৰ বচ বৰুৱা ছাৰে জনালে। Oil



India ত ওপৰৰ জনক সদায় দাদা সম্বোধনেৰে সম্বোধন কৰা হয়, ঠিক তেনেদৰে তেওঁৰ পৰিবাৰক সম্বোধন কৰা হয় বৌ বুলি— যাতে সকলোৰে মাজত এক আপোনভাৱ জাগি উঠে। সেই সুবাদতে বৰুৱাদা ৰুণা বৌ, অফিচৰ সহকৰ্মী আৰু বন্ধুসকলে আহি প্ৰতিদিনে তাইৰ খবৰ লৈছিল, বজাৰ-সমাৰ, হস্পিতেললৈ নিয়াকে ধৰি সকলো কামেই তেওঁলোকে নিজে আগভাগ লৈ কৰিছিল। কোনো অসুবিধা নোহোৱাকৈ তাইৰ দিনবোৰ পাৰ হৈছিল। মাজতে বৰুৱাদাৰ ঘৰত ৰাতি ভাতৰ নিমন্ত্ৰণ ৰক্ষা কৰিবলৈ যাওঁতে দাদাই সীমান্তৰ স'তে ফোনত যোগাযোগ কৰাই দিলে। ইমান দিনৰ মূৰত সীমান্তৰ মাতযাৰ শুনি তাই আনন্দত আত্মহাৰা হৈছিল। ঘৰৰ সকলোৰে ভাল-বেয়া খবৰ সোধাৰ লগতে কৈছিল— মোৰ কথা চিন্তা নকৰিবা, ইয়াত থকা মেলা, খোৱা-বোৱা সকলো ভাল, মই আৰামতে আছোঁ। সাক্ষীক ভালকৈ চাবা আৰু দুসপ্তাহৰ পিছত মই গৈ ঘৰ পামগৈ। তাইলৈ আৰু সাক্ষীলৈ

বুলি দুডাল চেইন কিনাৰ কথাও ক'লে। কথাৰ মাজতে বৰষায়ে তাক সোঁৱৰাই দিলে য'ত ত'ত ঘূৰি নুফুৰিবা, ধূলিৰ পিনে নেযাবা, তোমাৰ dust allergy আছে নহয়; সাৱধানে থাকিবা।

ইমানদিনৰ মূৰত ফোনত সীমান্তৰ মাতযাৰ শুনি তাইৰ মনৰ খু-দুৰনিবোৰ আঁতৰ হ'ল— সেইদিনা তাইৰ টোপনিও ভাল হ'ল। News চোৱা বা শুনা অথবা বাতৰি কাকত পঢ়াটো hobby নহয় কিন্তু সীমান্ত কুৱেইটলৈ যোৱাৰ পিছত newspaper খনত এবাৰ চকু ফুৰোৱাটো আৰু গধূলি এবাৰ Doordarshan ৰ news চোৱাটো এক প্ৰকাৰ অভ্যাসত পৰিণত কৰিলে। বৰুৱাদাৰ ঘৰৰ পৰা অহাৰ দুদিন পিছতে news ত দেখিলে ইৰাকী সৈন্যৰ কুৱেইট আক্ৰমণ। একো উৱাদিহ নাপাই তাই বৰুৱাদালৈ ফোন কৰিলে। বৰুৱাদাই ক'লে— “ময়ো এইমাত্ৰ news ত হে দেখিছো। একো চিন্তা নকৰিবা। সকলো ঠিকে ঠাকে থাকিব। কাইলৈ ৰাতিপুৱাই মই Delhi Office ৰ সৈতে কথা পাতিম। সেই নিশা তাইৰ টোপনি নাছিল। পিছদিনা দুপৰীয়া বৰুৱাদাই নিজে phone কৰি জনালে— সকলো ঠিকে আছে। বোধকৰো খুউব সোনকালে সীমান্তহঁতক দেশলৈ ঘূৰাই অনা হ'ব। তাইৰ মনটোৱে স্বস্তিৰ নিশ্বাস এৰিলে। যুদ্ধ আৰম্ভ হোৱাৰ চাৰিদিনৰ দিনা খবৰ আহিল যে ভাৰত চৰকাৰে কুৱেইটত থকা সকলো ভাৰতীয়কে দেশলৈ উভতি আহিবৰ বাবে প্ৰয়োজনীয় সকলো ব্যৱস্থা গ্ৰহণ কৰিছে। সেইমতে চামে চামে মানুহবোৰ ভাৰতলৈ ঘূৰি আহিবলৈ আৰম্ভ কৰিলে। মানুহবোৰ ওভতাৰ এসপ্তাহ পাৰ হৈ গ'ল। সীমান্তৰ কোনো খা-খবৰ নাই। তাইক আশ্বস্ত কৰি ৰখা অফিচৰ বৰমূৰীয়া, সীমান্তৰ সহকৰ্মী, বন্ধু-বান্ধৱ, ওচৰ-চুবুৰীয়া সকলোৰে মুখবোৰ চিন্তাক্লিষ্ট হৈ উঠিল। দুসপ্তাহ পাৰ হৈ ইতিমধ্যে তিনি সপ্তাহত ভৰি দিলেহি। সীমান্তৰ একো খবৰেই নাই। লাহে লাহে সপ্তাহ গৈ মাহত সোমাল, এমাহ দুমাহ কৈ কেবামাহো পাৰ হ'ল। Indian Ambassay ও কোনোধৰণৰ খবৰ দিব পৰা নাই। কোনোবাই কয় সীমান্ত হেনো কোনোবাৰ সতে ইৰাণ, আফগানিস্তান, পাকিস্তান হৈ ভাৰতত সোমাব খুজিছিল, বাটতে ধূলিৰ ধুমুহাই পালে; বাট ভুল হৈ গ'ল। কোনোবাই কয় সীমান্তক ইৰাকীবোৰে spy বুলি ভাবিলে— বিভিন্ন উৰি উৰি অহা কথা।

এটা সময়ত যুদ্ধ শেষ হ'ল। কিন্তু সীমান্ত যে হেৰাল— হেৰায়েই গ'ল, কোনো খবৰ পোৱা নগ'ল।

তাৰ পিছৰ ঘটনাবোৰ চমু। এটা বছৰ সীমান্তলৈ বাট চাই চাই তাই দুলিয়াজানত কটালে। তাৰ মাজতে বৰুৱাদা, ৰুণা বৌ, ঘনিষ্ঠ বন্ধু-বান্ধৱী কেইজনে মিলি সাক্ষীৰ প্ৰথম birth day টো পাতিছিল। তাই কেৱল শৰাই এখন দিছিল— গোসাঁইৰ আগত। মাকে অকণমান পায়স বনাইছিল। ৰুণা বৌৱে বৰ ধুনীয়া এটা কেক বনাই আনিছিল। বন্ধু-বান্ধৱবোৰৰ কোনোবা দুজনীমানে

পোলাও, কোনোবা দুজনীমানে মাংস কোনোবা দুজনীমানে মিলি sweet dish বনাই আনি সিহঁতৰ ঘনিষ্ঠ কেইজনৰ লগত বৰ আটোম-টোকাৰিকৈ birth day টো পাতিছিল। সেইদিনা ৰাতিপুৱাৰে পৰা তাইৰ বুকুখন হেঁচা মাৰি ধৰিছিল এক অনামী শোকে। চকুপানীবোৰ বাবে বাৰে মচি আছিল। মনত আশা কৰিছিল— এই যেন গেটখন খুলি সীমান্ত সোমাই আহিব— সকলোকে surprise দিব....। কিমান যে জল্পনা-কল্পনা আছিল এই দিনটোক লৈ সীমান্তৰ। কিন্তু নাই, সীমান্ত বিহীনভাৱেই সাক্ষীৰ জন্মদিনটো উদ্‌যাপন কৰিলে। কেক কটাৰ সময়ত আৰু তাই ৰ'ব নোৱাৰিলে। হুক্‌হুক্‌ই কান্দোনত ভাঙি পৰিল। উপস্থিত সকলোৰে মৰম আদৰে তাইক লাহে লাহে প্রকৃতিস্থ কৰিলে।

