



THE OLIPHANT

No. 109

WELHAM BOYS' SCHOOL

16th November, 1990

THINK ABOUT IT

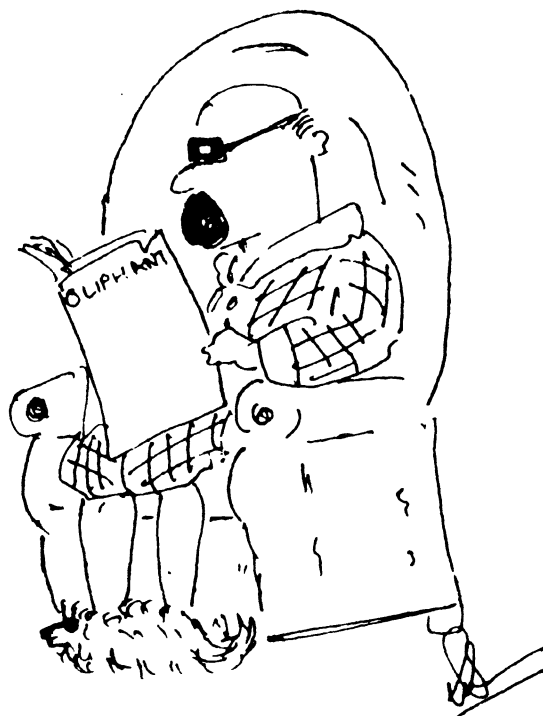
Perhaps one should not think so much of oneself, though it is an interesting subject.

—Norman Douglas

Editorial

This span of 25 days or so is always contrast to Welham at any other time of the year. Gone are the days of chaos and merry making. The usually smiling faces of Welhamites are now much more reserved in displaying their sparking white (when jaundiced, yellow) teeth. No, the reason is not the blazer and tie, Welhamites have already overcome the temporary fit of refinement which had clasped them during the Founder's Day. No, the cause for this gloom has been detected to be the examination virus which has spread around the school. As a result, a large number of boys are suffering from, what at Welham is known as, P.E.D. (Pre Examination Depressions)

Owing to this PED, many boys who have slept their way comfortably through the year, now sit will late hours in the night trying to study, ending up discussing which colour bike their dad's have promised then if they do well. Anyway, whether they actually study or not, no one knows, but yes they do miss out on their sleep. The doctor therefore has to deal with a great number of excuses where one comes complaining of a headache, on seeing the doctor not moved, just remembers he has a bad cold too, not to mention an upset stomach till the doctor gives in and lets the boy rest in the hospital for the day (sometimes the doctor in anger starts to yell and then the boy concerned gets admitted on the grounds of ear problems).



PED plagues the seniors more than the younger lot. As a result alot of stubble faced youngmen are seen roaming around lethargically (the only place where they turn energetic is in the dining hall). Yours truly also has been affected by this epidemic and so has gained alot of weight (PED is the only disease which makes a person healthier). Which reminds me, I must get back to my books. Until next time, wishing you the best for the end of term exams.....

Yours Extremely Depressed
—Saurav Sinha

Literary Affairs of Welham

Our Chief Guest

Lt. Gen. Jagjit Aurora, the officer who Commanded the Indian Army in the Eastern sector in 1971 was born on the 13th of February, 1917, at Kala Gujran (Jhelum District, Pakistan). He has been awarded the Padma Bhushan, PVSM and was elected to the Rajya Sabha in 1986. At present he is the President of the Sikh Forum.

Chief Guest's Founder's Day Speech

Shri Dharma Vira ji, other Trustees of Welham Boys' School, Headmaster Mr. Kandhari, the staff, students, parents, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to be with you today, the Founder's Day of your distinguished school. It is kind of you to have invited me as your Chief Guest, Your Principal had kindly sent me a copy of the prospectus which gave me a detailed account of the academic and other curricular activities you can undertake during your stay in this renowned institution. Further this morning I had the opportunity of being taken on a quick stroll around your school, where I was able to see for myself the educational and other activities in which your students are able to take part. I have also had a look at your new L.R.C. It is incomparable and a very fine building indeed. I hope you will take full advantage of it. As a product of this very fine institution you are specially privileged, as very few such institutions exist in this country, and as a result very few students get such an opportunity to develop themselves.

I would like to remind you that privilege without consciousness of responsibility towards one's fellow being produces selfish individuals who are otherwise assets to the country or society.

I am very happy to see how much your school encourages you to do social service in the neighbourhood and pay special attention to the ecology. The thing to remember is that when you are working in the neighbourhood you should get to know the young people of the villages and get them involved in your activities, establish rapport, camaraderie with them. Do not let them feel that you are doing them a favour. I am

sure you are not adverse to putting your shoulders to a certain amount of labour when helping the villagers.

You could not have remained unaffected by the agitation caused by the Mandal Commission which has caused tremendous damage to national property as it adversely affected studies for the last few months and resulted in the loss of many valuable young innocent lives and it is still continuing. I do not wish to pass judgement on this report or the agitation but I cannot help condemning the police brutality, on one hand and on the other the agitation caused by the lumpens who are mainly responsible for damage to the national property and looting. What has shook me and caused me concern even more, is the manner in which young people have taken to self immolation in desperation, because their chances of getting govt. jobs have been adversely affected. Human life is sacred and a special gift from God. Should we throw it away in despair because we may have to try harder and face greater difficulties to earn our livelihood? Is there some weakness in our character building, are we being more emotional and less rational? We must think about it, we must develop greater self reliance and determination to face boldly come what may. This defeated attitude does not bode well for the coming generation. Since independence our country has made commendable progress in various fields but the burdening population has set this progress to almost nought. This burden together with following, moral, political and administrative standards in the last few years has created an unhealthy situation in the country. We are all to be blamed for it, specially the older generation who have put self before national integration. Youth though much more idealistic has also been contaminated. I am inclined to believe that those who have an opportunity to study in institutions like yours or taught to practise higher standards, of morality, humanity and social responsibility, are free from these weaknesses that I have just pointed out. On the other hand you lead a somewhat clustered life, you do not have to rub shoulders with the less privileged and down trodden. Generally we are conscious of our rights but not our responsibilities. It should be your endeavour to study, understand and help the poor and improve their lot. The real strength of a country is its people who should be imbued with a spirit of service

o the country and its people. The true citizen places the country's interest first and then his own, while doing so he does nothing which may be detrimental to his fellow citizens. I do not wish to enumerate all the qualities that, you should develop. There are a few points I would like to emphasise based on my experience. First I consider a character building is even more important than achieving excellence in academic or extra curricular disciplines. Without unimpeachable character you can not be the "Whole Man". Our country is not short of able, intelligent, knowledgeable and capable people. We do however lack honest, bold, determined, inspiring leaders. We look to you to provide that as the coming generation. Next I would like to commend your team spirit and espritdecores. You can not be a leader unless you are a team player. There is a mistaken notion that the army works weil because of strict discipline and fear of punishment. Nothing can be further from the truth. A successful Commander must win the confidence of his men and command their respect. He must be able to inspire them to get results specially in battle even to the extent of laying down their lives. He has to be a part of the team, as a team captain, inspite of his high rank he is proud of calling himself a soldier, since as every one else, and I may mention here espritde corpsis not just a spirit of fellowship but also loyalty too, and pride in one's self. Another quality I wish to emphasise on is self discipline. No amount of imposed discipline is everlasting, only self discipline can mould you to what you want to be. It is self discipline which will enable you to stand, stand out amongst your peers and earn the approbation of your comrades. Self discipline makes you a good law abiding and useful citizen. It is also a key to self management in life and work. It enables you to achieve time management which is so essential throughout your life. As a nation, we could do with a very strong dose and a lasting dose of self discipline. That brings me to the point of 'know yourself'. I recommend you indulge in introspection periodically and make an honest assessment of your frailties and strong points. Analyse your personality and capabilities objectively. Have the courage of acceding your blemishes, no one is perfect but you can certainly develop your strong points and overcome many of your weaknesses during these for-

