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PRINCE VAGABOND

T. R. Thadhani

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केन्द्रीय पुरातत्व पुस्तकालय

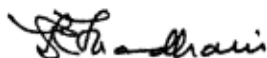
"Vandanam Reader,

$1 + 2 = 3$. This is the basis for mathematics. क ख ग is the basis for Hindi and some other languages. A B C is the basis for English and some other languages. If that be so, is a basis necessary for philosophy of our existence? If we say 'yes' then a basis must be found, or an already existing basis must be properly understood. One basis is तमस रजस सत्व Tamas Rajas Satva and other basis is देश काल निमित्त Desh Kaal Nimita or Space Time Cause.

In this book, you will find Tamas Rajas Satva basis, properly explained. You will also read a projection of my analysis for a few future years, with an example of the Prince Vagabond, who, after understanding and practicing the theory of Tamas, Rajas Satva, conquers the World.

I will gladly answer any question, pertaining to this philosophical basis, provided the question is specific and intelligent, which means worth publication. The question should have only one meaning and should not be vague. Only one question should be asked at a time through a letter addressed to me.

Das



T. R. Thadhani."

T. R. Thadhani
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Near Mussoorie Modern School
Mussoorie - 248179
25.5.78.

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CHAPTER 1

Ambition

Arjan was an ambitious student. He wanted to rise and occupy a chair of authority after he had left the college.

His Professor had a high opinion of him. Once his Professor told him "You are an extremely restless boy. You want to fly but you have'nt developed the wings of experience. These wings could be formed by you only with your own experience—of course as you grow. And as you grow, the tendency would be that you would become sober and loose your restlessness and possibly your ambition. If you loose your ambition, how could you fly when you have cultivated the wings of your own experience ? This ofcourse is only a possibility, and true for most people. But tell me, will you keep your ambition always high and show to the world that you can fly with the wings then attached to you by your experience ? Do you know what then will be required of you—firmness of thought and action, discipline of mind and body, vision for the future, dependence on your ownself, hard and diligent work, and above all acceptance of responsibility for all your deeds and misdeeds. Will you be ready for all this ?"

CHAPTER 2

I want to be big

"Tell me Sir, how could students of today be big tomorrow? And how could I be big, after I leave this college?"

The Professor asked his student "Tell me have you yourself given any thought to this question—I want to be big. When you say you want to be big, do you have any idea as to what this 'big' is meant by you? Do you visualise the full significance of this word big? And then if you want to be big, have you thought out in which direction do you want to be big and in which line do you want to excel others?"

The student replied "Sir I want a big position, after I leave this college. Tell me, Sir, what is the method or the way to get a good job in the first instance and then a position of authority?"

The Professor asked the student to analyse his own question and be specific, and then tell him, the subject in which he was very clever, or the subject in which he wanted to specialise after leaving the college.

The student replied that after six months or so, he would be appearing for his final examination in Industrial Administration, and that he had every hope to secure first class, or higher second class, and that he was keen on working hard even after the examination, so that he could shine after he got his job.

The Professor then gave this advice to the student:—

"Look, my student, recollect your past years, right from your childhood. When you were a child, you learnt to

walk only after falling and toppling many times. You tried and succeeded to speak only after faltering and wobbling many times. You were fondled by your parents and you were protected by them every time you fell down. Then you were sent to a primary school where you found the company and competition of other children. You grew and learnt more. Step by step you passed through examinations—sometimes failing—to go to higher classes. These examinations and the steps to higher classes were otherwise regular from first to second and then to third, and so on till you passed your School Leaving Examination and entered the college which also offered you regular steps and now it happens that you are on the threshold of the last step, which will be cleared by you soon. Now tell me, during whole career of school and college life, how many times have you had to face tough competition, how many times have you failed, or struggled to pass in your examinations and on the playground. How many times have you fallen sick, how many times have you found your mind anxious or depressed, how many times have you been disheartened, how many times have you been slapped or beaten, how many times have you repented, and at times how much or for how long have you laughed or felt happy, amused yourself or mused on subjects other than taught? Tell me how many times have you desired or wished for something? And when your desire had been fulfilled, how long were you contented and how soon did you change your mind or wished for something other than what you had wished before? Tell me has your life been smooth, without irregularities or accidents? Tell me what have you gained or lost during these accidents? Did any of these accidents give you a new experience and knowledge? Tell me, are you afraid of new experiences?"

The student had never given any thought to so many questions. He was awe struck first, then gathered his wits, and becoming attentive said, "Sir, I realise now, that all

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these questions and their answers have a great bearing on the fundamental question—I want to be big. But please Sir, what is the experience of every one after he has left his college?"

The Professor replied "During your school and college life, you were protected, guided and controlled by your parents, relatives and teachers. When your mind was depressed you could go to your elders in your house or to your friends and teachers, who could give you solace. Every child, boy or girl, has a great thirst for love and solace and these you could easily get from your parents and relatives". The Professor continued, after a pause, "Tell me, have you seen a well? Have you seen a frog or a fish in a well, for whom the walls of the well are the limits? Tell me, what would happen to the frog, if it left the well and entered a pond? Tell me also, what would happen to the frog if it left the pond and entered a sea? To a great extent, the conditions for a student who leaves his school to join a college and then enter a profession, are similar to those of the frog. The protection that you were getting in your school and college would be over. After leaving your college, you would have to enter a sea of world currents, where you would be tossed in the currents quite new to you, where you would have to struggle in a different way, and where you would have to protect yourself in your own way and depend on your ownself. Have you understood? You have to visualise a contradiction or better still a truth in contradiction. You know fully well, that you will shortly leave your college, which will mean that you have grown in age, education and experience, sufficiently well to enable you to enter the sea of world currents, where in you will take a job and do work and be independent of parents. You will find the sea of world currents so big, that you will feel yourself very small in it. That is, when you grow big to enter the world at large, you only come to know that the world is so big that you feel yourself an insignificant

entity, too small in comparison to its vastness. In other words as you grow you feel shrunken. In this shrunken condition you will have to assert your identity".

The student, who was getting more and more inspired, though not without awe, said "Yes Sir, I have understood to some extent and I do hope, when I reflect back and think, I will understand your advice and analysis much more than I do now. Please Sir, tell me further".

The Professor replied, "Tell me what is your idea of becoming big? Do you still maintain a vague and wishful idea about your becoming big? Or, are you trying to analyse the conditions which as yet you do not know? It is necessary for you to wish and hope for a big position, but simultaneously you must prepare yourself to be bold, brave and persistent to cope up with the onslaught of jolting currents and the headaches that are always attached to big positions.

"You must now take an example from nature. Visualise as many trees or shrubs as you can. Visualise also the grass, that grows under the shade of a tree, and the grass that grows under the open sky. Where do you think the grass will grow better? Under the tree there is no sunshine, so the grass does not get sunshine, which gives scorching heat. Here the grass is protected not only from sunshine but also from winds and rain. But the grass grown in the open, gets all the sunshine and all the beating of the winds and the rains. So the grass in the open has got to become sturdy and the nature helps it to be so, to enable it to withstand the onslaught of scorching sun, of slapping winds and rains. In order that the grass may become sturdy, the very sunshine and rains and winds, which seem to be cruel, provide abundant food for the grass which sucks in the food properly and efficiently and becomes sturdy. As it becomes sturdy it is able to draw in more food through the roots and then becomes more sturdy. The grass protected under the tree, goes through a reversed cycle. This

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grass does not get the beating from the nature's forces. So it need not be sturdy. On top of it, the nature's food stored in the sunshine rain and winds is denied to it. So this grass which is already weak and lean, does not have the strength to suck in any food, that may trickle through the protection. The tree in this case, takes away the food, through extended roots and cover, which otherwise would have come to the protected grass.

"Protection is good but only to some extent. As soon as you are able to stand on your own, you will have to discard the umbrella of elders which protects you, and then enter an open arena, to fight out your independent existence, in a way you like. Here nature will come to your rescue and help, if you are able to suck in the food from the nature. Now take another example. In an organisation—say your own college or a business firm or a factory or a government department or an army—you will find one head i.e. the Principal in the case of this college with immediate assistants in the category of professors, then some lecturers and other assistants and lastly several students. Likewise, in a business firm, you have one Managing Director, a few directors, some departmental managers and several clerks and workers. What category do you think will be best for you? And how will you catch up to that category? There are no regular steps to go up. There is no ladder for going up from a position of a clerk to that of the manager, to that of the director and then the Managing Director. All clerks do not become managers, or all managers do not become directors. If you want to be big, I suppose you want to occupy the chair of a manager or the managing director in this example, or a professor and then the principal in case of a college, or the general in case of an army, or the head of a government department. Tell me, am I correct in gauging your mind?

