



DIWALICHI 'SUKDI'

❖ Sanjana Kothare ❖



have been able to present the monthly newsletter and this coveted magazine before you every year not to mention their strong backing at our annual mega event 'Pratyush' which is now been recognized as a brand name.

The cover page of this year's Diwali issue projects the institution called Prabhu Tarun which has branched itself in various fields through its off-spring 'Yuva Manch' alias the 'Pathare Prabhu Youth Forum'. Yuva Manch under the Prabhu Tarun banner has been undertaking several activities to involve the young and old likewise. Pratyush, our cultural event presently organized once a year is a platform for our youngsters to showcase their talent. Yuva Manch has launched its web site which not only bears the monthly newsletter but has many more attractions which shall be revealed shortly. Yuva Manch has also under taken a social awareness campaign 'Drishti' for Eye Donation.

Year after year we at Prabhu Tarun have been trying to involve different genres of people in all our endeavors. Be it Pratyush where we had welcomed the senior citizens with open arms or be it our yearly Diwali magazine. Our cover page also portrays the same essence wherein our base which is in the form of our parent body has emerged and sustained over the years under the able leadership and guidance of Mr. Suhas Kothare and Mr. Vihang Nayak, our ex-editors, whose life time contribution has been evolving under the able support of our present editor Mrs. Suhasini Kothare and her Editorial team. The Prabhu Tarun family has embraced each and every Pathare Prabhu from every walk of life binding them together through various activities undertaken by them.

Prabhu Tarun has taken a new dimension following the interest and efforts taken by our new trustees Mr. Gunjarav Nayak and Mr. Deepak Kothare. Without their support we at Prabhu Tarun would not

In the coming year Prabhu Tarun takes pride in introducing a Career guidance project which shall showcase careers in allied fields. It shall give an opportunity to young school children and their parents to know the prospects of excellent career options in allied fields. We have invited articles from successful people in different fields who shall write about the educational qualifications required, the pros and cons of their career etc.

In our Diwali Issue, Prabhu Tarun takes pride in involving every age group so as to develop an interest in our community



people to read their very own magazine. In the current issue too, we have compiled various articles ranging from subjects like "How would you like to spend the last 24 hours of your life if the world was to come to an end tomorrow" to some Fictitious Products which have been invented by our very own Pathare Prabhu youngsters. This novel idea of Fictitious Products was conceived by our talented Aparnah Vyavaharkar who also suggested that we have illustrations suggesting some Public Service message through a Bollywood theme which adds humour to the magazine not to mention the creativity involved in creating such images. Such topics have been instrumental in making the young minds think and use their own creativity and intellectual in presenting their skills.

Another topic which is close to every man is 'Food'. Anything related to food happens to sell like hot cakes.... Be it at the food stall at the Fun fare or the cookery show on television. The poor man's meal of 'Vada pav' at its roadside stall has the elite stopping by in fancy cars to savor the humble 'vadapav'. We Pathare Prabhus are known to be 'Foodies' and our taste buds have developed the taste for rich, tasty and exquisite 'Prathare Prabhu cuisine'. Belonging to a Non-vegetarian clan we boast of our scrumptious meals at Diwali which is appreciated even by non Pathare Prabhus. In our Gourmet section we have tried to bring together our Pathare Prabhu 'diwalichi sukdi' or 'faral' as we call it by inviting some of our talented women to contribute and share with us dishes of their expertise. We hope all of you enjoy this special segment newly introduced by us this year.

For the Sports freaks we have introduced a segment on Sports which has articles from Sport lovers on various topics. An interview of our ace chess champion Karan Ajinkya pre-dominates the sports section. After the much appreciated and over whelming response we received on

the Kids Section in our last year's Diwali issue we have once again come up with a kids zone wherein children were asked to write about their parents. To keep up the flavour of the previous issue we have published the children's articles in their own hand writing. Hope the children find a place in your hearts this year too through their innocent thoughts. Another interesting change that we witnessed was that the children were not only thrilled to read their own article in a magazine but were equally interested in reading what their peers had written.

Prabhu Tarun as already been defined by me in my earlier editorials has always been "of the people, by the people, for the people" which has been aptly projected in our cover page designed by Mrs. Vidula Shrinall Kothare of our in-house creative team, Think Creative Communication Pvt. Ltd. Being in charge of our creative side Vidula and Shrinall Kothare have always stood by Prabhu Tarun with their timely help and continuous support towards the magazine every year, including the designing and printing of the Pratyush tickets, brochures etc.

We take this opportunity to thank Maitreyi Vijayakar for contributing in her own way towards this issue. We also would like to thank our readers, our writers and our valuable volunteers Kashmira Ajinkya and Sushmita Kothare (Yuva Manch Members), Mr. Shrinall Kothare and everybody who have contributed in anyway to the publishing of this Magazine. A special vote of thanks goes to Aparnah Vyavaharkar for her valuable contribution and also to Mrs Vidula Kothare for her priceless contribution in designing the cover page overnight at the eleventh hour. We at Prabhu Tarun present our '**Diwalichi sukdi**' to you in the form of '**your**' magazine and wish one and all a very Happy and prosperous new year.





END OF THE WORLD



प्रस्तावना

-संजना दीपक कोठारे

ह्या वर्षी प्रभु तरुण दिवाळी अंकासाठी कोणता विषय निवडावा ह्यावर आमची चर्चा होत असताना अचानक त्या क्षणी जमलेल्या आमच्या मित्र परिवाराकडे लक्ष गेले. काम चालू होते. असे काम जे सर्वांनीच केवळ एक समाज सेवा म्हणून हाती घेतले आहे. एका परंपरेचा वारसा पुढे चालू ठेवण्याच्या उद्देशांनी एकत्र जमलेले काही लोक. प्रत्येक व्यक्ती आपापल्या खाजगी जीवनात गुंतलेला. आठवडाभर प्रचंड कामाच्या दबावातून रविवारच्या दिवशी आराम न करता प्रभु तरुणाच्या दिवाळी अंकाच्या कामासाठी जमलेला. आमच्या ह्या भेटीतून एक लक्षात आले कि तेथे उपस्थित प्रत्येक व्यक्ती एक निस्वार्थी भावनेने काम करतो आहे आणि त्या भेटीचा आनंद अनुभवतो आहे. माझ्या सर्व मित्र मैत्रिणींना पाहून एक मिश्र भावना मनात आली. आज आपण आहोत... उद्या नसू.... ही वेळ आपली आहे आणि प्रत्येकजण कितीही मानसिक दडपणाखाली असूनसुद्धा जीवनाचा आनंद लुटतो आहेत. मला ह्या माझ्या परिवाराचा अभिमान वाटला. तेव्हा विचार आला उद्या जर हे आनंदाचे क्षण सोडून ह्या जगाचा निरोप घ्यावा लागला तर काय होईल? आपल्या माणसांना सोडून जावसं वाटणार नाही परंतु सगळेच जर एकाच दिवशी जाणं विधीलिखित असेल तर आपण काय करू? आता जे करत आहोत तेच करू. नाही का? कारण कल क्या होगा किसको पता... अभी जिंदगीका लेलो मजा हेच आमचं ब्रीद वाक्य आहे.

आम्ही काही व्यक्तींना हाच विषय घ्यायचा ठरवला, की समजा उद्या ह्या जगाचा अंत होणार आहे. जगबुडी होणार आहे आणि कोणीच वाचू शकणार नाही. अशा परिस्थितीत तुम्ही तुमच्या आयुष्याचा शेवटचा दिवस कसा घालवाल? त्यावर आम्हाला काही मनोरंजक लेख आले जे आम्ही तुमच्या पुढ्यात ह्या दिवाळीच्या 'सुकडी'च्या रूपात सादर करित आहोत. काही म्हणतील की दिवाळीच्या दिवशी असला विषय का???? काही आनंदाचा विषय असावा तर त्यावर मी म्हणेन की हे आपापल्या Perception वर अवलंबून आहे. 'जिंदगी एक सफर हे सुहाना.... यहाँ कल क्या हो...किसने जाना?' हा आयुष्याची मजा न उपभोगता गेलो तर ह्या मौल्यवान आयुष्याची किंमत काय? माझ्या दृष्टीने हा दिवस जल्लोषात पूर्ण जगभर साजरा करावा. दिवाळीच्या सारखी पूर्ण पृथ्वी सजवावी आणि प्रत्येकांनी हसत मुखाने ह्या जगाचा निरोप घ्यावा आणि पृथ्वीवर नवीन पर्व सुख, शांती आणि समृद्धी घेऊन जावं अशी ईश्वराकडे प्रार्थना करावी.



जगबुडी-अखेर २४ तास!!

❖ संजना दीपक कोठारे ❖

उद्या जगबुडी होणार हे निश्चित झाल्यावर कदाचित अर्धा जग दुखात असेल परंतु बाकीचे अर्धे जग जल्लोष करित असेल ह्या शंकाच नाही. कारण त्या जल्लोषात माझा आणि माझ्या परिवाराचा सहभाग नक्कीच असेल. शेवटचे २४ तास हे पूर्णतः कसे उपभोगता येतील ह्या विचाराला तोडच नाही. तेव्हा त्या एका क्षणाची किंमत लक्षात येईल जिच्याकडे आपण इतकी वर्षे दुर्लक्ष करित आलो. कारण तेव्हा प्रत्येक जाणारा क्षण मौल्यवान वाटेल आणि पुढला क्षण वाया न घालवता उपभोगण्याची इच्छा होईल.

एखाद्या सुंदर घराला वाळवी लागल्याप्रमाणे मनुष्य जातीने ह्या सुंदर पृथ्वीचा नाश केलाय. कलियुगाचा अंत स्वाभाविक असला तरी ही जगबुडी पहिली न्हावे. शेकडो वर्षी पूर्वीसुद्धा जगबुडी घडलीये ज्यात मनुष्य जातीचा नाश झाला आणि पृथ्वीतालावर घडवलेले सर्व शोध आणि त्या मागचे तर्कश नष्ट झाले आणि मनुष्याला पुन्हा नव्याने सुरुवात करावी लागली. रामाच्या काळातसुद्धा विमान होते तसेच त्यानंतर महाभारताच्या काळात संजयने दुर्बिणीतून धृतराष्ट्राला युद्धाचे हाल पाहून ऐकवले होते. तेव्हाच्या युद्धात सुद्धा अत्याधुनिक असून शास्त्र वापरले गेलेले ज्याला आपण हल्ली Atom Bomb आणि Missiled म्हणतो. त्या सुमारास जी कलियुगाला सुरुवात झाली. त्या युद्धानंतर एक प्रकारची जगबुडी झाली. सर्व शोधांचा नाश झाला आणि मनुष्याला पुन्हा सुरुवातीपासून शोध करावे लागले. हे एक चक्र आहे कारण आपले भोग आपल्याला ह्या जन्म-मृत्यूच्या चक्रातून कधीच मुक्त करणार नाही. जिथे मृत्यू तिथे जन्म.

शरीराचा अंत होतो, आत्म्याला नाही, कारण कोणत्याही अभौतिक गोष्टीला अंत नाही. त्यामुळे जरी जगबुडले तरी आत्म्याला पुन्हा शरीर हवच आणि त्यासाठी पुन्हा एक नवीन पर्व सुरू होईल. अंत होतो तो केवळ भौतिक सुखाचा. आत्म्याला मरण नाही त्यामुळे जो पर्यंत आत्मा जिवंत आहे ह्या जगाला मरण नाही.

एक पर्व संपून दुसऱ्या पर्वाची सुरुवात ही आपण आनंदाने स्वीकारायला हवी कारण कोणत्याही नवीन गोष्टीचे स्वागत हे व्हायलाच हवं नाहीका? जगबुडी ही होणारच पण आपण आयुष्य हवे तसे जगण्यासाठी त्या शेवटच्या दिवसाची वाट का पाहावी? आजचा दिवस आपला.... उद्याचा दिवस कोणी पाहिलाय? ह्या क्षणासाठी जगावे... पुढला क्षण तरी कोणी पाहिलाय? आज आपण प्रत्येक माणसाला केवळ धावताना पाहतो. स्वतःसाठी जगताना पाहतो. मुलाचा जन्म होतो, परंतु जन्मदात्यांकडे त्या बाळाला द्यायला वेळ नसतो. परंतु नोकरित वरची पायरी गाठायची असेल तर हे बलिदान फारच क्षुल्लक. शेवटी प्रत्येकाचा अग्रमान म्हणजे आपल्या परिवाराचे भवितव्य. परंतु ह्या खेळात आपण काही गमावत होत तसा आपल्याला जाणवत नाही का? की आयुष्य हे असाच जगायचं अशी धारणा बनली आहे? आपल्या भौतिक सुखाला अग्रमान न देता जे अभौतिक सुखाला प्राधान्य देतात त्याच्यावर महत्त्वाकांक्षी नसल्याचे आळ लावले जातात. परंतु जगण्याचा आनंद केवळ अशी व्यक्ती अनुभवू शकते जी भौतिक सुखाच्या मागे न धावता आपले आयुष्य संतुष्ट समजून अभौतिक आनंद उपभोगू शकते.

वेळ हा कोणाच्याही सत्तेत नसतो उलट मनुष्य हा 'वेळेच्या' मुठीत आहे. मुल जेव्हा लहान असतं त्याला आपल्या आई वडिलांच्या सोबतीची गरज असते परंतु कारकिर्दीच्या चक्रात अडकलेला मनुष्य कितीही हवं असला तरीसुद्धा आपला वेळ आपल्या मुलांना देऊ शकत नाही. ह्या गोष्टीची अतिशय खंत होते की ही वेळ निघून जातेय हे आपल्या लक्षातही येत नाही. आज इच्छा असली कोणाला भेटण्याची तर ती उद्यावर ढकलू नये कारण 'क्या पता कल हो न हो'

बरेच पुण्यवान लोकं उपवास ठेवतात. आज एकादशी, उद्या संकष्टी, परवा हे... तेरवा ते... कोणाचाही अनादर न करता एक उपरोधि विचार मनात आला. उपवास का करावा? किंवा लोक उपवास का करतात? देवाला प्रसन्न करायला? आपल्या पापाचे प्रायश्चित्त करायला की एक दिवस आपल्या पोटाला आराम देऊन आपले शरीर स्वच्छ करायला? तिसरे कारण पटण्यासारखे आहे परंतु आधी दोन कारणं न पटणारी वाटतात. उपवासाच्या दिवशी इच्छा झालीच काही खाण्याची आणि इच्छा मारून उपवास केला तर काय पुण्य कमावले जाते का? दुसऱ्या दिवशी जगबुडी होणार आहे हे कळल्यावरसुद्धा लोक उपवास करतीलच का? मनसोक्त जगायची इच्छा होणार नाही का? की मनुष्य घाबरूनच जेवण जेवायचं विसरेल?

प्रत्येक माणसाची एक प्रवृत्ती सामान्य आहे. आजचं मरण उद्यावर ढकलण्याची सवय आपल्या प्रत्येकाच्या रक्तात भिनली आहे हे दिसून येतं. संत कबीराचा दोहा आपल्याला माहिती असूनसुद्धा कोणी ते शब्द अमलात आणत नाही. कल करे सो आज कर आज करे सो अब, पल में परलय होएगी बहुरी करोगे कब' संत कबीरांच्या ह्या वाक्याचे शब्दशः भाषांतर केले की त्याचा अर्थ असा होतो, 'उद्याचे काम आज करावे आणि आजचे आता. आजचा क्षण जर गमावला तर काम कसे होईल?' माणसाच्या ह्याच प्रवृत्तीमुळे कोणतेच काम वेळेत

होत नाही आणि वेळेचं महत्त्व आणि त्याची किंमत आपल्याला जाणवत नाही. करोडच्या व्यापाराचा सौदा करताना एका व्यापाराला त्या क्षणाचे महत्त्व कळते, शेअर मार्केटमध्ये पुंजी धारकाला क्षणाचे महत्त्व कळते परंतु त्याच व्यक्तींना अशा ठिकाणी आपला वेळ घालवता येईल का जिथे त्यांना कसलाही पैसेविषयक लाभ नाही आणि दुसऱ्या बाजूला आपल्या परिवार आणि हितचिंतकांबरोबर घालवलेल्या वेळेशी तुलना. किती लोकं त्या करोडच्या फायद्याला नकार देऊन आपल्या मित्र परिवाराबरोबर आपला वेळ घालवणं पसंत करतील?