এদিন সকলোৰে মৰম আদৰৰ পৰা বিদায় লৈ সাক্ষীক বুকুত সাৰটি তাই গুৱাহাটী পালেহি। এটা দুটাকৈ সাক্ষীৰ কেবাটাও birth day পাৰ হৈ গ'ল। সাক্ষী স্কুলৰ পৰা কলেজ পালে আৰু এদিন Bangalore ৰ Software প্রতিষ্ঠান এটাত চাকৰিত সোমাল।

সাক্ষীৰ অৱৰ্তমানৰ সময়ছোৱা বৰ আমনিদায়ক হৈ পৰিল বৰষাৰ বাবে। সীমান্ত যোৱাৰ পিছত এনে এটা দিন নাই যিদিনাখন তাই সীমান্তৰ কথা ভবা নাই। এদিন আধা ঘণ্টা দেৰিকৈ ঘৰ সোমাওতে সি ওফোন্দ পাতিছিল। কিন্তু আজি প্ৰায় ২৪ বছৰেই হ'ব— বৰষাই কেৱল অপেক্ষাই কৰি আছে— তাইৰ আশা কোনোবাদিনা হঠাতে সীমান্ত আহি ওলাবহি। হয়তো ইৰাণ বা আফগানিস্তানৰ কোনো সীমান্তৱৰ্তী গাঁৱত সীমান্ত আছেগৈ - পৰিচয়বিহীন ভাৱে— এদিন উভতি আহিব। Indian Embassy ত তাইৰ Phone No. টো দি থোৱা আছে। তাই এতিয়াও আশা কৰে তাইৰ mobile টোত কোনোবাদিনা সীমান্তৰ গুৰু গম্ভীৰ স্বৰ ভাঁহি উঠিব— বৰষা ভালে আছেনে!!!

১৯৯০ ৰ ইৰাকৰ কুৱেইট আগ্ৰাসনৰ সময়ত কুৱেইটলৈ অহা Oil India, Duliajan ৰ এজন অভিযন্তা আজিলৈকে সন্মানহীন হৈ আছে। গল্পটোত এই ঘটনাটো কেৱল জুমুঠি হিচাপেহে ধৰা হৈছে। বাকী সকলো চৰিত্ৰ, ঘটনা কাল্পনিক। যদি অজ্ঞাতসাৰে লেখিকাই কিবা ভুল কৰিছে তাৰ বাবে লিখিকা দুঃখিত।



== সীধনাবাৰিৰ প্ৰভা ==

✍ ভাৰতী শৰ্মা



“He who is unable to live in society or who has no need because he is sufficient must be either beast or a god.”

– Aristotle

মানুহ সমাজপ্ৰিয় প্ৰাণী। মানুহৰ মানসিক আৰু বৌদ্ধিক বিকাশৰ বাবে সমাজ অপৰিহাৰ্য্য। শৈশৱস্থাবে পৰা বৃদ্ধাৱস্থালৈ জীৱনৰ প্ৰতিটো স্তৰতে মানুহক লগ বা সঙ্গৰ প্ৰয়োজন। সন্তান-সন্ততিৰে ভৰা ঘৰ এখনত ব্যস্ত জীৱনটিৰ দিনবোৰ বাগৰি মাহ কেনেকৈ পাৰ হয়, মাহবোৰ বাগৰি গৈ বছৰটি কেনেকৈ পাৰ হয় ভাবিবলৈকে যেন মানুহে সময় নাপায়। কিন্তু যেতিয়া নিজৰ সাংসাৰিক দায়িত্ববোৰ সম্পূৰ্ণ হয়, তেতিয়াহে ভাবিলগীয়া হয় সময়বোৰ কেতিয়া পাৰ হ’ব; কোনে কাক কেনেকৈ লগ দিব বা সঙ্গ দিব। তাৰ মাজতে নিজকে ব্যস্ত কৰি ৰাখিব পৰাকৈ কিছু সমল নিজে গোটাৰ পৰা জন সঁচাকৈ আশীৰ্বাদিত। জীৱনটিক ন-ৰূপত গঢ় দি নতুনকৈ চাব জনাটোৱেই জ্ঞানীজনৰ কাম। মৰম দিব জানিলেহে মৰম পায়। গতিকে বয়স অনুপাতে তাকে কৰিব জনাজনেই চাগৈ সুখী।

যি হওঁক মোৰো বহু ব্যস্ততাৰ মাজৰ পৰা আঁতৰি আহি কুৱেইটত পুত্ৰ-বোৱাৰীৰ লগত কিদৰে সময়বোৰ পাৰ হ’ব তাকে চিন্তা কৰি মনে মনে ভয় হৈছিল। পিচে আঠটা বছৰ কেনেকৈ যথেষ্ট সুন্দৰকৈ পাৰ হৈ গ’ল গমকে নাপালোঁ। মই যেন আৱিষ্কাৰ কৰিলোঁ মানুহৰ মাজত দেখোন মৰম-সাদৰ আৰু মানৱীয়তাৰ অভাৱেই নাই। যোৱা গৰমৰ বন্ধত আকৌ প্ৰায় ছমাহ মানৰ বাবে আছিলোঁগৈ বাঙ্গালোৰত সৰু পুত্ৰৰ পৰিয়ালৰ লগত। নাতিটোৰ মৌসনা মিঠা মাত আৰু হেঁপাহে দিছিল জীৱনৰ নতুন অৰ্থ। তাৰ মাজতে অৱশ্যে ল’ৰা-বোৱাৰীৰ ব্যস্ত জীৱনত মোৰো দিনবোৰ যে কেতিয়াবা কিছু আমনিদায়ক হোৱা নাছিল তেনে নহয়। তেতিয়াই বিচাৰিছিলো কথা পতাৰ লগ এটি। তেনেতে এদিন দেখিলো সন্মুখৰ ঘৰটোতো আৰু এগৰাকী মাক। তেওঁলোক হিন্দীভাষী। ওলাওঁতে সোমাওঁতে মাথো দুয়াৰ-এয়াৰ কথা-বতৰা হয়। দেখাত সহজ-সৰল, পৰিধানত নিচেই নিয়মীয়া বিহাৰ, উত্তৰ প্ৰদেশৰ দৰে সাজপাৰ। কেনেকুৱা লাগিব ধৰিব পৰা নাই। এদিন দেখিলোঁ তেখেতৰ পুতেক-বোৱাৰীয়েক নাতি-নাতিনী নিজৰ নিজৰ কামত ওলাই যোৱাৰ পাছত ড্ৰয়িং কামৰ চোফাত তেখেতে আমন-জিমনকৈ শুই আছে। মই দেখি মাত এটি দিলোঁ—“আহক কথা পাতোঁ। আপুনিও চাগে অকলে অকলে আমনি পাই আছে।” বৰ ভাল পালে তেওঁ। তৎক্ষণাত যেনে আছে তেনে গুচি আহিল আমাৰ ঘৰলৈ। দুকাপ চাহ কৰি আনি সন্মুখৰ মেজখনত থৈ কথা-বতৰা হ’লোঁ। সেয়া আছিল চিনাকি পৰ্ব। দ্বিতীয় দিনা মই গ’লো তেওঁৰ ওচৰলৈ। সেই চিনাকিতে তেওঁ মোক জনাইছিল যে তেওঁৰ হেনো এটাই অশাস্তি। তেওঁৰ কিবাকিবি কেইবাটাও অসুখ—পেটত গেছৰ আমনি, ৰাতি টোপনি নহয় ইত্যাদি। মই তেওঁক ক’লো—“আপুনি খোজ নাকাঢ়ে কিয়। খোজ কাঢ়িবলৈ নামি যাবচোন।” তেওঁ ক’লে, “দিদি কাৰ লগত যাম? অকলে অকলে ভাল নালাগে, কাকো চিনি নাপাওঁ; ইয়াৰ ভাষাও নুবুজো।” মই তেওঁক ক’লো, “মই সদায় খোজ কাঢ়ো নহয়। ওলাব নেকি মোৰ লগত?” তেওঁ ভালেই পালে—“মাতিবচোন বাৰু যেতিয়া যায়।” আমি হিন্দীতেই কথা-বতৰা হ’লোঁ। মই পুৰাবেলা সাধাৰণতে আধা ঘণ্টামান বেগাই খোজ কাঢ়ো। তেখেতৰ ভৰিৰ বিষ, গতিকে তেখেতক লগ ধৰিলোঁ খোজ কাঢ়িবৰ বাবে পিছদিনা গধূলি। কথা পাতি পাতি সেই আৱাসিক এলেকাৰ্টিৰ চাৰিসীমাৰ পৰা ওলাই গৈ বহুদূৰ পালোঁগৈ আৰু বহুত কথা-বতৰাও হ’লোঁ। এদিন তেওঁ মোক ৰাতিপুৱাও খোজ কাঢ়িবৰ বাবে লগ ধৰিবলৈ ক’লে। মই বিপাওত পৰিলোঁ—মানাও কৰিব নোৱাৰিলোঁ। গতিকে লগ ধৰিলোঁ। তেওঁক সীমাৰ ভিতৰতে দুপাকমান লগ দিয়াৰ পাছত মই তেওঁৰ অনুমতি সাপেক্ষে তিনিপাকমান খৰকৈ খোজ কাঢ়ি আকৌ লগ হওঁ। তেওঁ বেয়া নাপায়। তেওঁ নিজেই কয়, “যাইয়ে