"Now visualise any tree, say a mango tree. In this tree there is one trunk, a few main branches, then some more

small branches and then thousands and lacs of leaves. Besides, there is a huge network of roots, which in ordinary course you would not be able to see. Now assume you want to be the trunk of this tree. What will be your job and responsibility? You will have to support yourself, your branches and all the leaves. You yourself are supported on your network of roots. But are the roots strong enough for the tree to grow? As a tree grows, the roots must also grow. For this growth there must be sufficient food and also assimilation of food. The trunk which supports the branches and the leaves, must make these branches and leaves, collect food from sunshine, air, rain etc. and pass on some of it to the roots, which in turn must be made to collect other types of food from the earth for passing on to the branches and leaves. Periodically, the branches must bear fruits. In practical life, if you want to be big, you will have to support those over whom you want to establish control, and for supporting them you will have to make them work for you. For this continuously growing reserve may be necessary for you, to draw upon, as you and your organisation grow. In other words you will have to exploit all those whom you want to support. This seems to be a cruel way, but if exploitation is mutual, it is healthy for the exploiter, as well as, for the exploited. It is only when exploitation is carried out inefficiently or in an unhealthy way, that the rot or decay of the organisation starts, resulting in its untimely death or extinction. If, on the other hand, exploitation is carried out ruthlessly and to extreme limits, it will create a counterforce, resulting in the waking up of a reactionary, who may oppose and destroy the exploitation. This exploitation and counter-exploitation are part of life, where the exploiter could become the exploited, and the exploited may become the exploiter. In this battle, the timid people become more timid and so exploited much more than before, by those who gain power.

"To be big is a process of becoming big, or in other words

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it is a process of rising. When you rise, you rise against a resistance or against an opposing force. It is like going up a mountain, where resistance is the opposing force of gravity. In actual practice, when you want to occupy a big position, there is an additional opposing force from rivals. You can understand this better if you visualise the top of a mountain, where only one person can stand, where as to reach this top there is a motorable road, a railway, a helicopter, a few bridle paths, and an unknown number of new ways. Tell me which way would be best for you to reach the top and then keep it safe from your rivals?"

The student was listening attentively. He was filled with inspiration. The Professor was watching the student and also thinking over the reaction produced in the mind of the student.

The Professor continued, "I have told you much more than necessary. How much of it, will you understand, assimilate and then think to carve out your own path? Time alone will show. When you grow old and have an experience of your own, you will know more about your mind and the food for your mind. At this stage, that is now, you should just know what is depression of mind and how that depression could take in or absorb its required food, to help you become healthy, and to think properly. In a depressed condition of your mind, if you do not feed it properly, your mind may become dull and morose. Depression of mind is a critical state, when either you change your career and rise or you turn upside down and topple or drown yourself in currents, which may seem to be too strong for you. If you are bold and courageous to withstand the duress during depression, or are able to withstand the slaps of circumstances, or are able to bear boldly the headaches of achievements, or are able to gauge the depths of ditches in which you fall, then rise for you is more or less certain. Now allow me to stop. Go now and come back to me a few years after you have left your college and have gained a little experience of your own. I will then tell you more of life and struggle to become big".

CHAPTER 3

Your path

"Sir, my exams are over and the results will be out next month. I am leaving this city tomorrow, but before I leave, I want a bit more of your advice."

"Listen my dear child, there are going to be several paths for you. The path which you will take is unknown to you. But it is certain that whatever that path be, it will have many hurdles. You will find a lot of competition and rivalry at every step. This will give you experience. Accept this rivalry and other hurdles as healthy conditions for your growth. When you have succeeded in excelling over your rivals, do not stop, but go in for an assignment which is more difficult than before. This will instil faith in yourself and when you gain faith, you will be able to handle bigger assignments with bigger responsibilities.

"Many times you will find yourself waylaid and deceived. Will you lose heart then? You must know that every difficulty gives you a chance to overcome it and as you overcome each and every difficulty you gain experience. Therefore, you must welcome every difficulty that comes in youth path."

"Thank you, Sir. I will come to you again after some time."

"Welcome my child, any time."

CHAPTER 4

Search for a job

The student has become a roaming bird. He doesn't get a suitable job for many months. Often he is dejected and depressed. Some times fear grips him and he cannot decide what to do or where to go. So he is found in his room, alone and aloof, perhaps thinking or perhaps whiling away his time, his mind going through cycles of dullness, lethargy, fear, indecision, dejection, rejection, hope, strength, control on himself, and awakening as if from a dream. He has become a moody person.

One day, while he is in a deep depression, he muses on life, on fear and on conditions that condition him and every body else.

"Have I fallen so low that I can not get up?...Have I forgotten my Professor? Will I ever succeed in gathering my guts to overcome my fear and lethargy?

"My fear is making me indecisive. My fear is my enemy, and my indecision is only an ally of my enemy. So I am creating my own enemies and not only that, but I am myself becoming instrumental in making my enemies stronger than myself. My enemies are eating into me and squeezing out my strength. Just like parasites, these enemies are sucking away my blood and my energy. Will I throw off my indecision? Will I go out and face all the hardships? I cannot stay away like this, if I have to be big. I must get out. At least I must walk till I get utterly tired. This exertion will perhaps give a brake to my lethargy and dullness. I must get out of this place and accept the next offer of a job and work honestly and diligently, however bad the job may appear to me".

CHAPTER 5

Prince Vagabond

The student is no more a student. He is a foreman in a colliery. He is liked by his bosses. He doesn't leave his work unfinished. Within a period of one year, he has improved upon the design of a coal seam cutter. He is happy to the extent that he is paid well. But he doesn't like many conditions of his own as well as those of the labour. He doesn't even like the way they waste their time. He is as restless as before.

He happens to meet a member of an underground organisation, called Vagabond. The Vagabonds are just the very opposite of the accepted meaning of the word vagabond, as found in any dictionary. That means, they are not idle, unorganised wanderers, but instead hard working, intelligent and organised workers. The "student" becomes a Vagabond and very soon he comes to be known as Prince Vagabond. The Prince shows a great organising ability and soon Vagabonds have branches in practically every city of India. Under the leadership of the Prince, Vagabonds become a well knit and strong organisation. They have a subtle way of working, quite often against the ruling party. The Government is afraid of the Vagabonds.

A workers' strike takes place in the colliery. It continued for 2 weeks and so the Prince left for his home town to meet the Professor.

CHAPTER 6

Tamas-Rajas-Satva

The Professor was musing on a problem. There was a knock at the door. His old student was standing outside. The Professor immediately recognised him, and was happy to meet him. And so was the student.

The student told the Professor, that after leaving the college, he had to wander a lot. He tried to have a good job which satisfied his views, but he found himself driven from place to place. He wasted quite a bit of his precious time, often becoming dejected to a maddening point. Then one day he decided to accept the next available job, and work for it with his maximum ability and without remorse. The job, he had now was not bad. It was in a colliery. At first he did not like it, but resolved to work properly and diligently and make a success of his assignment whatever it be. The result was marvellous. He had found some success and he liked the job very much.

He further told the Professor that this was not enough, and that his interest in life did not end with his job. The student told him that he had joined an underground organisation which gave him an opportunity to muse on the distribution of forces, their changing attributes, the behaviour of an ordinary man as against a highly intelligent and courageous man, and also the relation between body and mind of an individual. The student told him, though he had come to meet him as many years had gone by, he would now utilise the time to ask him many questions pertaining to body and mind, their relation with each other

and also with Tamasi, Rajsi and Satvi forces or states.

The Professor was glad to find his old pupil so much interested in philosophical and analytical ways of life. He asked the student whether he had any chance of discussing these questions with any one else before.

The student replied, "I had met some Swamis, who had been instrumental in telling me a little about the 3 words—Tamas Rajas Satva—but that their interpretation was vague, and when asked for further explanation, they would cleverly twist their reply and pose that they knew but failed to satisfy me. They excelled in quoting any number of lines or even full pages from old scriptures. For any question I would ask them, they would quickly recite parrot-like, many quotations from 'Geeta', just to impress me though these references would have no connection with my question. They seemed to have very little knowledge about what they were saying."

The Professor was not surprised. He knew the limitations of the common Pandit and Swami. He also knew that this type of Pandit or Swami, looked upon religion as a profession and as a source of livelihood, and accordingly could not think deeply—his basic function being how to console his disciples and win over more people to become his disciples.