mative years provided you are ready to analyse yourself, periodically. I remember, many years ago, of course, when I was studying in 8th class reading a poem under the caption "There Is Plenty of Room at the Top". It did not refer to the empty top stories which many of us have but seriously meant to inspire students that by dint of hard work and determination you can get to the top of your profession, your class, or your job. There is plenty of room for you to be a successful person in life. There is no reason to get disheartened, be competitive and combative with determination and enterprise and you will certainly be successful and get to the reservation or no reservation. India is a vast top and developing country. We have major problems and hurdles to get over. Treat them as challenges and not unclimbable obstacles.

Lastly, I would very strongly recommend astute "Sefarish". For the few years that I have been in politics, I have come to hate this "sefarish" and therefore I felt I must make a special mention about it. I feel you delegate yourself in your eyes when you climb over other peoples shoulders. It gives you no satisfaction of an achievement, in fact I think its a handicap, it gives you a complex that you really do not deserve what you have got through "sefarish". "Sefarish" is corrupting. It has caused immense damage to the political, economic and administrative well being of our country. You, the future generation, have to learn to succeed through honest endeavours and clean up the mess we are in today. I am enthused with what I have seen of your school and the spirit displayed both by the staff and students whom I have had the privilege to meet today. Yours is a very well organised and competently run institution. You are indeed lucky and privileged to belong to it. Make full use of this opportunity. I wish you the best of luck for all times to come. Lastly I would like to thank Shri Dharma Vira ji and his trustees and the Headmaster for giving me an opportunity to visit the school. I would like to thank the staff, all you boys, your parents and all other visitors today for giving me a patient hearing and kind courtesy and I would also like to thank the Headmaster for saying such nice things to me which I don't know if I deserve.

Thank you very much.

Principal's Speech

Gen. Aurora, board of trustees, ladies and gentleman. Now that most of you are seated I can begin. I am delighted to welcome you all, specially considering the difficult and arduous journeys some of you have made to come today. Gen. Aurora has kindly accepted our invitation to be the Chief Guest even though he is in the midst of his daughter's silver wedding celebrations. On behalf of all of us, I request him to convey our congratulations to his daughter and son-in-laws. It is a pleasure to introduce Gen. Aurora to the boys of my school as he represents the "Whole Man", which has always been my theme from Founder's Day address to Founder's Day address. The "Whole Man"—a model we would like all our pupils to emulate. As the Army General who masterminded the Bangladesh War, as a Parliamentarian, he has shown a high degree of skill, discipline, public awareness, and a commitment to improve the body politic. I'll give you only one example of this : he has been instrumental, not just in helping, and assisting war-widows, but in thinking ahead, and looking after the pre-schooling and schooling of their children, so that not only are their futures, but that of their children also provided.

Sir, I am grateful to you for being with us today, when we are gathered in the memory of our Founder—Hersilia Oliphant and her mother, who, as some of you know, started this school by giving a loan of £1000. We hope and trust that Miss Oliphant would be proud of what the school is today. We for our part, need to emulate her doggedness, determination, will power and resoluteness, now, more than ever before, as we seem to be surrounded by a society that seems to have gone off the rails. Our school is striving to educate its community into absorbing that universal message of humanism which is : "the greatest good is love—love of self and love of others", but the school is now receiving messages that shout, "the greatest good is not love but hate"; hate of religion, hate of language, hate of others' talent, hate of unity and integrity. In other words, hate of everything, including perhaps yourself.

Thus it is essential for all of us, parents and those of us teaching here, to transmit to your children, our children, the message "go

forth fit instruments for service, weapons polished and keen wherewith they may fight the battle of righteousness and truth vanquishing error, oppression and wrong",

✓ My brief printed report, I hope, is with you. It gives some information of the school's activities of the year, so I can spare you the boredom of listening to a tedious recital of facts. You will perhaps have noticed that the report reflects the developing and growing nature of the school. It depicts the expansion in our facilities and the increase in the opportunities provided to the students and staff, for self development. On the other hand however, you may have noticed that the number of boys doing first aid, life saving, advanced music courses etc. is somewhat limited. To a great extent this is because of the small size of our senior school; to some extent this is because of pre-occupation with that universal bugbear BOARD EXAMS and also ofcourse partly a lack of motivation, perhaps because of a shortage of suitable role-models

Our reservoir of athletic talent, academic ability, and leadership qualities is not large as we have a total of only 67 boys in class XI & XII But, as you will have seen when going round the art exhibitions, electronics and other displays, at last night's entertainment, and I hope also in the play that you will be seeing later this evening and the short entertainment which at the spur of the moment, the boys are putting uptomorrow evening plus ofcourse from our record at sports, high that a fair number of pupils have attained high levels of proficiency.

Other spheres of development I must mention, include rock climbing under the guidance of Mr. Painuli; afforestation with Mr Khaira and a great variety of crafts under the training of Mr. Basu and the tremendous support he gets from pupils like Deepak Kataria and Abhishek and so on.

All this, to a great deal, meets with one of the goals given in the Kothari Commission's report of 1964 the goal of "education to relate to productivity". The Commission also spelt out three more goals : one, education for social and national integration; two, education to accelerate the process of modernisation and three, education to cultivate social, moral and spiritual values.

In short, goals that our leaders and rulers have not selected for themselves !

But, we in the school have not lost heart and have set for ourselves specific aims to help attain the above goals. You may ask "What are these aims?" Firstly, to try to teach our students to think for themselves, secondly, to promote values based on the dignity of man, thirdly to prepare young people for a future in a society that we can not even envisage and fourthly, to bridge the gap between what is basically an outmoded system of education and the world outside. You may well ask again—"what specific steps have you taken towards these aims ?" A concrete example, concrete in more ways than one, is our Learning Resources Centre, inaugurated today by Gen. Aurora. Why have we not called it a library ? Traditionally, the library was meant for enhancing the pupils' academic experience and supporting the teachers' efforts. But our Centre strives for more—much more. It has a "social aim", to develop opportunities to share and to work together; a framework of providing freedom for development, review and assessment. Thus, it is not specific to any academic subject but takes a comprehensive—"across the curriculum view"; it helps advise people to think and act objectively, and encourages, we hope, flexibility in the thought process so that our students will face the stress of rapid change with confidence. I wonder if you've heard of the great educationist, John Dewey. I quote from one of his great essays; "what avail is it to learn prescribed amounts of information of history and geography, to win ability to read and write, if in the process, the individual loses his appreciation of things worthwhile, if he loses desire to apply what he has learned, and above all, loses the ability to extract meaning from his experiences as they occur ?"