দিদি আপ লগায়ে চক্কৰ!” কথাবোৰ সৰল, সহজ যদিও মানুহগৰাকী মৰমিয়াল আৰু স্মৃতিবাজো। এদিন তেওঁক মই হিন্দীতে তেখেতৰ টোপনি কেনে হৈছে সুধিলোঁ। তেওঁ কৈছিল, “হা দিদি আপকে কৃপাসে ইন দিনো মেৰী নিন্দ ঠিকহী হো বহা হয়।” মোৰ ভালেই লাগিল। কথাৰ মাজতে এদিন কথা ওলাল তেখেতে হেনো পুৱাই উঠি শুদা পেটত একাপ গাখীৰত তৈয়াৰ কৰা চাহ খাই আহে। মই তেওঁক ক’লো— ‘আপোনাৰ পেটত গেছৰ সমস্যা, শুদা পেটত চাহ নাখাব। মই অহাৰ আগতে চাৰি গ্লাচমান পানী খাইহে আহোঁ। ঘূৰি গৈহে পাতল গাখীৰেৰে কিবা এটা খাই লওঁ।’ তেখেতে শুনি আচৰিত হৈছিল। পিচে এদিন তেখেতৰ পেটৰ খবৰ সোধাত কৈছিল— “দিদি, মে ভী আপ জেইসা সুবহ উঠকৰ পানী পীনে লগী। অব থোড়া ঠিক হ।” শনিবাৰ দেওবাৰে মই সাধাৰণতে খোজ নাকাঢ়োঁ। পিচে এখেতক লগ পোৱাৰ পাছত শনিবাৰ দেওবাৰো বাদ নপৰিল। দুৱাৰ মুখত বৈ থাকেহি; “দিদি নহী যায়েঙ্গে ক্যা?” মই নাযাওঁ বুলি নকওঁ। তেখেতৰ উপকাৰ হোৱাৰ লগতে এনেকৈ দুয়োবেলা খোজ কঢ়াত মোৰে উপকাৰ নোহোৱা নহয়। মোৰো তেখেতৰ লগ লাহে লাহে ভাল লাগিবলৈ ধৰিলে। মানুহ গৰাকী যথেষ্ট আমোদজনক। আনুষ্ঠানিক শিক্ষা-দীক্ষা তেখেতৰ একেবাৰেই নাই। ঘৰুৱা অসুবিধাৰ বাবে তেখেতৰ পঢ়া-শুনা নহ’ল আৰু বহু সৰুতেই বিয়াও হৈ গ’ল। কিন্তু তেওঁ পঢ়া-শুনাৰ কথা শুনি বৰ ভাল পায়। মই যে এগৰাকী শিক্ষয়িত্ৰী আছিলো আৰু নানা সামাজিক কামত ব্যস্ত আছিলো সেই কথা শুনি তেওঁ বৰ আনন্দ পায়। তেওঁৰ বৰপুত্ৰ অতি কম বয়সতে গাঁও এৰি আহি বাঙ্গালোৰত ব্যৱসায় আৰম্ভ কৰি বৰ্তমান তেওঁ এজন প্ৰতিষ্ঠিত ব্যৱসায়ী। গতিকে সেই ল’ৰাটিয়েই ঘৰৰ সকলো দায়িত্ব পালন কৰি আহিছে। নিজৰ ভায়েক ভনীয়েকৰ উপৰিও স্বৰ্গগামী খুড়াক-খুড়ীয়েকৰ তিনিওটি সন্তানৰ বিয়া-বাৰু আৰু সংস্থাপনৰ ব্যৱস্থা তেৱেঁই কৰিছে। দেউতাক তেওঁ সৰু থাকোঁতেই ঢুকাইছে। তেওঁলোকৰ বাঙ্গালোৰৰ ঘৰখন আত্মীয়-স্বজনেৰে ভৰি থাকে। আজিৰ দিনত এনে পৰিয়াল বিৰল; দেখি বৰ ভাল লাগে। মাকৰো সেয়াই আনন্দ। তেওঁ স্বামীৰ চাকৰি সূত্ৰে যিকেইটি টকা-পইচা পাইছিল সেয়া ল’ৰা-ছোৱালী ডাঙৰ-দীঘল কৰা আৰু ল’ৰাক ব্যৱসায়ত সহায়ৰ হাত আগবঢ়াতেই শেষ হৈছে। নিজাববীয়াকৈ তেওঁৰ হাতত একো টকা-পইচা বৰ্তমান নাই। ল’ৰাৰ সুমতিয়েই তেওঁৰ সম্বল। তেওঁ কয়— দিদি মাজে সময়ে কিছু কষ্ট নোহোৱাও নহয়। কিন্তু আকৌ নিজেই কয়— “স্বয়ং সীতা মাতৃয়েই যেতিয়া ইমান কষ্ট স্বীকাৰ কৰিব লগীয়া হৈছিল তাৰ তুলনাত আমিনো কি?” মানুহ গৰাকীৰ সহনশীলতা আৰু সংযমখিনি মন কৰিবলগীয়া। বাৰাণসীৰ ওচৰৰ সীধনাবাৰি নামৰ এখন ভিতৰুৱা গাঁৱত তেওঁৰ ঘৰ। কিন্তু

তেখেতৰ মনটো বহল আৰু মুকলি। প্ৰতিটো কথা তেওঁ যোগাত্মক দৃষ্টিৰে চালি-জাৰিহে কয়। তেওঁ শিক্ষিতা নহয় কিন্তু জ্ঞানী। গাঁৱৰ ঘৰত তেখেতে ৰন্ধা-বঢ়া বা বাচন-বৰ্তন ধোৱা কাম কৰিব নালাগে। গাঁৱত হেনো শাছৰেকে এইবোৰ কাম কৰা মানে বোৱাৰীৰ অপযশ! কিন্তু তেখেতে অৰ্থাৎ প্ৰভাৱতী দেৱীয়ে খেতি-বাতি গৰু-গাইৰ তদাৰক কৰে। খেতিৰ ধান চাউল বা শাক-পাচলিৰে বছৰটো যাতে জোৰাব পাৰে, গৰুজনীয়ে যাতে ভালকৈ গাখীৰকণ দি ঘৰখনৰ চাহিদা পূৰাব পাৰে, তাৰ বাবে তেওঁ চকু দিয়ে। জুই ধৰিবৰ বাবে গোৱৰ মাটি মিলাই সজা পিঠা যথেষ্ট পৰিমাণে যোগাৰ কৰি ৰাখে যাতে বেচিকৈ খৰি কিনিব নালাগে। গাঁৱৰ কথা, গেছ, বিজুলী