The Professor then said, "I am glad that you are here today. I will tell you what you want. The word "Tamasi" is the adjective of the word "Tamas" which means gross energy or mass or body. Likewise, the word "Rajsi" is the adjective of the word "Raja" or "King". In any country the King rules over his people or his subjects, in other words Raja rules or controls his Praja. The relationship between the two is called Praja-Raja relationship, or Raja-Praja Effect. This relationship is found throughout the nature everywhere. Tamas is another word to represent Praja or the Body of a nation. Raja is the controlling part of the nation and Praja the controlled part. In other words,

Rajsi part of the nation i.e. Raja controls the Tamasi part of the nation which is Praja. In order that you understand this basic principle properly, think as many examples as possible.

"Think of a word, in any language. You will find a consonant and a vowel making up every word even the smallest word. Without a vowel no consonant can be pronounced or written. Likewise, without a consonant no vowel can be pronounced or written. Do you have any doubt in what I say? The consonant is the body or Praja part or Tamasi part of the word and the vowel is the controlling part or Rajsi part. The Tamasi part is sometimes called the gross part and the Rajsi part is then called the subtle part. Now think of your ownself. Your body is the Tamasi or gross part and your mind is the Rajsi or subtle part which controls the body.

"Now suppose you go to a barber to have your hair cut or dressed. The hair which have been cut have their body, which get a separate name after being cut. Your body remains to be called body but now has less hair. That means your body has been changed. The hair which have been cut have their own Tamasi part which is the body or the gross part of the hair, while the mind of the hair or subtle part of the hair keeps on controlling the hair. Your body goes on changing every instant and so does your mind. Under all changed conditions, the changing Rajsi part or the mind, keeps on controlling, the changing body or the Tamasi part or the gross part. Likewise there are thousands and millions of examples where the gross body or the gross energy or the Tamasi part of the energy can be easily seen being controlled and guided by the subtle mind or Rajsi part of the energy.

"You must be wondering why I have not told you, anything about the Satvi part. The reason is simple. Satvi part is the Atma or the Spirit of every material or every person. It is a constant unfathomable energy, or a universal

energy, which forms the basis of all creation or all matter. It is not divisible. So, while analysing, whether you keep this word "Satvi" before you or not, your analysis does not change.

"This analysis can be applied to every one. Most people are ordinary gullible and easy going. They have many desires and they wish that their desires be fulfilled quickly and without much effort on their part. They are easily influenced and swayed by any crafty person. They become an easy prey to ceremonies and rituals, specially when told to do so, by their Pandits or Swamis, or Gurus. These people can be controlled by others, and are classified under the category of disciples or Praja or Bhaktas who would always need protection and shelter of their Guru or Master. However, when they get shelter it is but certain that they will also get the shadow of their protector. In other words, they are dependent on others but not on self. Accordingly, they are Tamasi persons, and the degree of their being Tamasi is according to the degree of their dependence on others and according to the degree of their being controlled by others. Simultaneously those few who extend their control on the above Tamasi persons are Rajsi to the extent of their control exercised on Tamasi Persons.

"Every one in his childhood is a Tamasi person. If while growing up, he amasses strength, intelligence, education and experience, he begins to know his mind and then if he is able to understand his fear and is able to control it, he will be able to control his body also. He will have to face danger to know fear, he will have to appear for a test to know the fear attached to failure, and likewise if he tests his ability to control fear, he will be called a Rajsi person. He will then have the capability to control others, who will follow his dictates or his advice and work under him. These fellows will be Tamasi persons under control of the Rajsi leader.

"You must know that a Rajsi person must necessarily

guide his followers towards a path which he himself follows. You may wish to be a leader to lead others, but over your wish, you must put your wisdom and find out whether you are a leader to lead yourself first. There are innumerable deceivers who often show a wrong path to their gullible followers and still call themselves leaders or Rajsi persons. You must be careful and remain away from these deceivers.

"You must also know here that no person is a Satvi person. Perfect fearlessness or "Abhayam" is the proof of Satvi state. But as long as you or anyone else has this body and mind, there will be some fear. You can reach a Satvi State, if you can become perfectly fearless even for a fraction of a second in front of danger. Then in that case you are a Satvi person for that fraction of a second only. If there is no danger or if you are not tested, the question of your being Satvi does not arise. Accordingly, if anyone tells you that he is a Satvi person because he is a Swami or Guru or a Brahmin, then take him for granted to be a cheat."

The Professor continued after a little pause, "No one is 100% Tamasi and no one 100% Rajsi. Tamasi state to Rajsi state, is a process, through which all persons have to pass. At any stage, every person, is therefore, partly Tamasi and partly Rajsi. But in general most people, most of the time have Tamasi qualities. Take one example of a chair, having 4 legs or 3 legs or 2 legs or only 1 leg. A chair with 4 legs gives complete protection from falling. A chair with 3 legs is also safe with very slight chance of tilting and falling. But a chair with 2 legs will topple and the person on it will fall, unless he has the art of balancing accurately. Lastly, a chair with one leg, is sure to topple, unless the person sitting on it is highly intellectual, highly alert, and highly expert to balance it and save it from falling. Now analyse this example and tell me the correct significance of every chair and then which of these 4 chairs

would you like to occupy?"

"Sir, the example of 4 chairs is a very good example. It clarifies to a great extent, the relative position of a Tamasi and a Rajsi person. The chair with 4 legs is extremely stable and no effort is required to keep it safe from falling. Anyone who sits on this chair is a 100% Tamasi person as long as he occupies it. This chair is good for a lazy person who does not have any responsibility. It is to be understood that this chair is a visionary chair just for explaining the Tamasi state of a person having no responsibility. This person is a lazy person, doing only such jobs which do not require any effort or which he does for the sake of whiling away his time. This person is a timid and dull person, afraid at every step and is devoid of any intellect. He is an easy prey to ceremonies, specially superstitious ceremonies. This person depends fully upon the advice of others. The chair with 3 legs is not so stable. The person who occupies this visionary chair is a Tamasi person to a great extent, but is not a 100% Tamasi person. He has a tendency to while away most of his time and is ease loving but takes up small responsible jobs which require some intelligence. He is however, classified lazy and easily takes to superstitious ceremonies.

"The chair with 2 legs is quite unstable, and will topple unless held under control. The person who sits on this visionary chair is a good Rajsi person as long as he sits on it and prevents it from toppling. He is not 100% Rajsi. He is sufficiently intelligent and brave to control this quite unstable chair or quite unstable situation. He has to depend upon his wits and has to show his personal courage, and has to be fearless to a great extent. He takes up many responsible assignments and finishes them with vigour and quick decisions. He is ambitious. He tries to gather more power and control over others. Lastly, sitting on a chair with one leg is an extreme state of alertness and accuracy in balancing the toppling forces. It requires very great

strength of mind, accurate judgement, quick action, and immediate decision. This state is near 100% Rajsi state. One has to rely fully on himself and has to accept all the responsibility and attached conditions and whatever the results be. This person can control hundreds, thousands and lacs of Tamasi persons."

"That is fine. Now to support your analysis of 4 chairs, I will give you yet another example, which has been often narrated by many philosophers and pandits. The example is that of a carriage or a taxi in modern times. Every one of us is compared to a horse carriage or a taxi. The carriage along with the horse or the taxi along with petrol is the body of the individual. The driver who controls the carriage is the mind of the individual. And the passenger is the Atma or the Soul or Self. Now tell me, should the driver in this example, obey the instructions of the passenger sitting in the carriage or taxi, or that he should look out for passers by and ask them for instructions?"

The student was immensely moved at the grasp of his master—the Professor—over this simple but so educative an example. He immediately answered, "Sir, you have off-loaded and relieved my mind, just by the question 'whose instructions should the driver obey?' I have heard this example many times, but not a single Swami or Pandit I met, had any clear idea of the applicability of this example. Now the meaning and the application of this example has become at once clear to me, just by the question, whose instructions should the driver obey?"

The student continued, "Do we apply this example to ourselves, in our day to day work? As in the example—where the driver can only obey his passenger and carry out his instructions—do we obey instructions of our own-selves? Any one who understands himself and then obeys himself, must be an intelligent and experienced person having full faith in himself and courage to obey himself even against opposition from others. He could then com-

mand himself and others. Such a person is a Rajsi person. A person who does not obey himself but obeys others is a Tamasi person.

"The body of the carriage is the Tamasi part. The driver is the Rajsi part. Likewise body of the country is the Tamasi part or Praja. The driver of the country is the Raja. Tamasi part is a great potential power. It can be made use of properly, by its controlling Rajsi part or Raja. Raja, therefore, must have all the qualities of a Rajsi person."