आज हा लेख लिहिताना मी स्वतः माझ्या ह्या पृथ्वीतलावरच्या शेवटच्या दिवसाचे क्षणचित्र डोळ्यासमोर पाहतेय. फारच आनंदाचा दिवस असेल तो. परंतु काय करू आणि काय नको अशी मनस्थिती होणार नाही कारण आजपर्यंत शक्यतोवर मी माझे आयुष्य त्या त्या क्षणासाठी जगले आहे. उद्याचं मला माहित नाही. आज मी जिवंत आहे. त्यामुळे मिळेल ती वेळ माझ्या जवळच्या व्यक्तींबरोबर घालवणं पसंत करते. पूर्ण आयुष्याचा आनंद त्या एका क्षणात उपभोगण्याचा प्रयत्न करते. जी व्यक्ती आवडते त्या व्यक्तीबरोबर वेळ घालवणं पसंत करते. मग ते प्रत्यक्ष भेटून असो किंवा इतर माध्यमातून. माझा नवरा, माझी मुलं, माझा परिवार, माझे एका हातावर मोजण्याएवढे काही खास मित्रमैत्रिणी आणि माझे हितचिंतक हा माझा छोट्यासा परिवार ज्यांच्याबरोबर मला वेळ घालवणं पसंत आहे. त्यामुळे नवीन असा काही नाही पण आयुष्याचा शेवटचा दिवस मी माझ्या ह्या छोट्याशा परिवाराला एकत्र घेऊन तो दिवस घालवणं पसंत करीन आणि त्या २४ तासांच्या प्रत्येक क्षणात आपल्या उर्वरित आयुष्याचा आनंद उपभोगीन. ह्याला जीवन ऐसे नाम....

□





END OF THE WORLD

❖ ALOKE PRADHAN ❖



24 HOURS TO THE NEXT DIMENSION



ALOKE PRADHAN

It must have been a little after three in the morning. I had returned home an hour earlier, from an office party that had extended well past midnight. This was a regular occurrence as far as I was concerned - most parties started late and ended only in the wee hours of the following day. So, this was not something out of the ordinary.

Despite being in bed for a while, I was unable to fall asleep. Instead of trying to entice sleep, I decided to go to the drawing room and read for a while. I picked up a newspaper and began scanning through it. A small article on the bottom left of a page caught my attention. It was an article that mentioned about another Nostradamus prediction come true. I recollected reading a book on his prophecies, and how people staunchly

believed in them.

Among his various predictions, people suspected that Nostradamus had – in a lateral way – mentioned the end of the world. That set me thinking on a different tangent. What if we knew the world was going to end ? Better still, what if we knew that we had only twenty four hours left before the world ends ? Wow ! What would we be thinking ? How would we be feeling ?

And then.....how would I feel if I knew about my certainty ? I leaned back and thought to myself – what if I had 24 hours given to me. The last 24 hours. What would I do ? And how much could I?

While 24 seems like a miniscule figure, how does 86,400 sound ? Huge, right ? Yes, they are the number of seconds in a day. That immediately made me feel better. Where would I start ?

Of course, with my parents. And no, I would not thank them. That is not necessary. I would like to tell them how much I have enjoyed being their son. About how important it was for me to know that they supported my decisions and encouraged me in most of my endeavours. I would also want them to know that today I understand why I was not given a motorcycle in my college days – it is simply unsafe. It was their way of

protecting me – but I never understood or accepted it, then. Today I do. I have had a good life because they gave it to me. And I am proud to be their son.

As the younger brother to Deepali, we had our share of squabbles and fights when we were children. But as we grew older, our relation evolved to being more like friends – but always with the due respect that she deserves. In school, Deepali was always the pet of all the teachers, and thanks to her, I would get some reflected glory ! I have learnt to be calm and composed by consciously trying to imbibe those qualities from her and my father. And these have helped me tremendously in my professional life and growth. I would definitely go up to Deepali and tell her this. Have never done it so far, but have to do it today – there is no tomorrow.

My teachers. My friends. My extended family. These are the three main influencers and creators of what you are today. Yes, I want to thank them. And I also want to apologize to them. Thank them for their contribution and for their education. And apologies for the innumerable times that I let them down or had disputes with them. While they would just brush off my ‘thanks’, I am absolutely sure that they are equally large hearted to accept my ‘apologies’ and let bygones be bygones.

After finishing with these, I would like the opportunity to fulfill some of the dreams that I have been chasing. I think I would go to the Harley Davidson showroom, swipe my credit card and pick up the most powerful cruiser available. The credit card bill arrives only a month

later, so no question of making any payments either ! Riding this bike is a dream, and one that I want to fulfill in this life itself.

I want to try skydiving from a plane. It must be an awesome feeling to see the world from so high up, without the ugly window frames of an airplane between you and the sky. Of course, my credit card once again !

How much time do I have left ? Do I have time for a quick meal ? Then I would love to go for a sushi meal at Wasabi – one of my favourite restaurants. With the kind of traffic in the city, I think it is appropriate that in the time that I have, I should pay a visit to the Governing authorities in Mumbai. While it really does not make any sense to suggest to them ways to make our life better, at least I would like to vent my feelings through words and actions about the nonsense that we have been subjected to, for the past so many decades.

With the evening drawing close, I want to be back home. With Aishaana and Aatish. I want to hear them talk. I want them to know their importance in my life. And if I don't tell them now, it may be too late. Happiness to me is seeing Aatish happy. I want to ask him if he needs anything that I can give him, right now. If possible, fulfill his every wish and desire.

The time for the prediction to come true is near. As the clock ticks, it does not create any fear or any worry in me. I have met and acknowledged everybody and everything close to my heart. I feel complete. Now I am looking forward to the next dimension - with a smile on my lips.

□





The Last Day

❖ Anand Vijayakar ❖



Today is an important day. The most important day of my life perhaps. So much to do and so little time in which to do it all.

I wake up to a slightly yellowing sky. The sun has already risen... perhaps an hour ago, perhaps two. I like to stand in my small balcony while I have my tea. I like looking at the birds, busy flying around in the morning. Their twitter is so much clearer at this early hour. My wife is calling for me, reminding me I still have to prepare for work. I doubt there can be a sweeter sound in the world, but perhaps others might disagree. After all, they may have their own wives calling for them.

Work is going to be a blast today. I have 3 invitations and a couple of meetings to go through and might even get some more work out of those. A busy

day perhaps... hopefully. Because I like it when I have a busy day at work. It makes me feel I have a purpose in life; it makes me feel alive.

The train is crowded, as usual. But that's something commonplace in a city like Mumbai. It could stand to go faster though... the train, I mean. It makes me impatient sometimes, but I remind myself that it's going to get there anyway. The air is still cool enough to be pleasant, and a bit of it is filtering in through the crowd near the door. Finally, churchgate... my destination. A short walk later i'm at my desk and ready to take on the day ahead.

With a total of 5 people, my workplace isn't exactly crowded, but we're a close-knit group and it always feels nice to be part of a group. We've decided to go out for lunch today. I think it's a great idea to treat oneself to a nice, relaxed meal instead of the hurried one we tend to take while at work. It lets one enjoy the simple flavour of each ingredient and the effort which goes into putting them together to make a dish. The walk back from the restaurant takes us along Marine Drive, which is something I like to do. it's a bit hot in the sun, but if you walk along the footpath on the landward side of the road, I can get enough shade to allow me to stop a while and look at the sea. The sea

(cont...on page 65)

END OF THE WORLD

❖ Aparna Sameer Senjit-Vijayakar ❖



Boy oh boy ...!so the deathknell sounded by all those world brains will finally be coming true...! The only thing I can think about is , oh migosh ,only a DAY leftleft for WHAT ..? the world to come to an end !

But ,as ever an optimist ,I say ,wow ,24 more hours left for the end line!

Lemme see , all those things I wanted to do & yet never got to doingYou know all those things I have been wanting to throw

Anger ,enmity ,false pride ,imagined slights ,troubled thoughts , but never did ,as who knew , I could have needed them on the morrow ? youkno ,to continue our wars & fights But then since there is going to be no morrow ,why carry this baggage ...? Ugh ...they anyways were a heavy load & stinky to boot!

And oh yes a huge thing is best relegated to dustbin.....Worry ! hey guys

,whatz to worry about ? therz going to be no future to worry about ! yippee!..I have always spent my Precious TODAY worrying about an unknown Tomorrow and today I think how precious is NOW.....great , I needed some extraneous circumstance to have brought my inner sense out .but then thatz the way the fools learn . Just see ,with great knowledge comes a greater wisdomto ascend from tomorrow to today to now

Oh my god ...I just remembered(gosh my memory has really improved in these last few hours) I dunno if I can wear each & every thing I have stuffed my wardrobe with...! Oops ,hardly 20 hours are leftnow I will never know the pleasure of having worn & preened all that stuffshould have disbursed them to those many guyz who anyways had no tomorrow...!too late to regret

Oh shucks ,talking of unnecessary things ,maybe I took a hurried decision to clean the fridge today ...why did I not leave it for the morrow Anyways no time to spend priceless minutes in regret.

Am thinking ,just thinking ,of chucking out the most important thing in everyone's lifeHOPE.yeah ,hope ,the most important ingredient for a happier ,brighter Tomorrow ! The word Hope is so nice in all it's conjugated formshoping ,hoped



,hopeful ;; even Hopping denotes happiness.....

You know sumthing.....i can make any number of mistakes today ,theres no opportunity to correct it or be corrected or stand corrected ... good ,bad ,, I dunno ! somethings need correctives ,corrections , in lifethere's someone who loves us & cares enough to want to correct us ...stand corrected for , but then if therz no tomorrow ,weellllllll.....? !

Oh yes ,one thing I will not be ever doingoye , not brushing teeth

(been doing that for nearly a couple short of fifty years ...yikes.), sitting in a dentist's chair , never mind how handsome he is (eventually we all shut our eyes as he comes near) ,setting that ohso irritatingly early alarm ,but ,but butnever having to promise ANYTHING AT ALL astomorrow never comes So ,sing ye one and all ...

Lets forget about tomorrow ,

Lets forget about tomorrow ,

Lets forget about tomorrow for tomorrow never comes.....

(cont...from page 63)

has always struck me as one of the most wonderful things on the planet... a single body of water, so strong and vast that it could swallow up all the land in a few seconds, but I think its too controlled and tempered to do that. It's a valuable lesson for me.

The rest of the day is comfortably busy and its 6 before I know it. Time to quit and get back to home sweet home. I think i'll do the cooking today. After all, I won't get the chance again. I like the process of creating a dish for people to relish. Like with my work, it gives me the chance to create something for the people i share my life and my space with.

Nearing the end of the day, I wonder if I've made this one count. I wonder if I've done everything I'd planned... if I've done enough. Let's see; I've enjoyed the twitter of birds in the morning, enjoyed a cup of tea with my wife, kissed her goodbye, worked well, shared a meal with my colleagues, admired the sea, made it back home in one piece, cooked a meal for my family and shared the last few hours with my wife while talking about the day. And now, just before, I turn in for the last time, I look back over the day and am

pleased to see that I have indeed made it count for something. After all, it is the last day before the world ends... or is that tomorrow? Or the day after? Funnily enough, I've forgotten, and what if I have? Does it really matter that much? Does it matter if the last day before the end of the world was tomorrow instead of today? I look back over the day and what I see is that I have done everything I had planned, and even had the time and opportunity to do a few things I hadn't exactly planned for. I've had a fulfilling and happy day and that's what matters, and I'm convinced that as long as I continue to live every single day with the optimism and patience I have lived through today with, it won't matter when the world ends, because as long as it's around for me to enjoy, I will have enjoyed it to its fullest.

I've discovered that the secret to a happy and satisfying life, is living every day as if it were your last. I have lived this day as if it were the last day before the end of the world, and I am happy and proud to say that even if it weren't and I were wrong, I'd be waking up tomorrow with a clear mind and a clean slate for one more wonderful day.



If Tomorrow Never Comes

❖ Aparna Vyavaharkar ❖



“I would eat cheeeeeese and white bread and pakodas and loads of rice and chocolates, and milkshakes...” – Sakshi – weighs 65 kg, and been on a diet for the last 6 weeks.

“Go home and sleep through the end, open my eyes and I’m in heaven... aahh I hope it is the last day” sighs Rajhans- 25 yr old working professional who wants to retire right away!

“So what will **you** do if tomorrow never comes?” They all questioned me after I questioned them.

I don’t believe in tomorrow. I live each day like it’s my last. And if tomorrow does come it’s a bonus.

People didn’t have much to argue about that and went back to work! But, then my inner voice was hesitant- what if my time on earth were done, have I really

accomplished and completed all my tasks that I was sent to do on this planet?

I pondered... Wait a second! My eyes lit up with excitement and my heart raced...tomorrow I will be floating on clouds amidst the Creator of all?

Questions buzzed around me like a swamp of bees...

I will be meeting all my near and dear ones that made it there before I did. (I have so many stories to tell my aunt, who just set of for Heaven one day without telling any of us.)

I hear in Heaven we all get a pair of transparent wings, just like the ones I wore on my 4th birthday party, only this time my dad needn’t turn me around in circles making me believe I can fly... I really will be able to fly!

Can you imagine there would be no pollution, no traffic, no peep-peep noise, just the freedom to fly wherever - whenever.

Everyone is equalized there; hence there would be no jealousy, no hatred, no politics, no unpleasantness... just a space filled with love...

As I type, I feel like I am writing a fairytale book for a bunch of kids, but tomorrow I will experience real magic. A Utopian world will exist and I will be living in it.

(cont...on page 70)

The Last day of the World!

❖ Mayura Nayak ❖



Let me take you to my secret place
High above the earth into outer space
Only God knows where, only God knows
how
I will take you there somehow
If this was the last day of your life
What would you do to make things right?
If this is the last day of your life
Who you gonna call to make things right?
- Last day of your life: By Glass Pear
Yes, this may just be a song which holds
an apt place right now as we all elaborate
on how we plan to spend the last day of our
lives! When we decided on this as our
topic this Diwali Special Issue, we got
different points of view from many of our
friends. Some said it is a sad topic to write
on such a festive occasion. Some said, it's

too early for me to think about my last day
I am still very young! But surely there were
many, who understood the depth of the
thought and gave us very interesting
articles. Some may have used humour to
make the topic lighter, whereas some have
given the true picture of how they would
like their last day to be. Some have in fact
left some philosophical thoughts for us to
ponder on!

My luck that I got to see the movie 2012
featuring on HBO over the weekend. In
which, the protagonist and his family do
not lose hope of being able to survive the
natural catastrophe which had hit the world
where, the world was coming to an end
that day! The movie ended with the world
completely destroyed but there sure were
some survivors who then started a new
year 01 – 01 – 0001. So the question that
comes to my mind is will I be one of the
survivors? Or will this day surely be the last
day of my life? Well before I saw the film,
my intentions were to simply imagine the
end of my life and then write this article,
but now, I want to give myself the hope of
my family being some of the survivors!
This means, my last day will surely be a
havoc trying to run away from every
catastrophe and reaching the safest zone
as quickly as possible with my family like in
the case of John Cusack in the movie
2012. I will surely not sit down either

sulking on the fact that I may die soon, or also not sit waiting happily in the cuddly arms of my family waiting for the end to arrive, or accepting that the end is near. I will ensure that my family is all pepped up to fight the natural disaster till our last breathe! Of course it takes a few minutes of destruction to ruin the whole world, but ultimately those few minutes have to fade off, and if my family and I are able to survive those few minutes then there is a whole new world at the end of this one! Sounds like a grueling LAST DAY but will surely be worth it, if I along with my family can actually see the dawn of 01-01-0001!! Getting as imaginative as possible, I'm sure media will play a vital role in exaggerating the end of the world, almost months before the actual last day arrives! What better proof can there be than the sheer existence of this movie 2012 itself, which is based upon the realistic assumption that the world is indeed coming to an end on 2012! So if media does play an important role, then I'm sure I will have a list of some of the Dos and Donts already with me! Some of the places which may seem to be the safer options will be worth a try for us to reach as we near the final day! Certain things which may find a place in my TO DO list could be:

- Encashing all the money I have in my bank account? May be exchanging all of it into US Dollars? May be not? What if Rupee gets stronger in the next world? What if none of these currencies exist? What if the age old barter system begins as it was at the beginning of civilization? Then may be converting all of it into gold makes sense? Hahaha well again, maybe not as you never know, gold mines could

surface at the ground level and gold will lose its value!! Maybe then it makes sense to simply exchange all the money I have for food and other necessities and leave it with me to distribute to my people on the final day. Wonder how much of it I can really sustain with me in the bid to save my life!

