

শারদীয়া স্মরণিকা ২০১৩

পঞ্চদশ বার্ষিকী সংখ্যা



Hong Kong Bengali Association

Durga Puja 2013

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Editorial.....

Dear Friends,

With profound respect I welcome you all to this year's Maha Durgatsov, celebrated by the Hong Kong Bengali Association. Around the popularly celebrated Chinese Mid-Autumn festival a wisp of festivity is first felt. From then before we get to breathe from our daily routine the Navaratri begins, marking a start of our festive season. The weather progressively improves from scorching heat to a moderate climate creating an enjoyable atmosphere.

This year, the Hong Kong Bengali Association is conducting the 15th edition of this immensely popular festival. Over a period the Durga Puja has appealed to a wider section of the society hence with every passing year we see a greater participation from a varied Indian, Nepalese and local Chinese community. For some time now students and teachers of Anthropology department of The Chinese University of Hong Kong actively participate during the festivity.

Durga Puja in Hong Kong bears a special significance and perhaps unique due to non-use of fire which is not in tune with the established Hindu rituals. We are unable to use fire since it is prohibited in the Community Center for safety reasons. However with over whelming devotion we have been able to overcome this. Hence accepted the use of electric prodip(traditional lamp) which has substituted AGNI. The children who have spent a considerable time outside Bengal/India get a feel of the festivity of which they have heard stories from their parents/ grandparents or relatives in Kolkata. On the Bijoya Dashami, the last day of the 5 days when Ma Durga prepares for her journey back to Kailash it is marked by the Sindur khela where the ladies take an active role in smearing the red vermilion on each other making it colourful in an otherwise sad day of drawing a curtain to the festivities.

The Executive committee has taken steps in revamping the HKBA website, incorporating features which will help improve the quality of deliverables in terms of communication and ease of administration. These are considered to yield long term benefits bringing value to the Members and thereby the Organisation.

The enthusiasm from Members for performing cultural programs to contributing article/artwork in the souvenir is heartwarming. HKBA is proud to have varied talents in the community who have made exceptional contribution in preserving our tradition and culture in a foreign land. This year too HKBA will be presenting cultural program in the evenings during the Puja. I extend my profound thanks to the participants for their time and effort in putting up the show.

Organizing the Durga Puja has been possible only with the help and support of many who have tirelessly worked in putting small pieces of details together to make the event a grand success. I take this opportunity to thank the District Facilities Management committee of Yau Tsim Mong District and officials of the Home Affairs Department belonging to the Hong Kong SAR Government for their kind cooperation in making available the facilities of Henry G.Leong Community Centre to HKBA for the Puja. I also extend my deep appreciation and thanks to all our patrons, sponsors, friends, well-wishers and other Associations for their continued patronage and support. I sincerely thank the HKBA Executive Committee members, for their dedication and hard work. Finally I thank the HKBA members who have volunteered to help and guide us on all occasions.

May the blessings of Ma Durga be on us at all times.

Bijoya Greetings & best wishes

Somdev Chatterjee
President



Special Acknowledgements

The Hong Kong Bengali Association wishes to express its heart-felt thanks to all friends, supporters, sponsors and well-wishers for the help they have rendered to the cause of our Association. For this year's Durga Puja, we especially acknowledge the contributions of the following persons:

District Facilities Management Committee-Yau Tsim Mong
Staff Members of Henry G Leong Community Center
Well wishers from Indian and Local Chinese Community

Mr. Raymond Ho

Mr. Sohan Goenka

Mr. Vinod Dhariwal

Ms. LIU Suk-Wa, Connie

Mr. Kanwaljeet Singh Dhillon

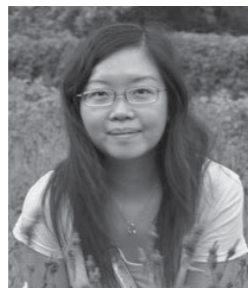
Pratima Shilpi

Shri Arun Paul, Kolkata



Souvenir cover design & Mandap Decoration

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Durga Puja 2013 Program Schedule

Venue:

Multipurpose Hall, Henry G Leong Community Center
60 Public Square Street, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon.

Sasthi	Thursday, 10th October	- Puja starts from 6:30 PM - Prasad distribution
Saptami	Friday, 11th October	- Morning Puja 10:00 – 12:00 - Pushpanjali 11:00-11:30 - Prasad distribution - Evening Puja 18:00 – 19:00 - Prasad distribution 19:00-19:30 - Cultural program 19:30-20:30*
Astami	Saturday, 12th October	- Morning Puja 10:00 – 12:00 - Pushpanjali 11:00-11:30 - Prasad distribution - Sandhi Puja 18:00-19:00 - Prasad distribution 19:00-19:30 - Cultural program 19:30-20:00*
Nabomi	Sunday, 13th October	- Morning Puja 10:00 – 12:00 - Pushpanjali 11:00-11:30 - Prasad distribution - Evening Puja 18:00 – 19:00 - Prasad distribution 19:00-19:30 - Cultural program 19:30-20:30*
Dashami	Monday, 14th October	- Morning Puja 10:00 – 12:00 - Pushpanjali 11:00-11:30 - Dadhi Karma - Prasad distribution - Sindur Khela 16:00-17:00 - Cleaning and packing 17:00-18:00
Bijoya Sammelani	Saturday, 9th November	- 7PM onward

Priest: Shri Sakti Prasad Mukherjee of Kolkata



* Durga Puja 2013 Cultural Evenings

Saptami: October 11, 2013

Aabahoni

- An invocative cultural extravaganza presented by HKBA members.

Ashtami: October 12, 2013

Purano Shei Diner Katha: Yaadon Ki Baraat

- A retrospective celebrating 100 years of Indian Cinema.

Nabami: October 13, 2013

Bishwa Bhara Praan

- An illustrative dance program depicting the Five Elements of Nature.

Pancha Bhoota refers to the manifestation of the five prime elements of nature- Space, Air, Fire, Water and Earth. Pancha indicates five and Bhoota means elements.

With large, sweeping movements, the dancers show the immensity and endlessness of Space and the mobility of Air while bold dance steps embody the fierceness of Fire, which gradually wanes into gentle, languid movements that depict the steady flow of Water. Nimble steps signify the Earth and how it is teeming with life.

Traveling Direction to HLCC:

Take Exit C at Yau Ma Tei MTR, turn right, walk along the Nathan Road, turn right again at the Public Square Street, the HGLCC is ahead at the intersection of Public Square Street and Shanghai Street.

The Strongest Four-lettered Word: LOVE (what did you think?!)



By Rapti Das

Though love is always in season, I personally believe that there cannot be a better time or occasion than Durga Puja to write about it. Let me warn you though. This is no simple boy-meets-girl-they-fall-in-love-get-married-and-live-happily-ever-after story. This is a tell-it-as-it-actually-is sort of article. So, for the romantics and believers amongst you, this is the time when you turn the page and move on to softer, more heartwarming passages.

The very mention of the word 'love' brings forth emotions of varying depths in different people. Through the ages poets and authors, the world over, have tried to define love, and this quest has blessed us with innumerable volumes of the finest of literature. They have not been alone in their quest; scientists have also been trying to determine the nature and scientific basis of "falling in love". The consensus seems to be that "true" love has a few defining features: it is caring, intimate, committed. It is based on mutual attraction, leads to attachment, and, most importantly, is unconditional. Simply put, true love should make a person a better version of oneself - be it a mother's love for her child or a devotee's spiritual love and devotion for the Almighty.

The more popular variety of the emotion is the one that makes the heart flutter and skip a beat at the very mention of the loved one's name. It endows superhuman qualities in the person - the ability to walk well above the ground (or even on clouds) and to happily make do without food or drink. Without the application of expensive lotions and potions, it puts a radiant glow on one's face. It gives rise to a preference for insomnia over restful sleep, because this is the one time when reality, somehow, seems better than dreams! It puts a skip in one's steps, and wraps the person in a cocoon of warmth that extends protection from harsh reality and suddenly makes the world appear a better and magical place! Franklin P Jones, an American reporter, had once said that love does not make the world go round, but it certainly makes the ride worthwhile!