CHAPTER 7

Discourses on Tamas & Rajas

Next day the Professor told his student, "Today I am going to narrate to you a few passages from the discourses of my own Teacher."

"If you appear for a test, you will either pass or fail. If you do not appear for this test, then you will be only amongst the failures."

"If you attempt to rise, you will either succeed to rise or fall. If you do not attempt, then you will only be amongst the fallen."

"If you face your difficulties, you will overcome them either fully or partly. If you do not face your difficulties, the difficulties will surely overcome you."

"If you face and fight your enemy, you will either overpower him or the enemy will overpower you. If you do not face and fight, then surely your enemy will overpower you."

"If you try to tackle your problem, you will either find a solution or you will remain confused. If you do not try to tackle your problem, you will surely become dull."

"If you face your difficulties or tackle your problems, you gain in experience and knowledge. If you do not face your difficulties or do not tackle your problems, you remain inexperienced and ignorant."

"While you appear for a test you are a Rajsi person. But if you do not appear for a test, you are a Tamasi person."

"While you attempt to rise, you are a Rajsi person. But

if you do not attempt to rise, you are a Tamasi person."

"While you face your difficulties, you are a Rajsi person. But if you shun your difficulties you are a Tamasi person."

"While you fight against your enemy, you are a Rajsi person. But if you do not fight against your enemy or if you flee away, then you are a Tamasi person."

"While you tackle your problem, you are a Rajsi person. But if you do not tackle your problem, you are a Tamasi person."

"While you gain in knowledge and experience you are a Rajsi person. But if you remain ignorant and inexperienced, you are a Tamasi person."

CHAPTER 8

Religion-You-Prayer

The professor now told his student that he should know a bit more about himself—not only body, mind and soul, but also the path or the way which leads one to his goal or the God or Atma, or to his ownself.

"So listen carefully what I tell you now and then ask me questions if you have any. One's Religion is the path selected by him, to achieve his desired goal. The one who treads his path is called the Pathi. In general Religion or a Religious Path, teaches us how to pray and give solace, to our troubled minds, or how to concentrate our mind to think out and tread our chosen path.

"The Religion teaches further that there is no bar on how and where to pray. You can pray as you like, before a "Moorti" or an Idol in a temple of brick walls, or you can assume your body and mind to be your temple and then pray while you walk or talk, or while you work or play or while you sit, bathe or eat. A clean and healthy body, as you know reflects on your mind, and keeps your mind also clean and healthy. As you must keep your bricked temple clean and unbroken, so also you must keep your body clean and healthy, and then accept your Religion as any path you like, to know yourself, and then tread this path with the best of your efforts. If you have to achieve your object or goal by yourself, then a silent, lonely and deep concentration of mind in an undisturbed atmosphere is a must. If you visualise people in general, you will notice that the mode of concentration, as well as

the path of people, varies from person to person, and further for any single person, it varies from period to period. Some persons simply cannot concentrate or pray alone. For them a show of jingle bell ringing amidst the enchanting 'Mantras' or hymns by a Sadhu, Swami or a Guru are a must. Without them these persons feel so lonely that they become miserable and unhappy.

"Between the extremes of these two, you have to choose your path. Silent weeping with a little shedding of tears, can enforce an excellent prayer from your mind. But when you cry aloud the subtle strength of your prayer is evaporated away.

"God or Atma is everywhere. It is within you and without you. It is in you in every condition. Whether you are healthy or you become diseased, God is within you. God is unchangeable and constant Universal Force, but your value of God changes in your different conditions. You change every instant and your valuation changes. You visualise God in your everchanging relative conditions.

"God or Atma is within every animal and non-animal. It is present in birds, animals, germs, trees, flowers, water, air, earth, metals and all waves and particles. It is present in every part of animal and non-animal. If you cut your nails, then the cut nails dropped on the floor, have also God or Atma. If you go to a hair-dressing saloon and have your hair cut, then the cut hair have the same God as you have. If you eat rice or wheat, then the rice or wheat has same God as you have, and after you have eaten the rice and wheat, the pulp formed in your stomach has the same God, and when your blood and other parts of your body consume all the energy or proteins and other food value and change the pulp into shit, then not only all your body parts contain the same God, but the resultant and residual shit also contains the same God. This very shit becomes the manure or food for the rice or wheat which you will eat with eagerness when you are hungry. This

much knowledge is essential for you. Your approach to every problem will then become relative and may help you to solve it easily."

The Professor then continued, "Now tell me, have you ever thought what is prayer or how do you pray or when you do pray, what feelings do you have? Have you ever known, what is alignment of one's mind with one's object? When you pray, do you have an object or a desire on your mind?"

"Prayer is a tool to imbibe faith in your ownself. Prayer is an earnest request or entreatment to God or Atma, by which you express your desire and simultaneously entreat God to have your desire fulfilled. You may call it communication with God or Self or Atma. Prayer consoles you. It provides you with hope and gives you strength. Above all your prayer will fill up the ditch or depression which is always present in your mind.

"Prayer must come from your mind. You cannot engage a professional Guru or Swami to pray for you. If you give some money to a temple keeper or to a temple Swami to pray or worship for you, then you are not praying. You are making a show of your money and trying to bribe God. By this no doubt you will satisfy the Swami and a few parasite type people but you will not get any solution to your problems, unless your problem is to make a show and copy others.

"Prayer is classified in 3 major categories. You have to select the category, which may tally with your behaviour thoughts and will power. There is no dividing line. Often your prayer will be a mix of any two of these three categories :

(a) Prayer from a Tamasi person.

"O' my God, you are my Lord, my Benefactor, my Helper. Be all praise unto you, my Lord. Mercy on me my

Lord.

*Give me my bread as you gave me yesterday,
Protect me as you protected me yesterday,
Protect me from illness and suffering,
Protect me from robbers and enemies,
Protect me from loss and infame,
Protect me from falling and failing,
Protect me and my family, my Lord.*

*I kneel before you,
I bow before you,
I entreat you my Lord,
Have mercy on me, my Lord.*

*I will devote my life unto you, my Lord,
I will sing all the devotional songs for you, my Lord,
I will give so much in charity, my Lord,
I will place a garland of gold on you, my Lord.*

*Will you protect me my Lord?
Will you protect me from torture?
Will you protect me from being caught?*

(b) Prayer from a Rajsi person.

"O' my God, you are my Lord, my Benefactor and Helper. Give me my bread and for that give me my strength to toil and fight out my existence, to fulfil my responsibilities and to protect my family.

*Give me knowledge and strength,
That I may fight against my enemies,
That I may resist against illness and disease,
That I may brave all loss and suffering
That I may not be afraid of failing and falling*

That I may protect my family, my Lord.

*My mind within my body is your temple, my Lord
I will build a healthy body to shelter my mind,
my Lord,
With the wounds that I will get, while I build
this temple,
I will make a garland for you, my Lord.*

*Will you then, let me face the difficulties bravely?
Will you give me a chance to have my strength tested?
Will you make me feel and fulfil my responsibilities?
Will you give me strength that I may not kneel
before my enemies?"*

(c) *Prayer from a Satvi person.*

A Satvi person is a perfectly fearless person—fearless before every type of danger. He is so fearless that he does not even shake before a robber or an enemy with a weapon, or before an illness or suffering or loss or failure or infame or death. As a matter of fact a perfectly Satvi person, 100% fearless, cannot exist. This body and mind cannot exist without some fear. And, therefore, such a person is Satvi here—and that also for a small instant—who shows fearlessness against danger to all practical purposes. If there is no danger to face, question of fearlessness does not arise.

A Satvi person will be able to align himself equally with good or bad. A Satvi person is he who has conquered fear through his experience, knowledge and strength. Prayer for such a Satvi person is without any craving or desire for himself. Such a Satvi person is to a great extent, careless to all consequences. What then shall be the prayer for this Satvi person?

*O' my God, you are my Lord, my Benefactor.
Help me be careless about my daily bread,
Help me gather more knowledge and experience,
Help me remove my fear, so that,
Even if robbers kill me, I may be careless and fearless,
Even if I fall ill, I may be careless and fearless,
Even if I undergo loss and suffering I may be careless
and fearless,
Even if I fail or fall, I may be careless and fearless.*

*My mind within my body is your temple, my Lord,
All I have is yours, my Lord,
I will place a flowerless garland on you, my Lord,
Make me more careless and fearless, my Lord."*

CHAPTER 9

Desire-Ditch-Fear

"So tomorrow you are leaving this city to go to your colliery to resume your job. And, this will be our last meeting till you meet me again.