আদিৰ প্ৰায়েই নাটনিত পৰে। বিয়াই-বাৰুৰে বেছিকৈ আলহী গোট খালে যোগাৰ দিব পৰাকৈ পুৰণা কাপোৰেৰে তেওঁ নিজহাতেৰে দহ-বাৰখন মান গাত ল’ব পৰা কাঁঠা চিলাই কৰি থৈ দিছে। সেইবোৰ সময়ে সময়ে ৰ’দত দি সুন্দৰকৈ ৰখা তেওঁৰ কাম। এনেধৰণৰ কামবোৰকে কৰি প্ৰভাৱতী দেৱীয়ে ঘৰখনত আৰ্থিক সকাহ দিবৰ বাবে চেষ্টা কৰে। নহ’লে সেই একেটি ল’ৰায়েই এইখন ঘৰলৈও টকা-পইচা পঠিয়াই থাকিব লাগিব।

আনুষ্ঠানিক শিক্ষাৰে শিক্ষিতা নহয় যদিও তেওঁ গুণী-জ্ঞানী তিৰোতা। খোজ কাঢ়ি থাকোঁতে কথাৰ লগত ৰজিতা খুৱাই তেওঁ যেতিয়া ৰামায়ণ মহাভাৰতৰ কাহিনীসমূহ সলসলীয়াকৈ কৈ যায়, হিন্দী কবি কবীৰ দাস, তুলসীদাস আদিৰ কবিতাৰ উদ্ধৃতি দি যায় তেতিয়া তেওঁক মই সোধো— “আপুনিতো পঢ়িব নাজানে কিন্তু এইবোৰ কেনেকৈ আয়ত্ব কৰিলে?” তেতিয়া তেওঁ কৈছিল— “এইবোৰৰ আলোচনা য’তে হয় তাতে মই উপস্থিত হওঁ আৰু এইবোৰ শুনি মই ইমান আপ্লুত হওঁ যে সেইবোৰ মই কেতিয়াও পাহৰি নাযাওঁ। তেনেকৈ এদিন কিবা প্ৰসঙ্গত মানুহে মানুহক কটু

কথা কোৱাৰ কথা ওলাওতে তেখেতে তৎক্ষণাত হিন্দী কবি কবীৰ দাসৰ কবিতাৰ এটি উদ্ধৃতি দাঙি ধৰি কৈছিল— “এইসী বাণী বোলিয়ে, মন কা আপা খোয়ে, অপনা তন শীতল কৰে অউৰণকো সুখ হোৱে।” অৰ্থাৎ মানুহে এনে কথাহে ক’ব লাগে যি নিজৰ শৰীৰ শীতল কৰাৰ উপৰিও আনকো সুখ দিব পাৰে। সঁচাকৈ অসমীয়াতো কথা এষাৰ আছে— “ভাতৰ তিতা খাব পাৰি, মাতৰ তিতা সহিব নোৱাৰি।” আন এদিন আকৌ মানুহে মানুহক হিংসা



কৰি অপকাৰ কৰাৰ কথা ওলাওতে একে ধৰণে এটি উদ্ধৃতি দিছিল— “ভলা কিসীকা কৰ না সকো তো বুৰা কিসীকা মত কৰনা, পুষ্প নহী বন সকতে তো কাঁটে বন কৰ মত ৰহনা।” কাৰোবাৰ যদি ভাল কৰিব নোৱাৰিলে কাঁইট হৈ নাথাকিব।” ভগৱানৰ ওপৰত তেখেতৰ অগাধ বিশ্বাস যদিও তেখেত অন্ধ বিশ্বাসী নহয় আৰু ধৰ্মৰ কথাবোৰ তেওঁ আধুনিক দৃষ্টিভঙ্গীৰে চাব জানে। ভগৱানৰ কৃপাৰ কথা ক’বৰ বাবে তেখেতে আকৌ কবীৰ দাসৰ উদ্ধৃতি দিছিল— “তুলসী তুলসী সব কহে তুলসী জংঘলকে ঘাট, কৃপা ছৰে ৰঘুনাথকে বন গয়ে তুলসীদাস।” এদিন তেওঁক মই কৈছিলো যে আপুনি কিতাপ নপঢ়াকৈয়ে ইমান জ্ঞানগৰ্ভ কথা জানে— আচলতে জ্ঞানী হ’বলৈ হ’লে কেৱল কিতাপৰ জ্ঞানেই যথেষ্ট নহয় চাইগৈ। তেওঁ হাঁহি মাৰি ৰগৰ কৰি আকৌ কবীৰ দাসৰ উদ্ধৃতি দিছিল। “পুথি পঢ় পঢ় ডাগ মুআ পণ্ডিত ভয়ে না কোয়, চাই আখৰ প্ৰেমকা জো পঢ়ে সো পণ্ডিত হোয়।” মানুহ গৰাকীৰ সৰল সহজ কৌতুকবোৰেও মোৰ হাঁহিৰ খোৰাক যোগাইছিল। কেতিয়াবা হাঁহিত পেটৰ নাড়ী ডাল ডাল হৈছিল।

সেইবাৰ মই বাঙ্গালোৰত থাকোঁতেই দুৰ্গা পূজা পৰিছিল। প্ৰভাৱতী দেৱীৰ বোৱাৰীয়েকে নৱৰাত্ৰিৰ ব্ৰত পালন কৰিছিল। সেই উপলক্ষে তেওঁ সেই নদিন পুৱা-গধূলি ভজন-কীৰ্ত্তন আৰু আৰতিৰ আয়োজন কৰিছিল। আৰু মোকো সেইবোৰলৈ মাতি নিছিলহি। তেওঁ ভোজপুৰী ভাষাতে মুখে মুখে চলি অহা ভজনবোৰ

গাইছিল যিবোৰ শুনিবলৈ বৰ শুৱলা হৈছিল। মোক মোৰ মতে ভজন গাবলৈ কোৱাত মই সাইবাবাৰ ভজন অনুষ্ঠানত পৰিৱেশন কৰা দুৰ্গা, শিৱ আদিৰ ভজনসমূহ গাইছিলোঁ। সেইবোৰ তেওঁ মুগ্ধ চিত্তে শুনিছিল। নৱৰাত্ৰিৰ এই দিনকেইটি আমাৰ বৰ সুন্দৰকৈ অতিবাহিত হৈছিল।

এনেকৈ মোৰ কুৱেইটলৈ ঘূৰি অহাৰ দিন আৰু প্ৰভাৱতী দেৱীৰ গাঁৱলৈ ঘূৰি যোৱাৰ দিনবোৰ আহি উপনীত হৈছিল। তেখেতে তেতিয়া কৈছিল, “দিদি, এইবাৰৰ নৱৰাত্ৰি আৰু আপোনাৰ লগত কটোৱা সময়বোৰ আৰু আলোচনাবোৰ আমাৰ সৎসঙ্গত যোৱাৰ দৰে হৈছিল। সঁচাকৈ সজ আলোচনা আৰু সৎসঙ্গে মানুহৰ মন পৰিষ্কাৰ কৰি পোহৰাই তোলে। তেখেতে আকৌ এটি উদ্ধৃতি দিছিল— “মিলে জ্ঞান মাৰ্গ না কবছ জগতমে অগৰ সৎসঙ্গমে জানা নহী হয়, বিনা জ্ঞান মাৰ্গ মোক্ষ পানা নহী হয়।”