For ages this has been the love told in tales of princes and knights having waded knee-deep through enemies, putting lives (their own and their hapless companions') in danger only to win the hand of the princess or rescue the damsel in distress. In Mills and Boon, the knights in shining armour have simply been substituted by the tall, dark and handsome variety of males; with the battlegrounds having shifted to the boardrooms. Having rescued or won over the ladies, what next? Marriage, of course! Didn't all such stories end with "and they lived happily ever after"?

How many of these fairy tales or "love" stories started after the wedding ceremony? Do the defining qualities of love mentioned above diminish or disappear after marriage or with cohabitation? Is love truly blind with marriage being the eye-opener? Why doesn't "love" come with statutory warnings? Or, do we choose to ignore them? Why doesn't anyone question that if love is as uplifting an experience as it's made out to be, then why is one said to have "fallen" in love as opposed to "having risen in love"? The phrase itself should have sufficed as a warning! Even kobi-guru Rabindranath Tagore had questioned "bhalobasha kaarey koye? Sheki keboli jaatonamoye?" ["What is love? Is it only filled with pain and suffering?"]

It's cynical, but true, that every human relationship, be it between parent and child, husband and wife, siblings or friends, appears to be conditional or need-based. This is so even between the devotee and the Almighty, until one attains moksha / Nirvana. Does that imply that a relationship's viability is dependent on some emotional, financial or physical need being met? Is disillusionment inevitable? Is there no hope for the betterment of mankind? Worse still, have we been taken for a ride by Karan Johar, Sooraj Barjatiya, James Cameron and their ilk?

Well, yes and no. There's some degree of truth in the above, but don't lose hope just yet. All is not lost. At least, not while there are dogs around! Yes, you read that correctly: DOGS.

A dog's relationship with the master embodies all the defining points of love outlined earlier. People have gone so far as to say that dogs are our link to paradise. They don't know evil or discontent. In fact, pure love has been said to be conveyed only by dogs and infants!

They teach us the true art of living – seize the moment, follow your heart, and enjoy the simple pleasures of life: a walk outside, a nap (any time of day or night!), as many belly-tickles as possible, and being content simply in the presence of the loved one!

If even their simple requests (a walk, a game of catch or a belly-rub) prove to be difficult to be met, they will happily settle for just being allowed to stay by your side (and lick your feet once in a regular while). They do not hold any grudges and their love is truly unconditional.

Mark Twain had said that the principal difference between man and dog is that if you have helped a starving dog, he will not end up biting you. He also said that if the entrance to Heaven was based on merit, then dogs would gain entry in preference to man!

The 19th century writer, Josh Billings, had said that a dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself. They show us the true essence of friendship and unswerving loyalty (after all, wasn't it Yudhisthir's dog who accompanied him even through hell?).

Dogs fill the home with love and laughter, and bring family members (and friends) even closer to each other. Every time you return home, you are guaranteed of a wonderfully warm 'welcome ceremony' - complete with a vigorously wagging tail and wet licks, immaterial of where you've been and how long you have been away for. They're just thrilled to have you back!

There is so much truth in Arthur Conan Doyle's observation that a dog reflects the family life, for seldom will one find a frisky fun-loving dog in a gloomy family or a sad dog in a happy family. Friendly people have friendly dogs just as dangerous people have dangerous dogs! American president Woodrow Wilson recommended "examining one's conscience if a dog will not come to you after having looked you in the face".

In life, with its ever-rising levels of stress and tension, dogs prove to be wonderful in-house stress-buster-

on-demand. Simply petting and cuddling a dog can calm and soothe even the most disturbed of minds. Just try staying unhappy or angry while someone is rolling around on the carpet or simply laying their head on your feet! Whether or not the scientific basis of "falling in love" is ever deciphered, a lot of data is already available on the positive effect of pets (especially dogs) on an individual's health, especially the cardiovascular system (improving the lipid profile, lowering body weight, lowering blood pressure) and psychological well-being. Humans of all ages have shown these benefits. The elderly benefit from the companionship and the enforced physical activity; and children who grow up with pets have been shown to develop into responsible young adults. Dr Adnan Qureshi of Minnesota Stroke Institute, U.S.A., has said "pet ownership should be perceived as low-cost, low-risk medical intervention". [Needless to say, the above-mentioned health benefits are guaranteed only to those who provide hands-on, personal involvement in the care of their pets!]

Also, one main reason for loving dogs is that they distract us from our self-obsessed state and the pressures of daily life. A dog's ability of living in the present helps to draw us out of a self-destructive cycle of tension and the pointless worrying about the future. Being with a dog makes us yearn for similar innocence and for a world as devoid of guile and duplicity as theirs.

All-in-all, having a dog as a pet gives you a loyal sympathetic friend, a personal trainer and a counsellor all rolled into one! So, what are you waiting for? Just go out and get yourself your very own laugh-inducer, stress-buster, loyal, non-judgemental friend!

[Disclaimer: This article has not been sponsored by the HKDR or the SPCA. It has been written by someone whose life has been made complete by her stress-busting companion!]



By Debashis Roy Mahapatra

হং বং কং চং

দেবাশিস রায় মহাপাত্র

বন্ধুর সোমদেব অনুরোধ করলেন দুর্গা পূজা স্মরণিকার জন্য একটা লেখা দিতে। একে বন্ধু মানুষ তায় আবার বঙ্গসমাজের সভাপতি, পালাবার সব রাস্তাই বন্ধ। অগত্যা জয় মা দুগগা বলে কাগজ কলম নিয়ে বসলাম। কিন্তু বসেই আতান্তর। কী লিখি! না আছে কলমের জোর আর না পারি কল্পনার ডানায় ভর করে উড়ে যেতে। অগতির গতি খবর কাগজের শরণাপন্ন হলাম। অনেকদিন পরে সম্প্রতি আবার বাংলা কাগজ পড়তে শুরু করেছি। মাঝে মাঝে দু-একটা নতুন শব্দ দেখতে পাই, যেগুলো আমাদের ছেলেবেলায় আমরা দেখতে পেতাম না। স্বাভাবিক। গত পঁচিশ তিরিশ বছর আমি দেশছাড়া। ইতিমধ্যে দেশের সমাজ বদলেছে, আর তার সাথে তাল মিলিয়ে ভাষাও বদলেছে। ভাবলাম সেই সব নতুন নতুন শব্দগুলোর ওপরে কিছু লিখি। আমার মতো আরও যাঁরা বহুদিন দেশছাড়া তাঁরা হয়তো এতে কিছুটা আনন্দ পাবেন। তবে শুরুতেই বলে রাখি, ভাষার ওপরে কিছু লিখতে গিয়ে আমি আমার নিজের দক্ষতার গণ্ডি ছাড়িয়ে যাচ্ছি। আশা করি সুধী পাঠক নিজগুণে আমার এই ধৃষ্টতা মার্জনা করবেন।

শুরু করি *আতান্তর* কথাটি দিয়ে। শব্দটি যখন প্রথমে নজরে আসে, তখন ভেবেছিলাম অতি + অন্তর –এর কোনও রকম অপভ্রংশে কথাটির সৃষ্টি, বোধ হয় এর অর্থ অনেক পার্থক্য বা ওই ধরনের কিছু। কিন্তু সংসদের অভিধান খুলে দেখলাম আমার আন্দাজ একদম ভুল। কথাটির সঠিক মানে সঙ্কট বা দুরবস্থা। সংস্কৃত মূল শব্দটি অবস্থান্তর, অপভ্রংশে অথান্তর এবং চলতি বাংলায় সেটা হয়ে দাঁড়াল আতান্তর।