"Now tell me have you any desire? And do you want to achieve your desire? Practically every person wants that his desires be fulfilled. Some people or perhaps most people, have a tendency to go to their Guru or Swami and request him to fulfil their desires. These people have a tremendous faith in their Guru and will always go to him for getting their desires achieved. The Guru on the other hand, could be a cunning person. He knows that his disciples are guillible persons, and will accept what ever he tells them, and will be happy to resort to all ceremonies specially the rites and ceremonies written in holy books. So the Guru or Swami will only have to recite a few passages from old scriptures and then give a few remedies in the form of ceremonies, which the person will have to perform to have his desires fulfilled. These persons have tremendous belief in such ceremonies and so they perform them with eagerness, and gradually become victims to these, so much so, that without ceremonies they will feel something missing. They get a great relief out of these ceremonies—ceremonies which often become superstitions. Their desires increase and so also the ceremonies. It is like a snare or a web of superstitious ceremonies, from which you just cannot take these persons out. They will not listen to any reason. In other words, they have

become addicts to ceremonies. These persons are Tamasi persons. You yourself have to be very careful to be away from all ceremonies. You must however, try to understand and reason out, what is a desire and what is achievement of your desire.

"The desire to achieve or get something, creates a problem, which in turn results in the depression of mind. Solution to this problem is achieved when you get out of this depression. In other words, when a desire is born in your mind, it (desire) creates an anxiety to have it fulfilled. When the desire is fulfilled, your anxiety or depression of mind is removed, for sometime only, because the very fulfilment of the first desire will give birth to a second desire or a second set of desires.

"Analyse this desire in a practical way. Imagine a ditch. This ditch is a valley or a depression and is a natural corollary to a set of mountains or crests. Likewise, depression of mind is a natural corollary or consequence to a set of wishes. The depression of mind is the reaction of the development of desires. The ditch and the depression are accordingly the same. Can you understand this ditch and how it is formed?

"When you desire something, you will notice that immediately after, you wish to have your desire fulfilled easily or quickly. It means you have a superimposed desire, which enfolds your original desire, creating an anxiety or fear in your mind—"Will my desire be fulfilled?" This fear can be removed if you come out of the ditch. A ditch is an obstacle in the path of achievement of your desire. So this obstacle must be crossed by you or cleared by you.

"Now give shape to your desire. It could be a desire to pass an examination, or get first class in your test, or go to a foreign country, or get a car, or become healthy, or overcome your enemy or to be saved from a robber or to be saved from starvation etc. There can be thousands of

desires like the above. Bigger your desire, deeper will be the ditch, or depression, and greater will be the anxiety or fear. Now tell me, after nurturing a desire to achieve something, will you shun or sidetrack the depression and anxiety, that will engulf you? If you shun the depression or ditch, your fear and anxiety will only increase. So you have got to cross the ditches which engulf you. How deep is your ditch? Can you measure it without going into it. And then can you say with authority, that you will come out of the ditch, when you have'n't been in it?"

"Sir, I have understood. But all this needs reflection again and again, in my own mind. So when I am alone I will try to go deep in my mind to know the proper significance of this ditch and resulting fear. Now please tell me more."

"Imagine this ditch again. There can be innumerable causes which may hinder you to cross the ditch. The cause may be your illness or lethargy or fear. These are your internal enemies. Now think of the external enemies who may also hinder you to cross the ditch—e.g. a robber trying to kill you, or a rival trying to snatch away your food. In both cases, the effect is the deepening of the ditch, which means you will be called upon to put in more as well as accurate effort. Thus your enemy will help you to increase your effort. Will you accept this hinderance as a challenge and beat your enemy? Or will you submit to the interference of your enemy?"

"Sir if I fall into a ditch, I will get a chance to come out of it. So it is necessary that I fall into a ditch and then in many ditches."

"Correct my child. You have to know that your own desire is the digger of your own ditch and not only this, but the very desire that digs a ditch for you, is instrumental in throwing you into it—the ditch that is dug by it, to give you a chance to measure it and come out of it. While coming out of the ditch, you will gather strength,

experience and faith."

"I am thankful to you, Sir. Tomorrow I will leave this place. So good-bye."

"Good-bye, my child."

CHAPTER 10

Prince's Soliloquy

The journey was long and the train was slow. The student was fretting at the loss of time. He wished he could reach the colliery soon. He could not condemn the train for being slow. So he often looked out of the window. The passing trees which he could see from his window were amusing. He began to think and gradually got into a reverie and started musing over his soliloquy :—

*"If I fall on a surface, I hardly get a scratch,
If I fall in a ditch, I may find my skin scratched,
If I fall in a deep ditch, I may find my bones cracked,
If I fall in an abyss, I may be finished and dead.*

*"If I fall on a surface, I hardly have to struggle to rise,
If I fall in a ditch, I get a chance to struggle to rise,
If I fall in a deep ditch, I am compelled to put in a
Herculean effort to rise,
If I fall in an abyss, I may lose all my strength and
desire even to attempt to rise.*

*"If I fall on a surface, I find nothing new,
If I fall in a ditch, I may find something new,
If I fall in a deep ditch, I may find something thrilling,
If I fall in an abyss, I may find myself caught in a
mesh from where I may not be able to come out.*

"If I fall on a surface, and then rise, I hardly get an
experience,
If I fall in a ditch and then rise, I may get a new
experience and an added faith in myself.
If I fall in a deep ditch and then rise, I may get an
extra-ordinary experience, and an extra
great faith in myself,
If I fall in an abyss and cannot rise, then I may lose ali.

"If I rise after falling on a surface, I hardly find a
treasure,
If I rise after falling in a ditch, I may get some
treasure,
If i rise after falling in a deep ditch, I may get an
immense treasure,
If I rise after falling in an abyss, I may get so much
treasure that I may not be able to
use it, or perhaps if I am able to
use all the treasure then I may
become the most powerful person."

CHAPTER 11

Prince goes to jail

The student, before his Professor, but Prince Vagabond otherwise, reaches the colliery and takes charge of his duties. His Vagabond friends tell him that an arrest warrant for him has already been issued. They advise him to go underground. But the Prince refuses, and says, "Let the Police arrest me. I do not care if I am sent to jail. Amar Pandhi will take over the control of our organisation, when I am chained in the cells of the Congress prison".

Next day the Prince, and 10 Vagabonds are arrested and sent to Sabarmati jail. There are many other prisoners at Sabarmati—both political as well as criminals. Criminals have to wear jail dress and work like dogs. But political prisoners wear their normal dresses. Cells are congested. Food is bad as well as insufficient. Prisoners who are made to work whole day, need proper meals. But they know, they cannot get more. So they lose their weight. It is good for slimming—perhaps good for fat prisoners.

Once a week visitors are allowed. But the Prince does not care. He hardly gets visitors. Once Amar Pandhi comes. Prince tells him it was not good for the head of the organisation to visit the jail. He could be in the eyes of the government and if he were caught, the organisation would become leaderless. Amar Pandhi told the Prince that he had come under compelling conditions. He had to discuss some urgent work. The Prince beacons him that the warden was listening, and that he should convey the message later on through a reliable assistant. Amar Pandhi

offers a cigarette to the Prince and takes one himself and then offers the remaining packet to the warden. The warden is happy and understands that he has to keep at a little distance. Pandhi tells the Prince about the probable defeat of the Congress and the possibility of the Janata getting into the Government saddle. He asks the Prince whether their organisation should back any party in the elections. The Prince knows that the Janata is as bad as the Congress. He cautions Pandhi and tells him "though Vagabonds are used to taking risks, we must watch." After a light discussion they both come to the same conclusion to remain aloof and underground, and wait for a chance. Prince tells Pandhi:—

"You must consider two important points. One is that our strength is not even one million members. We do not want signatory type members. Our members have got to be strong vigilant and diligent workers. They have to be trained to be disciplined workers. This cannot be achieved just by a wishful thinking. We have to wait and strengthen and test ourselves. Second point to consider is that we must watch the quarrel and fight between the Congress and the Janata. One will surely defeat the other. Even then we must not side with the winning party but watch its progress."

CHAPTER 12

Janata and the country

Janata wins. While it fought out the election and put in its efforts in the election campaign, the various wings of the Janata were in alignment. But now that it has won, its wings have been disarranged and disarrayed and the Janata Bird cannot fly. During the election, the Janata party was confident of flying with colours. But it didn't know that it had too many wings. Now the wings don't flutter in unison, and the Bird is as good as wingless.