প্ৰভাৱতী দেৱী যেনে পৰিৱেশত ডাঙৰ-দীঘল হৈছিল, বৰ্তমান গাঁৱত তেওঁ যেনেদৰে থাকে আৰু মই যেনে পৰিৱেশত ডাঙৰ-দীঘল হ’লোঁ তাৰ মাজত যথেষ্ট ব্যৱধান। খোজ কাঢ়িবলৈ যাওঁতে মই যি পোচাক পিন্ধো আৰু তেওঁ যি পোচাক পিন্ধে সেয়াই যথেষ্ট পৃথক পৃথক। কিন্তু আমি যেতিয়া লগ হৈ কথা-বতৰা হওঁ তেতিয়া এইবোৰেতো একো আমনি নকৰে। তেওঁ জানে কথা পতাৰ কলা আৰু মই শূনি ভাল পাওঁ আৰু মাজে সময়ে কৈয়ো ভাল পাওঁ। তেওঁৰ জ্ঞান পিপাসু মন আৰু অভিজ্ঞতালব্ধ জ্ঞানে যেন মোকো আকৌ এই বয়সতো বহু নতুন জ্ঞানৰ সম্ভেদ দিলে। তেওঁ যিদৰে তেওঁৰ গাঁওখনৰ বৰ্ণনা দিলে, তেওঁৰ জীৱন-পাৰণৰ প্ৰণালী বৰ্ণনা কৰিলে সেইবোৰ শূনি তেওঁৰ সৰল-সহজ গাঁৱৰ জীৱন মোৰ মানসপটত ছবিৰ দৰে ভাঁহি উঠিছিল আৰু সেয়া যেন নিজেই গৈ এদিন চাই আহিম তেনে লাগিছিল। তেৱোঁ মোক তেওঁৰ গাঁৱলৈ আকুল আন্তৰিকতাৰে নিমন্ত্ৰণ জনালে আৰু ময়ো এদিন সেই নিমন্ত্ৰণ ৰক্ষা কৰাৰ প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতি দিলোঁ। লগতে সেই গীতফাঁকিলৈ মনত পৰিল—“বন্ধু! সময় পালে আমাৰ ফালে এবাৰ আহি যাবা, সৰল সহজ গাঁৱৰ জীৱন ক্ষণ্তক ৰৈ চাবা।”

সঁচাকৈ, কোনে কয় যে সমাজখন মাথো হিংসা-দ্বেষ আৰু হাই-কাজিয়াৰেহে ভৰা! মহা মানৱ মহাত্মা গান্ধীজীয়ে কৈছিল।

“Humanity is an ocean: if a few drops of ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.”

— : মা তুমি অনন্যা : —

✍ ডাঃ সোণ শইকীয়া

সহস্ৰ প্ৰণাম যাচিলোঁ তোমাক
দহমাহ দহদিন ধৰি গৰ্ভত সহিলে
মাতৃয়ে দুখ আমাৰ লগত
সঁচাকৈয়ে মা তুমি অনন্যা
বহু গুণৰ অধিকাৰী
শত সহস্ৰ প্ৰণাম যাচিলোঁ তোমাক
বহু বছৰ পাৰ হ'ল
তুমি আমাৰ মাজৰ পৰা আঁতৰি যোৱা
তথাপিও তোমাক যেন আমাৰ মাজত আজিও পাওঁ
তুমি দিয়া মৰম, আশীৰ্বাদ আৰু উপদেশ আশ্বাস,
তাকে লৈয়ে আজি আমি জীয়াই আছে
তোমালৈ - প্ৰণাম মা
মনত পৰিছে তুমি কোৱা সেই
সৰুকালৰ স্মৰণীয় দিন বোৰ
কাৰোবাৰ অসুখ হ'লে -
টোপনি ক্ষতি কৰি কাষত বহি থকা
কোনোবাই পাহৰিব পাৰে জানো মা ?
তোমালৈ প্ৰণাম মা
তোমাৰ সেই যে ৰান্ধনি ঘৰটোত
মাটিৰ চুলাত বাঁহৰ চুঙাৰে ফুৰাই ফুৰাই বনোৱা
ব্যঞ্জনৰ সোৱাদ আজিও জিভাত লাগি আছে
ভেদাই লতাৰে, নৰসিংহ পাতৰে সৰু মাছৰ
লগত বনোৱা জোলকণ আজিও পাহৰা নাই
জালুক দি বনোৱা পাৰৰ
জোলকণৰ সোৱাদ এতিয়াও যে জিভাত
লাগি আছে।
বাৰীৰ মিহলি শাক আনি
সৰু মাছৰে বনোৱা
জোলকণৰ কথা পাহৰিব পৰা নাই আজিও মা
ককা আইতাই তোমাক পঢ়াব
নোৱাৰাত তুমি বৰ দুখ পাইছিল
তথাপি ভগৱানৰ কৃপাত
আনৰ মুখৰ পৰা শুনি শুনিয়েই
কীৰ্ত্তন, ঘোষা, দিহানাম, আই নাম,
বিয়ানাম আদি গাই সকলোকে

মুহিত কৰিব পাৰিছিল
পাটৰ কাপোৰত গুণাৰ ফুল বাচি
চাদৰ, মেখেলা, ৰিহা নিজা বৈ তোমাৰ
বিয়াত তুমি পিন্ধিছিল - বুলি
কোৱা আজিও মনত আছে
নিজহাতেৰে এৰি পুহি
সূতা কাটি এৰি চাদৰ বৈ
শিপিনীৰ গুণৰ অধিকাৰীও তুমি
হ'ব পাৰিছিল
মা তুমি অনন্যা
প্ৰণাম তোমাক
ৰাতি ঘৰৰ ভিতৰৰ পৰা বাহিৰলৈ
ওলাবলৈ ভয় লাগিলে - হাতত
লেমটো লৈ তোমাৰ আঁচলত ধৰি যোৱা
আজিও মনত আছে,
মনত আছে শোৱা পাটিত তুমি গোৱা
ঘোষা এফাঁকি শুনি টোপনি
যোৱা
মা তুমি অনন্যা
তোমাক প্ৰণাম।
এগৰাকী মধ্যবিত্ত পৰিয়ালৰ কন্যা হৈ
বিদ্যালয়ৰ শিক্ষা নোপোৱা কন্যা তুমি
তথাপিও এগৰাকী মৰমিয়াল পত্নী,
এগৰাকী মৰমিয়াল মাতৃ
এগৰাকী সু-ৰান্ধনী
এগৰাকী সু-গায়িকা
এগৰাকী নিপুন শিপিনী
আৰু বহুতো গুণৰেই অধিকাৰী তুমি মা
তোমাৰ গুণৰো তুলনা নাই।



== কুৱেইটৰ অসমীয়া সমাজখন ==

✍️ প্ৰতিভা দাস, ডিব্ৰুগড়

ডিব্ৰুগড় মোহনবাৰী বিমান বন্দৰৰ পৰা ২০১৫ চনৰ জানুৱাৰীত কুৱেইটলৈ মই আৰু মোৰ স্বামী যাত্ৰা আৰম্ভ কৰিছো। মনত বহুত আশা, অপাৰ আনন্দ, ভয়, সন্দেহ ইত্যাদি নানা ভাৱ চিন্তাৰে স্থানীয় সময় মতে দিনৰ ডেৰ বজাত কুৱেইটত বিমানৰ



পৰা নামিলো। কুৱেইট আৰু ভাৰতৰ মাজত আঢ়ৈ ঘণ্টা সময়ৰ পাৰ্থক্য। ভাৰতীয় সময় মতে চাৰি বাজিছে। বিমানৰ পৰা নামি আহি দেখিলো আমি দুয়োজনৰ নাম লিখা প্লেকাৰ্ড লৈ ফিলিপিন দেশৰ ছোৱালী এজনী দুৱাৰমুখত বৈ আছে। একো অসুবিধা নোহোৱাকৈ ছোৱালীজনীয়ে ইমিগ্ৰেচন শেষ কৰি আমাক আগমন দুৱাৰেদি বাহিৰলৈ লৈ আহিল। ওলাই আহি দেখিলো ল'ৰা-বোৱাৰী-নাতি ফুলৰ থোপা লৈ আমাক আদৰিব বৈ আছে। মনটো আনন্দৰে ভৰি পৰিল আৰু ভিতৰে ভিতৰে গৰ্ব অনুভৱ কৰিলো। এওঁলোক এঘাৰ মহলাত থাকে। কোঠাৰ খিৰিকীৰ পৰা সুন্দৰ দৃশ্য দেখি মুগ্ধ হৈ পৰিছিলো। মুকলি সাগৰৰ পাৰ আৰু শাৰী শাৰী গাড়ীৰে ভৰি থকা কৰ্ণিচ ৰ'ডটো সিদিনা ৰাতি এক বজালৈ চাই থাকিলো।