কলকাতায় এবার বৃষ্টি বেশ ভাল হয়েছে। সেই প্রসঙ্গে খবর কাগজে একটি খবর বেরোলো। মরসুমের প্রথম ভারী বৃষ্টি। ফের ভাসল শহর। ফের ভুগলেন শহরবাসী। আর শহরে জল জমার দায় কার, তা নিয়ে দিনভর *চাপানউতোর* চলল পুরসভা ও সিইএসসি-র। চাপান কথাটির একটি অর্থ কবিগান, তরজা প্রভৃতিতে এক পক্ষ অন্য পক্ষকে সমাধানের জন্য প্রশ্ন করা। আর উত্তর কথাটি উত্তরের প্রাদেশিক রূপ। কাজেই সহজ করে বলতে গেলে চাপান-উতোর কথাটির মানে দাঁড়ায় সওয়াল-জবাব, সাধু ভাষায় বলা যায় প্রশ্নোত্তর। তবে চাপানউতোর কিংবা সওয়াল-জবাব কথাগুলির মধ্যে যে কাব্যিক কিংবা সাবলীল ভাবটি আছে, প্রশ্নোত্তর কথাটি সেই তুলনায় অনেকখানি নিরস মনে হয়।

বৈদ্যুতিন কথাটি প্রথম যখন নজরে আসে, তখন ভেবেছিলাম বৈদ্যুতিক কথাটি ছাপার ভুলে বৈদ্যুতিন হয়ে গিয়েছে। আমার ১৯৮৪ সালের সংসদের অভিধানে কথাটি নেই। ইন্টারনেট খুঁজে জানতে পারলাম এটি electronics-এর বাংলা রূপান্তর।

খবর কাগজ পড়ে আর একটি নতুন কথা সম্প্রতি শিখলাম – *সুরতহাল*। অভিধান খুঁজে জানতে পারলাম এই কথাটির অর্থ – সশরীরে তদন্ত, 'ময়নাতদন্ত, ঘটনার প্রকৃত অবস্থা। কথাটির উৎপত্তি সুরত থেকে। সুরত মানে চেহারা, আকৃতি বা সৌন্দর্য। যেমন ধরুন নাসিরগন্ডিনের দেহের *সুরতহাল* করার পর ম্যাজিস্ট্রেটও স্বীকার করে নেন, দেহে প্রচুর আঘাতের চিহ্ন রয়েছে।

আজকাল *আধিকারিক* কথাটি খুবই ব্যবহার করা হয়। আমি ভাবতাম আধিকারিক মানে

বাংলা-ইংরেজি অভিধানে আধিকারিক বলতে আমলা অর্থাৎ অফিসার বোঝাচ্ছে।

কালী পূজোর এখন ঢের দেবী। শব্দদূষণ নিয়ন্ত্রণের জন্য **শব্দবাজি** নিয়ে কিছু সরকারি নিয়ম জারি করা হয়েছে। ভাবলাম শব্দদূষণ (sound pollution) বোঝাতে এই শব্দটার উদ্ভাবন হয়েছে। সম্প্রতি সরকার সেই নিয়মাবলীর কিছু পরিবর্তন করায় ধোঁয়াশা সৃষ্টি হয়েছে। তার ফলে ধন্দে পড়েছে পুলিশ। তাই ভাবলাম রকবাজি, বোমাবাজি, তোলাবাজির মতো শব্দবাজিও পাড়ার দাদাদের কিছু অবদান। কথাটি সংসদের অভিধানে খুঁজে পেলাম না। মনে হচ্ছে কথাটির আসল অর্থ খুব জোরে আওয়াজ করে ফাটে সেই রকম পটকা।

কিন্তু সেই ধোঁয়াশা নিয়ে সরকারি আধিকারিকদের কোনও **হেলদোল** নেই। এই কথাটিও আমার সংসদের অভিধানে পেলাম না। লেখার প্রসঙ্গ থেকে মনে হয় হেলদোল নেই মানে নির্বিকার (unconcerned)।

আমরা সবাই IT-র কথা জানি। এর সমার্থক বাংলা শব্দটি হল তথ্য প্রযুক্তি। কিন্তু science and technology বা engineering & technology – র বাংলাটা কি হবে তা ঠিক মনে আসছে না।

সকালে অফিস যাওয়ার সময় এবং সন্ধ্যা বেলা বাড়ি ফেরার সময় ট্রাফিক জ্যামে আটকে পড়া কলকাতাবাসীদের জীবন দৈনন্দিন ব্যাপার। **যানজট** কথাটি এর এক সুন্দর বাংলা অনুবাদ। কিন্তু কেন এই যানজট? বলা হয়ে থাকে মাথা পিছু রাস্তার **পরিকাঠামো** (infrastructure) যথেষ্ট না থাকার ফলেই এই দুর্দশা।

যে বাংলা শব্দটা নিয়ে আমি সবথেকে বেশী ঝামেলার মধ্যে পড়েছিলাম সেটি হল **বস্তুনিষ্ঠতা**। ইন্টারনেটে দেখলাম কথাটি বাংলাদেশে বহুল প্রচলিত, বিশেষত ব্লগারদের মধ্যে। বাংলাদেশের

একটি খবর কাগজের লোগো-তে দেখলাম লেখা আছে বস্তুনিষ্ঠতায় প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধ। কিন্তু পশ্চিম বাংলায় এর চল অপেক্ষাকৃত কম। সংসদ কিংবা আশুতোষ দেবের অভিধানে কথাটির উল্লেখ নেই। অনেক খুঁজে শেষ পর্যন্ত সাহিত্য একাদেমির পরিভাষা সঙ্কলন বলে একটা চটি বইয়ে পেলাম এই কথাটি অর্থ – objectivity।

কিছুদিন আগে বাংলাদেশ সরকার জামায়েত-ই-ইসলামির রাজনৈতিক **নিবন্ধন** বাতিল করেছেন। আমি জানতাম নিবন্ধ কথাটি প্রবন্ধের সমার্থক (essay)। অভিধান খুলে দেখলাম নিবন্ধের আর এক মানে হল তালিকা। নিবন্ধ থেকে তৈরি হল নিবন্ধন, মানে তালিকাভুক্ত করণ – অর্থাৎ registration।

ফিরে আসি এপার বাংলায়। আপনারা হয়তো জানেন যে অন্ধ্রপ্রদেশ ভাগ হয়ে তেলঙ্গানাকে একটি নতুন রাজ্য হিসেবে তৈরি করা হচ্ছে। সেই প্রসঙ্গে খবর কাগজে **রায়ালসীমা** বলে একটি কথা বার বার উল্লেখ করা হচ্ছিল। ভেবেছিলাম এটা বোধহয় সীমানা সম্পর্কিত কোনও বাংলা কথা। কিন্তু পরে দেখলাম এটি অন্ধ্রপ্রদেশের একটি বিশেষ অঞ্চলের নাম। বিজয়নগরের রায়াল রাজবংশ এই অঞ্চলে রাজত্ব করতেন, সেই সুবাদে বিংশ শতাব্দীর শুরুর দিকে অন্ধ্রপ্রদেশ সরকার ওই অঞ্চলটির নাম দেন রায়ালসীমা।

BIZNESS AND BANGALEES



By Kaushik Neogy

The building from where Bengal is governed “Writers building” was built in 1776 by then lieutenant governor Ashley Eden to keep the English writers or more commonly English clerks there. Irony is that Bengalese get governed from the same Clerk’s building 250 years later and keep insinuating that clerical attitude in every vista thereby eschewing their bizness ambition . Middle class Bengali always aspires to be a successful bizness-man but lacks that eventual strength to quit his job to jump into the unknown. We find it safer to work on Curriculum Vitae, search different job posting website & apply for a job rather than wasting time to apply for a bank loan for some ostensibly conceived bizness ventures. Gouri Sen seems to be the first perpetrator. “Lage taka debe Gouri Sen” (If you need money ask Mr.Gouri Sen). Although he was a successful entrepreneur and earned enough to share his fortune and thereby created a Bengali maxim, he never taught us how to be an entrepreneur rather he spoilt us bestowing his wealth among general mass for no reason.