Poor Janata! Can it run the country? Can it maintain discipline? No, it wants to undo the discipline. It is a People's Raj—a Janata Raj. So let the people do what they like. Why should the Ministers bother? They have removed all powers of the Police but asked them to keep law and order. Ministers get themselves busy in jotting down into their diaries, the programmes of their tours within and without India. They ask their secretaries to arrange invitations for them, to make them inaugurate and preside over opening ceremonies, and to speak at the seminars on subjects they need not know. They—i.e. Ministers—take part in rituals of religion and superstitious ceremonies, and indulge in commissions of inquiry. They waste their time. They waste the time of Nation and then call it the Janata Raj.

Janata government announces general amnesty of all political prisoners. The Prince is among those who are released. His one aim is to meet the Professor and then discuss with Amar Pandhi, how to inculcate more of dis-

cipline, work and harmony amongst Vagabonds.

The Prince ponders over the defeat of the Congress and the victory of the Janata. He visualises the Mahabharat war, the war between Pandvas and Kaurvas. He visualises the chariot which is driven by Krishna and in which Arjan is the warrior, fighting under the guidance of Krishna. He cherishes a desire that Janata leaders learn a lesson from the chariot and lead the country properly towards its destination. But then he mourns at the very thought. The Janata Party has no idea of the destination, as it has let loose the reins so the horses are pulling the chariot in different directions.

Deep concern over the country's sluggish progress makes the Prince gloomy. He goes to his home town and meets the Professor. The very first question that the Prince asks, "Can we learn anything from the war of Mahabharat?"

The Professor finds his student depressed and dejected, but doesn't ask him why. The Professor just knows. So he tells his student, the Prince, "My boy every one is a fighter. Every place is the arena. Every moment you are arraigned against a set of circumstances and conditions against which you must fight to live. In other words, you have to fight against every difficulty. Every country must likewise fight against every hurdle. For this, unity of action is vital. Without unity the country's effort will only go to waste. To bring about unity, a unifying force is required. This force is the tightly handled reins, which disciplines the disturbing forces and directs them to one direction. Consider our country as a carriage, where the ruling party has the reins. If the ruling party lets the reins loose, the horses i.e. the people will run as they like or perhaps will not run but become lethargic, which will result in chaotic and morbid set of conditions".

"Sir, that is what I have begun to think. Our Prime Minister, and other Ministers, have a set of slogans that

they voice at every public meeting and these slogans are 'We shall Unite' 'Need for National Integration' 'Unity of India' 'Economic Indivisibility'. How often do they repeat? They do not remember, but they do believe that the public is listening to them. Our desire to unite or our desire to lead the Nation to unite and integrate, is all right but can our desire be achieved just because of our expressing it?"

"No doubt the conditions in the country are alarming. Without unity, our country will crumble. Unity will give strength to the Nation. Unified action gives big results very quickly. Unity keeps the nation free from interference of foreign forces. Unity enforces some limits and binding controls on the population. The controls which bring about unity, encroach upon the fundamental aspects and rights of the individuals, who may like to grow and evolve or bring about their personal evolution in their own way. Between the unity of Nation and the freedom of the individual, a compromise has to be found and enforced, so that the Nation moves ahead, in unison."

CHAPTER 13

Our country-A Carriage with many horses

"Can you imagine a carriage with 2 horses?" said the Professor. "The strength or the force of the 2 horses will pull the carriage easily and drive it with a speed perhaps greater than twice the speed of a carriage having only one horse.

"Now imagine the 2 horses pulling the carriage in different directions. And after that, imagine this carriage with the 2 horses pulling the carriage in opposite directions. The moving carriage will then come to a stop."

"Sir, if the carriage stops, its passenger will leave the carriage and will not come to occupy it. If the carriage cannot move, then it means, the party or the organisation which is represented by the carriage, will be dead."

"True, my child," said the Professor, "now imagine the carriage being pulled or driven by several horses and then imagine that the coachman holds the reins of all the horses in his hands and can whip them or control them to run in one direction only. A very interesting example becomes obvious, if you think further, that every horse has its rider, and that the coachman has the reins to control all the riders while every rider has the reins to control his horse. A question arises—can the coachman drive the carriage now? The riders have their own whims or desires based upon their needs. It is therefore likely, that the riders will try to move their horses in different directions to serve their individual purposes, unmindful of the controlling reins of the coachman. Much of the power

of the horses, controlled by different riders will be dissipated and squandered away. On the other hand, if all the riders join together, then there will be a unified movement and the full power of force of all the horses will be utilised to move the carriage quickly in one direction.

"However, knowing fully well that the riders will not join together or be under his complete control, what shall the coachwan do to bring about maximum utility of the power of all the horses ?

"Now imagine the personality of the coachwan—a weakling, unintelligent, lethargic, ever-appeasing coachwan allowing the riders to have their ways or, a strongwilled, intelligent, vigilant coachwan able to control the riders and keep them under discipline. Who do you think should be the driver of the carriage, that is India ? Will this coachwan or driver have the guts to throw away the rider who opposes him or does not work according to his directions ?

"We haven't discussed the Passenger. Without the Passenger the carriage will run empty or it will not run. The Passenger has to give instructions to the coachwan and the coachwan must obey the Passenger under all circumstances. Further the coachwan must seek instructions only from his Passenger. The coachwan cannot ask for instructions from any other coachwan or from any other party. This point has to be understood thoroughly. If you have to move or if you have decided to move in any direction, then you have to get dictation from your Passenger alone.

"In this example the carriage represents the whole country, and the Passenger of the carriage is the Soul of the country. The Soul of the country is the one common Soul, common to all the people, animals, birds, trees, mountains, river, atmosphere, and the very dust of the country. This is a difficult part to understand. The Soul is

one and common to all. Only the mind and the body change. This Soul is the inexhaustible source of strength, knowledge, guidance and faith. The coachman, who can align his mind with the minds of all the people or most of the people, can then suck in or pick up any amount of strength, wisdom and faith from the inexhaustible source of the Soul of the country, to push or drive the carriage with confidence and without any hesitation, in the direction dictated by the Passenger.

"If the Prime Minister can control his Cabinet or Cabinet Ministers, then he has to be a strong willed, intelligent, and a vigilant person, who can decide quickly and stick to his decision at all costs. In this case the Prime Minister will have to have much more control on himself and will not be afraid of his opponents amongst his colleagues and this will enable him to bring about disciplined harmony or harmonious movement of his country, and thus achieve unimaginable results. This will in turn enable every person to get whatever food and shelter is required by him or his family. The Prime Minister will then have more faith in himself and lead the country to great heights."

"Sir, a unifying force or a cementing force is necessary, to bring about the Unity amongst the people. Is this force, a force of arms, which instils fear into the minds of the people, who therefore work to their full capacity and in harmony and under discipline?"

"My child, introduction of fear element becomes necessary to control so many people. Fear is a whip. Think of your own body and mind. Can you visualise how your mind controls your body? Why do you fear? Does not fear gradually make you more and more of a disciplined person? Likewise, the body of India has to be a disciplined body controlled at the helm by a strong and disciplined Prime Minister."

"Sir, do you infer that a weak minded Prime Minister

will lead the country to its doom or destruction?"

"Yes, my child. And a strong minded Prime Minister who thinks only for the good of the country and who has no personal motive or any greed for himself or for his family and friends, is the most appropriate Prime Minister."

"Sir, there is one more question. Can there be a scoundrel type Prime Minister, who says or promises one thing and does something quite detrimental to the Praja? In particular, tries to bring about that condition, under which the Praja or People become lethargic but work and live in harmony, so that he can control them easily?"

"Yes, that happens quite often and then the country is thrown to dogs but the Prime Minister makes a merry living for himself and his sycophants. This condition arises out of lethargy or slumberous state of the public in general. When people are lethargic, they do not have the power or will to oppose the ruling clique. And this is the ripe condition for an enemy to enter and capture the reins. The enemy tries to help the ruling party to keep the people happy but lethargic. The lethargic people are told, 'you are the most beloved people. You have brought about complete harmony.' But little do such people realise that there is no harmony of forces, if the forces do not exist. Of course, there is harmony when there is lethargy, but no harmony of forces exists. Lethargy is an awful disease which creeps like a parasite and squeezes the strength out of the nation. Condition of lethargy is like a carriage with its horses dead or diseased."

