

My Life With Anirvan

Part - XXI

The next letter of Sri Anirvan from Shillong is dated 12.5.63

Om

Haimavati

My dear Gautam,

Your letter of the 2nd; I don't think anybody will be coming to Shillong now. So it is best to send the books by roadways before the monsoon starts, when the roads might become impassable.

I am glad to hear, Bablu and Kiki are giving more attention to their studies. Give them my blessings. I want them to grow up strong as their father. They must not be burden to anybody, even to their mother. Bablu will understand these things and I hope Kiki too. It is good news Jyoti is going to be a mother. My blessings for her too; I hope Sudha will soon get engaged somewhere. Tell her, I often think of her and I wish her a bright future.

I understand your position. In these years (After the death of Bandhu Dharmapal in August 1955) you have been several times away from home and this has done you good, though you had to come back. May be once you will go away for good; but don't force circumstances. Let God pull you out. You will be delivered off the world, just as a child is delivered off the mother's womb. But it is neither the child's nor the mother's choice. This will be your last act of surrender; when you place yourself completely in the hands of the Mother; with no will of your own – neither the will to stick to the world nor the will to renounce it. A complete calm – overcoming even these great inner stirrings – will break the last barrier and light will be revealed – whether at home or abroad. She alone knows!

My best wishes and love for you. To Sharad his ones! Sandhya sends you all her love

With love,

Ever yours ... A

In the month of June 1963, I received three letters from Sri Anirvan (I am giving these letters too to show how Anirvanji took interest in every one and every detail of life and tried to help in his own way!)

Om

Haimavati, Shillong,

2.6.63

My dear Gautam,

I received your letter of the 23rd but did not answer it last week as I was waiting for the book and the parcel receipt to come. The book arrived alright, thank you. But as yet I have not received the receipt of the parcel of books sent by the roadways.

I am sorry to learn that you are facing difficulty in your business concern. I hope, you will tide over it and be more careful in the future. After all business is business and you have to follow the rule of the game, carefully. Please let me know when everything has been settled.

Sri Pares Das from Shillong will be going to Calcutta on the 7th. I shall send with him a few bulbs of "Accidenthura" for Dr. Pashupati Babu. Please inform him when they reach you.

Hope, Sudha is engaged somewhere now! How is Jyoti doing? Are Bablu and Kiki serious in their studies. Tell them, I often think of them and hope they will come out with flying colors in their exams.

With love for you all,

Ever yours ... A

Om

Haimavati, Shillong,

9.6.63

My dear Gautam,

Your letter of the 3rd; with the receipt of the parcel. Thank you. I shall ask Usha to enquire about the arrival of the consignment. Last time, it took about 20 days.

You need to send the three magazines now. Another copy of Encounter is due. Bimal (Bimal Shankar Dhar, younger brother of Sri Anirvan – Sri Narendra Chandra Dhar) will bring it to you and he will inform me. After that I shall decide, whether they are to be sent by parcel or not.

Please let me know about the forwarding charges. I have not paid yet for a registered parcel you sent last month. Please include its postage in the bill (Anirvanji was very particular about accounts like Gandhiji! He followed the adage - “Hisab Kodika Bakshish Hakhki.” Account to the last pie.)

Sandhya was asking if you had got her letter. We are now working on the Isha Upanishad, once a week. There is a chance of its getting printed in the Baleshwari. The gentleman who is here to look after the affairs of the magazine told me the other day that he will be referring the matter to Calcutta. We have enough matters ready for one year. Let us see what happens. ¶“Ishopanishad” was published by the Burdwan University in 1965 as the first volume of the Upanishad-Prasanga series.)

I hope the crisis through which you are passing will be over soon.

We are having an extremely nasty weather here. But you cannot complain. You cannot complain against anything in the world. Life is so short. So you can only laugh!

Never lose your child-like sense of fun in everything.

With love for you all,

Ever yours ... A

The Next letter from Haimavati, Shillong is dated 30.6.63.