- Meeting all my friends and distant family relations. Well it goes without saying that my immediate family and I will see the end together or rather fight the end together as long as we can, but I would like to meet the others who have ever touched my life, my friends with whom I have shared life's most memorable moments. Thank them, seek forgiveness, may be seek explanation for any wrong they have done, reveal hidden secrets if any! Etc. etc. My extended family, who we call relatives! May be bid them a final good bye with a hope of meeting them again in the new world.

- Wonder how much it would help to carry my personal official documents like a PAN Card or a passport. Well in the movie, 2012, a green card did help a Russian get on board the submarine which was moving to a safer belt. May be in that case it is better to be safe than sorry, so I would rather gather these documents and keep them handy.

- Make a list of my favorite restaurants, holiday destinations, and spas and visit each one after the other. Enjoy some mouthwatering roadside chats and other junk food.

- Equip my family and myself with basic warm clothes and monsoon wear. You never know which weather the new world will greet us with!

- One more item which will become a



collectors' piece will be the World Map and the Atlas! I think I will have to grab one and keep it as safe as I can. You never know mountains could turn into valleys and some new islands will emerge and the old ones will submerge. This will help me in my own navigation also; I could auction it in the new world and make a fortune for my family with it!!!

- Last but not the least, I will teach as many life's basics as I can to my son, to prepare him to face this world without me, in case he survives and I don't. This will only be then my wishful thinking that he has indeed learnt his life's lessons in the shortest time and will fight his own battle as long as he can.

Hey all this sounds like preparing me for a long holiday or an adventure trip! Well, if that's the outlook, then it may get easier to handle the truth that life will never be the same here on. If life really ends then the story is over there. The end will rather be a tough one, since I will die fighting every breath to live more, in worry of my son's wellbeing, my family's whereabouts and so on. But if the new world begins with the old living creatures still alive and then if I have to be one of them, then life will never ever be the same, for as long as I live my balance life! What a weird thought! Today, a person's status or ability to enjoy life's luxuries depends on the disposable income he has but only as long as he lives, when he dies he leaves everything behind. His existence is a combination of the friends he makes, the enemies he defeats, his learning in his failures, and his experiences in his success! With the ending of the world, the amount of destruction will be so enormous that we

will lose count of our friends or enemies alive. Money which ultimately is sheer paper will either burn or get destroyed in massive flood waves. With money goes the power, and that brings all of us on the same platform. We will then have to create a new life in the new world, with new people irrespective of their caste, creed, or nationality! Which means it will almost be a re-birth with the same face and soul!

Well, my imagination took me on a long adventure ride with a one way ticket out of this world! Either into the new one, or then into a new life! But the journey only allowed me to introspect further on things that I have always wanted to do but could not! I may have not mentioned them in this article as I never lost hope of surviving the end of this world. But my mind did touch upon those areas and opened up various clogs which will now allow me to venture into lesser known zones, take risks and live life to the fullest. It has made me realize how criminal procrastination can be to my own well being which I always knew but didn't follow. I have always known, but not always done the urgent and important things in life thinking that I can do those tomorrow, but what if this tomorrow never comes? This journey allowed me to refresh the love and respect I have for my family and close friends, and how much they mean to me. I could actually in my mind form a sort of a 'Circle of Concern' that comprises of my own people and how do I currently rank them in my life. I suddenly could remember some of my old school friends whom I have not spoken to for ages while I travelled on my imaginative journey. I could remember some old friends who tried really hard to

keep in touch with me, but due to my ignorance I lost contact with them. To sum it up, this journey helped me look at my own life through a third party perspective. It has broadly given me a new set of a 'Circle of Concern' and has helped me revamp or re-align some of my short term plans. It has re-instilled some of life's basic teachings back in the forefront.

My message to all those who thought that this was a sad topic to write on, is that, unless you explore an avenue you can never conclude or judge the outcome of the same. The depth in this article lies in its strength to shake the person inside YOU, to refresh all that you already know, in a way which brings a new perspective of your life at the forefront. It might not teach you something totally new, but it will surely

help you realize and feel what you already know. Often, only when you are at the verge of losing someone or something is when you realize the importance of the same thing it holds in your life. This is precisely the crux of this exercise of imagining your life coming to an end. It will quickly like a computerized brain put all your priorities in the order that they should be in and suddenly you feel if you have a little more time, you can sort your life for good! Hope this Diwali and the New Year bring a fresh dimension to our lives and make it a more meaningful life for us and our families. What can be a better occasion than Diwali to start this new journey in our lives!!! Wishing you all a very happy diwali and an even prosperous new year!

(contd... from page 66)

I will be a character in this fairytale. Maybe I could change my name to TinkleBell, she's always been my childhood favorite.

As I thought, I lost control of myself, of my muscles and my body drifted along with my imagination, till the floor shook and I felt my weight on my feet again. I feared! Sights and Sounds of the real world around me. All the work of humans flashed before my eyes.

NO! NO! That can't be destroyed too.

I need to save it all before tomorrow comes (or rather doesn't come!). I need and will gather all that seems important and place it in a big destruction-proof box.

What all will I save? I started recollecting the marvelous, astonishing things that life has given us to see.

I will have to take photographs of all the wonders of the World...

I will include great works of literature

and music...

A line from every language that exists. (hmm maybe I could include the "P" code-language too)...

The dictionary has to be a part of this collection...

Simple mechanical toys; Lego...

Pictures of flowers and plants...

Details of the amazing festivals we have; Christmas, New Year, Diwali, Id...

Small sculptures of Ganpati Bappa, Christ, Buddha etc...

Paintings, Recipes, Stories, Fabrics...

One male and one female outfit...

Pictures of babies...

Pictures of animals...

All these wonderful things in the hope that someday, a new specie may be born or someone might be able to re-visit and discover with amazement a race that was!

Is this it then? Is tomorrow really the last? Errm.. can't we get a little bit more time? Please?

THE IS GOING TO END TOMORROW..... WHAT WOULD I DO TODAY?

❖ Nilesh Vithoba Nayak ❖



The very thought of the world ending tomorrow would send chills up the spine of many. Life is dear to every one. Though every one knows that he or she would die some day, no one knows when. Only the almighty knows.

But if someone gives the option of knowing that the world would end the next day, different people will have different options to respond to this tricky question:

A drunkard would love to drink all day, a food enthusiast would love to eat all day, a spend thrift would like to spend his

fortune and buy anything that is possible, a sex enthusiast would love to have sex all day, a thief would go stealing anything that is possible and so on and so forth

The real question is what would I do?

The first positive thing that comes to my mind is that I would not have to mourn over losing my family members and relatives since all of us would be together on this last day.

I would take this opportunity to think my options now that I have only 24 hours in my hand....

I have always done a lot of planning in anything that I do. So here also I would spend some time planning for the last 24 hours. Every hour would be precious and hence I would like to make the most of it.

I would tell my wife "I love you so much". I would thank her for being on my side in the thick and thin of my life. Normally we do not express ourselves in words. But I would specify to her how she has made all the difference in my life. I would spend some hours exclusively with her and share some memories that I shall always cherish. A hug, a kiss and tears of joy would be the touching elements between us in these final hours of togetherness.

I would thank my Mom and Dad for all that they have given to me in life. My very existence and status was only due to their sacrifices. I would thank them for giving me the best of education possible. I would hug them for being so caring and loving. I would ask them to forgive me if I have hurt them in any way when there were differences of opinion. Last but not the least, for one last time I would open the Scotch bottle and have a peg or two with them celebrating the final moments of life and cherishing the sweet memories that we have had in the last 50 years of togetherness.

I would tell my daughters they are awesome and would have become fine young successful women. They were my inspiration throughout my life. I would tell them that I would have loved to see them as “successful architects” since they have the potential in them that can make them renowned personalities. I admire their skills and abilities. I would also tell them that I am proud to have such daughters who have earned a name for themselves in such a short period of time. I would hug them, kiss them and spend a few hours exclusively chatting with them.

I would then talk to my in-laws and thank them for the wonderful gift that they gave me – their precious daughter. I would tell them that in Hindu rituals, on Vat Savitri day, the wife prays for the same husband for seven re-incarnations. I would do the same if given an opportunity – pray to the almighty to have the same wife for the next seven reincarnations on some other planet.

I would pick up the phone and call all

my relatives (the Kothare's, Dalvi's, Navalkar's , Dhurandhar's, Rao's, Jaykar's, Vijaykar's, Talpade's, Vyavaharkar's, Nayak's, Vazkar's, Ajinkya's, etc. etc.) at one place for a final get together. I would prepare a wonderful feast for all of them. I would try to convince my relatives that being together on this fateful day would help one and all and hence they should not miss this opportunity. This would give me an opportunity to forgive all those people who have had a soured relationship with us over a period of time. I would also personally apologize to all those who feel that I have hurt them in some way or the other. Being together in those last moments would help all of us embrace each other as one single large family supporting each other and departing as a well knit soul. In case the almighty decides for a reincarnation on some other planet, we would be together again.

I wouldn't bother saying anything to my friends. I love my friends and have always loved to keep in touch with them. I would reflect some last seconds on how lucky I have been to get friends like them in my life.

Lastly I would get pissed off since I couldn't accomplish some of my great plans in life. One of them is seeing my daughters as “great architects” building the future of tomorrow.

Woow.... I think I have expressed enough of my thoughts on a topic that is so fearful and touchy. Anyways, thanks to Prabhu Tarun for giving me an opportunity to express my feelings on what I feel for my family and friends.



END OF THE WORLD

❖ Raunaq Sameer Vijayakar ❖



Everything happens for a reason, says my Mother and my B-School professor! Nothing happens by chance although luck manipulates at times! What is life without the troubles of love, relationships, off-course reflections and bad luck? Don't you feel your life will never be the same again? I brushed this uncertainty as I came across these lines, "You will only find "tomorrow" on the calendars of fools!"

I made a mention of this in my hangout circle the other day, most replied with exhilarated thoughts of ending their painful relationships, others, "dude, I'm gonna party all night!!" ...!! We laughed it out over a few other vulgar alternatives and forgot all about it!

Realizing the potential of such uncharted thoughts slowly creeping back

into your sub conscious mind is the primary reason for such a thought relapse! Yes, exactly my point, it comes back, one option, Live it, Love it, for it comes back! For me, this happened in the late night hours of one of my busiest days, "the weekdays"!

I pondered that night, what if the world ended tomorrow? And it took me no time to figure that we value things we don't have more than what we already have! I was no exception, all I thought about were the people and things I don't have with me today. I find it very difficult to place myself in a hypothetical scenario and allow sheer stupidity to triumph! So what I do is, analyze typical guys and girls reactions instead. It helps me personally balance my point of attitude!

A typical guy tends to get more edgy than the conventional mindset. Statistically proven fact, a man's brain is majorly pre occupied with sex related information and the remaining is inclined towards sports. Now what a man would want a day before the world shuts down is anyone's guess. Hang on, let me finish, it's a 'stable' relationship and a sports bike. Deep down inside, a man is this simple and sorted to understand. For the girls out there, grab the clue!

Having interacted with a modest
(Cont.. on page...75)

जेव्हा तो अंतिम क्षण येईल.

❖ चारुदत्त धैर्यवान ❖

जगाचा अंत होणार! अशी भाकिते अनेक दिग्गज ज्योतिषविषारद करत आहेत. त्यात गेल्या वर्षी एक हॉलीवूड सिनेमा प्रदर्शित झाला. त्या सिनेमात जगण्यासाठी केलेला संघर्ष दाखवला आहे. जगातील बलाढ्य देशांच्या अतीमहत्त्वाच्या व्यक्ती आपापला देश सोडून एका बलाढ्य अशा मानव निर्मित यानात पोहचतात. हे यान येणाऱ्या महाभयंकारी प्रलयाला झेलू शकेल असे बनवलेले असते. ही सर्व मंडळी ह्या यानात स्वतःचा जीव वाचवण्यासाठी राहतात. तसेच इतर भागातले अनेक सामान्य लोक आपले घर सोडून स्वतःचे प्राण वाचवण्याचा अयशस्वी प्रयत्न करतात. जगबुडीत सामान्य जनांचा अंत झालेला दाखवला आहे. शेवटी जी मंडळी यानात असतात ती सर्व शमल्यावर सुखरूप राहिलेली दाखवण्यात आली आहेत. हा सिनेमा असल्यामुळे सारेच काल्पनिक आहे. त्यात उत्कृष्ट प्रतीचे स्पेशल इफेक्ट्स देऊन दिग्दर्शकाने प्रेक्षकांपर्यंत यशस्वीरीत्या पोहचवले आहे. जर का जगाचा अंत होणार असेल तर जीव वाचवणारे काही खात्रीशीर पर्याय असतीलच असे सांगता येत नाही. जर असतील तर ते खरच लोकांचे प्राण वाचवू शकेल का(?) हे देखील सांगता येणे कठीणच आहे. त्यात आजच्या जगात अशी अनेक तज्ज्ञ मंडळी आहेत जी हे भाकित मानत नाहीत. तेव्हा जगाच्या अंतिम दिवसाचे साक्षीदार आपण असू की नाही हे ठरवणे कठीण आहे.

गेल्या काही वर्षात आपण बऱ्याच नैसर्गिक आपत्ती अनुभवल्या, पाहिल्या ऐकल्या आहेत. उदा. भूकंप, पूर, वादळ, जमीन खचणे, त्सुनामी इत्यादी. कदाचित हे सर्व प्रकार म्हणजे पुढे येणाऱ्या महाभयंकारी संकटाची चाहूल तर नाही; आज

मानवाने आपली प्रगती साधली आहे. ती साधते वेळी त्याने निसर्गाचे अतोनात नुकसान केले आहे. आजवर हे निसर्गाने मुकपणे सहन केले आहे. कळत नकळत मानवाने स्वतःच्याच हाताने ह्या सुंदर ग्रहाला संकटात टाकले आहे. जगाचा अंत होणार असेल तर मानवाने त्या नैसर्गिक आपत्तीला सामोरे जाण्यासाठी काही उपाय तयार केले असतील वा नसतील हे कुणास ठाऊक. जर का केले असतील तर ते उपाय एवढ्या मोठ्या जनसमुदायाला त्यातून वाचवू शकतीलच हे सांगता येणार नाही. शेवटी जे दैवाने योजिले असेल तेच घडेल, जर जगाचा अंत होणार असेल तर कदाचित देवाने सध्याच्या मानवाचा अंत करून पुढे काही तरी नवनिर्माण करण्याचे ठरविले असेल. आज आपण पाहत आहोत की मानव कुठल्या ना कुठल्यातरी कारणाने एकमेकाचा शत्रू बनला आहे. धर्मवाद, प्रांतवाद, भाषावाद, सत्तावाद असे अनेक मुद्दे घेऊन एकमेकांवर हल्ले करत आहे. रोज एका नव्या संघर्षाचा सामना करत आहे. जर कुठल्या तरी प्रांतातल्या मानवाने जगबुडीतून वाचण्यासाठी काही उपाय केला असेलच तर तो सर्व लोकांना मिळलेच हे सांगता येणेही कठीण आहे.