CHAPTER 14

Krishna-your Carriage Driver

"Sir, there is one important question. The example of carriage as mentioned in the 'Geeta' or the 'Mahabharata' is quite different from the ordinary carriage. In the carriage of the 'Geeta', the driver is Lord Krishna or Atma or Soul. The passenger—who is Arjan—is a passenger to be taken not only to his destination, but is a warrior. Further, the driver is the guide for this passenger, the warrior. Does it mean that this is a compound carriage, where both the driver and the passenger have two duties to perform?"

"You are perfectly right my boy. This compound carriage gives a more practical example than the simple carriage, and is better applicable to every one, every organisation and every government. You or any organisation or any government have to consider, that everyone is being driven in an invisible carriage driven by Lord Krishna or Atma or Self. Therefore, if Lord Krishna is your driver and guide, why should you fear and then why can't you consider yourself a warrior and decide fearlessly and act on your decision, also fearlessly? Further, why don't you rely on yourself, for an advice that is both your guide and driver, the Lord Krishna?"

"Every one having any responsibility and authority must know that he is being driven and guided by Lord Krishna, or God or Atma, and therefore he should fulfil his responsibility without fear and must decide quickly and stick to his decision. This example is more applicable to the Prime

Minister and his cabinet of ministers, rather than to any one else. Accordingly, if the Prime Minister has to run the country properly and under discipline, he must always think that he is being guided by Atma or God, and should ask himself for all instructions, and then give his decision and also stick to his decisions, and see that his instructions are carried out without fail. He, the Prime Minister, has an added responsibility. He has to consider that the Soul of the Country is at his back and that he has to take full input from his soul. This input can only be received or taken by the Prime Minister if his mind is tuned to the minds of every one in the country. Can he tune in his mind to the minds of all the people in the country and act fearlessly?"

CHAPTER 15

अभयम् - *Abhayam-Fearlessness*

"Sir, now tell me, what is Abhayam or Fearlessness as mentioned in the 'Geeta'?"

"My child, have you known fear? You, me and every one, has experienced fear and will always remain afraid of some thing or the other. Do you know the reason?"

"First you must know what is fear. Fear is an emotion or an attachment of mind and body, excited by danger or anxiety or pain or a thought of non-fulfilment of one's desire. The root cause of fear, is the feeling of 'otherness'. To think one is different from 'other', whatever this 'other' be—be it man, animal, disease, plant, or poison of a plant, or insect or poison of the insect, enemy or weapon in the hands of enemy or a natural calamity or thought of losing something, anxiety to get something, etc. —the 'other' must be clearly understood, to enable you to understand the root cause of fear, and then try to eliminate your fear. You will find that your desire, to remain safe, to get what you like, to avoid what you do not like, is a major contributor to this feeling of 'otherness'.

"Therefore, first of all you must analyse your desire and find out why do you have such a desire, which becomes the cause of your fear. You will find that by analysing and by gradual application of your mind to find the cause of emotion of fear, you can eliminate many types of fears, without much difficulty, just by controlling your desires and thoughts. You must remove vagueness from your mind, when analysing any cause of danger.

"The second step is to align your mind and body with this 'other' and try to eradicate the feeling of 'otherness'. By aligning yourself with this 'other' or by seeing 'oneness' with this 'other' or seeing Atma or Soul as the Universal reality abiding in all, the fear automatically vanishes and in its place you begin to gain confidence in yourself. As soon as you gain faith or confidence in yourself, that now you are not afraid, you become fearless and then you can approach with ease, what was 'previously other' but 'now one with you' object. Not only this, but with the faith that you have imbibed now, you have a better chance of overpowering this 'previously other' object or root of danger. This is fearlessness or Abhayam."

"Now take an example. Suppose, suddenly you see a cobra in front of you. What will be your immediate reaction? If you fear and run, the snake will surely catch up with you, bite you and kill you. But if you remember to use your knowledge to be one with the danger, then you will stand still, analyse the cobra, watch its eyes and movements of its body, keep alert, and then remember that by aligning yourself with the cobra, you are aligning with the poison of cobra, aligning with the pain that will be caused to you on cobra bite, and then aligning with the ultimate death, and if in the whole of this process, you remember further that the Atma or Soul is one and the same in you and in the Cobra, then if you ask yourself why should you be afraid of the poison or pain or death, then surely faith will come to you. Your nervousness will vanish, your strength in your grip will become evident, and with full firmness you will stand ready to capture the cobra, and most probably you will succeed. Here you have to think also of your responsibility and duty. Why should you try to save yourself or why should you try to kill your enemy, or the cobra in this case? You will realise that you live in a society which you want to protect and which you do not want to be disintegrated by an enemy. There-

fore, you must kill your enemy which wants to attack and disrupt your society, your family and your children. This sense of duty will infuse strength in you. This example will teach you what is firmness in decision and how to develop this firmness. During the whole process of achieving control on yourself, control on becoming one with your adversary, you will find that it is necessary for you that you should not have any anger or hatred against the cobra or against any other enemy or against any difficulty. All the same, you must not have any love or any attachment for your opponent."

"Now take another example. Suppose you are the General of Army of your country and an enemy is attacking your country. Surely, you will realise that your duty is to face the enemy boldly and not run away out of fear. What will you do? You have to visualise that the General is the mind or the coachman and the Army is the body of carriage, which has to be a single unit, and that the General has to drive his carriage to the destination. Added to this, the coachman or driver or the General has to visualise that Krishna or Atma is his guide. Then why should he fear? The General, then has to see that the body of the carriage or the Army is in a fit condition—not only healthy but without any demoralising factor. And then the General has to align his mind with all the danger that is in front of him, and face the danger posed by the enemy. You will find that the General in you is then able to free himself from fear of anykind and is able to lead his Army properly against the enemy."

"Now take a third example—Suppose a robber confronts you with a pistol or a dagger. Will you be afraid of the robber, or his dagger, or being looted of your property or the injury to your body, or your death due to injury? At that moment you must think a little and grasp the situation, and then try to analyse, what will happen if the robber attacked you or rob you or kill you? If you do

succeed in analysing, then the chances are that you will be able to dismiss your fear and also control the situation created by the robber. Immediately after, you must align your mind with all the danger posed by the robber. This means you must first of all be ready to die or in other words your fear about your own death must vanish. This you will be able to achieve easily if you know that life and death are only two faces of you, otherwise there is no difference between life and death. You should know that life and death are two relative visions of your own self. This aspect of knowledge is of course very difficult, but you have got to understand it and then absorb it. Otherwise you cannot be fearless. Now even if you cannot grasp the relative significance of life and death, you have got to be fearless, even for a moment—to face the robber. If you succeed in overcoming your fear and not run away, you will have won half the battle. Then the chances are that the robber will become afraid of you and possibly he will run away to save himself. If the robber is brave, then of course you have to put in your fight without fear."

CHAPTER 16

Vagabond Organisation

"Vandanam Prince."

"Vandanam Amar—What is the news of our Vagabonds in Bombay and Madras areas? I hear that there has been some indiscipline and a little polarisation."

"The news is not very good. Some Vagabonds have leanings towards the Congress and some towards the Janata. So there were a few quarrels. At Bombay there was an open revolt by a few Vagabonds."

"If it be necessary just sack them. If the number of Vagabonds is reduced, you must not worry. We must have only disciplined workers."

"Our strength will be reduced to about half."

"Even then you must not worry. On the contrary you must be grateful that we will get rid of the unruly and mob mentality members. We must now bring about more discipline and regularity. Have you ever thought about mind's control over body? Can you visualise our Vagabond Organisation as a body which must be controlled by mind? And what could this mind be? I and you cannot control the whole body without controlling reins. Isn't it? Where are the controlling reins, with which we may control our Organisation and run it properly? Here you must think of a carriage with many horses. While you and I are the drivers and Vagabond organisation, a set of horses, would you not like that all the horses move in a unified way? What will happen if a few horses try to run in the opposite direction? Would you like to continue with such horses

who run in the opposite direction? It is better you remove them and bring about a harmony amongst the rest of the horses. For this, a controlling system is necessary. Time has come when we must create intelligence procuring agency to collect information about all the Vagabonds and also about those enemies who inject indiscipline amongst our Vagabond members."

"Yes, Prince, I fully agree with you. You know Ajnabi. He was an employee of RAW and I have full faith in him. Should he be appointed a Vagabond Watcher?"

"Yes, Ajnabi will be a good Vagabond Watcher. Tell him to select some more Vagabond Watchers. We must have full information about our own members. This will enable us to bring about discipline and unity."

"Ofcourse it is essential that there be unity in our organisation" said Amar Pandhi, and continued "quite a number of Vagabonds have no work. They loiter and gossip, taking that as their only work."