Acharya Prafulla Sen tried his best to get our entrepreneurial skill honed but we had more intellect to do something better – writing poetry, discussing Shakespeare-Milton, promoting communism & perfecting a better clerical potentiality. We quote very easily from Mahatma Gandhi “It is possible to do business honestly but with extremely difficulties” & we feel proud to profess ourselves as ‘Honest’ whether we are or not, as we are clerk and not bizness-man. But history says otherwise – ‘Chand Saudagor’, Dhonopoti Saudagor, Jagat Seth to recent Dwarkanath Thakur all were successful businessman. A trait remained among Bengalis which I am sure if rightly re-directed would eventually enmesh enough amount of wealth to get the Bengal out of debt trap. Subtleties of the modern business economics are well known to Bengali mass in some form or the other. My belief was recently reinforced during my journey to the city of joy. Let me take you to that journey.

Howrah ! Howrah ! Bhetore Khali Ache - While waiting at Dharmotolla one sultry afternoon noticed that the bus conductors from the crowded public buses

screaming “ Howrah Howrah – Bhetore Khali Ache” (The conductor implies that Howrah bound bus is empty inside, please get into the bus). In the bus-stop one group of people who believes the conductor and the other does not. The later group waits for another equally crowded bus conductor to woo them inside the bus. Somehow if the bus conductor manages to get the passenger inside, the passenger’s journey to Howrah is ensured and eventually conductor earns his percentage of bus fare. In reality the bus is so crowded inside that once the passenger gets into the bus, will not have much choice & would not be able to get off the crowded bus till it reaches Howrah where the entire passenger disgorges.

Change the perspective and look from marketing point of view – Potential customer’s available attention is limited. So one have to filter and ration the “attention allocation”. “Bhetore Khali ache” - single phrase that offer the primary benefit is used as a ‘Hook’ and rest is done. All companies selling the consumer goods do the same thing. Somehow ‘hook’ the customer and the job is done. Awesome S.....

Case or Cash - Once my driver was caught while driving in the wrong direction of the ‘One Way’ lane and it so turned up that we were caught in the hand of a white uniform clad police sergeant midway. The first things comes out of the driver’s flabbergasted face is an innuendo explanation that why is he driving in a wrong lane. Then we heard the familiar word ‘Licence’ and upon presentation of the driving license to the sergeant, to my utter surprise driver started to negotiate with disyllabic phrase ‘Case or Cash’. Followed by few minutes of nerve racking negotiation & then the car is turned around blocking the traffic to allow in the general direction of traffic flow.

Change the perspective and look from the Communication point of view - When something goes wrong how one handle the crisis matters. Mistakes and Issues happen all the time. So planning the response in advance goes a long way toward minimizing the impact of the unexpected. Fixating on the issue is the least productive thing one can do when something of such nature goes wrong. Look

at the sergeant – He has a comparative advantage. He knows every people have a fundamental need to be important and safe and he just ensures it does happen. And my driver..... Awesome S.....

Hate Gorom Na Pate Gorom - While visiting one morning 'Jogudar Mistir Dokan' in our nearby locality to get the indomitable taste of Singara and Kochuri I asked Joguda's assistant " Singara groom hobe (Are the samosas hot ?) He responded affirmatively. Still bit skeptical, tried to reconfirm 'Hate gorom na pate gorom" ? (Hot in the serving bowl or hot in hand ?). Pat the smart assistant responds "Mukhe gorom" (Hot in the mouth). We all eat the hot food just to get the hot feeling in the mouth.

Change the perspective and look from the Selling point - The shopkeeper knows he can only transact things which are economically valuable. A cold Samosa is not economically valuable. There are lots of prospective businesses where one enters the market without developing or testing Minimum economically viable product and goes bust. So our 'Joguda's assistant ' in spite of being non matriculate knows MEVO (Minimum economically viable offer) effect taught in business school. Awesome S.....

Shil-Nora - While walking past the Barobazar in Kolkata I incidentally landed in the 'Shil-Nora Galli'. As the name of the lane is eponymous with the business it pursues in Barobazar area. Shil--large flat pentagonal stone with a pitted surface and nora--a small black pestle-shaped stone. The apparent obsolete grinding stone used in most kitchen rolling the mortar back and forth on the pocked stone slab, pausing to reposition the paste with wet fingertips. I was shocked to see truckloads of 'Shil-Nora' getting off for the warehouse. Shops were run by the Bengali Banik community. No selling gimmicks. I walked past the area and later checked with my mother that she last bought a shil-nora 40 years back before I was born when as a newlywed started her conjugal life. Interestingly whoever I checked with, could not remember in the recent past of buying a Shil-Nora although some confirmed changing from Bajaj to Panasonic mixer grinder.

Change the perspective to look from the Banik communities standpoint: Although I continued to remain intrigued with the idea that who buys these Shil-Nora but the Banik community in Barobazar is well aware of the CIAs (Critical Important Assumptions). Every business offering has a set of CIAs that will make or break its continued existence. The more accurately one identifies these assumption in advance and actually test whether or not they are

true, the less risk one will be taking & more confidence will have in the wisdom of one's decision. Needless to say truckloads of shil-nora explain it all. Did they run their result using Monte Carlo Simulation? Not sure but some form of probabilistic forecasting model they must have ran through in their mind. Awesome S.....

Ek minute dada - Walk into a bank and well-dressed customer relationship manager clad in formal shirt & tie knowing that you are in a hurry manages to stop you for an hour with the single sentence "Ek minute dada". Walk into a heavily crowded 'Kochurir Dokan' for Sunday morning breakfast, the shopkeeper uses that same word to keep you hooked with the smell of the kochuri and that same phrase. What a phrase! It stops a person to get further worked up for a sizeable period of time.

Change the perspective & look from the bank employee or shopkeeper's view: Whoever proposes that 'one minute wait' knows very well the minuteness of the one minute and its effect on the human brain. They basically understand well the 'perceptual control' and the 'psychology of persuasion' which is a part of human behavior subject in modern business school. People will be more receptive to any request if you give them a reason why. Any reason will do. Awesome S.....

There are many others such phrases which we all must have come across which may have had the seeds of entrepreneurial brilliance waiting to unfold. I am more than hopeful that the dispersion or spreading of Bengal's clerical ability would be thing of the past & Bengal entrepreneurial legacy would start to glisten again. To quote in Tagore's word.

Even though there is not a single companion in the vast sky
Even though deep fatigue penetrates the whole body
Even then little bird, my blind little bird
Do not yet stop flapping your wings ...

ওরে বিহঙ্গ, ওরে বিহঙ্গ মোর,
এখনি, অন্ধ, বন্ধ কোরো না পাখা.....



By Balaram Chandra Paul

স্বপ্নসন্ধানে

এসো আজ স্বপ্ন গড়ি

শারদ মেঘের অলোকছটা শ্বেত শুভ্র নক্সাকাটা
এসো আজ স্বপ্ন জয়ের লড়াই লড়ি।

এসো আজ হাস্যরসে

যোগ বিয়োগের হিসেব তুলে চাওয়া পাওয়া শিকেয় তুলে
এসো আজ ভাগ্য করি নিজের বশে।

এসো আজ আপনমনে

আলোক ভরা জীবন মাঝে রঙ্গিন আশার স্বপ্ন সাজে
এসো আজ খুশির জোয়ার ভরিয়ে তুলি আপন প্রাণে।

এসো আজ হৃদয় জুড়ে

ভালবাসার প্রদীপ জ্বলে হিংসা আর ঈর্ষা তুলে
এসো আজ জীবন সাজাই নতুন করে।

এসো আজ চোখের কোনে

ছেঁটে শিশুর মিষ্টি চাওয়া ছেঁটে পাখীর গানটি গাওয়া
এসো আজ প্রাণের মাঝে নিইগো চিনে।

এসো আজ জীবনটাকে

প্রাণখোলা ঐ হাসির মেলায় বাঁধভাঙ্গা ঐ খুশির খেলায়
এসো আজ রাঙ্গিয়ে তুলি রঙ্গিন চোখে।

এসো আজ নৃত্য করি

সাত সুরের ঐ জালটি বুনে রামধণুর ঐ রংটি চিনে
এসো আজ জীবন জয়ের গানটি ধরি।

এসো আজ স্বপ্ন গড়ি

এসো আজ স্বপ্ন জয়ের লড়াই লড়ি
এসো আজ নৃত্য করি
এসো আজ জীবন জয়ের গানটি ধরি
এসো আজ স্বপ্ন গড়ি
এসো আজ স্বপ্ন গড়ি।

Perception



By Debasmita Bhattacharya

There are no such things as specters. So called, supernatural events, just hadn't been investigated thoroughly enough, but all of that was about to change for one particularly peculiar case; the incident of the Hartfordshire thing.