In keeping with all this, we want our Centre not to conjure up a vision of boring books in brown bindings, but of a welcoming, warm and informal sitting room, which is a multi-media entertainment and educational focus. Thus, in what we hope is a congenial environment, it houses not only a reading room and reference library, which is traditional but also a gallery for exhibitions, a drama room, an audio-visual room and so on. However, time, the students, and the staff alone will tell how effectively the Centre is utilised.

Yet another step to make our boys more self-reliant before they step out into the world outside is the set-up in the—P.H. our senior's hostel. Here the boys manage without a matron. But they are provided other aids e.g. a clothes iron (which I gather incidentally is used regularly on holidays when boys go to meet their 'Sisters' at Welham Girls'), they are also given a kitchen and a pantry which is often used.—But I still wonder how many how often bunk into town to taste the cuisines provided by the "Dhabas" and hotels of the city !

Also in the sphere of self reliance, boys at last are becoming adept at serving during meal times; running the School Bank and "the White Elephant" which incidentally is the name of our tuck-shop. The last, alas is the cause of a lot of litter on the estate, which shows you one area of self discipline which I have failed to inculcate. When parents visit their sons the paper wrappings and plastic bags strewn after their visit, show us who are the mentors ! But there have been successes too : for them, my grateful heartfelt thanks to the teachers, the School Captain and the School Prefects.

I have meandered a little longer than I had planned, so I will skip reading to you my next few paragraphs which are very gloomy. Basically, the next few paragraphs tell you about increasing costs, the difficulty of feeding 615 healthy appetites during the last few months. Well take that as read and granted, so I'll move to a more enheartening topic which is our gratitude, to a host of people in the construction of the centre. I owe thanks to more people than I can count. I see some of them here, who have donated a lakh and I hope they'll give even more. I also see people here who have given me advice which has proved to be very useful, I also owe thanks to Mr. Aswal, our architect, and the two Mr. S.K. Aggarwals, our builders.

Actually, generally in the development of the school, I have received expert advice and support from parents and friends, and as our boys grow up after doing their board exams from Welham, I expect that their school will get a lot of support too. So as our Old Boys grow up, so will the school. I am sure I could look forward to all of your continued support, especially as we are soon to launch the construction of another major project,

the last I hope for many many years. which is, for lack of a better phrase. an entertainment centre, a multi—purpose centre. I see so many faces to whom I owe my thanks, I have difficulty in listing them but I must thank all my colleagues—teachers, matrons, hospital staff, and I must tell you that my doctor and the sisters have faced more difficult problems than most of you have an idea of. I'm glad to find that most of you co-operate, but not all. My administrative staff too are working even though they are not in as such large numbers as they would like. Our Class IV staff, which is passing through very difficult economic times, has, I think by enlarge, served us much better than we deserve. And of course even more than ever before a special

thanks to our catering officer—Mr. Sameer Thakur. He has coped with shortages, with no transport, with no fuel, and when I say no fuel, I mean no wood, no electricity, no gas, so you can imagine, and I still find not enough boys losing enough weight. It has been a difficult time, and I think I would rather skip all these and tell you that one of the few great oasis' of peace that I have is our short morning assembly. It doesn't last long. Most of the time it is pleasant. It is a haven, I think, for us in these stormy times. So I would like to read to all of you a very famous prayer, it is also a prayer that we use in our daily assembly, It is from Tagore's writings :

“Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high
Where knowledge is free.

Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow
domestic walls.

Where words come out from the depth of truth.

Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection.

Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the
dreary desert sand of dead habit.

Where the mind is led forward by Thee into everwidening thought
and action.

Into that heaven of freedom my father let my country awake.

A Warrior there was

*He had the chest of Hercules,
And kept the sword of Democles.
He had the hair of Samson
But he resembled the Pied Piper of Hamelin!*

*A warrior there was,
A warrior there was.*

*With one blow he could break down an iron door.
And then with a twist of his wrist he could hurl a mighty boar!
He had a harsh tone
But he was extraordinarily grown!*

*A warrior there was.
A warrior there was.*

*And of himself he was prond,
He thought he looked a giant when he walked in a crowd!
Once there was a mighty war
And with tension, he broke his boat's oar!
He went to the battle field.
His armour shone like a massive shield!*

*A warrior there was,
A warrior there was.*

*And when he swung his tremendous axe,
The enemy soldiers ran like dying rats!
And he challenged the run-away soldiers,
To come and bare a blow from his shoulders.*

*A warrior there was.
A warrior there was.*

*Time passed as never before.
And no one came for they were sure,
that they would die as none before.
At last came a middle-aged boy.
In his hand was a string—like toy.
The warrior, laughed heartily and asked his name with a
smile wry.
"David" was the firm reply!*

*A warrior there was.
A warrior there was.*

*And then he threw a stone from his sling.
Which struck the warrior on his fore head.
And as a result he was dead !!*

*A warrior there was.
A warrior there was.*

—Kirtiman Singh VIII

From Our Archives

- * When the school strength rose to over fifty boys, Miss Oliphant acquired a new hostel near the main field. Boys moved into this hostel on the 10th of April, 1941. At that time it was known as 'Ambala House'. Today it is called woodseats and houses about 60 boys.
- * The School Photographic Society started on the 16th of March, 1940, with Mr. NK Gaur as President. At first, a bathroom was used as a darkroom. At present the school dark room, which is adequately equipped is a part of the Art School, with Mr. A. Basu at the helm.

—Ashish N. Deb Roy

Welham Now !!!

- * The Fete and Founder's Day were much enjoyed by all who attended.
- * The end of term exams. shall commence on the 28th of Nov. The boys are busy preparing for them.
- * The Inter House English Debate was held on the 3rd of Nov. The results were as follows :—

Varun Bhaskar	—1st
Ritesh Khanna	—2nd
Aviral Singh	—3rd

Ganga came first with Cauvery coming in for a close second and Jamuna came third.

- * The first of a series of subject quizzes was organised by the School Quiz Club on the 3rd of Nov. The subject of the Quiz was Sports. Cauvery leads at the moment with 85 points.
- * The Inter House Basketball tournament commenced on the 6th of Nov. Cauvery won the opening match of the tournament and Krishna won the trophy.
- * A meeting of the School Committee was held on the 7th of Nov.
- * The School XI played a cricket match against the staff XI on the 7th of Nov.
- * The Inter House Tennis tournament Commenced on the 12th of Nov.
- * Try-outs for the school cricket team were conducted recently.
- * Our apologies to the following, as their names were not printed in the Founder's Day issue :—

Abhishek Gupta	(Cartoonist)
Amit Virmani	(Literary Affairs)
Varun Bhaskar	(Alisaab's Last three Months)

The minutes of the previous meeting were passed by the school committee.