Om

Haimavati

My dear Gautam,

Your letter of the 26th. If the printing of the Upanishads is delayed, I don't care. I have talked so many times about them and

so many people have talked so many times about them before and will talk in future. What is the use of preserving all these talks? The only gain that I see is that by talking we get warmed up for some time the fire goes down in course of time. You may preserve the talks, but then they become text on which people again begin to talk and more they talk this further, they go away from the original!

“Vedamimansa Part II” has gone to the press, I have heard. But, I have not got the proofs yet.

From Gopalnagar (Gopalpur on the sea in Orissa) to Jhargram! Well, that's a fine idea of course, I have not struck root here in the soil of Assam ¶The idea of Anirvanji's coming down to Calcutta which actually took place in November 1964 is taking root). Last year when I left from here, I thought I might not be coming back again. This year also, I shall keep my mind open and be ready to be carried by the stream. Perhaps these quakes mean sometime after all!

I shall be expecting a letter from Kiki and Bablu. Is Sharad back from his tour? How is Jyoti? And what is Sudha doing now? Any job!

With love for you all,

Ever yours ... A

Om

Haimavati, Shillong,
21.7.63

My dear Gautam,

Your letter of the 17th. Mr. Das's father died here recently. He was to start for Shillong on the 19th. I don't know if he has seen you in the meantime. Let the periodicals remain with you now. Have very little time to read them.

The Valeshwari people have taken the press copy of the Ishopanishad this week. The publication will start from the Ashvin issue. A general introduction (from

Vedamimansa), a special introduction, Shautipatha and the first two mantras have been sent to them. There will be five issues in a year. They say, they will publish as much as they can. Will the spinning of Upanishadic yarn begin at last!

Jhargram fades away! Don't bother! There is Gopalpur still. And if that too fades away, will Haimavati surely choose a place for me to rest and die!

"Yoga-Samanyaya-prasanga" in the Bartika will be finished this week – I mean my writing of it. It will run upto the April issue of 1965. A great burden is off my hands. I still have four months before I go down. I shall devote them to the Veda Mimansa II. I don't know if it will be

finished, but I shall try my level best. And this means hard work. I hope, Sandhya will also be able to finish the editing and copying for the press the rest of the Ishopanishad by this time. She is alright, though she is taking now a course of injection for her nose and eye troubles. It is a course of anti vaccination. She sends you all her love.

My love to you all. My regards for Sharad's mother. ¶Two lines in Bangla for Bablu-Kiki). Bablu-Kiki, do pay full attention to your studies. I have not forgotten you! I expect a lot from both of you.

With love for you all,

Ever yours ... A

-Sri Gautam Dharmapal

Soma Yagna

The goal of Soma Yagna is attaining immortality which is considered the supreme object of human life in all religions. Agni is on the earth as well as in me as the heat and light of my self-consciousness. The Sun is in the sky as the symbol of universal consciousness. Scattering of Sun rays symbolizes one becoming many. These scattered and spread-out consciousnesses are the universal Gods (Vishwadevagana). The flame of fire is always rising upwards; as it wants to rise up from the earth to the Sun. This is the symbol of self-consciousness becoming vast and rising and uniting with the Supreme Light and then scattering in all directions as universal light. Whatever oblation is poured in the fire of Yagna, becomes fire and rises up to the Sun. And so to sacrifice one's self ¶Atmahuti¶ in the fire is the means to reach the Sun. The Rishis sacrificed food and drinks (Annapana) like Purodasa (a type of bread), meat of animals and soma juice etc. They were symbols of physical, vital and bliss (mental) consciousness. One has to kindle fire by churning the Self, produce conscious heat and light in one's being, pour therein the physical, vital and mental-bliss consciousness as oblations and transform them into golden light of the Sun. This Sadhana is Yagna—the sacrifice, which like a thread rises and spreads from here to the heavens, from the fire to the Sun, from Self-consciousness to Universal Brahman consciousness.

Soma Yagna is the best of the yagnas—churning one's self and kindling the fire within and then squeezing one's Rasachetana—emotional or bliss consciousness like soma juice and offering it as oblation to the Divine.

— Excerpts from the English translation of the Commentary on the Aitareya Upanishad by Sri Anirvan (Translated by Sri Gautam Dharmapal)