পিছ দিনাখন গধূলি কেইটামান পৰিয়াল আহিল, চিনাকী হ'ল, সকলোৰে কথা-বতৰা খুব ভাল লাগিল। মাঘ বিহু সমাগত। ঘৰে ঘৰে লাৰু পিঠা বনোৱাত ব্যস্ত সকলো। চৈধ্য জানুৱাৰীত উৰুকাৰ ভোজ খোৱাৰ নিমন্ত্ৰণ আহিল। সিদিনা ৰাতি আঠ মান বজাত আমি আটায়ে গ'লো। বাহঃ কি কাৰবাৰ! কয়লাৰ জুইত আলু, মিঠা আলু, বেঙেনা পোৰা, কাঠ আলু ভাজি, সৰু মাছ

ভাজিৰ যোগাৰ। জুইৰ চাৰিওফালে আটাইবিলাক বহি নানাধৰণৰ ৰসাল কথা পাতি গৰমে গৰমে সেই ভজা-পোৰা খোৱাৰ যি মজা পালোঁ, অসমৰ পৰা দূৰৈত থকা উকা উকা ভাৱটো এবাৰো নাহিল।



কিছু সময়ৰ ফুৰ্তি তামচাৰ পাছত খানাৰ পৰ্ব আহিল। মাছ, মাংস, বিভিন্ন সোৱাদ ভৰা আঞ্জা, মিঠাই খুব ভাল লাগিল সকলোখিনি। অসমীয়া গানৰ চি ডি লগাই দুগৰাকীমানে বিহু নাচিছে, মুঠৰ ওপৰত খুব উলাহেৰে সুশৃংখল ভাৱে উৰুকা পালন কৰিলো। পোন্ধৰ জানুৱাৰীত অসমীয়া পৰিয়াল এঘৰৰ নিমন্ত্ৰণ আহিল। ৰাতিপুৱা দহ বজাত উপস্থিত হৈ দুগৰাকী গান্ধীৰ্যপূৰ্ণ বয়োজ্যেষ্ঠা মহিলাৰ সতে চিনাকী হ'লো, পৰিৱেশটো ভাল লাগিল। বিহু বুলি আটাই কেইগৰাকী মহিলাৰ প্ৰতি জনোৱা মান-সন্মান, আদৰ-সাদৰ দেখি আপ্ত হ'লো। এনেকুৱা লাগিল যেন একেখন ঘৰৰ উমৈহতীয়া পৰিয়াল এটা লগ হৈ আছে। টি.ভি.ৰ পৰ্দাত অসমীয়া বিহুগীত, লগতে দুই এগৰাকীয়ে মিলি বিহু নাচিছে, দেখি মনটো জুৰ পৰি গ'ল। ১৬ জানুৱাৰীৰ দিনা সাগৰৰ পাৰত মুকলিকৈ বৰবিহু আয়োজন কৰিছে। সকলো অসমীয়া একেলগ হৈ ঘৰে ঘৰে একোবিধ খাঁটি অসমীয়া খানা ৰান্ধি আনিছে। খাৰৰ আঞ্জা, মাছৰ টেঙা, নৰসিংহ দি মাছ, পালেং শাকেৰে মাছৰ জোল আদি। তাৰোপৰি মুৰ্গীৰ মাংস, ছাগলীৰ মাংস, মুৰিঘণ্ট সকলো আছিল দুপৰীয়া আহাৰৰ বাবে। এক সুন্দৰ বিহু বিহু পৰিৱেশে মনটো সতেজ কৰি পেলাইছিল। ৰাতিপুৱাৰ আহাৰৰ পাছত নানা ধৰণৰ খেল আৰম্ভ হ'ল। ডাঙৰ-সৰু সকলোৱে কণী যুঁজত ভাগ লৈছিল। ল'ৰা-ছোৱালীবোৰে খেলা দেখি ভাল লাগিছিল। পিছলৈ আকৌ ফাৰ্ম হাউচত গৈও বিহু পাতিলে। এৰাতি থাকি হাঁতি-ফুৰ্তিৰ মাজেৰে কাঠৰ মেজি সাজি সম্পূৰ্ণ নিয়ম অনুসাৰে মেজি জ্বলালে। হাউচি খেলালে।

আমি চাৰিগৰাকী তিনি মাহৰ বাবে কুৱেইট অহা মহিলা আছিলো। আমি কেইগৰাকী কুৱেইট আহি পোৱাৰে পৰা জিৰণি পোৱা নাই, প্ৰতি ঘৰতে ভাত খোৱা নিমন্ত্ৰণ, সমান আদৰ-সাদৰ।

দেখিলো ইয়াৰ প্ৰতিগৰাকী মহিলা সমান কামিলা। ঘৰ সজোৱাত সকলো নিপুণ। এখন ঘৰো কম নহয়, সকলো সমান দেখিলো। ঘৰবোৰ সোমাই গৈ দেখো আচাৰ-ব্যৱহাৰ, মাত-কথা বাৰুকৈয়ে উল্লেখনীয়। ল'ৰা-ছোৱালী বোৰৰ পঢ়া-শুনাৰ উন্নতি, তেওঁলোকৰ মাজত মিলা-প্ৰীতি, বিভিন্ন প্ৰতিযোগিতা মূলক খেলা-ধূলা আদিত পুৰস্কাৰ পোৱা, ভাল ফলাফল কৰি উচ্চ শিক্ষাৰ বাবে বাহিৰত পঢ়ি থকা, প্ৰতিখন ঘৰতে আছে তেনে উদাহৰণ।

জাতীয় উৎসৱৰ বাহিৰেও ঘৰ বিলাকত নিয়ম-নীতি, পূজা— সত্যনাৰায়ণ পূজা, সৰস্বতী পূজা, নাম কীৰ্ত্তন, ভগৱানৰ প্ৰতি ভক্তিভাৱ শলাগনীয়। মই থকা সময়তেই এঘৰত সৰস্বতী পূজা পাতিছে। গৈ দেখিলো, পূজাভাগ ইমান ভক্তি সহকাৰে পুৰোহিতৰ হতুৱাই মন্ত্ৰ মাতি, পূজাৰ সামগ্ৰী যেনে কাহৰ কাহী-বাতি, শৰাই বাঁটা, তামোল-পাণ, কলপাত, ফুল, মাটিৰ চাকি, ঘট, ফল-মূল, পায়স, মিঠাই, মণ্ডমাহ, বুটমাহ আদি প্ৰসাদ যোগাৰ কৰি নিয়াৰিকৈ পূজাভাগ আৰম্ভ কৰিছে। সৰু ছোৱালী কেইজনী চাদৰ-মেখেলা পিন্ধি পূজাত বহি আছে। সৰু দেৱীৰ মূৰ্ত্তি এটা স্থাপন কৰি সকলো খিনি আয়োজন ঘৰৰ ভিতৰতে খুব সুন্দৰভাৱে সম্পন্ন কৰিছে। মহিলা কেইগৰাকী চাদৰ-মেখেলা পিন্ধি পূজাৰ কামত ব্যস্ত। পুৰুষ কেইজনে আহি পূজাত বহি ভাগ লৈছে। একেলগ হৈ পূজাৰ আৰতি, মহিলাৰ উৰুলী, শঙ্খ ধ্বনিৰে পূজাভাগ শেষ কৰি ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰীৰ বাবে বেলেগে প্ৰাৰ্থনা কৰি ল'লে। শেষত মহিলা সকল প্ৰসাদৰ কামত লাগি গৈছে; ফল-মূল কাটি লৈ, সৰু ল'ৰা-ছোৱালীবোৰৰ হতুৱাই ডাঙৰক প্ৰসাদ বিতৰণৰ দায়িত্ব দিলে আৰু দিনটো উপবাসৰ পাছত তেওঁলোকে প্ৰসাদ মুখত দিলে। এই সংস্কাৰ প্ৰতিজন অভিভাৱকে নিজৰ সন্তানক সাত সাগৰ তেৰ নদী পাৰ হৈ আহিও যে শিকাব পাৰিখে, সঁচাকৈ ইয়াৰ বাবে সকলো প্ৰশংসাৰ যোগ্য। একেধৰণে সত্যনাৰায়ণ পূজাভাগত পুৰোহিতৰ মন্ত্ৰ, মহিলাৰ উৰুলী, শঙ্খ বজোৱা, ল'ৰা-ছোৱালীবোৰে পূজাৰ ওচৰত বহি শুনি থকা আৰু পুৰুষ মহিলাৰ সমানে ভক্তিভাৱ দেখি বৰ ভাল লাগিল। প্ৰতিখন ঘৰৰে পৰা একোবিধ তৰকাৰী বনাই আনি যৌথ পৰিয়ালৰ দৰে কামবিলাক সম্পন্ন কৰা, ইজনে-সিজনক আথে-বেথে মাতি আনি খাব দিয়া ইত্যাদি আদৰ্শীয় বিষয়।