- 1 Class X requested that they should be exempted from P.T. in the morning. To this the Chairman said that in no case are they going to be exempted, as morning P.T. compulsory for everyone.
- 2 Nishant Pilania complained that mirrors should be provided in the hostels of Triveni. The Chairman said that mirrors are provided in every hostel but still he will have a look and will see that it is done.
- 3 Shubhrajeev Konwer suggested that boys should be allowed to go to the L.R.C. during the first prep. The Chairman said that he had no problem because as it is the L.R.C. remains open till 7.00 P.M.
- 4 Vijay Nishant proposed that there should be water taps near the new basketball courts as the boys have to go to the hostels to drink water while playing. The principal said that as there is no water connection near the basketball court it will be an expensive matter. Secondly in a few months the construction of the new multipurpose hall will be starting in that area.
- 5 Kirtiman Singh suggested that boys should be allowed to study till late at night in the classes as the lights are turned off in the hostels. To this principal did not agree because they get enough time during the day and the prep time.
- 6 Shailendra Singh suggested that there should be a wall clock put in the L.R.C. The Chairman said that it is a valid point and will be implemented soon.
- 7 Anshuman Singh suggested that exhaust fans should be installed in the assembly hall. The Chairman said that it is not possible as they will make a lot of noise. Instead of that ventilators will be put.
- 8 Harinder Singh Mann complained that the solar heaters of P.H. should be repaired. To this the Chairman said that it will be done so as he is already looking for a person to fix them.
- 9 It was raised in the meeting that boys in the Welham Bank and White Elephant squad should be exempted from one day

of S.U.P.W out of three days. The Chairman said that he will think about it as it is unfair for these boys who have to attend S.U.P.W thrice a week.

Obituary

Our heartfelt condolences to Mr. J.K. Sharma (the Bursar) on the sad demise of his brother.

Discovery

TETE-A-TETE

- Q. 1 *Sir first of all please tell us about your date of birth and your birth place?*



DISCOVERY.

Ans. I was born in Hawalbagh Distt, Almora (UP) on the 3rd of June, 1964.

- Q. 2 *Tell us something about your family and your academic career?*

Ans. My father was a govt. employee. He was an administrative officer and right now he is retired and settled in Meerut.

About my academic career, I started my schooling in 'Cannossa-Convent' School Ranikhet, where I studied till class V. Later on I shifted to Central School Ranikhet, where I finished my class VIII.

Later on I joined CAB Inter College, Meerut where I did my class XII.

College Career. I started from Meerut College, Meerut, where I did my

B.Sc. and M.Sc. Physics Part I. My M.Sc. final, I finished from DAV Degree College, Muzaffarnagar.

Q. 3 *How did you join Welham?*

Ans. I came to know through an advertisement about Welham. I applied and was interviewed by Mr. Kandhari. It is by God's grace that, I am here today.

Q. 4 *Any other experiences before this school?*

Ans. As for experience, I have previously worked in Meerut College, Meerut; Wynberg Allen School, Mussoorie and Dayavati Modi Academy, Meerut.

Q. 5 *How are you liking the staff and the boys of this school and please tell us about the standard of Welhamas compared to other schools?*

Ans. The staff here is highly professional, talented and very cooperative. As for the standard, I would like to say that, it is more or less the same as and in my previous working places. However, the boys whom I teach, I would say have impressed me by their behaviour, manners and conduct in class.

Q. 6 *Do you have any hobby and do you read books? If so than please tell us your favorite authors?*

Ans. Every person in the world is more or less interested in some activity or the other. As no exception, I have a hobby of singing I am also fond of playing cricket. I have a great passion for Hindi Literature, I have read Prem Chand, Amrita Pritam and also some of Rabindra Nath Tagore's works.

Q. 7 *What are your future plans?*

Ans. To gain more and more knowledge and impart it to my students.

Q. 8 *Lastly, do you have any message for the students?*

Ans. I would like my students to shine in the future. I feel is that the students should never feel shy in asking their problems to their teachers are always there to help their students out of their problems.

—Mr. Sanjay Sharma

My C.C.A.

During our C.C.A we have been doing a lot of activities like making paper mache, models dancing, and learning the art of make-up. Though, our attempt at making a paper mache ball was a big disaster I really enjoyed learning how to do it. Dancing was very enjoyable, we learnt the different steps of dancing like the cat-walk and the twist. The art of make-up was just demonstrated by to us our teacher who did it very well, then the boys tried it on each other but they made themselves look like demons! The boys were very co-operative with each other, and this is what makes dramatics fun.

—Aditya Sood

Nature's Diary

The Hunting Leopard or the Cheetah

In the scorching heat of the tropical grasslands a small herd of Impalas grazes. All of them are alert and know the price of even the slightest negligence. The predator is on the move, his long sinewy limbs are more like the limbs of a dog than those of a cat. The powerful legs are mechanism to produce an unbelievable speed of 110 km an hour which it can keep up for about four hundred yards. Unlike the tiger and the leopard this cat does not stalk its prey, instead gives chase to it for miles and finally brings it down with its powerful claws.

It is no other than the graceful hunting Leopard or the cheetah which now roams in only some parts of Africa. Though belonging to the cat family it is dissimilar in many ways to any other feline animal. It has a rather small skull as compared to the skulls of the other cats. Its claws are not completely retractable and remain partly bared. Its coat is pale buff in colour, dotted with black spots resembling those of a leopard and on both sides of the face there are two dark streaks running down from the eyes to the nose, resembling marks made by tears.

This efficient killing machine once inhabited the plains and lower hills of Northern and Central India even southwards upto the Deccan and Mysore. Thanks to the short-sightedness of the shikaris, there are no cheetahs left in India. Two cheetahs were last spotted near Hyderabad in 1951 and the last authentic record of the Cheetah in India is of

the three males wantonly shot together in Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh in 1948. Not being a very cautious and cunning animal like the leopard, it was obliterated.

Cheetahs can be easily tamed and were used for hunting in the ancient times by many of the mughal emperors and even by the other kings of India. One such account has been given by a French-Belgian, Captain Rousselet, a guest of the then Gaekwad of Baroda. In 1864 when he went for a shikar with the Gaekwad he was surprised to see two handsome cheetahs on the location. On asking he was told they were brought for hunting. Each cheetah had been placed in a separate palanquin and secured to it with a small iron chain. The palanquin was carried by four men and each animal had been blindfolded with a leather strap. The noise and commotion did not bother the animals who seemed quite composed. When they started to come across large herds of deer they made a plan according to which they were to pick on a large herd of deer and go and place themselves in a situation where the wind was from the direction of the herd. This was done to avoid the scent of the cheetahs from getting to the herd who were otherwise used to seeing mounted men. When the Maharaja was satisfied that they had arrived at a place of vantage, the cheetah was unhooded and released. It stood for sometime and then bounded towards the herd of deer. With the help of its long powerful legs it is capable of attaining a speed of around forty miles an hour in just two seconds. Its backbone can bend like a bamboo stick and its muscles contract and expand vigorously. With every part of its body developed for the purpose of hunting fleet-footed animals, it soon gained on one of the bucks present in the herd. It first knocked it down and then gripped it in a stranglehold by the throat. The horsemen galloped to it. The keeper at once put the leather strap over its eyes and with great effort managed to separate it from the kill. To pacify the cheetah, they gave it a pot full of the deer's blood, and replaced him back in the palanquin. After a good many deer had been bagged, the cheetah began to show signs of exhaustion, so they returned with the kills and the hero of the hunt.

This was just one account but many such accounts of hunts have been recorded by the mughal emperors. When Tipu Sultan of

Mysore was killed in the battle, five hunting Cheetahs belonging to him were presented to Lord Dalhousie. Such was the popularity of cheetahs in India. But the ruthless, and callous acts of man have wiped them out of India for which we all should be ashamed.