ह्या लेखाचा उद्देश जगाचा अंत होणार की नाही हे ठरवणे नसून, जर जगबुडी होणारा दिवस उद्या उजाडणार असेल तर मला आज काय करावेसे वाटेल हे लिहिण्याकरता आहे. ह्या विषयावर लिहिणे तसे कठीणच आहे. जरी मला जे करावेसे वाटेल ते मी पुढे लिहिले तरी तसे मी करू शकेनच हे आज मला सांगता येणार नाही. मी मला मिळालेल्या आजवरच्या आयुष्यातला जो प्रत्येक क्षण जगलो आहे त्या सर्व क्षणांचा विचार केला आणि आयुष्यात मिळणाऱ्या शेवटच्या एका दिवसात त्याचा हिशोब करण्यात



व्यथित केला तर मी वर लिहिलेल्या सर्व गोष्टींचा विचार करून मला असे वाटते की अशा दूषित वातावरणात अंत जर का जगबुडीने होणार असेल तर त्याचे आपण स्वागत करायला हवे. कारण 'Every exit is an entry to the New world'. जगण्यासाठी संघर्ष करणे की येणाऱ्या संकटाचे स्वागत करणे, ह्या दोन्ही पैकी मला ह्या अशा वातावरणात संघर्ष करत माझा जीव वाचवण्यापेक्षा आनंद उत्सव साजरा करत जगाला निरोप देणे जास्त योग्य वाटते. तेव्हा त्या उंबरठ्यावर जेव्हा आपण उभे असू तेव्हा जसे नववर्षाचे स्वागत करायला जल्लोश करतो तसा महाजल्लोष करण्याचा कार्यक्रम सर्व जनसमुदायाने एकत्र येऊन करायला हवा. त्या अंतिम क्षणाचा हसत खेळत स्वीकार करायला हवा. जगण्यासाठी संघर्ष करण्यापेक्षा पुढे होणाऱ्या नव्या जग निर्मितीचे विचार करून एकत्रित यायला हवे. ह्या समारंभात सर्वांनी सगळे वाद-विवाद बाजूला सारून मानवता जपत जल्लोषात सहभागी व्हावे. असे जर घडले तर तिथे

जमलेल्या समध्येयवादी मानव होणारा जगाच्या अंताचा सामर्थ्याने स्वीकार करू शकेल आणि त्या संकटाला धैर्याने सामोरा जाईल. पण असे घडेलच हे आज मी ठामपण सांगू शकत नाही. मी फक्त आशा करू शकतो की असे काहीतरी घडेल जे सर्वांना लाभदायी ठरेल.

शेवटी मला असे वाटते की, आज शेकडो वर्षांच्या मानवाचे अस्तित्व असलेल्या पृथ्वीवर असे संकट येऊ नये आणि असे काही विपरीत घडू नये. कदाचित तुम्हाला आणि इतर सर्वांना देखील हेच वाटत असेलच. तेव्हा ईश्वर चरणी आपण एकच प्रार्थना करूया 'देवा जे काही घडवशील त्यातून एक सुंदर, स्वच्छ, निर्मळ असे विश्व निर्माण होऊ देत जिथे जो जीव बनवशील तो सुखाने आपले जीवन व्यतीत करो.'

ह्यातून एक मात्र खरं, देव तारी त्याला कोण मारी.... म्हणून ह्या जगण्यावर ह्या मरण्यावर शतदा प्रेम करावे!!!

(Contd....from page 73)

number of women, I feel they are a little more complex than we all think. Simple example, to a man, there is no differentiation between 'late' and 'too late', for a women, it means something! They have the power to measure the 'late' from the 'too late'! I'm known for bashing women in my articles; I don't mean to, it just happens!!

When I pictured my life to its last breadth, it made me realize when we walk into the road to nowhere, we carry with us hope, hope for the future. We plan our present with the future in mind. If we realize there is no present, we plan for nothing. I planned for nothing! When it comes down to winding up your life in a day's time, we realize that we live our lives practically on terms and conditions of the people who we co-exist with. Being

politically correct, maintain decorum just to be professionally accepted. House-hold chores like folding your blanket, stuffing your shoes back into the shoe-rack.... We are so engrossed and pre occupied with these less important things in life on a daily basis that we forget the essence of life, the finer things, happiness, comfort, family, lost loved ones which all reflect to you as last minute priorities when we fall short of days in our life.

I have learnt something from my own article, life is not as short, and we have enough time to undo disillusioned acts, and pay more attention to things that matter to you the most, rather than waiting for the time when you're left with one day to settle the score with life.

To be what we are, and to become what we are capable of becoming is the only end of life.

जगबुडीपूर्वीचा दिवस

❖ शौनक कौशिक जयकर ❖

(इयत्ता ८वी)



जर कोणी म्हणतो की “उद्या हे जग संपणार आहे” तर कोणी हसेल व तो हेही म्हणेल की असे कधी होणारही नाही. पण, समजा असे झाले तर? तेव्हा काय करायचे? जेव्हा मला कळण्यात आले की हे जग उद्या संपणार

आहे, तेव्हा मी जे केलं ते कोणीही केलं असतं. सर्वात पहिलं तर हे मी सर्वांना सांगितले असते म्हणजे त्यांनाही कळले असते की उद्या ते नसतील. मी नंतर काही विचार केला की उद्या जर जग संपेल तर त्याला न संपण्यापासून थांबवता येईल का? प्रत्येक कठीण कामाची एक छोटीसी चावी असते ज्यामुळे ते कठीण काम राहत नाही. तसेच जग संपण्याचीसुद्धा एक काहीतरी ‘हल’ असेल तर म्हणून मी शास्त्रज्ञांकडे जाईन. त्यांना मी ह्या गोष्टीबद्दल विचारीन. मला ठाऊक असणार की त्यांना ह्याच्याबद्दल काहीतरी माहिती असणारच. कारण शेवटी ते एक शास्त्रज्ञ आणि मी एक सामान्य मुलगा. माझ्या आधी त्यांना ठाऊक असणार की उद्या काय होणार? पण मला वाटत नाही की त्यांना हे जग वाचवता येईल. हे सगळं आपल्या हातात नाही. कधी कधी वाटते की आपल्या जगात एक सुपर हिरो असता तर त्याने आपल्याला नक्कीच वाचवले असते, पण आपण काय सांगू शकतो? जरी ‘त्याला’ पाहिजे असेल

तर तो खरंच एक सुपर हिरो पाठवेल. (परत आपण आपल्या जगात येऊया) मा शास्त्रज्ञांकडून नक्की केव्हा हे जग संपणार त्याची निश्चित वेळ लिहून घेईन. लिहून घेताच मला कळेल की हे जग संपायला फक्त चार तास आहेत. नक्की नाही तरी किमान चार तास आहेत. त्या चार तासात जे काय होईल ते. जर काय गमतीजमती करायच्या म्हणाल तर मला एक तासभर जोक्स वाचायला व थोडावेळ कॉम्प्युटरवर बसायला आवडेल. काही ओळखीच्या लोकांबरोबर मला फेसबुक किंवा ऑर्कूटवर चॅट करायला आवडेल. मग राहतात शेवटचे तीन तास. खरंतर ही रात्रीची वेळ आहे. उद्या नसल्यामुळे रात्रीची झोप लागत नाही आहे. रात्रीचे सुमारे दहा वाजले आहेत, त्या तीन तासामध्ये मला माझ्या नातेवाईकांना भेटायला आवडेल. काय माहीत, त्यांना वरती बघायला मिळेल न मिळेल? खरंतर त्यांचीसुद्धा इच्छा असेल की त्यांनासुद्धा त्यांच्या सर्व नातेवाईकांना पाहायचे असेल. आता शेवटचा दीड तास राहिला आहे. मी अर्धा तास विचारात पडतो. जगात अनेक लोक आहेत ज्यांना मरणाची चिंता असते. त्यांना जग संपल्यामुळे खूपच बरे वाटेल. फाशीवर जाणारे गुन्हेगार म्हणतील की ‘मला फासावर घालणारे पोलीस स्वतःही मरणार आहेत.’ जग संपण्यात चांगले अशा लोकांचे होते; पण वाईट आपल्यासारख्या लोकांचे. राहिलेला शेवटचा तास मी खरंतर मी झोपून काढेन. झोप लागली नाहीतर मी झोपेच्या गोळ्या खाईन. म्हणजे झोपेत केव्हा जग संपेल तर कळणार नाही. शी! गोळ्या खायच्याच तर मी जगायच्याच खाईन बाबा!



END OF THE WORLD

❖ Archana Surendra Dhurandhar ❖



The subject line of this article is something which nobody known to us in this lifetime has ever experienced. Whenever it happens it will be an experience in itself which probably will not be shared or passed onto by all existence, as there will be no tomorrow then.

If someone tells me that the world is coming to an end tomorrow, its going to take a while for the feeling to actually sink in me, but if and when it does it will sure bring in mixed emotions with me. There would be a fear of the unknown. Anxiety on what it would be in a few hours prior to THE DAY as I would like to call it. How will the world come to an end ?, would there be some sort of a natural calamity or nature's wrath.

Would it happen in a matter of split second in which we would not even realize what happened, or would it be a futile struggle for survival against the cause of the end of existence. Scary and weird feeling within, something unexplainable and unfelt.

All of us may have passed through good and bad times in life, maybe worst than one could think of some time or the other, but when we experienced same there was hope for a

better tomorrow. Here we have to live with the ultimate truth that there will be no tomorrow after THE DAY !!,

In this case all I would like to do is " Make the best of today" the one day I have to feel my existence and all around me. Admire the mysteries of nature, the marvels of human progress and technology which took us way ahead from Adam's land to walk on the moon. I would ponder over my past and present, delete my hopes & dreams for the future as this word suddenly seems to have lost its meaning. I would want to be with my family and connect to all those dear & known to me. Offer my prayers to God to be with all today and give the strength and courage to wind up their existence and not panic as it would not bring about any positive change but in fact ruin the peace of the few moments we have to cherish in this life time.

Again, all of the above is what I can imagine myself to feel on the eve of The Day, as I think today, which could change with time and guess what I would actually feel when the day dawns is something which I would know only then, but wont have the moment to share as the world ends only peace would prevail and God will roll out a new world that he has been shaping up all through a paradise for eternity.

As I conclude this article I remember a song I would sing in my school days " Do it now". Here is how it goes...' *If you have kind words to say , say it now, if you have something to give, give it now, if there's hope you can bring and someone you can please, do it now, do it now, do it now... Now, before it is too late, now's the time for every good deed, do not wait until tomorrow, for it may be just a little too late'.....*



If the world is going to end...



If the world is going to end...

I would like to meet all my friends

And tell them that today we are partying here

But tomorrow we will again party somewhere there (heaven)...

If the world is going to go...

I would like to meet all my foes

And tell them that you wasted your life in hatred and a false ego...

And last but not the least

I would like to die in peace with hands in hands with my loved ones...

So when god will see my love he'll ensure that world is made once again...

-Nikita

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&

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FICTITIOUS PRODUCTS



INTRODUCTION

- SUSHMITA KOTHARE

Fiction is regarded as an art of imagination. Since childhood we have been hearing fairy tales, be it Snow white and the Seven Dwarfs, Cinderella, Aladdin, Pinocchio etc. They create a world in our mind that we fantasize about. A world of Dreams! A world of Fiction! Thinking out of the box is very synonymous with the theory of fiction. It is an invented story or a pure fantasy. It brings out ideas and thoughts which we think about at a sub-conscious level. Something that is unrealistic but still feels real in our mind. That's exactly what FICTION is all about.

Ever had this "What if..." thought? What if I could fly like superman? What if I could go back in time? What if I had some machine to do all the house chores? What if I had a miniature phone? What if I had foldable cars? Of course, everyone does at some point in life. From Rechargeable Gums, Silent Crisps, Personalized Tires to Telepathic E-Mail and April Fool Cigars all these products sound so bizarre and strange right??!! These are things which we wished we had...these are those FICTITIOUS PRODUCTS with which we could make our living simpler and better. They are those products which we saw or read about in some prank dictionary or in some April Fools Diaries but they are the things we wished were invented to make life more adventurous and easier for us. Who would say that a complicated time machine would make life a lot easier? One could go just back in time and change things or improve things they wished they could. Or imagine having a machine that does all the household work right from washing your utensils to dusting the house...wow!! What a relief from exhausting house work and highly paid maids. Well it's all imaginary; we could just hope that someday some Joey Skaggs (a top prankster) actually invents something that is worthwhile and definitely not fictitious.

Creating a world of imagination is not an easy task and putting forth such inventive designs and ideas is all the more difficult. In this section, all these youngsters share with us their "piece of mind" and have come up with different kinds of fictitious products. These products are completely wacky, creative and unrealistic. Fun, crazy and wild ideas makes it all the more interesting. It is very fascinating to read such ideas; these articles make us realize how innovative young minds can be. A new concept, a new thought, a new idea...brings to light how the world is heading towards modernism thus making it more FUN to live!!



BLAST FROM THE PAST

❖ Kashmira Ajinkya ❖



Life is a roller coaster ride. There are ups and there are downs. Life is filled with numerous moments of love, hatred, joy, anger, victory, etc. When you look back, there are some moments you would really like to relive. A blast from the past. One of my secret fantasies has always been taking a trip into my past. Not that I want to change it, because if I change it I might not have this beautiful present. But just to live that day again; that moment, those emotions revolving around it and those feelings attached which might have slowly withered away with time.

Since childhood, I've shared a special bond with books. Right from fairy tales to novels, books have always been my close companions. Barring Text books and study books of course! Because I have always shared a love-hate kind of relationship with them and I am sure most of you do too.

Since school times, I have always indulged myself in this habit of writing a diary, what we call 'A Personal/Secret Diary'. Up till now I have always included my day-to-day interesting life events or some feelings or even gossip. It's like I am sharing my day with someone, just like you tell your close friend.

At times, I wish that, WHAT IF my secret diary could take me to my past and I relive it...What if?! .. A weird crazy feeling but a truly amazing one. All I have to do is

turn the page to the desired date and close my eyes, enter that day and experience those feelings all over again. I vividly remember the day I had achieved a championship in chess lot of years back. It was one of the most fantastic moments in my life. I feel like I again want to see that look on my parent's face, the sound of the applause, my friends happy and clapping; and camera clicking everywhere when I was on the stage receiving the huge trophy. Such times are worth treasuring in your memories forever, but the best part lies in visiting them over and over again.

Life is full of surprises; sources may be from anyone, anything and anywhere. One of the best surprises of my life has always come from my dear fiancé. If I had the magical secret diary, I would slip into those times where his surprises brought to me immense happiness and excitement. I can still feel the joy of those surprises by him, a feeling as fresh as dew.

Then again, there are some special moments with my friends. They may not be in touch with me now, but I would always like to take a U-turn into my past and meet that friend again; spend that time with him once more. Some pranks we played together in school, the fights we had but patched up the very next day, copying during exams but claiming that I was just

(cont...on page 84)



FICTITIOUS PRODUCT BY

❖ Prerit Sudhir Nayak ❖



Product name: SUPREMETABULOUS MULTI PURPOSE TABLETS

Punch Line: Goli Ek Fayde Anek!

Product Type: Multi purpose tablets for all your needs

Unique Selling Point: The Supremetabulous Multi Purpose Tablets are truly eco friendly and it can be used for anything and everything. It can be used for washing hair, removing hair, washing clothes, car, utensils, nail polish remover, substitute for camphor, used for extinguishing fire, mouth freshener, etc.

Form: Tablet form

Colour: Light Sky Blue

Shelf life: In normal room temperature, expiry is 2 years from the date of packaging. It must be always stored in its package or air tight container away from moisture when not in use.

Certifications: Eco-mark from The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) for detergent labelling.