The muggy air hung heavily over the remote town of Hartfordshire. Hills dotted the lonely countryside and mist encompassed the town houses like a translucent shroud. From one of the almost imperceptible buildings emerged a lone, indistinct figure. As it stealthily approached the town square, a cane could be seen dangling from its fingers. The figure was that of James Herondale, the most no-nonsense man you would ever come across. Anything that didn't fit within the recesses of his entirely methodical mind would indifferently be brushed aside and his mental powers would be put to more rational use. He was the most renowned private investigator in all of Europe. He had been inquiring into, after several relentless pleas from his client, the case of the Hartfordshire thing. Reports of frenzied villagers, hideously mauled animals, nightly reverberations of a menacing howling and other such monstrosities had only recently been made public. Despite his toil, nothing concrete had been found. James would have declared that nothing was wrong in Hartfordshire but something was bothering him. He knew that there was no scientific evidence, not an iota, but something about the way the fog stole rapidly across the moor, the perpetually deserted streets and the stifling atmosphere made him apprehensive. Strange urges came over him at times; the metallic scent of blood had become appealing and, for some unknown reason, he was inexplicably drawn to the gloomy moor. Looking down from the precipice gave him an exhilarating rush he had never before experienced but whenever he noticed his mind wandering from the task at hand, he told himself to get a grip and restore his once lucid thoughts.

Absolutely bewildered as to which course of action to take, if any, James paced the town square. The howling was probably the wind and the chill that often pervaded the dismal town could be explained away by the grim climate but what about the glowing lustrous shape that frequently appeared in his peripheral vision? Was that natural? It couldn't be. The irregularity of his meals and rest had once sharpened

James' mind but now offered not assistance, but only added to his fatigue. For the first time in his long and successful career, James Herondale was at a complete loss.

As he pondered upon the lack of evidence, he slowly drifted away from the town and onto the moorland. His feet passed over the springy heather and his lethargy worsened. The many niches in the surrounding boulders and the desolate view always made him uneasy but he couldn't stay away. The unforgiving wind whipped through his hair and he wondered if he should give up for good and switch to a life of frivolity instead. Just as these thoughts crossed his mind, the now familiar chill spread across the moor and a kind of glimmer appeared at the corner of his sight. By the edge of the moor stood the shape. The sight of the luminous silhouette had a galvanic effect on James. His energies were revived and he briskly strode towards the vague outline. Unlike previous occasions, the shape remained where it was, as though it were beckoning James to come closer. He closed the space between the shape and himself and stood mere inches away from it.

Gradually, the vague glow morphed into what seemed like a feminine figure. It was the same milky white as the fog. A misty hand materialized from its silhouette and reached up to touch James' face. He froze in fear as the icy fingers stroked his cheek, numbing his mind. The figure slipped a translucent hand into one of his and led him closer and closer to the brink of the moor. All of James Herondale's worries suddenly disappeared as though a massive burden had been lifted from his shoulders. Did it matter that the figure's face was blurred? She was friendly, wasn't she? Not menacing in the least. Yes, he would do whatever she asked of him. She released his hand and stepped off the edge, hovering there. James had to follow her, his case wasn't that important. In fact, he wasn't even sure if he had a case at all. Irresistibly drawn to the figure, he let all his fears dissipate like smoke. The horrific stories he had heard couldn't have been true. He reached for her and teetered on the brink. Too late, his hands closed around nothingness, but by then, he had already jumped.

THE MYSTERY SOLVERS 2 UNDERCOVER TEENS: OPERATION MAYDAY



By ARYAN.K.BANERJEE

1: Operation Mayday

Aryan

Ahh... What a good day at school. I am Aryan secret agent from Rapid action Force (R.A.F). I opened my locker and found a parcel labelled operation Mayday. You may think how that box got there but I know what it means. It means that I and Chinu have a R. A. F mission to respond to. I had to tell Chinu. So I walked home faster than I usually do. When I reached home I started lunch. Chinu came halfway through lunch. Chinu is also an R. A.F agent. Chinu is my younger brother. We do our missions together. Our missions come to us disguised as video games. All we need to do is check the CD.

"Mom can we play a few video games after food?" I asked.

"Sure" mom said.

Bingo! Now we can see our mission. I hand signed to Chinu – **Mission**.

2: Our Mission

Chinu

When lunch was over I and Aryan went to our room. Aryan took out his portable game player while I opened the box with a Swiss army knife.

"So what do you think our mission is?" I asked.

Aryan shrugged. "I don't know" he said.

"Let's find out" I said and opened the box.

Inside was a CD, a notebook, pencil, press card, tickets for plane, card and eraser. I put the CD in the player. I hit play.

Agent X's face appeared. **"Somewhere in the heart of the desert is the tomb of pharaoh Tutanses" he said. "Now Poonam Banerjee has a map that will lead her to the tomb"**

"So what is the problem?" I asked.

"The problem is that the tomb has many riches. So you two are enlisted as undercover protection" X said. "Your cover is writers. So good luck boys".

3: To NUBIA

Aryan

The screen went blank. I turned to Chinu. "Where are the plane tickets to?" I asked. "To Nubia" Chinu said "let's tell dad, he'll persuade mom to let us go."

Mom does not know about our mission for R.A.F. But our Dad thought about the Force. Getting permission to go was a piece of cake, because Dad said that we had won the story contest so we were to go. We caught the flight and reached Nubia.

4: Mummy

Chinu

There we saw the Ramses III was docked. We went aboard. A steward greeted us and took us to our cabin. During the day we saw these people board- Dr. Annorax, Consiel, Nedland and the video crew. After that we talked to Mrs. Poonam.

Then it was soon night. Danger time!

"We should be alert" I said.

We were falling asleep when a scream brought us back to full alertness. It came from Mrs Poonam's cabin.

"Hurry!" Aryan said.

We sprinted off to her cabin. She was inside looking all shaken up.

I asked "Are you OK? What happened?"

"I am ok but there was a mummy in here" she said. "I just woke up and there was a mummy right here and I screamed"

Just then Dr Annorax stuck his head through the door followed by Consiel, Nedland and the camera crew (recording): Jurgen, Adi and James.

"There you can tell your story once and be over with it" Aryan said.

After Mrs Poonam told the story to everyone, Dr Annorax asked "which way did it go?"

"I don't know, I think that way" she said pointing to the front.

We broke up in groups of two. I made sure my partner was Aryan.

“Do you believe her story?” I asked Aryan
“No” he said. “I think we should look for gauze” he said.

So we searched and found the gauze in a corner. We went to show our find.

5: Heater

Aryan

The others had not found anything.

“So it was not a real mummy after all” said, Mrs Poonam.

The next day the Ramses III docked and we set off on a double hump camel. It was very hot.

“Let’s interview Mrs Poonam to get something R.A.F will be more interested in” I said.

So we interviewed Mrs Poonam. This is what happened.

“Mrs Poonam may we interview you?” Chinu asked.

“Yes why not” Mrs Poonam said. Her face lighted up like a Christmas tree.

“OK first how did you hear about the tomb of Tutanses” Chinu asked.

“I heard about it from my mother” she replied.

“What are you going to do once you find the treasure?” I asked.

“I am going to let the Egyptians have the treasure. It belongs to the Egyptians forever” she said. We asked a few more questions and gave a very good advice.

“Will you tell the camera crew to put a camera to see if anyone tries to get the map” Chinu asked.

“Yes” she replied.

Then it was night. We were alert. Soon we heard footsteps. I admit I was scared because at night a mummy might be lurking looking for victims. But it was only Consiel.