— Gagan Gahlot

Brain Teasers

Solve the following jumbles and then taking the letters as directed complete the sentence given at the end :

1. TRRBEA (1st letter)
2. FUF C (2nd letter)
3. GRDA (1st letter)
4. IATG (1st letter)
5. NERADNG (5th letter)
6. LITUG (1st letter)

“The Pest Controller often got.....”
(Hint : Irritated)

Answers to the previous Brain Teasers :-

Across B

- | | | |
|--------------|------------|----------|
| 1. AGA | 4. PROW | 37. REAR |
| 8. TAUT | 10. LURES | 38. PINA |
| 12. OLLA | 13. ASCENT | 39. DRY |
| 15. PAD LOCK | 17. OR | |
| 19. SLOE | 21. PIANO | |
| 24. EPODE | 25. OMIT | |
| 26. AMI | 27. UP | |
| 28. ERUDITE | 32. FETTLE | |
| 35. ERSE | 36. LORAN | |

Down

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|------------|
| 1. ATOP | 2. GALA | 3. AULD |
| 4. PLACE | 5. RUSK | 6. ORC |
| 7. WEE | 9. TALENT | 11. SNOOD |
| 14. TRLE | 16. ORO | 19. SPIDER |
| 20. LO | 21. POUF | 22. IMPEL |
| 23. AI | 24. EMU | 26. ARENA |
| 28. ELAN | 29. IRED | 30. ISAR |
| 31. EERY | 33. TOP | 34. TRI |

In the Arena of Sports

“On your Marks.....Set.....Go.....”
Thus began our Athletics season. This fort-

night the main focus was on Athletics and later on Basketball.

At the close of the soccer season the spikes came out and the athletes began practicing hard for their respective events. It was a short and sweet Athletics season. The athletics were given nothing more than a fortnight for their preparation. To top it there was the Mid-term break which hindered every body's practice schedules. Nevertheless the athletes put up a good show. The performance of some boys in the Field Events and in the Long Distance Races was praiseworthy. Two School Records were broken. In the Short Marathon Durgesh outclassed every body and broke the record by nearly a minute. In the 1500 metres Durgesh again proved unbeatable. He left the competitor far behind. Other notable performances were by Samar in the Triple Jumps and Anurag Kumar in the shot put (where he missed the record by a mere 2 inches). However he has a year to go and we hope he will work wonders. The final day was a dull affair with hardly any events. Samar ran an excellent 100 metres in 11.6 secs. Then Hurjyot caused a major upset in the 110 metre hurdles. At the end of it all there were a few smiles and a few tears. The results of the Athletics Competition were as follows.

Best Athletes

E Division = Durgesh Bhatia

D Division = Aziz Rawat

C Division = Rahul Gupta

B Division = Maneet Arora Prashant Singh

Marathon Trophy—Durgesh

Marching Trophy—Krishna

Overall Team Championship—Cauvery

Shifting to Basketball there were 2 matches the first was against a PARADE GROUND team which was simply outclassed by the WELHAMITES. Anurag top scored with almost a third of the team's total score.

WBS 72 (Anurag 23)	Parade Ground 40
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The highlight was of course the much awaited DOSCO-Welhamite match. The Doscocs finally agreed to play a match with us after repeatedly refusing our invitations. They played Welham on our courts on the 4th of November. The Welhamites were fully prepared for this occasion. Durgesh led his team onto the courts amidst loud cheers. Welham dominated right from the beginning and by the end of the first half, had a 20 point lead. The Welham game was super with some excellent moves by Sehgal and Sudhan-shu. Sumeer started the match with a three pointer. Durgesh was again outstanding. In the closing minutes of the second half Welham loosened its grip on the match. As a result the Doscocs reduced the margin to 9 points before Sumeer finished the match with a perfect three pointer. The final scores were.

Doon School 36	WBS 48
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Cricket has started and the enthusiastic cricketers can be seen practicing. It is a new team and we hope that in the coming months it will bring laurels to our School. Let's wish them the best of luck.

That's all in the Sporting Arena for this fortnight.

Till we meet again

विषय-राष्ट्र में अशांति का कारण धार्मिक कड़रता है। (पक्ष)

आज हम इस सभागाऱ में एकत्रित हुए हैं। एक ऐसे गम्भीर समय में जब हमारे राष्ट्र के अस्तित्व को चुनौती दी जा रही है। चारों दिशाओं में घनघोर काले बादलों का जमघट हो रहा है और ये बादल अग्निवर्षा करने वाले बादल हैं, जो अपने अन्दर घृणा, नफरत, धर्मान्धता और हिंसा की विजलियां समेटे हुए हैं। देश के कोने-कोने में बारूदों के ढेर लगा दिए गए हैं और विनाश एवं विध्वंस की शक्तियां उम क्षण की प्रतीक्षा कर रही हैं, जब एक चिंगारी पूरे राष्ट्र, इसकी उदार परम्पराओं को, इसकी उदात्त संस्कृति को भस्ममान् कर देगी।

मैं कोई प्रलय का प्रवक्ता नहीं हूँ, न ही मैं इस सभा में उपस्थित लोगों के मन में भय का आतंक फैलाना चाहता हूँ, लेकिन वस्तुस्थिति से मुंह नहीं मोड़ा जा सकता। और वस्तुस्थिति यह है कि देश के मंत्र पर प्रलय के तांडव की सारी तैयारियां हो चुकी हैं और नेपथ्य से रौद्र स्वर भी मुनाई पड़ने लगे हैं।

वस्तुस्थिति यही है कि जिम मंच को वापू जैमे महापुरुषों ने अपनी लगन व तपस्या से तैयार किया और जहां पर धार्मिक सहिष्णुता, सत्य व अहिंसा के गीत गाए, वहां पर धार्मिक कट्टरता के नाम पर एक आखिरी नाटक खेला जाने वाला है, जिसकी समाप्ति पर न तो मंच ही रहेगा, न ही दर्शक-दीर्घा और न ही इस दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण नाटक को खेलने वाले दृष्टि-हीन कलाकार।

आज अपने देश के अनेक स्थानों पर जो दृश्य हम देख रहे हैं, उन सबका कारण धार्मिक कट्टरता है। धार्मिक स्थानों को अस्त्रागार में बदल दिया गया है। धर्म के नाम पर मस्जिदों में बदल दिया गया है। धर्म के नाम पर मस्जिदों में जेहाद के नारे लगाए जाते हैं। मन्दिरों में हर-हर महादेव की गूज के साथ, धर्मयुद्ध की पुकार होती है। काश्मीर में अनेक स्थानों का नाम पाकिस्तानी शहर के नाम पर कर दिया गया है। कट्टरवादियों ने लोगों को मजबूर कर दिया है कि वे अपनी घड़ी का समय पाकिस्तानी स्टैन्डर्ड टाइम के अनुसार रखें। इन धर्मान्ध लोगों के कारण पंजाब में केवल दो ही आवाजे सुनाई देती हैं—एक गोली की, दूसरी चीख को। अब इस नक़्शे के पश्चिमी भाग से हटकर पूरब में चलें तो वहां एक और हिन्दू राम जन्म भूमि को लेकर रथ-यात्रा निकल रहे हैं तो दूसरी ओर वावरी मस्जिद के समर्थकों के नारे सुनाई पड़ते हैं। वास्तव में धर्म एक औजार बन गया है, एक नारा बन गया है, अनपढ़ व भोले लोगों को गुमराह करने का, केवल एक माधन बन गया है, अपनी कुर्मी व गद्दों संभालने का।