Product Features:

- ✓ Supremetabulous Multi Purpose Tablets are ecological tablets which are most suitable and safe to use product with great performance in this new generation.
- ✓ A natural eco friendly and user friendly economical and effective product.
- ✓ Leaves a very safe, soothing, non-irritant, natural effect on the skin
- ✓ As it is in tablet form where one tablet is sufficient to wash bucketful of clothes etc, it is not needed to measure the detergent and eliminates the possibility of excess use and wastage.

✓ Its tablet form and ease of use makes it to be very popular in bachelor men.

✓ Improved dissolvability & dispensability – leaves no residues on the laundry.

✓ Without any kind of chemicals, artificial colours, artificial surfactants, perfumes, dyes, preservatives or animal by-products.

Product Design:

✓ Supremetabulous Multi Purpose tablets are the least polluting as they are bio-degradable and also phosphate-free.

✓ The full product is designed to biodegrade quickly and completely.

✓ These are environmentally superior tablets which use very few chemical ingredients in it.

✓ The toxicity of detergents is removed by avoiding additives like Foam Regulators and brightening agents.

The product will be available in two packages:

1. This package is for one month which contains 35 tablets.

2. This package is a 10-day trial which contains 10 tablets.

Product Price: We have decided to make this product very affordable to the common man. So the product will cost only Rs. 501 (Cash) & only Rs. 5001* (Credit Card) – 35 tablets, and Only Rs. 201 (Cash) & Rs. 2001* (Credit Card)

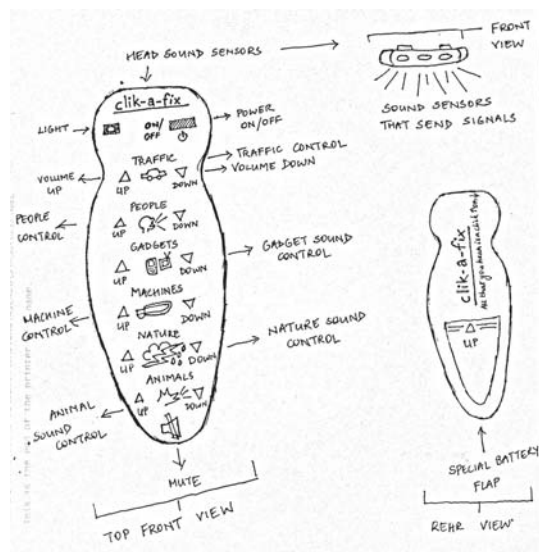
[*We want to discourage credit card usage to our future generation. SAY NO TO DEBT!!!]





CLIK-A-FIX

❖ PRERNA MANKAR ❖



3. Electronic and combat based gadget noise levels – includes computer/typewriter/phone keyboard typing, surround sound movie/music systems, exhaust fans, air-conditioners, normal fans, televisions, radio, washing machine, money-vending machine, vacuum cleaner, water purifier, dish-washer, walky-talkies, missile launchers, bombs, guns, bullets, knives

4. Construction site machinery noise levels – includes cranes, cement mixers, dump trucks, hole diggers, drillers, road rollers, lifts, jack-hammers, chainsaws, hammers, spades

5. Nature-produced sounds – thunder, rain, sea, flood, wind, hailstorm

6. Animal-produced sounds – includes cats, dogs, tigers, lions, bears, wolves, cows, sheep, pigs, buffaloes, rams, chicken, ducks, turkeys, all birds basically

All these controls have the “+” option and the “-“option, where + obviously denotes increase in volume and – denotes decrease in volume.

Whenever a sound of a particular nature falls within these 6 categories all you have to do is point the remote in that direction and alter the noise levels as per your choice.

For example if you can't hear what the traffic cop is saying to a law-breaker in the corner just point your remote and increase the levels of “People Talking”. You will

My invention is something that everyone could use considering the loud decibel levels we experience on a daily basis. It is remote control called Clik-a-Fix as it fixes all your auditory problems in a jiffy.

This remote has 6 volume control options that are applicable to our everyday life.

1. Traffic noise level – includes horns, engines, music from car audio, traffic police whistle, sirens, cars, buses, trains, airplanes, bullock carts, rickshaws, taxis, trams, metro rail, mono rail, ships, boats, tanks, military tanks

2. People talking level – includes vegetable/fruit/fish vendors, loud neighbors, street hawkers, loud relatives, government workers, municipal workers

clearly be able to make out the cop asking for a bribe of Rs. 500/- without going deaf!

If your mother is too busy nagging you about your marriage plans seconds after you wake just point the remote towards her mouth and reduce the volume with the "People Talking" option. No more listening to her nagging and she still gets to do it without any interference. All in all you both get what you want!

When you here that some loser car and rickshaw drivers are making noise near a hospital which is also a no-honking zone please feel free to reduce their volumes using both traffic noise levels and people noise levels so as to disperse quickly and leave the poor patients in peace. (Yes you can use two controls at a time!!!)

If there is no auditory proof of these events occurring, the point of creating them in the first place comes in question simply to be dismissed and discontinued in the same vein.

The remote control has a special battery that needs charging only after 10

days since the reduction in noise levels and the consequent good that may come out of being able to hear the truth for a change is positive enough for the battery to survive.

However beware of truants who may misuse it and reduce the volume of an ambulance siren which is indeed in an emergency or reduce the volumes of children crying out for their mothers as their cities are being bombed.

This remote will be sold to only those who can afford it and sign a hundred pages contract which will stipulate the correct and appropriate usage of the remote control. Clik-a-Fix is not a toy. With great power comes great responsibility and it commands that kind of respect and usage! And all your loud auditory problems are solved within the pressing of a button. So click your noise pollution problems away with Clik-a-Fix!

Offer valid till scientists come up with next invention!!! Hurry!!!

Clik-a-Fix :- All that you hear is a click up or down!!!

(contd...from page 81)

helping him, waiting eagerly for the final school bell to ring and rushing out of the class together, the most awaited P.T. period. Oh...How I wish I could just return back to that time!

College life has its own charm. A whole new world of friends, fun, campus. No school bags, no uniforms, no homework, no late remarks. Imitating professors, the late-night studies and asking for questions banks from the professors, working in chemistry labs and the out-of-the -world thrill of breaking lab apparatus, bunking lectures, the campus fun, the first crush...! Rewind...Rewind...Rewind...!

In today's 21st century, we have everything in our life, courtesy the technological advances. You name it and it is either invented or scientists are analyzing new ways to invent it. But amidst all of this, what our life lacks is a flavor of magic in it; something that we witness only in Harry Potter kind of movies. If only what we saw in those movies happened in our life, then it would be so different .We could always take a break from our daily routine, go back to one of the most unforgettable day of our life and feel lively again. So would you like to sneak into your past...??? I would for sure. ;-)

□



IMAGINARY PRODUCT

❖ TANVI DHURANDHAR ❖



Ever felt the urge to dream out loud? Ever run out of scraps to scribble and doodle on? Ever wondered what words would look like hanging mid air?

Airpens are the answer not only to the questions above but also to the growing need for eco-friendliness. These pens, specially filled with gravity defying gel come in various shapes, sizes, vibrant colours and an excuse to paint the world around you.

Just imagine happy doodlers doodling away to glory, day dreamers inviting you to experience their dreamlands, fancy letters and numbers caught in suspended animation. Not only will the world see a sudden burst of hues and fonts but billions of trees sacrificed, just so that you could scribble that important number, will live to see another day. Erasable by a simple wave of the hand, text released in the air can also walk and run with you as you write. Now every Airpen owner can share a piece of God's own canvas.

Professors will not need blackboards or whiteboards anymore and students will not need mercilessly heavy notebooks. Although the need for paper cannot be completely dispensed, Airpens can definitely act as a futuristic substitute that is ecologically advisable and more fun to use.

Who needs those large, expensive and brightly lit billboards when every nook and cranny of the world around you can serve as your means of aerial advertising!

Now 'Pappu loves Dolly' and 'Babloo heart Babli' no longer need to scar the walls of heritage sites because Airpens will allow you to express your undying love without compromising their beauty.

Its advantages are innumerable, but most of all, Airpens would give us all a delightful reason to brighten the world and don an artist's cap! Who knows, air painting could be the next big thing!





MC EXPRESS

❖ UTKARSH AJINKYA ❖



All customers around the world wanting quick service say "I feel the need... the need for speed". Hearing customers crave for speedy service, I imagined a product called the Mc Express. Mc Donald's is considered to be the best fast-food restaurant chain in the world. Mc Donald's has adapted its products and services to different cultures in India, China, Malaysia , Australia, Europe and other countries to become one of the leading players in the fast-food industry in their respective markets. Mc Donald's always strives to give their customers the ultimate customer experience, satisfying their needs and delighting them. Hence I thought my product would be appropriate for the leading brand name of Mc Donald's.

Mc Donald's outside India have "drive thrus" to enable a vehicle entering a fast food chain to access quick service and get a take-away parcel of the meal. I imagined a vending machine with touch screen located at drive thrus to allow people to help themselves. Instead of people standing and serving customers, I imagined a vending machine allowing customers to choose their food and drink. The vending machine would have options for customers to choose their meal. The vehicles would wait in the queue to place their order. Mc Express would reduce the

time spent by customers for getting their meals. It would also make business sense for Mc Donald's to implement this service as it would reduce labour overheads and make the business cost effective.

Some supermarkets in western countries have replaced counter persons with machines to help customers help themselves. The machines like Mc Express automatically calculates the bill and allows the customers to insert coins and notes and gives the correct change. Mc Express will be successful in countries where there is an increasing trend of people wanting to help themselves and not rely on others to serve them. Mc Expresses would be more successful when located near schools, universities, colleges, car parks, recreational, picnic spots, busy areas such as the Central Business Districts. Given the current trend of wanting fast and convenient food, Mc Express will be an appealing product. I feel this product would enable Mc Donald's to compete with other restaurants, cafes and pizza shops such as Dominoes and Pizza Hut who entice their customers with their quick service. Next time you drive by Nariman Point, Cross Roads or Bandra Linking Road in Mumbai wouldn't it be really exciting to see the golden arches of Mc Expresses allowing you to get your meal quickly?



SAAS-BAHU



Sach Ka Saamna !!

-Mayura Nayak

"The mother-in-law/daughter-in-law relationship is one of the most complicated human connections. It comes with a built-in conflict before the relationship even begins: two radically different views of the same man. One woman always will see him first as a man; the other always will see him first as her child."

The above statement was made by Elizabeth Graham, who wrote the article, "The Other Woman". Does the term "The other woman" remind you of one of the bollywood movies "Pati Patni aur Woh"! But here we aren't talking about that "other woman"; we aren't discussing an 'extra marital affair'! We are talking about the other woman who is for some women your son's wife or for some your husband's mother! For times immemorial the relationship between a mother-in-law and a daughter-in-law has been unique. It has often been the butt of all jokes, with many cartoonists always finding enough matter to fill pages depicting their relationship. Like the following saying which depicts an aspect of this relation - "I wish my daughter: the sun of the winter, I wish my daughter-in-law: the sun of the summer." And I'm sure if a daughter has to compare her mother to her mother-in-law she will give a similar point of view!

With changing times, the trigger points between these two women have also kept changing. Earlier these women had their lives revolve around that one man. For the MIL the only concern would be losing her son to his wife, and for her son's wife, her only concern would be to make her presence in her husband's life above his mother and sadly they would leave the poor man to sort it out for them who would further ruin the situation! HAHA!! Well today the story might be slightly different. Many a times both the ladies of the house are working and therefore have strong egos that clash! Or then it is the kids who bring in new set of issues which lead to the difference of opinion between the two! Basic lifestyle changes and adjusting to each others' habits can also be a trigger point. For years a tradition followed gets suddenly revamped by the daughter-in-law can be a killer! And the worse is yet to follow if the family reciprocates positively to the changes she brings in! Similarly it's a battle lost for the daughter-in-law if her mother-in-law's age old recipes are still a hit with her husband than her high fibre calorie controlled salads and soups! Ultimately the crux of the

matter remains to be that the mother can't look beyond her son who is the apple of her eye and her son's wife cannot stand this very fact! It's a classic power struggle between two women fighting over the same man!! WHAT A TRAGEDY!! LOL....

Well others' Tragedy is often a topic of conversation and gossip for us humans. We love hearing what is NOT happening right in someone else's life. We all know how enjoyable it is to hear two ladies gossip in the train about their respective mothers-in-law. Ever tried eaves dropping on someone else's telephonic conversation? It is FUN!! How many of us can confess to the fact that we love reading news about petty domestic violence or small time robberies than read about a global merger on international news? I think we all can!! It gives our subconscious mind a sort of a solace to know that we aren't the only ones going through problems, but there are others facing graver issues than us. Why are serials like 'Kyunki Saas bhi kabhi bahu thi...', 'Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki' etc. such popular hits? - Because they are almost telling our own stories, but on a highly exaggerated scale. The 'tu tu main main' between a 'saas' and 'bahu' is a very entertaining concept which many TV channels have minted money on. But every saas and bahu need not always fight. It may not be an unconditional relation, but it definitely works on a give and take basis. I'm sure they all have their light moments to cheer each other. They can sometimes get along like a house on fire! They can also team up with each other against the 'OH SO Important' one MAN in their lives. They can even bond over shopping, gossiping, and of course narrating TV serials' stories if one of them has missed an episode.

To capture a similar love hate relationship between some of our PP "saas – bahu" jodis, we have created a very light segment exclusively for them. As I said earlier, we love knowing more about others' tragedies, here is a quick glimpse into not someone's tragedy but a sneak peak into the lives of a couple of sporting 'saas-bahu' jodis who have very enthusiastically answered some of our questions. The plain intention of doing this section was to give our ladies a chance to share a light moment with their respective 'saas-bahu' and definitely to create some very interesting content for our readers to read.

All the "saas and bahus' reading this section please make note of this special disclaimer:

"All views expressed in the following section are purely realistic and non-fictional and any resemblance to a person living or dead is purely intentional."

Please read with an open mind and allow it to tickle your funny bones and do not stress over the same. Have a crackling DIWALI!!!

□



Anila Dhairyawan

What was your 1st impression?

I felt her to be snobbish

What is your current impression?

She is fit to be in our family.

Two good things?

Cleanliness, preparing is good terms with people around us.

Favourite dish your daughter-in-law makes?

Pathare Prabhu `Khadkhadle`

Your daughter-in-law's favorite past time?

Watching T.V. serials.

One thing you like to change about your daughter-in-law?

First impressions she makes of others which is not always right.

What would you do if you were locked up with your daughter-in-law for a day?

Just keep my mouth shut because she is the one who is more talkative than me.

What is the best compliment your daughter-in-law has ever given you?

Don't remember.

What does she love to shop?

Clothes

On what was your last *Tu Tu Main Main*?

Our grand son.



Aishwarya Dhairyawan

What was your 1st impression?

I thought that she looked like a Marathi actress but was not able to recognize when she looked like.

What is your current impression?

She is very broad minded and does not restrict me in anyway.

Two good things?

She is homely and fun loving.

Favourite dish your daughter-in-law makes?

Panjoji

Your daughter-in-law's favorite past time?

Watching T.V.

One thing you like to change about your daughter-in-law?

She is too straight forward. She doesn't care what the person feels when she says something straight on the face.

What would you do if you were locked up with your daughter-in-law for a day?

We would talk to each other half the time and make good food and eat for the next day.

What is the best compliment your daughter-in-law has ever given you?

Ummm...don't remember.

What does she love to shop?

She loves to shop clothes

On what was your last *Tu Tu Main Main*?

We normally don't get into the *Tu Tu Main Main* business.





Bahu: Mrs Pranjal Pavan Kirtikar Saas: Mrs Pavitra Pradeep Kirtikar

1. What was your 1st impression?

Bahu: At the 1st glance, the impression I gathered in my mind was of a strict disciplinarian personality with a soft, loving & caring heart inside.

Saas: The first impression when I saw Pranjal, I found that she was clean by heart, very soft spoken and has a pleasing personality.

2. What is your current impression?

Bahu: With more close association with her for almost 2 years tenure of my married life, I have experienced a hidden treasure of Immense Strength, Highly Creativeness & Perfectionism.