“What are you doing?” I asked.

“Just checking” Consiel replied and continued.

“It’s good someone is checking” I said to Chinu.

“Yes but that someone should be us” Chinu said.

So we checked but everything was ok. Then a scream came. We sprinted to where the scream came from it was Mrs Poonam. She was ok. Phew!

“The map is gone!” she said “but luckily I remember enough to get us there”

6: Bad news

Chinu

After everyone heard the news we voted whether to go back or continue. “Continue” won, so we

continued. The next morning everyone was shouting because there were only supplies for six days. In the middle of the turmoil Mrs Poonam came to us and said “you are not reporters or writers”

“What do you mean?” Aryan asked trying to sound innocent.

“You are not because you don’t write anything” she said.

“Oops! I think we overlooked that part” I signed to Aryan to say something. After All Aryan is the Brainy one. (AAAB)

“Well caught” he said. I could not believe my eyes, what was Aryan doing?

“Aha” Mrs Poonam said.

“Can we talk in private?” I asked.

She frowned but moved away from the group. Once the group was far Mrs Poonam asked “who are you really?”

“We are sent here to protect you” Aryan said.

Mrs Poonam gasped “But who would want to hurt me?” she said.

“Many people would love to get their hands on the treasure of Tutanses” Aryan pointed out.

“You are right” she said. “Alright, you can come”.

7: Curse or Trick

Aryan

Bingo! We could go. When it was evening Salim our cook made food. It was the tastiest food we had eaten in Egypt yet- lamb cubes, jerky, hummus, vegetables and juice. It was so tasty; we were satisfied and sleepy but also alert.

We were just sleeping when there came a sound “Help! Help!”

I took a pitchfork and ran. It came from the direction of Consiel’s tent. Chinu entered and saw what it was. A poisonous snake! I had just cut it in half. Then Consiel came to me and shook my hand and said “Well done, you saved my life”.

He gave me a medal. “**FOR BRAVERY**” it said.

“Very thank you” I said.

Later we slept. The next day we continued and saw a pyramid in the horizon.

“Adi, you can start recording the scene” Mrs Poonam said. So the recording began. In about 5 hours we reached.

8: Tomb

Chinu

“This is where the entrance is” Mrs Poonam said.

“Sure? It looks like a pile of rocks to me” Nedland said doubtfully.

“Duh. That is the reason” Mrs Poonam said.

So we formed a human conveyor belt and started removing rocks. Soon we had an opening big enough for one person to go at a time. First Mrs Poonam went, and then I went, Dr. Annorax, Consiel, Aryan, Nedland followed.

Salim called through the hole “I’ll stay here to take care of our stuff”

“You come too Mr. Cook.” Dr Annorax said “I can see him burying us alive”.

“Why would he do that? Even if he took the map he would not be able to get the treasure” Mrs Poonam said.

So we continued but got lost very fast. So Adi put a lantern. As soon as he put it down in a trench it lit up a path. And so we followed it and found a door. We opened it. There were rocks guarding the entrance.

“That should be the tomb. We will uncover it tomorrow” Mrs Poonam said.

So we returned. Salim had made dinner.

We ate, slept and woke up fresh.

9: Disappointment danger

Aryan

We ate breakfast and left. This time Salim came too. We went and removed the stones. We looked inside and saw only a coffin.

“This looks like one of the fake tombs” Mrs Poonam said. Still she went to the coffin and took out a paper. But it crumbled to pieces. So we split in groups. Our group contained me, Chinu and Consiel.

“What can we do?” I said.

“I have the map” Consiel said. “So you stole the map!” I said.

“No, I copied the map in case it got stolen” Consiel said.

Consiel is so smart I thought. So we soon reached a door. It looked like we needed to break the door. I and Consiel broke the door. Then we looked and could not believe what we saw.

Glittering treasure! Gold! Silver! Pearls! Diamonds!

“Thanks for finding the treasure for me” we spun around and saw Adi aiming a pistol at us.

“So you stole the map and were the mummy?” Chinu asked shocked.

“Yes I did, now this way please”

Then we saw the others. They followed us to the end of the corridor, except Jurgen and James.

“This is such an instructive map” Adi said and pressed a stone. Not any stone, a stone carved with snakes. The next thing that happened was that the wall behind us started moving forward and the floor in front of us disappeared revealing a snake pit.

Nedland started steaming.

Then Salim said “May I help?”

Nedland said “What are you going to do? Cook something up for the snakes? Or cook them?”

He smiled and said “in a way, may I?”

“Yes” Mrs Poonam said.

Salim took out a flute and started playing. He charmed the snakes with his music. We made it to the other side and took the camera crew by surprise. Because they had the treasure pile, they could not see us. They were outnumbered, so we had the upper hand quickly.

Because Nedland was steaming he punched them so hard that they flew and almost fell into the snake pit.

We won and left for home. The police arrested them. When we reached home our friends took our autograph.

A Trip To Thailand



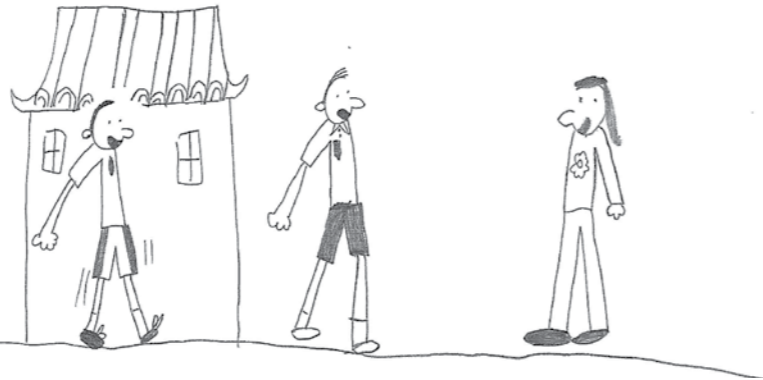
Written & Illustrated By SHOHAM DE

Day 1: 29th March 2013

Today my mom, dad and I went from Hong Kong to Bangkok in Thai Airways. It was a two and half hour flight. We arrived at Bangkok late in the night and stayed at Nuovo City Hotel.

Day 2: 30th March 2013

We woke up early in the morning, had a nice breakfast and went to visit King's Palace. It was an awesome place. There were pillars and statues everywhere. We even saw many scenes from Ramayana. After that we went to the Sleeping Buddha (Wat Po) temple. It was a giant golden model of Buddha sleeping. We looked around more and my dad and I prayed to Lord Buddha. Later in the afternoon we reached Krabi Resort in Krabi Island. We stayed in a sea-view cottage right in front of the beach. In the evening we went out for dinner.



Day 3: 31st March 2013

Today we went to the Phi Phi Islands Tour by speedboat. First, we arrived at Pileh Bay. We took lots of photos but did not get off the boat. Then, we headed to Bamboo Island where we got off the boat and went for "snorkeling". It was in shallow water. At first, salt water kept going in my mouth. Then I got confident and did it well. When we reached Monkey Bay, we saw many monkeys and took photos too. We also saw a strange Viking Cave. Our next destination was Maya Bay where the sand was as soft as flour. This island is famous because a Hollywood film called "The Beach" was shot here. We had lunch at Phi Phi Don. Later, we did snorkeling in the open sea! Hin Klang was the place. It was my first time snorkeling in open sea.