सभापति जी, आज अवसर आ गया है कि हम कुछ ऐमे निर्णय लें, जिसमे पथभ्रष्ट होकर रहने वाली देश को धारा फिर से धार्मिक सहिष्णुता की ओर मुड़ जाए। इस देश का इतिहास, धर्म-समन्वय का इतिहास है, विचारों के आदान-प्रदान का इतिहास है, विभिन्न संस्कृतियों के आपसी आलिंगन का इतिहास है। हम इस देश को धरती पर धार्मिक कट्टरता की विपलता को नहीं पनपने देंगे। यह कट्टरता प्रगति की धारा को रोकती है, सत्य के अन्वेषण का मार्ग अवरुद्ध करती है। यह कट्टरता आपसी भय और असुरक्षा की भावना से पैदा हुई है।

मैं मानता हूं कि अशान्ति के अन्य कारण भी हैं। आर्थिक विपमतायें हैं। पर जो धन हमें आर्थिक विकास में लगाना चाहिए, उसको हमें मजबूरी में धार्मिक कट्टरता से निपटने के लिए और धर्मान्ध लोगों के इरादों को नाकाम करने में लगाना पड़ रहा है।

इसलिए मेरा यह आग्रह है कि हम धार्मिक कट्टरता से दूर रहें। गांधी जी के सर्व-धर्म समभाव वाले दर्शन को अपनाएं। 'दीने-इलाही' के द्वारा अकबर

जिस भावना का प्रतिपादक था, उसे अपने जीवन में उतारें, और कवीर के शब्दों में कहें कि—

कर का मनका डारि के
मन का मनका केर।

धन्यवाद।
(तृतीय पुरस्कार विजेता)



ACADEMIC DETERMINATION

राष्ट्र में आरक्षण विरोधियों ने तनाव पैदा कर रखा है पर इस डर को नजर अंदाज करके बेलहमाइट्स निडर होकर अपने मध्य-सत्र अवकाश बिताने निकले। जनुना सदन की कक्षा ८, श्री भूषण के साथ नहान जिले में एक झील जिसका नाम श्री रेणुका झील है, के लिए बड़े हर्षोल्लास से खाना हुई।

जिस प्रकार से हमारी यात्रा का श्री गणेश हुआ उससे लगा कि हमारी अवकाश के सभी दिन खराब हो गये। हुआ यह कि जैसे ही हमने सामान बस पर लादने की मोची तब देवेन्द्र ने वारिश की बौछार छोड़ दी। इससे हमारा करीब एक घंटा बर्बाद हो गया। किमी तरह भोग कर सामान लादा और स्कूल की सीमा पार की, जिसकी तमन्ना हमारे दिल में कब से थी। सफर मेरी नींद में कटा और जब मुझे झकझोर कर उठाया गया तो हम हिमाचल प्रदेश की पहाड़ियों में रेणुका झील के किनारे थे। बस से उतरते ही कुछ बच्चे रेणुका झील की ओर आकर्षित हुए तो कुछ चिड़ियाघर की तरफ पर मुझे हमारे साथ आए सेवकों की सामान उतारने में मदद करनी पड़ी जो कि मैंने अपना फर्ज समझा। सब काम निबटा कर मैं चिड़ियाघर की तरफ गया। एक बार तो यहां के भोले-भाले जानवरों

को देख कर मन में उमंग भरती है पर उनकी आंखों में झाँककर देखा जाए और उनकी दिल की बात समझने की कोशिश की जाए तो उनके प्रति मन में करुणा भर आती है। इन मूक जानवरों को भी स्वच्छंद घूमने की इच्छा होगी। उनको अपने हाल पर छोड़कर मैं झील की ओर गया। झील के शांत पानी, उसको घेरे हुए हरी पहाड़ियाँ और उसमें क्रीड़ा करती हुई मछलियों को देखकर मन में खुशी का अम्बार फूट पड़ा। जी करा कि उन मछलियों की क्रीड़ा में, मैं भी शामिल हो जाऊँ। पहला दिन तो इसी में ही बीत गया।

दूसरे दिन, सूर्य ने किरणों का जाल फैलाया, सूर्य ने नये दिन की शुरुआत का संदेश दिया। पूरे संसार के साथ हमारी क्रिया भी शुरू हो गई। आज 'लायन सफारी' चलने का कार्यक्रम बना। बस को ईंधन की नजाकत को समझते हुए हमने पैदल ही हमने नीव तोड़े और जो कोई भी सूची लकड़ी मिली तो उसे साथ ले ली। गंतव्य पहुंचने पर, वातावरण जैरों की दहाड़ से गुंज रहा था। पिज्रों के पाम जाकर देखा कि जैरों के जख्मों पर दवाई लगाई जा रही है। उन व्यक्तियों के साहस को दाद देनी पड़ेगी जो उनके पिज्रों में हाथ डालकर मरहम लगा रहे थे। साकव ने एक जैर की तस्वीर खींचने की कोशिश की पर उसकी गुरहट से उसके हाथ में कैमरा उछल गया। वापस आते समय चौकीदार ने हमें लकड़ी बाहर ले जाने से टोक दिया, पर श्रीमती मेहरा ने उसमें ऐंभी जवाबदारी की, जो इन मामलों में तेज हैं, कि न चाहते हुए भी उसने हमें जाने दिया। ये लकड़ियाँ काफी नहीं थी इसलिए बस से बाजार जाकर हम और लकड़ियाँ ले आए। सांयकाल में घंटियों और नगाड़ों की गुंज ने आरती की सूचना दी। हम मंदिर की तरफ ही चल पड़े। वहीं घाट पर हमने इस झील की मछलियों की निडरता देखी। आटे के लिए झपटती हुई वे घाट की ऊपरी सीढ़ी तक आ जातीं। विश्राम गृह में लौटकर हमने थोड़ा रंगा-रंग कार्यक्रम किया। श्रीमती मेहरा, श्रीमती चोपड़ा और श्री भूपण ने भी हमारे समक्ष भांगड़ा पेश किया।

तीसरे दिन के सुप्रभात के साथ ही हमारी टांगों की परीक्षा प्रारम्भ हुई। आज हमारी दो पहाड़ियों के मंदिर की तरफ पदयात्रा की शुरुआत तो बड़ी मजेदार थी पर कड़ी धूप और पहाड़ी चढ़ाई में जल्द ही हमारी सांस फूल गई। रास्ते में हम अगर आगे भी निकल जाते तो हमें रुककर अपने साथी नितिन की प्रतीक्षा करनी पड़ती। रास्ते में एक साधु महाराज से हमारी मुलाकात हुई जो आराम से बैठे चरस का सेवन कर रहे थे। उन्हें छोड़ हम आगे चले और करीब एक किलोमीटर की दूरी तय करने के बाद हम एक गांव जम्मू पहुंचे। वहाँ के कुछ निवासियों ने हमें अपने घर

आमन्त्रित किया। उन्होंने बताया कि वे राजपूत हैं और खेती करके अपना गुजारा करते हैं। हमने वहाँ पर मैगी पका कर खायी और उन लोगों ने हमें चाय पीने को दी। श्री भूपण ने उन्हें कुछ रुपये दिये। अब तक हमारी टांगों ने जवाब दे दिया था और शाम हो चली थी इसलिए हम वहीं से वापस लौट पड़े। लौटते समय मुझे एक चीज बड़ी आश्चर्यजनक लगी, वह यह था कि नितिन सबसे आगे-आगे चल रहा था। थके हारे हम शाम को विश्राम गृह लौटे। कुछ देर बाद हमने मोटर नौका में बैठकर रेणुका झील में भैर की। यह सैर बड़ी ही आनन्ददायी थी।