Saas: Pranjal is very helpful and supportive when it comes to taking care of us and our sweet home-Purshottam Villa. She is loaded with immense creativeness like painting & writing excellent articles. She will go out of the way to help others. Her smiling presence keeps all of us happy and cheerful.

3. Two good things?

Bahu: 1) She is a Perfect Homemaker. She likes to devote her entire time & energy looking after her house & family.

2) She is a strong Pillar & Backbone of our House & thrives hard to keep our family healthy, wealthy & Fit.

Saas: 1) She is good by heart & always ready to give a helping hand to others.

2) She has the interestingly learns whatever is been taught to her. I am tension free for one thing that in my absence she will be taking good care of our near and dear ones and Purshottam Villa, which is a dream house for me.

4. ***Favourite dish your mother-in-law / daughter-in-law makes?***

Bahu: She is an excellent cook all-around, more expertise on Chinese cuisine.

Saas: She makes delicious Pav bhaji, Chicken Kolhapuri & Bata Wada.

5. ***Your mother-in-law's favourite past time?***

Bahu: To name a few- Gardening, Reading, Keeping her house spick & span etc. Now all her love, affection, time & energy is showered on her grandson Parjanya.

Saas: Keeping the house clean and tidy and getting useful required stuffs for the house, listening to music and dancing.

6. ***One thing you like to change about your mother-in-law/daughter-in-law?***

Bahu: Her overexerting herself which affects her health eventually.

Saas: Not required to change anything. She has her own life to live without any botheration. Only pray to almighty that the healthy relationship that we have remain always.

7. ***What would you do if you were locked up with your mother-in-law for a day?***

Bahu: We would indulge ourselves in some creative activity because we both are inclined towards art & creativity.

Saas: We both will have a nice time chit chatting and exchanging healthy views.

8. ***What does she love to shop?***

Bahu: She does not like to indulge more in shopping however if given a chance she would love to purchase accessories to beautify her house.

Saas: She likes to shop and purchase sensible things for herself and the house.

9. ***Does she know how to buy/ bargain for fish?***

Bahu: She is more of a home-maker & leaves outside activities to her husband.

Saas: Not required, her Saasra is there who loves marketing, so we need not worry.

10. ***On what was your last Tu Tu Main Main?***

Bahu: We share a cordial mother & daughter relationship with each other. Differences in opinions do happen at times, but we always give a full stop to any situation then & there.

Saas: Majhya mate pratkachya ghari bhandyala bhandan wajte, pun saasu ani suneche bhandan kitchen purte simit asawe, once they are out of the kitchen they both should be a change person and enjoy their life cheerfully and happily.





Sandhana Navlkar – mother in law

What was your 1st impression?
I felt like she was perfectly suitable for my son.

What is your current impression?
....That my first impression wasn't wrong...!

Two good things?
One thing is that she will never say no and second good thing is that she never interferes or disturb me when I am doing my kitchen work.

Favourite dish your daughter-in-law makes?
Her style Puran poli. They are very tasty.

Your daughter-in-law's favorite past time?
Watching T.V. or reading books.

One thing you like to change about your daughter-in-law?
I can't change anything now.

What would you do if you were locked up with your daughter-in-law for a day?
Well, if it's her room then I shall make her clean it!!

What does she love to shop?
Clothes, accessories, and new cosmetics.

Does she know how to buy/bargain for fish?
When I prepare our PP dishes, she will eat and appreciate. Apart from eating, she has nothing to do with fishes

On what was your last *Tu Tu Main Main*?
Is it necessary to have one?!



Sanjivani Navalkar (Daughter-in-law)

What was your 1st impression?
She looked different from the typical mother-in-law image I had in mind.

What is your current impression?
That my first impression wasn't wrong...!

Two good things?
Well planned. Creative.

Favourite dish your daughter-in-law makes?
She's an excellent cook. My favourite dish is Mutton Biryani, Prawns khadkhalla, Sheera, Chicken pickle.

Your daughter-in-law's favourite past time?
Reading books and talking on phone with my sister in law.

One thing you like to change about your daughter-in-law?
Hair color.

What would you do if you were locked up with your daughter-in-law for a day?
We both would read books, sleep, cook.

What does she love to shop?
Shops when necessary only. I guess she loves shopping for gold/pearl jewellery.

Does she know how to buy/bargain for fish?
Buy-Yes, Bargain-No

On what was your last *Tu Tu Main Main*?
I havent had a chance and would like to keep it that way.



SPORTS SECTION



Karan

1. When did you start playing chess?

I started playing chess at the age of four. Later at the age of five, in the year 1998, I represented my school (Yashodham High School) for the first time in an inter-school chess tournament.

2. Many youngsters of your age are mainly involved in sports, computer games. How did you develop interest in this game?

I vaguely remember that I once saw my dad teaching sister to play chess. I was inquisitive and thus learned the game from them. Gradually, my interest level raised when I started playing chess tournaments.

3. What are your other interests?

My other interests include badminton, carom and football. I also love learning foreign languages, so currently I am taking

Spanish language course. I am also too involved in Formula1 racing.

4. What do you think is most important in chess – talent or hard work?

I think both are equally important in the field of chess. Talent and hard work go hand in hand. Apart from these two, I feel little bit of luck is surely needed. J

5. How many moves can you calculate ahead?

I seriously have no exact answer for this. According to me, it totally depends upon the position of the game you are playing. But still if I had to analyze the game, it would be at least 7-8 moves ahead.

6. If given a chance to play a chess match. Who would it be with?

Garry Kasparov, Anytime! He is the greatest players of all time and one of my inspirations too.

7. It is often said that chess imitates life. Do you agree with this statement?

No I disagree with this statement.

8. Describe one lesson in life you have taken away from the game.

One lesson I have from chess is patience. Chess being a slow game, it builds your patience and also our thinking capacity. Chess has taught me another important thing and that is how to deal with failures. Victory and defeat are two sides of the same coin. We should learn to accept our defeats just the way we learn to celebrate our victories.





CROSS SPORT - TEST YOUR WITS

❖ Nishad Dhurandhar ❖



1		13			14				15		16		17
2			18					3					
					4								
5					6								
				7							19		
20	21			8			22						
9						10							
						11							
					12								

ACROSS:

1. Leander Paes scored a famous win against him in 1995 (10)
2. The smallest country to host a Formula One Grand Prix (6)
3. In Golf, you pitch it out of the _____ (6)
4. The number of players per side in a basketball match (4)
5. A team supporter (3)
6. Location of the world's Highest Cricket Ground (5)
7. Spanish Football Club. Also the name of a juice company. (4)
8. Our Community Cricket Club (6,5)
9. Pot, River, Showdown are a part of this sport (5)
10. The Australian twin all rounders (6)
11. More of a past time than a sport. Uses rods, hooks and baits (7)

12. The notorious face of the Commonwealth Games (7)

DOWN:

13. India's Chess Icon (5)
14. American jargon for football (6)
15. Billiards, Snooker, Pool are all _____ sports (3)
16. An F-1 Champion, a track athlete, and an English cricketer share this name (5)
17. English County Cricket Club (6)
18. The most celebrated rivalry in Cricket (5)
19. Initials of an Ex-Liverpool & England Football Player (2)
20. The most hyped cricket event (3)
21. If sixer is to Cricket, _____ run is to baseball (4)
22. A batsman isn't bowled till the _____ is dislodged (4)



Dear Kumar...

❖ Pradeep Vijayakar ❖



In one my fantasies I saw generations of my family logging on to the comp and exchanging emails with me.

Here goes...

On Jan 6 Kumar (Pradeep Vijayakar) wrote to Ramdutt Vithoba Desai (ramvit@yahoo.com)

Dear great grand father. I remembered you the other day when I saw my Patrika which my wife Smita reminded me was written by you. It is amazing that in the hurly burly of your legal practice which took you across seven seas you could manage to master another tough thing like astrology. Brought memories of the days when you would have me on your lap on the hindola,(swing) in our Jog Mahal at Dhuswadi (I used to hate when they pronounced Dhooswadi). Though barely 5 or 6 I would remember you telling my mom Latika not to scold me ever. Somehow I was a crankie baby and kept crying earning the nickname `Ladu' the bobda word for `Radu'. Rameshbhauji still calls me by that name and has added the sobriquet to my daughter Maitreyi also.

Cheers

On Jan 10 Ramdutt Vithoba wrote to Kumar...

Thanks for the compliment. I used to do this astrology as a `virangula' to took my mind off the dull legal matters as well as keep my mind in shape for the legal battles. That hindola had a history and took the weight of the entire Desai gharana. Wonder where it ended after the building went down. I am told a tower has come in its place. Is it aesthetically good? Do let me know. The life our family lived at Jog Mahal

can never be replicated anywhere.

On Jan 13 Kumar wrote to grandfather Sumant Ramdutt Desai (Sumant.desai@northbritish.com)

Dear Ajoba. Got hold of one of many novels that you wrote that haven't seen the light of day.

Did you ever dream that the book would be published by your grandson Kumar?

I thought you wanted to base the novel `The Baronet's Daughter' on the life of Sir Chintamanrau Deshmukh who you idolised. But I find the name of the hero Raaman. Does that mean your younger brother?

I also remember you asking aai if I was on the right track because I used to leave early and come late and didn't get much time with you when you came to live with us at Sunbeam Khar. Aai knew me too well to be bothered. Fact was I was studying for MA by day and Journalism by night. When my picture came in The Times of India receiving The Times of India Gold Medal I told aai ,`Now tell your father what I was upto'.

Anyway such concern for the youth would be normal for the elderly. For me you will always remain a beacon who kept us happy, sacrificed a cushy job as top insurance man for North British, also sacrificed cricket as part of the non co-operation movement.

On Jan 20 Sumant Ramdutt replied to Kumar.....

Never ever imagined that my own blood twice removed would be following in my footsteps firstly in cricket and then in novel writing and that too the first-ever English

cricket play. In our time Mama Warekar had written a play in Marathi on the life of the Palwankars. Great stuff, Kumya.

How I wish I was still around to see all this with my own eyes. Even Latik-Khandi are not around. I can just imagine the joy in Khandi's eyes and voice his laugh like a `uchki' (hiccup), and Latik's smile which brought out her buck teeth. About the hero of my novel it's a mix of Raman and CD.

I thought the Marathi novel `Ekhadyache Nashib' is more worthwhile portraying how one person, a cricketer, can bowl over two ladies and live together peacefully with both. Because they also love the game. It will shock everyone.

On Jan 22 Kumar wrote to Moroba Cannoba morcan@hc.com.....

Sir

Whenever I talk about myself and my family I begin by saying I am a descendant of Moraba Cannoba and Ramdutt Vithoba. That rings a bell. Your novel Ghashiram Kotwal is one of a kind. Can't forget the tailpiece by the Governor of Bombay. Its so racy that its unputdownable. My baba was livid when Vijay Tendulkar plagiarised the play and passed of as his own. He corresponded wit Tendulkar asking him why he didn't give credit to the original. Tendulkar slyly said he had based it on the `preface' (prastavana) of NR Phatak. What crap. But then that's how things happen. It was the start of kaliyug and we are seeing worse and worse things happening. Lucky you people are not around to suffer it.

With your genes flowing freely in me I too wrote a play India's first on cricket Shapoorjee Sokajee' which brought the spice of maidan cricket into people's homes.

I am still amazed about your guts to remarry a widow. The British went ga-ga over that and on internet there are any number of documents referring to it giving you credit as India's first to remarry a widow.

On jan 26 Moroba Cannoba wrote to Kumar....

It's sad about the Vijay Tendulkar plagiarism. Happens. Hear that the play done by doctors is a hit always. Wish I could have watched it, my purpose has been served to expose the foibles of the gentry.

I don't want to open the topic of the widow remarriage. We paid for it with our lives. Keep writing original stuff as I did. Had to get out of the humdrum court business

On Jan 30 Kumar wrote to Vamanrao Yeshwantrao Vijayakar vamyesh@rallisindia.in

Dear Ajoba. Whenever I see the antique revolving book stand I remember you. That Rallis gave you as a parting gift on retirement shows how much they respected your service. That's the legacy of sincere work you handed down to your three sons and their children. Work is worship is what we have been told and what we tell those who follow us. No shirkers in the Vijayakar family.

I still remember our walk down to Danda. On the narrow first road when a bus was passing you would get us in single file so that no accident would occur. If you see today's jaywalking on the roads you will cringe. Driving is a curse on roads all over Mumbai.

On Feb 1 Vamanrao Yeshwantrao wrote to Kumar

Great to hear from you. Your memory is sharp and your language subtle. My job was to be immersed in piles and piles of accounts which left little time for anything else. Yes the British taught us to stick to our routine come what may. I remember teh Khar of our times. We could see the sea from the terrace. Nothing beyond the 17th road. Feel sorry the way things have turned out with over population and cluttering of buildings. I had to persuade hard for tenants to occupy our house in 1928. We came from Kalbadevi for Khar only on weekends. Our Kalbadevi home was like a mansion the kids would cycle to glory on the hall without bumping into each other. Wonder what's come in its place. We had a Mercedes we sold for Rs 200. I hindsight should have kept it at Khar.

□





Football Unanimous - Me the Sport...Me the game!!

❖ Sushmita Kothare ❖



I have hit the highest point in my life wherein I have attained success like no one has ever achieved before. The journey has been a really rough and a tough one. Lots of hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and yes LOVE and PASSION for what I am doing and learning to do have been gone into achieving this position. As they say, "Life is nothing without hardships or in my case -Life would have been nothing without a few kicks."

A football's life may seem to one as a struggle, always juggling between ends. To be honest I would no less agree with people who seem to think that way. The ride so far has indeed been an eventful one. Born sometime during the middle ages in England, I was nothing but an inflated leather ball made up of animal bladder. Thankfully I was christened again in 1838 by my godfather Charles Goodyear, who realized that I needed some change to survive for the years ahead and thus introduced a very conventional concept of Vulcanization. This gave my personality qualities such as strength, elasticity, resistance to solvents and also increased the bounce ability in me, thus making it easier to kick. But today, as times change I too have become more complex. I consist of twelve regular pentagonal and twenty regular hexagonal panels positioned in a shortened 20-dimensional spherical geometric figure. Oh! Well that's what I meant by complex!!

My birth proved to play a very significant role in the life of millions and millions across the world. FOOTBALL –the game became synonymous with me. Let me take you through my journey of life with an energetic, dynamic

and extremely passionate game – SOCCER or football, as they call it. Association football, also known as football or soccer, is a sport played between two teams consisting of eleven players and is played for 90 minutes. Twenty men putting in all their energy and effort to just slip me away from one another to score, and two of them trying their best to stop me. Must say I didn't expect so much attention. Moving on, this game is played on a rectangular field of grass or a green artificial turf, with a goal in the middle of each of the short ends. The object of the game is to score by driving me into the opposing goal. Generally, only the goalkeepers are allowed to touch me with their hands or arms. I personally quite agree to Mr. George Graham's view when he said that, "The goalkeeper is the jewel in the crown and getting at him should be almost impossible. It's the biggest sin in football to make him do any work." The field players typically use their feet to kick. Ironically, I just ENJOY the feeling of being kicked. The team that scores the most goals by the end of the match wins.

When I am dribbled around here and there, I admit that I feel as confused as a penguin in a desert; I have absolutely no idea which way I am heading. Every organization has both offensive and defensive tactics. My teams too, follow the same strategic set up. I start my day's work from the Goalkeeper heading towards the Defenders, whose main task is to save the goals attempted by the opponent players. Usually they are a set of three guys placed in the right, centre and the left of the field. Entering the offensive side I go towards the Midfielders, there can be somewhere between three to six midfielders in a soccer

team. They play with an objective to get control of me and then pass me to the forwards so that they could score goals for the team. They are often the fastest players and the best dribblers. Finally I head in the direction of the Strikers/ Forwards as they are called, they are the team's most powerful and best-scoring players. Their primary task is to score goals. Overall, these players are quick runners with powerful kicking skills and accuracy in shooting.