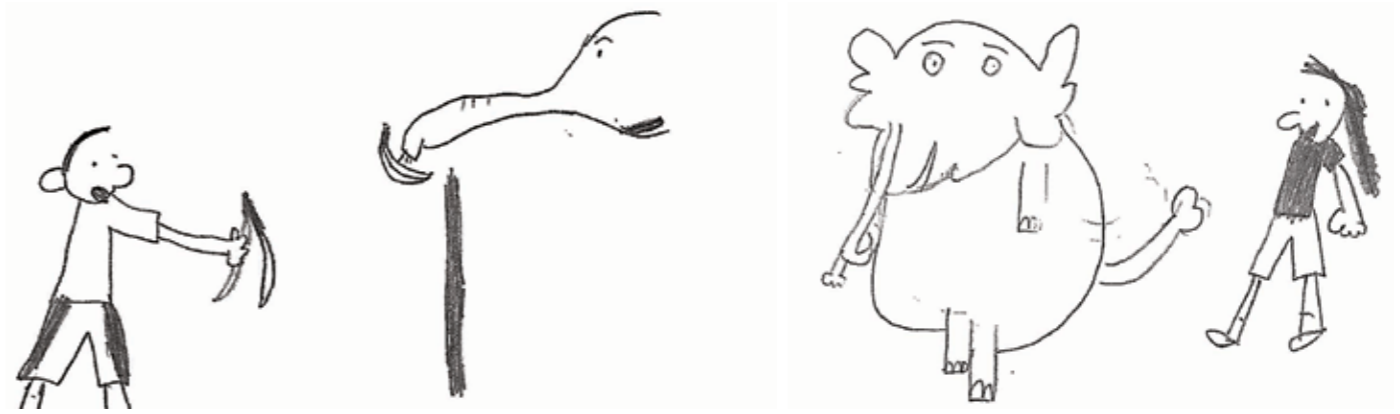
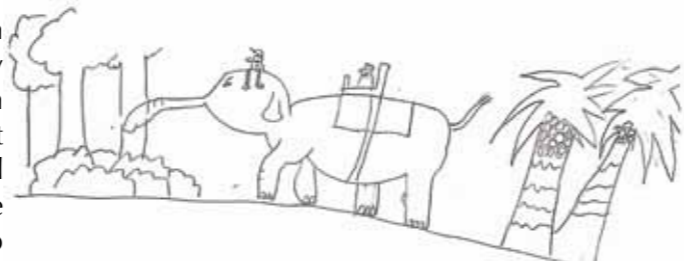


Lohsamah Bay snorkeling was the same except we saw Nemo there. I found it very exciting. I told my mom to go see but she was too scared because she couldn't swim. One of the tour guides helped her go there. Since I knew how to swim, I followed her.

After all the fun we went back to Krabi Resort.

Day 4: 1st April 2013

On our fourth day we went Elephant Trekking. When we got there, we were the only ones. We all were really excited. It was my first time to ride an elephant. When we started, I was jerking all over since I am very light weight. The thing we were sitting on was not straight and so we kept sliding into mom's way. I felt pretty dizzy. We came to a clearing where there was a lake and next to the lake there were lots of date trees.



After the ride, I fed the tired elephant with bananas. The elephant was a female.

After that we watched a baby elephant show! The elephant warmed up by spinning a hoop around its trunk. Then, it played music with a harmonica! The person handling the elephant said it was Gangnam style! The elephant also danced.

After that I took a photo with the elephant. I am little embarrassed to say this, but the elephant kissed me!!!! The baby elephant show ended and we set off. Next, we visited the Tiger Cave Temple. There was a view point at the top of a mountain which my dad went up to. There were 1200 steps to climb!!! The steps were very steep.

My mom and I went inside the temple where I played with a little kitten. It was totally silk black. One of the monks in the temple gave us food and drinks. After almost 2 hours, my dad finally came down. He said he only went up to 923 steps because he couldn't be able to come down within time to catch our bus back. Once we reached our resort, we had lunch and some rest too. After a while my dad and I went to the beach. I brought along my video game. We swam for some time and had lots of fun.

In the evening we went out for dinner and came back to sleep.

Day 5: 2nd April 2013

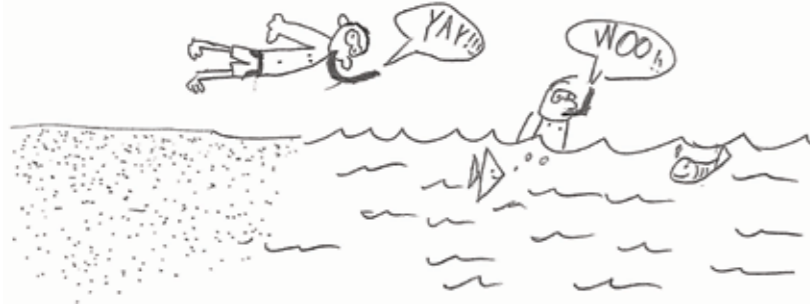
Today, we went to Four Islands Tour. Four islands included Chicken Island, Poda Island, Tup Island and Phra Nang Cave. First we went to Tup Island. There was a shallow path which led to another island. We walked across and reached the other island.

The island was called Chicken Island since it was shaped like a Chicken.

There, some people were sunbathing when suddenly a snake fell to the ground from the tree!! It was jade green and it had a hood. It had fallen right beside a sunbathing person!! My dad called to the person saying that there was a snake beside him. The person jumped in fear and stared at the snake. The snake simply slithered back up to the tree. The person thanked dad for letting him know that horrid thing. We then played in water for a while. Our next journey was towards the deep sea. We snorkeled in the open deep sea. Lots of fish kept coming to me. They tickled me. Soon we boarded the speed boat again and went to Poda Island. In Poda Island, we sat in the beach for some time. Later, we jumped into the water and snorkeled for a while.



My mom really wanted to go in with us but she was scared because she didn't know how to swim. Dad said that my mom could come down because my dad could hold her. We all swam for some time until we went to Phra Nang Cave. It was a cave maybe used by tribes living there. It was like a tiny temple with all sorts of things a tribal would use.



We hung around for some time and finally people started to go back onto the boat. I asked my mom if I could have a little splash before we left, so she said yes. Then my mom called me and said I should climb aboard. In few minutes we were off back to Chicken Island to have lunch.

The boat's guide told us that in Chicken Island lunch would include chicken!! At first I didn't



believe the guide, but when we ate lunch, I found out it was real!!!? Eventually we started to go back to our Krabi Resort. It was late in the afternoon and on the way I fell asleep on the boat. When I woke up, I found myself on the jeep taking us back to the resort. I took a good shower and a short nap. Later in the evening, when the sun was still shining, my dad and I went to the beach to swim. Then we came back to our room, had dinner and went to sleep.

Day 6: 3rd April 2013

Today we packed our luggage to go back home. We went to the airport, said goodbye to Krabi and set off for Bangkok. At the Bangkok airport, my mom bought a Buddha statue which she really liked. After that, we set back home to Hong Kong. We had a wonderful vacation.

জীবনতীর



By Rajasree Nandi

বছর পেরিয়ে যায়
নিয়মমাফিক ভেসে চলায়।
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সরল জীবন।
কঠোর অনুভূতিভরা
এলোমেলো জীবনের
কোলাহলে হারিয়ে যায়
নিজস্ব স্বপ্না ও পরিচয়।
আধুনিকতার গ্রাসে
স্বপ্ন হয়ে যাওয়া যান্ত্রিক হতপিণ্ড
প্রাণ ফিরে পায়
ফেলে আসা পুরোনো
বাস্তুভিটে, নোনাহাওয়ার স্মৃতির কোণায়।
কত বছর তো শেষ হয়
ঋতু বদলায়
ভোরের নতুন আলোয়
নতুন করে চেনা এক-একটি দিন
সত্যিই কি চেনা যায়!
কামনা, বাসনার বৃত্তে আবদ্ধ
কলিমুগের শব্দ, গন্ধ ও বর্ণ?
ফিরে যেতে ইচ্ছে হয়
সেই স্বচ্ছ সরল জীবনে
যেখানে নেই চাকচিক্য,
চরমতার কুৎসিত অলঙ্কার।

An Unique Experience Dialogue in the dark



By Ankit Chatterjee

Dialogue in the dark is an amazing adventure of unknown. **Feel how it is to see the surroundings using our senses like smell, touch & feel without vision?** Set in several rooms of pitch black darkness assisted by guides who are visually handicapped from illness to being born like that or even an accident.