अगले दिन हम बाजार घूमने गए। बाजार में बहुत हलचल थी। वहाँ से हमने अपने जरूरत की वस्तुएं खरीदीं। वहाँ इधर-उधर टहलते रहे। रात में हमने फिर एक रंगा रंग कार्यक्रम किया। इस बार हमारे अध्यापकों ने सर्वश्रेष्ठ कार्यक्रमों को पुरस्कृत भी किया।

जब अगले दिन हमने अपने स्कूल की ओर प्रस्थान किया तो सबके चेहरे उतरे हुए थे। इस मुन्दर जगह ने तो मेरा दिल ही जीत लिया। हमारा इन दिनों के अवकाश का अनुभव बहुत ही अच्छा रहा और इसी बीच हमें बहुत कुछ सीखने का अवसर मिला।

विजय विशनाई
कक्षा-आठ अ

आज पिछले एक माह से स्थान-स्थान पर हड़तालें हो रही हैं, चक्का जाम हो रहा, स्कूल बन्द पड़े हैं और कालेजों के नवयुवक आत्मदाह कर रहे हैं। इन सब आघातों का कारण हमारे आज के विषय में ही जुड़ा हुआ है। पिछड़े वर्ग के लोग तथा अनुसूचित जनजातियों को ऊपरी वर्ग द्वारा नीचा कर दिया जाता है, आर्थिक अभावों के कारण उनका विकास नहीं होता। इन्हीं तथ्यों के आधार पर आज इन्हें आरक्षण दिया जा रहा है। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि उन्हें आर्थिक सहायता क्यों नहीं दिया जाता, केवल आरक्षण ही इस समस्या का समाधान क्यों है? आरक्षण वो भी ऐसा ५० प्रतिशत अंक वाले छात्र का ८० प्रतिशत वाले छात्र की जगह चयन होना हम अयोग्यता को प्राथमिकता देकर देश का अहित करने हैं। देश को योग्य तथा प्रतिभाशाली व्यक्तियों से वंचित रखेंगे।

क्या आपने कभी सोचा है कि उस ८० प्रतिशत अंक वाले छात्र पर क्या बीतनी होगी। उसकी उमंगों की चिंता स्वयं उसी के सामने डाल दी जाती है। इसके उपरान्त या तो वह रिक्शा चलाता है या फिर जानिवाद का एक प्रबल समर्थक बन जाता है। इस आरक्षण से मुसलमान हीन भावना का विकास होगा। प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा सर्वदलीय बैठक में मुसलमानी लीडर

वनातवाला और मुलेमान ने मांग पर जोर देते हुए यह भी धमकी दे डाली कि अगर उन्हें आरक्षण न मिला तो वे आंदोलन करने मड़क पर आ जाएंगे। एक और विद्रोह फूटेगा जिमका परिणाम होगा जातियुद्ध, पीढ़ियों तक चलने वाला जातियुद्ध। इससे हमारे देश की हमारे समाज की एकता छिन्न-भिन्न हो जाएगी। जातियुद्ध में ग्रस्त भारत आधुनिक संसार की होड़ में पिछड़ जाएगा।

आज संसार के उन्नत देशों के रूप में जापान और जर्मनी हमारे सामने है। ये दोनों देश युद्ध की ज्वाला में जलकर ध्वस्त हो गए परन्तु आज फिर से उन्नति कर संसार के औद्योगिक क्षेत्र में अग्रणीय हो गये। इसका कारण यह नहीं है कि वहां बहुत से प्राकृतिक साधन हैं बल्कि इसका कारण है वहां के मनुष्य जो अपने जीवन में हर चुनौती को स्वीकार करते हैं और हमेशा आगे बढ़ने को रहते हैं। इस गुण का विकास केवल संघर्ष द्वारा ही होगा। आरक्षण कर हम उन लोगों के लिए संघर्ष खत्म कर देते हैं। उन्हें दौड़ने के लिए आरक्षण के रूप में एक बैसाखी थमा देते हैं। उन्हें खुद दौड़ने की कोशिश नहीं करने देते। प्रकृति का भी सिद्धांत यही है कि अपने अस्तित्व के लिए हर प्राणी संघर्ष करता है। इसी तरह अगर हम चाहते हैं कि नागरिक सर ऊंचा उठाकर चले तो हमें उसका लक्ष्य संघर्षपूर्ण ही रखना होगा। पकी पकाई स्टीर सामने रख हम उन लोगों का गर्दन झुका देंगे। इस प्रकार से एक ऐसे वर्ग को स्थापना होगी जिसमें साहस और उत्साह जैसे मानवीय गुणों का अभाव होगा। डा० भीम राव अम्बेडकर जैसे महान लोग फिर पिछड़ी जातियों में से उभर कर नहीं आयेंगे। अगर आयेंगे तो केवल अयोग्यता का प्रमाण लिये वे लोग जो कभी भी सही निर्णय नहीं ले पाएंगे। आप खुद बतायें कि आप कभी भी अपना इलाज उस डाक्टर से करवाएंगे जो कि ५० प्रतिशत अंक प्राप्त कर आरक्षण कर आरक्षण द्वारा अपने लक्ष्य तक पहुंचा है।

इससे आरक्षण हमारे देश की प्रगति में एक बहुत बड़ा कांटा बनकर अटक जाएगा। आरक्षण का कारण है वे गंदे राजनीतिज्ञ जो अपने स्वार्थ की ओर दृष्टि डालते हैं, देश के हित की ओर नहीं। ये लोग दलगत राजनीति के दल-दल में फंस तो गये हैं परन्तु आज अपनी कुर्सी बचाने के लिए आसान रास्ते खोज रहे हैं। आरक्षण के प्रति आंदोलन करते २८ लाख छात्र पागल नहीं हैं। वे इस नितान्त सत्य को जानते हैं यह उनके जीवन-मरण का प्रश्न है। देश की उन्नति का प्रश्न है उन राजनीतिज्ञों को समझा-बुझा लें, उन्हें आने वाले खतरे से अवगत करा सकते हैं, क्योंकि शायद कल तक बहुत देर हो जाए।

नितिन जैन
प्रथम पुरस्कार विजेता, वाद-विवाद प्रतियोगिता)

दिमाग

दिमाग करता हमारा काम,
जानते सब शरीर के अंग उसका नाम।
अगर दिमाग न होता,
तो हम काम न कर पाते।
उसके बिना जीना हमें मुश्किल,
और पढ़ना भी मुश्किल।
किसी का दिमाग होता कमजोर,
और किसी का होता तेज।
छिपा है एक गोल हड्डी में,
हमारा यह महत्वपूर्ण दिमाग।

उज्जवल कुमार, ३ ए

यमनोत्री

१३ अक्तूबर प्रातः ६ बजे मैं दसवीं कक्षा के छात्रों सहित यमनोत्री के लिये रवाना हुआ। प्रातः ५ बजे से ही मौसम अपने तेवर बदल रहा था, आकाश में चारों ओर घने बादल छाए हुए थे और कुछ ही देर में इतनी घनी वर्षा होने लगी कि सभी छात्र भीगते हुए अपने गन्तव्य स्थान पर पहुंचने के लिए उत्सुकतापूर्वक बसों में सवार होने लगे। हम भी अपनी बस में सवार होकर यमनोत्री की ओर चल पड़े। सीधे यमनोत्री बस तो जाती नहीं है, हनुमान चट्टी तक हम लोग बस में गए। देहरादून से यह स्थान लगभग १४३ किलोमीटर दूर है वहाँ से जानकी चट्टी ८ किलोमीटर और ५ किलोमीटर यमनोत्री का कठिन पैदल रास्ता है।