এই সময়তেই আমাৰ বোৱাৰী প্ৰিয়ঙ্কৰা ছোৱালী এজনী জন্ম হ'ল। তেওঁ চাৰিদিন হিম্পিতেলত থাকিব লগা হোৱাত মই আৰু আমাৰ নাতি ল'ৰা চেঙ অকলে ঘৰত আছিলো; তেতিয়া চাৰিওফালৰ পৰা আটাই কেইঘৰে ফোনেৰে খবৰ-খাটি লৈ আছে, আমাৰ ইয়াতে থাকিব পাৰিব বুলি আগ্ৰহ কৰিছে। কৈছে যে কিবা অসুবিধা হ'লে ৰাতি এটা বজাতো ফোন কৰি জনাব। তাৰে মাজতে ইঘৰে সিঘৰে আহি খোৱা খাদ্য বনাই আনি খবৰ ল'ব আহিছে।

হিম্পিতেলত খবৰ ল'বলৈ গৈছে। মোক আৰু নাতি ল'ৰাটোক হিম্পিতেলত অনা-নিয়া কৰিও সহায় কৰিছে। ভাৱ হয়, হয়তো নিজৰ ঠাইতেই ইমান আব্দাৰ নাপালোহেঁতেন। বোৱাৰী হিম্পিতেলৰ পৰা ঘৰত অহাৰ পাছত আটাই কেইঘৰে কেঁচুৱা চাব আহিছে, বোৱাৰীৰ বাবে খোৱা খাদ্য বনাই লৈ আনিছে। মুঠৰ ওপৰত তেজৰ সম্পৰ্ক নথকা সত্বেও, ভাই-ককাই, বাই-ভনীৰ বান্ধোনেৰে সকলো বান্ধ খাই আছে। বিদেশত থকা এখন সুন্দৰ সৰু অসমীয়া সমাজ, য'ত হিংসা-বিদ্বেষ, কাজিয়া-পেচালৰ কোনো স্থান নাই। আছে মাথো একতা আৰু অসমীয়া পৰম্পৰা জীয়াই ৰাখি ভৱিষ্যৎ প্ৰজন্মক আদৰ্শৰে ডাঙৰ-দীঘল কৰি সুখী জীৱন নিৰ্বাহ কৰা হেঁপাহ আৰু যৎপৰোনাস্তি চেষ্টা।

মোৰ এই কুৱেইট যাত্ৰাৰ প্ৰতিটো পল সুখময় আৰু আনন্দৰে ভৰাই তোলাৰ বাবে সকলো কুৱেইটবাসী অসমীয়ালৈ মোৰ আন্তৰিক শুভেচ্ছা জনালো আৰু আহিবলগীয়া বছৰটোৰ বাবে ওলগ যাচিলোঁ। সকলোৰে মনত সুখ-শান্তি বিৰাজ কৰক, সু-স্বাস্থ্যৰ গৰাকী হওঁক। এনেদৰে আগুৱাই যাবলৈ ভগৱানে শক্তি দিয়ক।



== আব্দুল স্বপ্ন ==



পল্লৱী শইকীয়া

Weekend... বীতা আৰু তাইৰ স্বামী গৌতম সপ্তাহটোৰ বজাৰখন কৰাৰ উদ্দেশ্যে Hyper Lulu লৈ বুলি ওলাইছে। Building ৰ বাহিৰ হৈ সিহঁত গাড়ীলৈ বুলি আগবাঢ়িছে। তেনেতে কাৰোবাৰ মাত, চাৰ চাৰ, ঘূৰি চাই দেখে সিহঁতৰ Building ৰ caretaker আব্দুল। গৌতমে কি হ'ল বুলি সোধাত সি বেচ উৎফুল্লিত হৈ ক'লে— “চাৰ আমি আগামি মাসে তিন মাসেৰ জন্যে মুলুক যাব.... তাই ভেবে আপনাকে জানালাম।” ঠিক আছে বুলি কৈ গৌতম গাড়ীত উঠিলগৈ। ৰাস্তাত অন্য কথাৰ মাজতে গৌতমে বীতাক ক'লে— “এই যে আব্দুলে মোক



কথাটো ক'লে তাৰ অৰ্থটো কিবা বুজি পালানে?” বীতাই ভেবা লাগি গৌতমৰ ফালে চাই ক'লে “নাই...নাই বুজা।” গৌতমে ক'লে— “মানে সি দেশলৈ যাবটো তাৰবাবে তাক সাহায্য লাগে।”

কুৱেইটত প্ৰায় প্ৰত্যেকটো buildingতে এনেকুৱা caretaker থাকে আৰু তাৰ সৰহভাগেই বাংলাদেশৰ। সাধাৰণতে সিহঁত বৰ দুখীয়া পৰিয়ালৰ। Building বিলাকৰ পাৰিপাৰ্শ্বিকতা চাফাকৈ ৰখা আৰু building এটা সুচাৰুৰূপে চলি থাকিবলৈ সৰু-সুৰা maintenance ৰ কামবিলাক এইচাম মানুহেই চোৱা-চিতা কৰে। তাৰ বিনিময়ত মালিকৰ পৰা সামান্য দৰমহা এটা আৰু কোনোমতে থাকিব পৰাকৈ buildingতে এটা room পায়। সেইবাবে সিহঁতে building বাসীৰ গাড়ী আদি ধুই extra income কৰিবগীয়া হয়। আনকি পুহমহীয়া হাড় কঁপোৱা জাৰৰ দিনতো ৰাতিপুৱা তিনি বজাতে উঠি কঁপি কঁপি গাড়ী ধোৱে। কাৰণ গাড়ীৰ মালিকক ৰাতিপুৱা সাত বজাত অফিচলৈ যোৱাৰ

আগতে আজৰি কৰি দিব লাগে। এইচাম মানুহৰ জীৱনধাৰা সঁচাই বৰ দুখ লগা। দৰিদ্ৰতাৰ হেঁচাত পৰি পৰিয়ালটোৱে দুবেলা দুমুঠি খাই থাকক বুলিয়েই নিজৰ দেশ, পৰিয়াল সকলোকে এৰি থৈ অকলে ওলাই আহিবলৈ বাধ্য হয়। কামৰ বিনিময়ত যি উপাৰ্জন কৰে তাৰে দৈনন্দিন জীৱনৰ বাবে সামান্য ৰাখি বাকী সৰহ অংশ দেশত থকা পৰিয়াললৈ পঠায়। নিজক জলাঞ্জলি দি পৰিয়ালটোৰ কষ্টখিনি দূৰ কৰিবলৈ কি যে এক অহোপুৰুষাৰ্থ চেষ্টা...! বীতাই মনতে ভাবিলে “অভাৱেহে মানুহক দায়িত্বজ্ঞান সোঁৱৰাই দিয়ে নেকি বাৰু?” বীতাই গৌতমক ক'লে— “বেয়া লাগে পায় ইহঁতৰ অৱস্থা দেখি, পাৰা যদি অলপ সহায় কৰিবা।”