The experience

As we enter it feels claustrophobic but then we get adjusted to it slowly. At the entrance they provide us with a walking stick which is our only support in the dark all throughout the journey of 1 hour and 15 minutes. We were given basic instructions and taken in. At first we felt textures with our feet hence walked on various surfaces like grass, rock, tiled floors etc. Next followed adjustments to movements and situation by crossing a bridge that shook a lot which gave me goose bumps imagining me alone without a help stuck amidst typhoon. Next was to get a sense of direction by following sound, we were advised to cross a road through a pedestrian crossing with the familiar buzzer sound at any pedestrian crossing in Hong Kong. This is the first time I realized the importance of the sound signal in a pedestrian crossing. I felt so pleased thinking of the facilities the Government of Hongkong has developed for the visually handicapped. As we were crossing the road the signal turned Red and we were not sure how far the other side was, a frightening experience!

We were lead to a theatre. Here we were trained to use our ears or hearing senses to enjoy dramas, music concert, etc. without seeing the performance. Time for break hence we enter a café where we have to find a seat, here we were trained on the touch and feel. The familiar HONGKONG DOLLAR coins for the first time made me realize why their shapes were different from each other and imagined the thoughtfulness in designing them. In the café the snacks and drinks were announced by the counter attendant hence selecting was easy but managing it by keeping and taking it from table was difficult.

Hong Kong as a country is kind to people who have disabilities. In dialogue in the dark I had the opportunity to experience life without sight.

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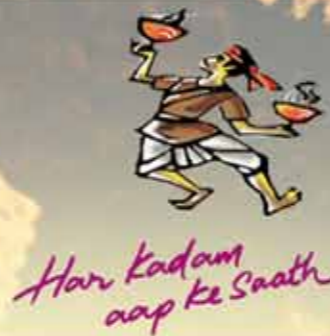
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মহাষষ্ঠী (Sasthi)	10th October 2013, Thursday
বোধন (Inauguration)	1900 – 2100 HOURS
মহাসপ্তমী (Saptami)	11th October 2013, Friday
সন্ধ্যারতী ও পূজা (Evening Puja)	1800 – 1900 HOURS
Cultural Programme & Prasad	1900 – 2030 HOURS
মহাঅষ্টমী (Astami)	12th October 2012 Saturday
সন্ধ্যাপূজা (Evening Puja)	1800 – 1900 HOURS
Cultural Programme & Prasad	1900 – 2030 HOURS
মহানবমী (Nabomi)	13th October 2013 Sunday
সন্ধ্যারতী ও পূজা (Evening Puja)	1800 – 1900 HOURS
Cultural Programme & Prasad	1900 – 2030 HOURS
বিজয়া দশমী (Dashami)	14th October 2013 Monday
সিঁদুর খেলা ও কির্মজন (Vermillion Ceremony)	1400 – 1600 HOURS

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➤ The Hong Kong Bengali Association ➤

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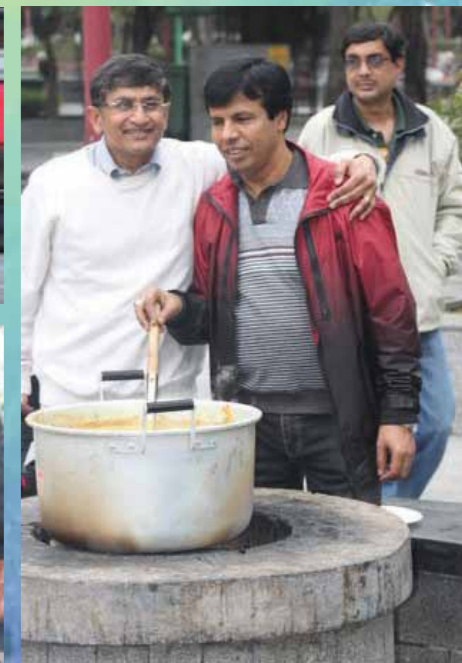
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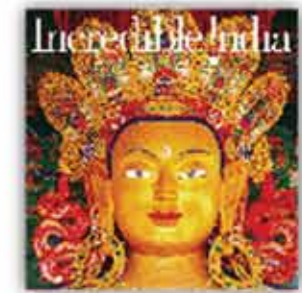
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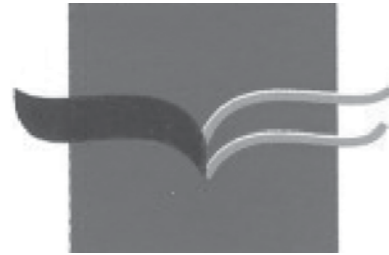
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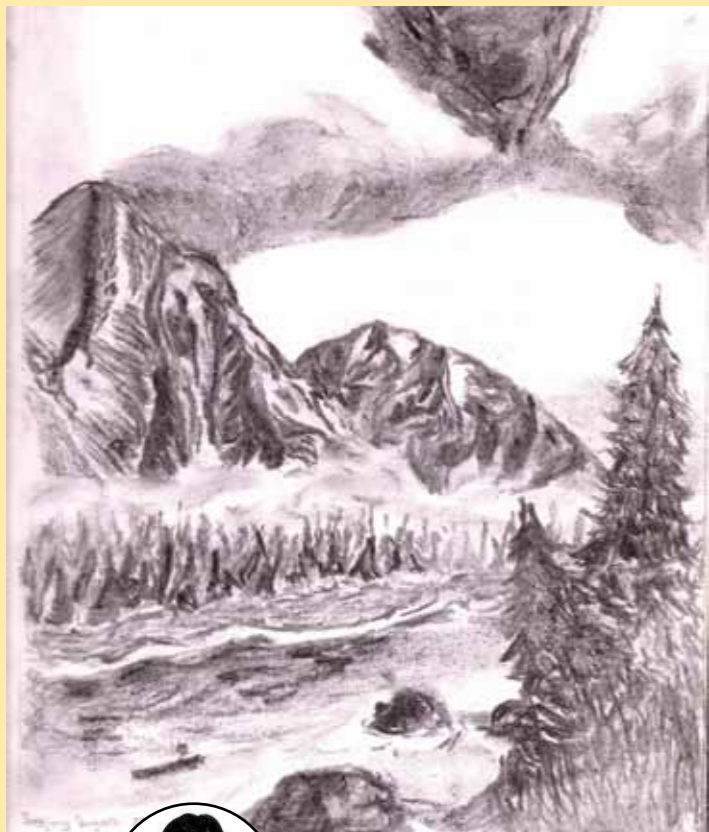
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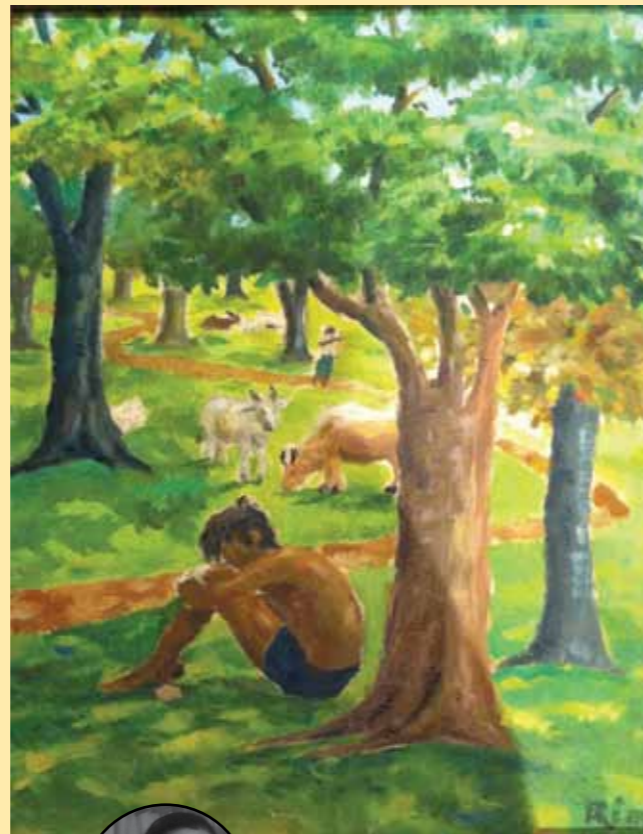
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