१३ अक्तूबर ८ ३० बजे रात्रि हम हनुमान चट्टी पहुंचे, वहाँ पहुंचते ही हमें ठण्ड का एहसास हुआ। हमारे सामने अब समस्या यह थी कि रात को ठहरा कहाँ जाए? क्योंकि जैसा हमने सोचा था वैसा नहीं हुआ, हमने बुकिंग भी नहीं करवाई थी, यदि करवाई भी होती तो भी हमें गढ़वाल मंडल में रहने की जगह न मिलती क्योंकि वह कुछ दिन पूर्व बंद हो गया था। कुछ छात्रों ने धैर्य खो दिया वह तो यह चाहते थे कि बस से उतर कर सीधे कमरे मिल जाएं और हम आराम करें। काफी हद तक वे सही भी थे क्योंकि सारे दिन के सफर की थकान उनके चेहरों पर झलक रही थी। मैं और मेरे साथ दो छात्र रात में कहाँ ठहरा जाय इसका प्रबन्ध करने लगे। हनुमानचट्टी में गढ़वाल मंडल के अतिरिक्त दो और होटल थे वह भी खचा-खच भरे हुए थे। हमारे पहुंचने से पूर्व कलकत्ता से कुछ दर्शनार्थी आए थे जिनके कारण हमारी उम्मीदों पर पानी फिर गया था बहुत प्रयत्न करने के बाद किसी ने बताया कि आप वन-विभाग में पता लगाइये। वहाँ पहुंच कर उनसे निवेदन किया कि

आप आज रात्रि के लिये हमारे रहने की व्यवस्था कर दीजिये और उन्होंने हमारे रहने के लिये कुछ बिस्तर और कमरे दे दिये। अपना सारा सामान रखने के बाद सबने मिलकर रात्रि-भोज किया। समय अधिक होने के साथ-साथ ठण्ड भी बढ़ती जा रही थी, हम जल्दी से खाना खाकर सो गए। सुबह उठने पर प्रकृति के सौन्दर्य को देखकर हमारी सारी थकान दूर हो गई रात्रि में भी यमुना नदी की सुन्दर कल-कल ध्वनि सुनाई दे रही थी। रात्रि में हम इसी स्थान को पसंद नहीं कर रहे थे। बिजली की व्यवस्था न होने के कारण हमें कुछ समस्याओं का सामना भी करना पड़ा।

१४ अक्तूबर सुबह चाय पीकर हम सब यमनोत्री की ओर चल दिए, कन्धे पर आवश्यक सामान को लिए हुए सभी छात्र धीरे-धीरे मंजिल की ओर चल रहे थे। हमें कुछ परेशानियों का सामना करना पड़ा क्योंकि रास्ता पथरीला था और रात में अधिक वर्षा होने के कारण कीचड़ हो गया था। कुछ छात्र जूझते-पूँजे ही जानकीचट्टी पहुँच गए थे और कुछ मेरे पीछे थे जब मैं वहाँ पहुँचा तो एक वज चुका था, खाना खाने के बाद मेरे साथ तीन छात्र-राजवीर सिंह अमर अग्रवाल और पियूष केडिया ही यमनोत्री तक जाये और वहाँ से वापिस आने का साहस कर सकें क्योंकि ५ किलोमीटर की कठिन और बिल्कुल सीधी खड़ी चढ़ाई और फिर वापसी। जब हम यमनोत्री की ओर बढ़ रहे थे तो कहीं-कहीं रास्ते में ओले भी पड़े लेकिन हम चलते ही जा रहे थे क्योंकि हमें वापस भी आना था, साथ ही ज्यों-ज्यों हम ऊपर जाते जा रहे थे ठण्ड बढ़ती जा रही थी। साँय ६.३० बजे हम लोग वापस जानकी चट्टी आ गए थे। सर्वाधिक साहसी, उन्माही और मेहनती मैंने राजवीर सिंह को ही पाया, क्योंकि उसने समान भी सबसे अधिक उठाया हुआ था और सबसे आगे भी रहता।

फूलों की घाटी में स्थित एक हिमानी से जमुना नदी का जन्म होता है। जब जमुना लगभग ८ किलोमीटर नीचे उतरकर घाटी को "यमनोत्री घाटी" (अर्थात् जहाँ जमुना नीचे उतरी) कहते हैं। इस घाटी

की ऊँचाई ३,२६१ मीटर है। यहाँ चीड़ के पेड़ बड़ी संख्या में पाए जाते हैं। इन वृक्षों से लीसा निकाला जाता है जिससे तारपीन का तेल बनाया जाता है। इससे पेन्ट तथा वार्निश आदि तैयार किए जाते हैं।

भारतीय धर्मग्रन्थों में यमुना का गुणगान अत्यधिक हुआ है। यह धारा अत्यन्त पवित्र पावनी मानी जाती है इसलिए लोग इसे यमुना मैया कहकर पुकारते हैं। "बंदर पूछ" पहाड़ के एक भाग का नाम कलिद है, इस क्षेत्र से यमुना का उद्गम होने का कारण उसका एक नाम कलिदजा या कालिन्दी (कालिन्द की बेटी) भी पड़ गया है। यहाँ पर पहाड़ बर्फ की दीवार जैसा दिखाई देता है। केवल प्रशिक्षित व्यक्ति ही इस पर चढ़ सकते हैं। यदि पैर फिसला तो सीधे यमपुरी पहुँचेंगे। असल में यमुना यमराज की बहन ही है। इस प्रकार यमनोत्री नाम सार्थक प्रतीक होता है। यमुना सूर्य की बेटी है। अतः इसका नाम सूर्य-तनया पड़ा है। इसका पानी साफ पर नीला-सांवला है। अतः इसका नाम 'कालगंगा' भी है। यह नाम भी कितना सार्थक है। यमराज की गंगा और काली मूरत वाली गंगा। श्री कृष्ण की लीला भूमि में सर्वत्र बहती है। यमनोत्री में गरम पानी के कुंड हैं, दर्शनार्थी पहले इन कुंडों में नहाने हैं फिर दर्शन करते हैं। एक कुंड का पानी तो इतना गरम है कि दर्शनार्थी चावल और आलू एक कपड़े में बांधकर इस कुंड में लटका देते हैं और १०-१५ मिनट बाद चावल और आलू पक जाते हैं तो प्रसाद के रूप में इनको स्वीकार किया जाता है। समय अधिक हो रहा था सूर्य अस्त होाने को था हम सभी जानकी चट्टी को ओर चल पड़े।

अगले दिन जानकी चट्टी में हनुमान चट्टी फिर वहाँ से बस पकड़कर हम लोग शाम ७ बजे बड़कोट पहुँचे और अगले दिन सुबह डाकपत्थर की ओर चल दिये वह रात हमने डाकपत्थर में बिनाई और १७ अक्तूबर को डाकपत्थर में १९.३० बजे बस पकड़कर हम सभी कुशलनापूर्वक देहरादून २.३० बजे पहुँच गए।

—राजेश ओषराय

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