দুদিনমানৰ পাছৰ কথা, বীতাই ঘৰত আবেলিৰ জনপান তৈয়াৰ কৰাৰ লগতে হাতত mobile টো লৈ facebook ত ব্যস্ত। অলপতে সলনি কৰা নতুন profile picture খনত কিমাননো like আহিল চাই মুখখন বেঁকা কৰি গৌতমক ক'লে— “দেখিছা ৰাণীৰ ফটোখনত দুঘণ্টাতে পঞ্চাশ like আৰু মোৰখনত ছয়ঘণ্টাটো মাত্ৰ আশীহে!” তেনেতে কলিং বেলটো বাজিল। ওলাই গৈ দেখে আব্দুল বাহিৰত বৈ আছে হাতত ভালেমান টোপোলা। সেইবোৰনো কি বুলি সোধাত ক'লে— building ৰ সৰু ল'ৰা-ছোৱালী থকা পৰিয়াল কেইটাৰ সৰু হৈ যোৱা কাপোৰ-কানি, জোতা-চেন্দেল, অলাগতীয়া খেলাৰ সামগ্ৰী। বীতাকো কিবা আছে যদি দিবলৈ কৈ গৌতমে দিয়া টকা কেইটা লৈ গ'লগৈ।

তাৰ পাছৰ দিনকেইটা বীতাই মন কৰিলে আব্দুলে কেতিয়াবা কাৰোবাৰ ঘৰৰ পৰা পুৰণা চুটকেচ দুটামান, কেতিয়াবা এয়াৰবেগ কেইটামান, মুঠতে ন-পুৰণি বহুতো বস্তুৰ অনা-নিয়া চলিল। এক কথাত ক'বলৈ গ'লে আব্দুলৰ শুভাকাঙ্ক্ষী সকলোৱে যেয়ে যেনেকৈ পাৰিছে তাক সহায় কৰিছে। এদিন দুপৰীয়া কিবা কামত ৰাণীৰ ঘৰলৈ ওলাই যাওঁতে দেখে প্ৰায় পোন্ধৰ যোৰ মান সৰু-ডাঙৰ জোতা-চেন্দেল ধুই ৰ'দত দি থোৱা আছে। চেন্দেল কেইযোৰ ধুই মেলি ইমানেই নতুন কৰি পেলালে যে বীতাই নিজে দিয়া চেন্দেল কেইযোৰ তাই নিজেই চিনি পোৱা নাই। বীতাই মনতে ভাবিলে তাইৰ ল'ৰা-ছোৱালী দুটাই এই দৃশ্য দেখা হ'লে ভাল আছিল। কাৰণ আজিকালি প্ৰায়ভাগ ল'ৰা-ছোৱালীৰে বস্তুৰ মূল্যবোধৰ বৰ অভাৱ। সিহঁতে বুজিলেহেঁতেন যে কাৰোবাৰ কাৰণে অলাগতীয়া বস্তু এটা আন কাৰোবাৰ কাৰণে কিমান মূল্যবান হ'ব পাৰে! প্ৰত্যেকটো বস্তুৰে যে এটা সুকীয়া মূল্য থাকে সেই কথা সিহঁতে ভালদৰে বুজি পালেহেঁতেন।

তাৰপাছৰ দিনকেইটা আব্দুলক বৰ উৎফুল্লিত দেখা গ'ল। হয়তো ঘৰলৈ যোৱাৰ আনন্দতে! Garden, walking track এইবিলাকত কাম কৰি থাকোঁতে স্বভাৱতে লাজকুৰীয়া, স্বল্পভাষী মানুহটোৰ মুখতো বঙালী গানৰ কলিৰ গুণগুণনি শুনি বীতাৰ



মনতে হাঁহি উঠিল। তাই ভাবিলে আনন্দিত হোৱাৰ কথাইতো, কাৰণ সি বোলে প্ৰায় ন বছৰৰ পাছত ঘৰলৈ যাব। সি দেশ এৰি কুৱেইটলৈ আহোঁতে তাৰ ল'ৰা বোলে তিনিমহীয়া আছিল। বীতাই ভাবিলে “আচৰিত লাগে, তাৰ ল'ৰাই তাক দেউতাক বুলি চিনি পাবনে বাৰু? ন বছৰত সকলোবোৰ কথাই কিমান পৰিবৰ্তন হ'ব পাৰে?”

শুকুৰবাৰ...বীতাহঁতে শুৱাপাটী এৰাই নাই কাৰণ আগদিনা শিখাৰ ঘৰত পাৰ্টি শেষ হওঁতে ৰাতি দুটা বাজিছে। তেনেতে কলিং বেলৰ শব্দ শুনি বীতাই বিৰক্তিকৈ ক'লে “এই ৰাতিপুৱাই কোননো ওলালহি?” গৌতমে হাঁহি মাৰি ক'লে “হেৰা ঘড়ীটো চোৱাচোন, এতিয়া ৰাতিপুৱা হৈ থকা নাই, দহটা বাজিল।” লৰালৰিকৈ ওলাই গৈ দেখে আব্দুল, লগত তাতকৈ অলপ সৰু ডেকা ল'ৰা এটা। আব্দুলে গৌতমক উদ্দেশ্য ক'লে— “চাৰ, আমাৰ flight টা কালকে বিকালে, তাই আপনাদেৰ দেখা কৰতে এসেছি” আৰু লগত লৈ অহা ল'ৰাটোলৈ আঙুলিয়াই ক'লে “এ ইব্রাহীম, আমাৰ তিন মাসেৰ ছুটিৰ সময় আমাৰ কামগোল এই কৰবে আৰ আপনাৰ গাড়ীও তাই সাফ কৰবে।” আৰু বীতালৈ চাই সুধিলে— “মেডাম, আপনাৰ জন্যে বাংলাদেশ থেকে কিছু আনব কি? আমাদেৰ দেশ সুন্দৰ হাতেৰ কামেৰ জিনিস পাৱা যায়।” বীতাই হাঁহি মাৰি ক'লে “হ'ব দিয়া, এইবাৰ নালাগে, পাছত কেতিয়াবা আনিবা।” নমস্কাৰ জনাই আব্দুল গ'লগৈ।

শনিবাৰ... গধূলি walking trackত খোজ কাঢ়িবলৈ বুলি বীতা আৰু গৌতম ওলাই আহি দেখিছে আব্দুল কেইবাটাও কেইবাটাও বেগ, চুটকেচ লৈ এয়াৰপৰ্টলৈ যাবলৈ টেক্সিৰ বাবে বৈ আছে। গৌতমে ইমানবোৰ বয়বস্তু দেখি আচৰিত হৈ তাক ক'লে— “তই ইমানবোৰ বস্তু লৈছ যে excess baggage হৈ

টকা ভৰিব লাগিব নহয়।” আব্দুলে সম্পূৰ্ণ আস্থাবে ক'লে “সমস্যা নেই, এৰ জন্যে আমি এক সজ্জনকে বলে ৰেখেসি, সে এসে আমাৰ excess baggage টো পাৰ কৰে দেবে।”

Trackত খোজ কাঢ়োতে গৌতমে বীতাক ক'লে— “ই কোনোবা দালালৰ পাল্লাত পৰিলে যেন পাইছো। কষ্টৰে উপাৰ্জন কৰা টকা কেইটা পানীত নপৰিলেই হয়।”

দেওবাৰ...weekend ৰ পাছৰ সপ্তাহৰ প্ৰথম দিন। শুকুৰবাৰ শনিবাৰ দুদিন আৰামত কটাই ৰাতিপুৱা বিছনাখন এৰাই বৰ কষ্টকৰ। ৰাতিপুৱা গৌতমে office লৈ যাবলৈ বুলি ওলাই আহোঁতে দেখে মূৰে-কপালে হাত দি চিৰিটোতে কোনোবা এটা বহি আছে। ওচৰলৈ গৈ আচৰিত হৈ সুধিলে— “আব্দুল তই ইয়াত যে? তোৰ কালি flight আছিল নহয়?” আব্দুল নিমাত...। থোকাথোকি মাতেৰে কৈ যায় “ঐ লোকেৰ জন্যে দাৰাতে দাৰাতেই আমাৰ flight ৰ time খতম হয়ে গেল কিন্তু সে আৰ আসল না...।”





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