Every team has a different strategy so even my route changes from time to time. No complains about this uncertainty revolving around me... after all variety is the spice of life!! I enjoy every moment of it. The zeal with which these players play the game is something that goes beyond words. The liveliness of the game just adds up to the whole atmosphere on the ground.

Every game has certain set of rules and so does football. These rules are those which decide how I should work and how the players should go about following these rules to play fair. There are seventeen Laws of the Game published by FIFA, but are maintained by the International Football Association Board (IFAB). Under these Laws, there are two basic states of play- 1) When I am IN the play 2) When I am OUT of play. I am in play at all times except when I am leaving the field of play, or the play is stopped by the referee. I am out of play, when the play is restarted by one of the eight restart methods as mentioned in the rule book. But according to me the rules of soccer are very simple, basically it is this: if it moves, kick it. If it doesn't move, kick it until it does.

Football as a sport is adored and played by all across the world. It seems as if the whole world comes together to celebrate this game. Players of different statures, places, caste and creed become one and enjoy the game. It's a once in a life time opportunity when your life gets attached with talented and skillful men right from the great Pele to the terrific Maradona, from Zizou (Zinedine Zidane) to "Spice boy" David Beckham, from Ronaldo a.k.a Ronnie to "Atomic flea" Lionel Messi. I have been passed and dribbled by these great

players since so many years and I am grateful that I have seen and been a part of all the emotions they have gone through. The twinkle in their eye and the smile on their face when they score for their team is startling. My heart goes out to them when they shed those tears after an unfavorable match. It's tough to see such men of honor breakdown.

From past so many years I have been dribbled down many generations of esteemed footballers and today when I see these young set of enthusiastic players like Kaka, Robino and Luis Fabiano playing for Brazil, Klose, Muller and Podolski playing for Germany, new found heroes like Robin Van Persie and Sneijder playing for Netherlands and last but not the least Andre Iniesta, David Villa and Cesc Fabregas for Spain I feel euphoric. The dedication, passion and more importantly the love these players have towards the game gives me immense pride that I play an important role in their lives, they make my circle of life complete.

From 1838 to till date my journey has indeed been a long one. I have gone through so many kicks and headers. There were times when I was thrown in anger, in despair, in pain, in happiness and in joy. I have managed to survive through all of it. In my life I have seen men going through all the hurt and misery, bruises and injuries for just that one moment of lifetime to score a goal. At times I see them fall in grief and at times I see them fall in great happiness. These players devote their entire life to this one great sport. There are times when I look at them and feel so uplifted by the amount of hard work, time and devotion they give in. The feeling I get when 1000's of people come to see me is exhilarating. The roar of the crowd, their cheers for their favorite teams, and the sound of different kind of instruments make the whole atmosphere dynamic. Being a part of this forever energetic environment makes me feel blessed of my existence.

Believe me it's true when I say that, "Soccer's a matter of life or death, but it isn't. It's much more important than that".

□



My buddy, Badminton

❖ Swapnil Vyavaharkar ❖

They say you don't choose a sport. The sport chooses you. Sounds like a philosophical proclamation from an elder who has lost his bearings a bit due to age? It sure did to me. But when I look back, it rings true, as is the case so often.

Right from my childhood, I was exposed to a wide variety of sports. And I was good at them (I swear I was :D). I could have picked any of them. But then, my father took me along to watch him play badminton. A few days later, there was a badminton tournament in our colony and I felt I just had to register. Badminton had made its move; cast its net.

The conspiracy further revealed itself when a badminton summer camp was being organized nearby. My cousin Sagar was playing there & he volunteered to take me along to play. Now there was no turning back. Badminton had taken me into its fold. I was happy. My father, a badminton fan & player himself, was ecstatic.

The first couple of years were generally fun. I used to look forward to the coaching sessions and the tension-free atmosphere. It used to feel like magic when the shuttle used to go exactly where I willed it to. And the promise of 'Energiee' by my mother, if I played well, was enough to keep me motivated. I loved badminton.

Then it was time to get a little serious and start playing tournaments. Suddenly, practice sessions became very focused. Body position, technique, shot selection and other such mumbo-jumbo became the norm. It was bad if the shuttle went anywhere other than where it was intended to. It wasn't the best feeling in the world when better players thrashed me in the matches. My coach and my father used to urge me on but the fun seemed to have slipped away. This was not the Badminton I had signed

up for. I hated badminton.

But then came along another coach who was very different. Sort of like Shah Rukh Khan in 'Mohabattein'. He helped me make a deal with badminton. I promised to be dedicated to the game and in return, the game would help me relax, have fun and enjoy the moment. It felt like patching up with your girlfriend after a big fight. Relief! Happiness! Bliss!

The mojo was restored. I started loving this fast-paced game much more. For the statistically inclined, badminton is the fastest racquet game. Although TT demands much less reaction time, you don't need to cover any ground there. But comparing it with similar sports like tennis or squash, badminton is the fastest. Consider this: the fastest recorded speed of a tennis ball is 155mph and that for a squash ball is 178mph. For a shuttle-cock, it's 206mph. Over 20 feet, it's like lightning.

As I played more, my relationship with badminton matured. I loved to train, to play long hours till I used to collapse and wonder where my next breath was going to come from. I looked forward to playing in the tournaments. There is no better feeling than to play a fast, thrilling game in front of a packed house. Pretty much like Proximo says to Maximus in 'Gladiator' when describing the Colosseum – "So many people, watching your every move, willing you to make that killer blow. The silence before you strike and the noise afterwards; it rises like...like the storm" Winning the match is one thing. Winning the crowd is something else. Heady stuff.

But the beauty of badminton is that it's not only for the serious practitioner. It is also a game you can play in your backyard, with your family. I still enjoy it when we friends get



together in our colony and have a knock. Just like old times. I am sure you too would have enjoyed an outdoor game of badminton on a picnic or a lazy Sunday. All you need is some space, the equipment and some energy and you are good to go. That's how I keep in touch with the game these days, as I've stopped playing in tournaments for now.

Over the course of this relationship, Badminton has given me a lot. It has helped me understand myself better. Earlier, I used to train because I had no choice but to be fit to compete. Now I do it because I know it works the best for me. Badminton has taught me to

accept defeat and victory alike. It has given me friends for life. It has made me ready to face the game of life.

In badminton, as in life, there is always the sense of the unexpected, the excitement of a tussle, the thrill of victory, the heartbreak of defeat, the hope of improvement. But when I hear the thwack of the racquet striking the shuttle, it's the pure pleasure of just playing the game I love so much that sets my adrenaline rushing. Thanks Baba for hooking me up with Badminton. Thanks Badminton for accepting me.



The Commonwealth Games

-Swapneel Bramhandkar

With the commonwealth Games beginning on 3rd October 2010 in Delhi, Much hue and cry was being made about the preparations and security arrangements, but do we know the history behind these games?

The Commonwealth Games is an international, multisport event held every 4 years and features competitions involving thousands of elite athletes from members of the commonwealth of Nations. Just like the Olympics, these games also include sports played mainly in Commonwealth countries such as netball, rugby and lawn bowles. The host city is selected from across the Commonwealth with 18 cities in 7 countries having hosted it till date.

The event was first held in 1930 under the title of the British Empire Games in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. The event was renamed as the British Empire and Commonwealth Games in 1954, the British Commonwealth of Nations and 1970 and gained its current title in 1978. In all, only 6 teams have attended every commonwealth Games teams participate in these games. Canada, England, New Zealand, Australia, Wales and Scotland. The highest

achieving teams are : Australia for ten games, England for seven and Canada for one.

Currently there are 54 members of the Commonwealth of Nations and 71 teams participate in these games. The 4 Home Nations of UK-England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland send their own separate teams. The last commonwealth games were held in 2006 in Melbourne, Australia and now currently in Delhi.

Despite the eagerness with which these Games are awaited they have also suffered from political boycotts over its history, largely associated with apartheid-era of South Africa. In protest of New Zealand's sporting contacts with South Africa, Nigeria boycotted the Games in 1978, while 32 of 59 nations from Asia, Africa and the Caribbean boycotted the 1986 commonwealth Games due to the Thatcher government's attitude towards South African sporting contacts. Boycotts were also threatened in 1974, 1982 & 1990.

However, all said and done, we still are eager to enjoy these games on television as these games attract equal attention as Cricket Matches do worldwide.





KIDS SECTION



INTRODUCTION

-KASHMIRA AJINKYA

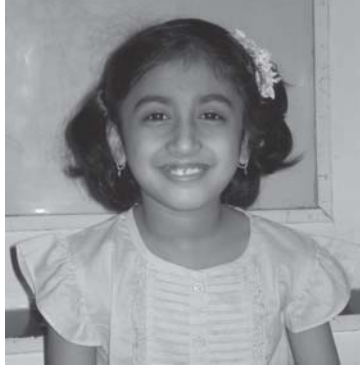
Kids..!

What comes to your mind when you think of 'Kids'..? Cute, sweet, playful, mischievous, real brat, shy, innocent, well-mannered, adorable... Isn't it? Well, most of the kids, no matter how well behaved they must be, always have a mischievous streak within them. Somehow you might scold them or bash them for their naughty deeds, but when you look back into time that mischief will always bring a smile to your face.

Like teenagers, grown-ups and old people, kids too have their own thoughts, wishes and emotions. They have their own technique of expressing them. Some kids want utmost attention of their parents while some kids want to be left alone to themselves. There are also some kids who throw tantrum when they want their parents to buy something for them while there are some who throw tantrum just to gain attention of their parents. Furthermore, there are some kids who want to make their parents proud of them and appreciate them. All they want from their own parents is lot of love, care and attention.

Every citizen has the right to express and hence, kids too! They have all the rights to talk about what they think and feel. They are an essential part of every family and need to be nurtured with utmost care and affection Last year, we read what kids desire and ask from their dear Gods. This year we decided to help kids vent out their feelings towards their parents. So, let us peek into what our naughty PP kids express about their dear parents. Let's get started, shall we?





Me & My Parents

I am happy to write a short note on my parents and share it with all of you. I live with my father and mother along with my grand parents. My parents go to their office in the morning and come home in the evening. In their busy working time they try to spend much time with me. Both are kind and loving. Further I am writing some special things about them that I like and dislike.

My Father: I call my father “Babai”, he plays with me at home. We play hide and seek, word games, number games and many more games. He also takes me to the garden and I play there on the slides, see-saw and swing. He drops me to the school bus pick-up stop everyday and then goes to his office. He brings toys, chocolates and gifts when he comes back from his work tour. He tells me stories and jokes, which make me laugh. I don’t like his jokes when I am in a serious mood. He tries to make me smile by telling jokes when I am unhappy.

My Mother: I call my mother “Aai”, she is very strict but loving. She takes my studies and scolds me when I make any mistake. I feel very sad when she is angry at me. I know that she shouts at me to teach me how to be good in my studies. When I am ill she takes me to the doctor and gets me medicines. She knows very well what I like and gets me those things many times. She brings good story books from library and reads them with me.

I help my parents by doing small work at home like cleaning mess of my toys, getting plates & glasses before sitting for dinner and other simple work. We go out to restaurants, cinemas and picnics together. I remember my first one day cruise on the ship. I was very small when we travelled by aeroplane to Hyderabad and back. We had gone to many nearby places like Elephanta Caves, Borivali National Park, Lonavala, Alibag on some weekends. I enjoy a lot when going out with them.

Saanvi Charudutta Dhairyawan
Mahim – Mumbai 400016





DATE	30	10	2010
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My Parents.

My mother's name is Janhavi Kirtikar and my father's name is Neel Kirtikar. My mother is an architect and my father is an engineer.

My mother goes for work at Cuffe Parade and my father goes for work at Vasai. My mother gets me ready for school and makes my tiffin every morning. My father helps me in my studies and home-work.

My mother prepares food that I like the most. My parents bring nice clothes and toys for me. Whenever I am sick they take care of me by giving medicines.

I love my parents very much.

Leena Kirtikar
STD IV



My parents

I think that parents are the greatest persons who created me. They always protect, guide and give a good future to their children. I also think that they create the children's personality and make them go in the right way.

I think that parents should be their children's friend so that there is good trust and relationship among them.

I think that parents shouldn't just be the people who punish their children; they should also be their friends.

Neil Rane



My Parents

My mother is my leader. She is very understanding. She sometimes shouts at me but because I do something wrong. My mother shows me the right way to do my work. She always thinks about others. She is very intelligent. She always guides me in my studies.

My father never shouts at me. He gives me whatever I want. He helps me in drawing. My mother & father are the best parents in the whole world. !!!

Miss - Aditi .

Sachin Vijayakar

10 yrs

Std VI

Andheri (W).





My Parents

- Ishan Kothare std V

Parents are the only one who understand our feelings. My mother is a lawyer she goes to family court. But she attends only the chamber when I and my sister go to school. She cooks very good food. Sometimes she also hits me and shouts at me. She started working since Dec 2007. Mother is the one who helps us in learning good manners. But she gives me love the most. I love my mother a lot.

My father works for Blue Dart. He works Monday to Saturday. He goes for work at 8:00am to 8:00pm. So I and my father don't get much time to talk also. My parents bring a lots of toys like cars, Video games, PSP games etc. I love my father a lot.

~~Every~~ Every weekend our parents take us out either for dinner, or malls for shopping and playing games. My parents also like to party so we have our friends come over to our place very often. I enjoy with my parents a lot.





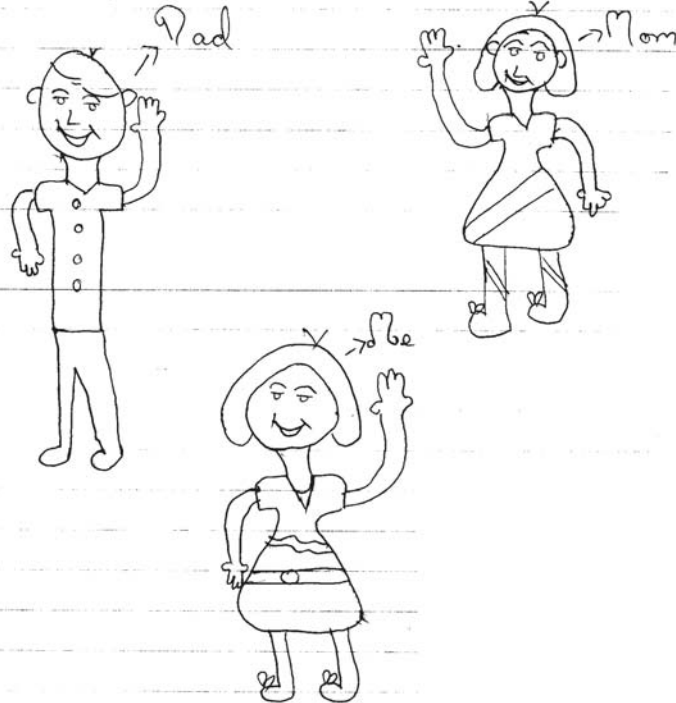
Saniya N. Navalkar

My parents

Age: 9

My parents take care of me. They take me to several places. They give me what ever I want. They also shout at me but I don't feel bad because they shout for my good.

Our parents are our best friends. What ever we want we can share we can tell them. We can go out with them. For me my parents are god. They are the best mom and dad in the whole world. They love me a lot and I love them too.





My Parents

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When I was only child the ones who were always by my side, talked to me with all the sweetest words and the ones who were so happy to burst into tear when I spoke the first word "Daddy" and "mummy", they are my parents.

Parents are the most precious gift god has given to all the human beings and so am I. I am one of the luckiest girl on this planet to whom god has given two wonderful parents, my mummy and my daddy.

My mummy takes good care of me. She gets up early in the morning prepares breakfast for me and makes me ready for my school. In the evening after returning from office my daddy helps me in my school studies.

My parents always teach me to respect elders and obey them. They have taught me to become good human being and always help others. One day I wish to grow up and become like my parents, successful in life.

I am very proud of my parents and then god for the same.

* Those are our parents who taught us the first lessons and many things in our life in the best way. Therefore, you have to agree that, with their love and caring, no one in the world can be the best teacher but our parents.

By: Tarisha Nitin Desai

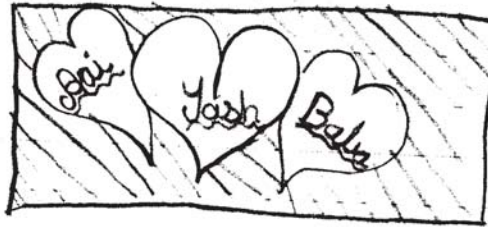


My Parents

Everyone has mummy and daddy but I have very loving mummy and daddy and they love me very much. They always give me everything I want.

My father's name is Shailendra and my mother's name is Shruya. My father goes to office every day, he works hard for us. My mother is a housewife but she takes tuition. She takes care of everyone in our house. She prepares very delicious food for us.

I like and love my parents very much.



— YASH TALPADE



What I think about my parents.

Hey! My name is Nakul Jayakar. Family is the most important evidence of one's existence. In a family there is love and bonding between the parents and their children. All the members of the family look after each other affectionately and do not look down to any person as a burden.

Similarly to the above description is my family. My father, my mother and my sister are the most important people to me in my life. I would like to tell you my views and my family thoughts about my parents. Like all parents, my parents too keep shouting at me for the mistakes I make. I get annoyed when they scold me but later realize that they did it for my betterment. My parents worry that I might behave irresponsibly and want me to become a responsible boy.

When I make mistakes my parents get angry but their anger is justified as I have disappointed them. Even if they scold me, I know that they do it because they love me.

My mother worries a lot when I don't study well but at the same time feels proud of me when I score well in my exams or excel in other activities.

My father wants me to become a pilot so that I could take him around the world for free.

Both my parents have a lot of expectations from me and I promise not to disappoint them.

By Nakul Jayakar





MY PARENTS

My dear parents.

You are so sweet.

You bring gifts

for me and Alha.

And my daddy

brings gifts for

me and Alha. And

my grandparents

also bring gifts

for me and Alha.

They play with

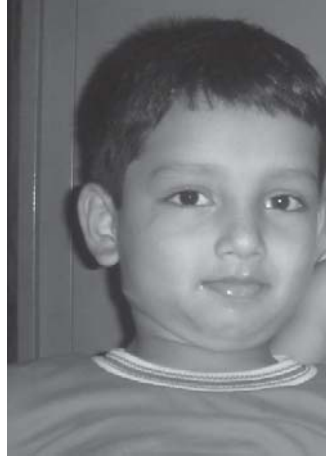
me. My daddy

brings gifts so

much.

Aditi Desai.

(5 years,
Std. S.K.G.)



31/10/20
Topic: My parents
Date: / /

ganharvi.

- ① My mother's name is .
- ② My father's name is Neel.
- ③ My mother is an Architect.
- ④ My father is an engineer.
- ⑤ My father takes me to the garden on holidays.
- ⑥ My mother gives me books.
- ⑦ I like my parents.

Anish Neel Kirtikar
Standard I

My parents

My father's name is - Narendra.

My mother's name is - Anuja.

My father is an engineer and works with Mayfair Housing.

My mother works with SNC Lavalin.

My daddy is loving and caring, he is also intelligent and artistic.

My mummy is loving and caring, she is very good in cooking and also in dance.

My daddy is fair and smart.

My mummy is beautiful and she has long, curly hair.

My parents earn money for us and they care of all my needs.

They take care of me when I fall sick.

They give me many toys and also clothes.

But when I do something naughty they redden me.

I love my parents very much and I think they are fantastic and wonderful.

When I grow up, I will look after them and keep them happy.

-Vedant Dhairyawan



My Parents

— Shriya
Kaushik Jaykar

My parents are good.

They help us in studies.

They give ^{us} ~~me~~ our birthday gifts.

They take us for outings on Saturdays and Sundays.

My parents go to office.

My parents take good care of us.

Every parents has lots of money.

I love my parents very very much.



STORY

- Jay Kothare

Once there was a king. He wanted to buy horses for his army. Some strangers came to the court. They gave themselves out as horse merchants. they promised to supply the king horses of the finest breed. The king took them at their word. He advanced them to a large sum of money without knowing who they were and where they came from.

Sometime later the king asked his prime minister to prepare all fools in his kingdom. He said “Your Majesty, I have already done so. Your Majesty’s name tops the list.”

This enraged the king. He flared up and asked the Prime Minister what led him to do so. He said “there are 2 reasons for this. In the 1st place you have paid a large sum of money to strangers without knowing their whereabouts. In the 2nd place you have paid for the horses without in the lease having seen them.”

The king said “what if the strangers bring the horses I have paid for in advance?”

The Prime Minister replied, “in that case I shall strike your Majesty’s name off the list of the list of fools and shall insert the stranger’s name there instead.”

The king felt amused at the Prime Minister’s witty reply.

MORAL—Look before you leap

OR

Think before you act.





The beginning of a Golden dream for Enslaved children.

❖ Namrata Vijaykar ❖



Child Labour Free was born out of two things, a desire to create something new and the will to make it really worth the effort.

CLF was the brainchild of Namrata Rao-Vijayakar, a Senior Art Director with McCann Worldwide. A compassionate and sensitive person, when she became aware of the plight of children trapped in factories, used as slave labour to manufacture artefacts of significant market value, she found herself thinking about what she could do for them.

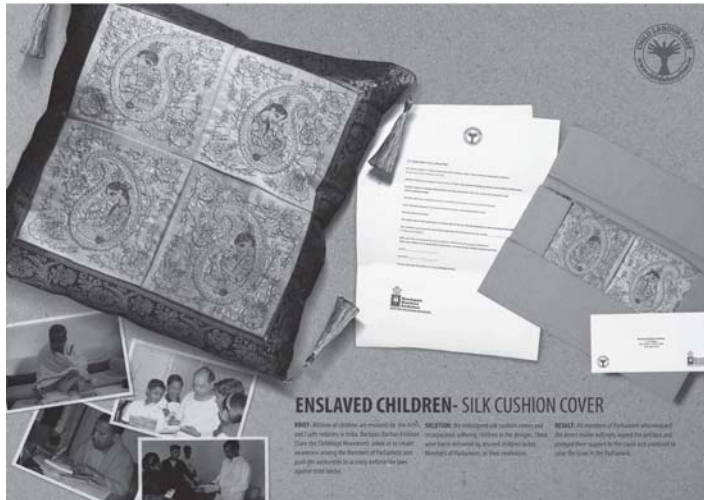
As a promising and talented member of the advertising fraternity, she knew right away the answer to her question was



an Ad Campaign, and that is when CLF truly began. A detailed plan was drawn up by Namrata along with a team of equally gifted colleagues, and the plan was to expose the harsh reality behind the artistic facade of seemingly innocuous 'objects d'art' like saris, carpets, wood carvings and decorative ceramics. The Zari and Carpet industries are probably the largest users of bonded child labour, but other Art & Craft industries are close behind and the idea was to expose this in a strong, yet subtle way.

Motifs of children hard at work were zari-embroidered on saris, woven onto carpets and carved into wooden artefacts. The result was a collection of





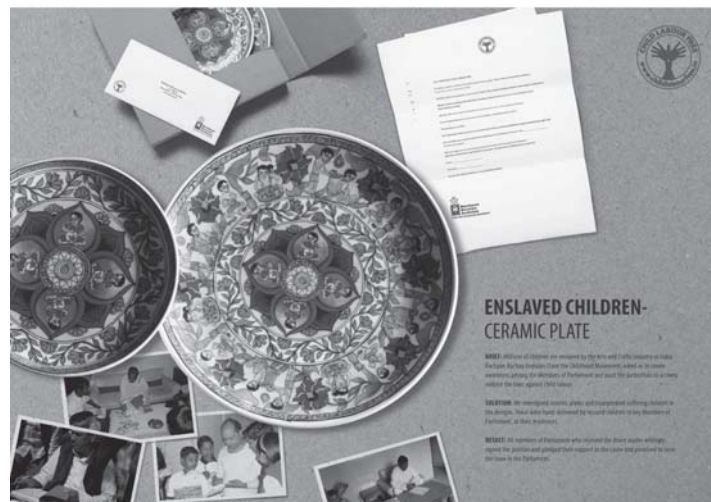
handicraft products, intricate, fine, yet hard-hitting. Carpets which cried out when walked upon like children in pain and a website for people to vote against these atrocities and sign a petition were just a few of the ideas executed to further this noble cause.

At this point, all the cause needed, was someone to take it up. There are after all limits to what an Ad agency can accomplish, and it isn't exactly the best sponsor for a social cause. The solution came from "Bachpan Bachao Andolan", who agreed to associate themselves with the campaign. Children freed by the BBA in past projects went door to door and even visited ministers and political decision-makers. They offered them the specially manufactured artefacts gifts to put the message across and add names to the list of supporters for the petition, which pleaded the case of these hapless children to MPs and asked them to take action against these atrocities by

enacting and then enforcing laws against this cruel practice. You too can pledge your support to the cause by visiting <http://www.childlabourfree.in> and signing the petition.

Good work is its own reward, but a few laurels help not only the workers behind the cause, but the cause itself by throwing the spotlight on it. This commendable effort received a nomination at the Cannes Lions 2010 festival in the "Direct" category and won a Gold at the London International Awards, this time for "Design". CLF was not the first time Namrata Rao-Vijayakar has used her talents to further a social cause. She has worked on proactive campaigns in the past for CRY (Child Relief and You) and the CCAA (Cancer Patients' Aid Association) as well.

Namrata Rao-Vijayakar now works as a freelancer under the label "Namrata Vijayakar Creative Solutions", offering her considerable talent in conceptualisation and designing on her own.





LEMON-GRASS

❖ Tanvi Dhurandhar ❖



Note: - Before reading this, I strongly advise you to go and take a whiff of lemon grass scent (if you're not allergic to it).

(7th May, 2008) It was one sultry afternoon accompanied with strong gusts of cool and soothing wind. Her black layered hair fluttered aimlessly, giving off the scent of citrus shampoo. Awaiting the exciting plant forest walk, she got out of the car with six other girls. Her friends. They walked over the creaky bridge that led to the forest, laughing out loud, completely thrilled to be in Goa. Around vividly painted cottages, white steeples, marble churches, scooties, D'Costas and D'Souzas, sand, plush green patches, beaches, shells, swimwear, water waves. They were fascinated, awestruck and allowing the Goan air to fill up their lungs with unbridled joy. On their way to the forest, they met Mike Fernandez, the forest guide. Mike praised every leaf on the trees that grew on his homeland as the girls expressed wide-eyed amazement. At one point he stopped and plucked a blade of grass from the ground. He offered it to her and said, "Smell it!" She inhaled what seemed like lemon-scented air and was intoxicated by it. The smile on her face was wide as she inhaled again. Lemongrass. The scent, which in that instant, topped her list of favourite aromas. She collected it in her straw hat and praised its glory.

(5th June, 2008) Almost a month later, she was at her window in Mumbai looking at the dust of cement rise and fall from the perpetual 'under-construction' towers. Her mother appeared from behind and said, "I want you to close your eyes and smell what I've got." (Its strange how mothers always get to know what you're thinking about. Some magic telepathy that has always been there). She took in the smell, and what she inhaled was that exact refreshingly enthralling smell of fresh lemon-grass. The pictures of Goa played in her mind like a slideshow with 'Last Hippie Standing' playing in full volume. And she felt, between the plant jungle and the concrete jungle, she was just a blade of lemon-grass away...



विचार

सौ. उज्वला र. ब्रह्मांडकर

विचार हा माणसाच्या मनाचा अतिशय महत्त्वाचा गाभा आहे. किंबहुना मन आणि विचार हे अविभाज्य आहेत.

अगदी लहान मूलसुद्धा जन्मतःच विचार करतं. मनातल्या भावना म्हणजेच विचारांचं अमूर्त स्वरूप. त्या व्यक्त करण्याचं प्रत्येकाचं माध्यम निरनिराळं.

कधी आंसू तर कधी हसू हे भावना व्यक्त करण्याचं मूळ रूप. नंतर त्या भावना शब्दरूप घेतात. भावनांचे अनेक पैलू प्रकट होतात. भावनांचं शब्दरूप म्हणजेच विचार.

पण ते नुसते मनात ठेवून काय उपयोग? भावनांचं प्रकटीकरण केल्यानं माणसाला बरं वाटतं. काहीजणांच्या बाबतीत मात्र हे प्रकटीकरण अनेक अंगांनी होतं. कोणत्याही विषयाची साधकबाधक चर्चा होते. ती कुठेतरी लिखित स्वरूपात असेल तर ते विचार कायमस्वरूपी टिकतात.

जितकी माणसं तितक्या विचार करण्याच्या पद्धती वेगळ्या. जितकी त्यांची भाषा प्रगल्भ तितकं ते लिखाण सजतं. पण कधी कधी अगदी साध्या शब्दांमधलं. बहिणाबाईचं काव्यही वाचकांच्या मनाचा ठाव घेतं.

शेवटी महत्त्वाचं काय तर एका मनाच्या संवेदना दुसऱ्या मनापर्यंत पोहोचणं. ते एकदा

साधलं की ती दोन्ही मनं सुखावतात. कधी कधी वाचकाच्या तोंडून उद्गार येतात की अरे! आपल्याला हे कसं सुचलं नाही? म्हणजेच एकाला जे सुचेल ते दुसऱ्याला सुचेलच असं नाही. दुसऱ्याचे अनुभव दुसऱ्याचे विचार हे प्रत्येकाला स्वतःच्या विचारांबरोबर प्रगल्भ करतात. म्हणूनच सुचेल ते लिहावं. लिहिण्यानं माणसाच्या मनातल्या विचारांचा निचरा होतो. मन मोकळं होतं. कधी कधी त्या लेखनाचं माणसाला एक वेगळी ओळख मिळते. काधी काव्यरूपात तर कधी लेखरूपात. म्हणून लिहिणं महत्त्वाचं.

प्रत्येकानं मनातले विचार लिहावेत. लिहिणाऱ्यानं लिहित जावं. वाचणाऱ्यानं वाचत जावं. वाचता वाचता वाचणाऱ्यानं लिहिण्याचं काम करावं. स्वतःबरोबरच आजुबाजूच्या लोकांना स्वतःच्या विचारधनानं समृद्ध करावं.

विचारांचं धन कधी संपत नाही. जेवढा विचार करावा तेवढा वाढतच जातो. जीवनाच्या अनेक अंगांची ओळख होते. आयुष्याच्या विविध पैलूंवर प्रकाश पडतो आणि स्वतःचं व्यक्तिमत्त्व प्रकाशित होतं, फुलत जातं, खुलत जातं. म्हणूनच प्रत्येकानं लिहायला हवं. निदान लिहिण्याचा प्रयत्न करायला हवा.



दिवसाचा पक्षी

दिवसाचा पक्षी टिपतो
सोनरसाचे दाणे
पक्ष्यांच्या बोलीत मधुर
गातो सुस्वर गाणे....
निळाईच्या डोहामध्ये
मनःपूत विहरतो
कधी मेघांच्या छायेखाली
अलगद स्थिरावतो
छायाप्रकाशाच्या खेळाचे
ते रूप गोजिरवाणे..
ओलाचिंब भिजतो कधी तो
धुवांधार पर्जन्याने
आभाळाच्या वळचणीला
बसतो उदासपणाने
भिजलेल्या मनात शोधी
कवडसे बापुडवाणे....
रोज बांधतो खूपशी तो
घरटी सुखदुःखांची
सायंकाळी पुसून टाकतो
नक्षी पुळणीवरची
मनामनांमध्ये आकांक्षांचे
काढतो चित्र देखणे....
रात्रीच्या घट्यात शिरून तो
अलगद विसावतो
हक्काच्या त्या विश्रांतीने
ताजातवाना होतो
सूर्याच्या हाकेचे तो उडण्या
करतो पुन्हा बहाणे

-सौ. उज्ज्वला र. ब्रह्मांडकर