The Prince replied, "for such persons, some work must be found out. Otherwise they become a parasitic germ or a virus which spreads and infects every one. Some programme, which brings in health and money, will keep our members under discipline. Can you think about it? For many days I have been thinking that we must organise institutes for giving training in the art of fighting with a lathi as well as without a lathi."

"We have also to find out work to earn money."



CHAPTER 17

Electronic Listening Post

It seems that the liquidated RAW was doing its job pretty well. It had spread its Electronic Ears in many countries. Indian cities were not any more away from the net work of the RAW. A few 'Dailies' reported a review of discussions overhead by the Electronic Ears of the RAW.

(1) Place — NAGPUR

- Worker : Silly is the manager and outrageous the management. I have been chucked out and the chucking lathe, on which I had been working, is idle.
- Student : That is good. I am still unemployed. I cleared my exam. nine months back, and have visited as many as 50 firms, but no luck for me.
- Pandit : It is the law of Karma—the sins of your past life.
- Politician : Here comes the cunning Pandit ever ready to mislead the youngsters. Remember our country has to provide food and shelter for all.
- Philosopher : Squeezed and sucked from all sides, what remains of our country, our Mother India?
- Politician : True my dear Philosopher. The business magnates, the hoarders abated by

- officials and above all the ministers, are all blood suckers.
- Philosopher : Don't forget to include the intriguing politician, who induces the worker, the student and the kissan to throttle the government, and all this for his own personal benefit.
- Kissan : I had a bumper crop—thrice what I had last year. But the prices have tumbled down. What do I gain?
- Worker : Retrenched that I am, I don't have a paisa to purchase your bloody booty of the bumper crop.
- Jawan : Why don't you join our forces ? Recession is unknown to us.
- Philosopher : Recession brings in chaotic and reactionary forces, which cannot be controlled in ordinary way. Recession is like an ebb, gurgling back, taking in, and devouring all that comes in its way.
- Kissan : When will the tide strike ?
- Philosopher : You cannot predict. But you can keep cards together, plan and work patiently and persistently, knowing fully well, that sooner or later, the tide will strike, with its uncontrolled enormous force, a reaction to the ebb, devouring in its wake all that was left over by the ebb.
- Jawan : How can there be a tide if there is no war. For months we Jawans have remained idle. Idleness is becoming a disease which will kill us, if not our enemy.
- Worker : Our greatest enemy is our stomach. Why don't we get our daily bread ? When there is a bumper crop, do you

- want rats to have preference over us—
who have no job ?
- Politician : I will lead you so that you may at least
get a living wage to have your bread.
- Student : Get me a job first. I don't want any
dole.
- Worker : Make retrenchment illegal.
- Pandit : Come to my parlour, my child. I will
bring you salvation.
- Politician : Let us march. Who so ever succeeds in
marching and speaking aloud wins the
day. Have'nt you heard "A crying baby
gets a bigger share of milk."
- Philosopher : Empty promises, thrown by the Pandit
and the Politician to mislead the young
student and the worker alike. Both
will get their bitter experience.

(2) Place — ZURICH

- Swiss : There is calm before the storm.
- French : Russians have started new military ex-
ercises off the East German Border.
Soviet tanks and armoured personnel
carriers are rolling across the East
German Plains.
- Russian : NATO Generals have asked for a pro-
tective umbrella of Nukes to be fired
at Soviet installations in case of an
all out war.
- German : Before the Nukes are fired to halt
the Soviets, the West German, the
French and Italian cities and suburbs
will have been levelled.
- American : These cities and suburbs will have to be
destroyed in order to see them saved or

- shall I say rejuvenated ?
- Pole : Soviets and Americans have made thousands of missiles with nuclear war-heads, kept ready in silos, to be fired at the enemy within a second of receiving an alert.
- Irish : Both sides are talking non-sense. The military commanders of both sides are saying that they are not afraid of nuclear bombs, because they know of them pretty well and that they can fire antiballistic missiles to destroy the missiles in midair.
- Hungarian : True. The military men are not afraid. But the civilian population is afraid of annihilation.
- Englishman : What rot are you talking. Annihilation through nuclear bombs can be prevented. But do you know that both Soviets and the Americans have collected thousands of tons of radioactive debris or waste from Nuclear Power Plants and have stuffed this into their Bombers, which will be flown over the enemy country, anywhere throughout the world, and the foolish enemy is supposed to fire at these Bombers only to see that the Bombers explode and spread radioactive debris on to their land resulting in utter annihilation of every one in no time.

(3) Place — NAGPUR

- Student : Did you read the report in the 'Dailies' this morning ?

- Jawan : Yes. The radioactive debris is going to fall on Soviet and American lands.
- Philosopher : That is just partially true. Did you read further ? America is going to supply 16,700 kgs. of enriched Uranium to India for Tarapore Atomic Power Plant, on condition that India return to America the past, present and future radioactive debris from all Indian Atomic Power Plants obtained from spent Uranium fuel ?
- Worker : Will it be used over India to annihilate Indians ?

CHAPTER 18

Letter to Prime Minister

The Prince is upset. He has just read in the morning papers, that the Prime Minister has accepted the so called 'vast help'. This was not the first time, such news had appeared in the papers. Prior to this, practically every week, one or the other minister, had gone to foreign countries to entertain himself and negotiate help.

The Prince tried to analyse. Do these ministers exist for their own benefit? Don't they have any responsibility to the people who elected them? Then why go on a trip abroad, taking wife and other paraphernalia, and return to India with a big bang and a big statement, that they were entertained very well by their foreign hosts and over and above that, their foreign hosts were kind enough to give all the help which India wanted.

Is it an eye wash? What is the real stuff behind all this big mouth? So the Prince wrote a letter to the Prime Minister of India and sent it through his messenger:

"Vandanam Prime Minister,

My greetings and my homage to you. Is the statement in today's papers true that you have accepted foreign aid? You do not realise what you are accepting for yourself and for India. Your foreign friends in the foreign governments, who give you a helping hand, are a set of rogues. The help that you have got from the foreign countries is just a drop in an ocean.

If you ever have a desire to find out the hidden treasure in the ocean of India, then why don't you enter deep into the untapped mines of India? You are wasting away these mines—the enormous youth power and the enormous resources, which could be found and exploited by this youth power. Do you know that Time is the costliest raw material and should not be wasted? Perhaps you have never thought seriously in this direction.

You talk so much of your being the driver or the coachman of the carriage which is India. But you yourself are the very instrument to stall this carriage. Have you ever thought that the horses who drive the carriage should be healthy and disciplined, and therefore, should be well fed and properly controlled? Have you ever thought that the carriage should have its wheels and bearings in tip top condition, so that the horses could drive it fast? No, the horses are weak and are running in different directions, the wheels are broken and the seats are missing, but you are blind to see these defects. How can you drive the carriage if the horses are not under control? How can the Soul of India, occupy the seats if they are missing? How can you carry forward the Soul of India, if the wheels of the carriage are broken?

But you are a nut. You blame others only. You have no courage to blame yourself. What is wrong with you, you do not care to analyse. You do not see that you are afraid—afraid to talk about your helplessness. Then why take up the reins?

Out of fear that the horses will lead the carriage astray, you are leaving the reins loose, but you do not want to leave the position of the coachman. You do not care to apply the discipline of the normal coachman to yourself, because you are miserably obsessed. So you try to make amends, by going to foreign

countries where you beg for alms and protection. The foreign rogues are happy, and so they praise you—"How good and brave is India's Prime Minister." You—who are easily carried away by this praise—feel elevated and express your willingness to accept the foreign Umbrella of Protection, Alms and Help. What you get is just a drop, a small help but a huge 'chhaya' or shadow of the Umbrella for India, which will squeeze India and will prevent its normal growth. This shadow will tighten its grip, squeeze further, and cripple India to the point, that you will be compelled to ask for more help, a bigger Umbrella and a terribly bigger shadow. Do you know what will happen then? You will have stabbed every youth of India. The so called horses of Indian carriage will be limping. But you will be satisfied—satisfied that you have brought in a remedy—the remedy which has chained India—the chain that has been thrown by the foreign powers under the garb of an Umbrella of Protection and Help.

India a free country will become a chained prisoner, and helpless for the present. But the very chain that will chain it so tightly, will throw a challenge before it and will give it a chance to break loose this chain of foreign help and along with it the Protection and the Shadow of the foreign Umbrella.

Das

Prince Vagabond."

The Prime Minister was aghast. He had never imagined that a petty Vagabond of filth—as he called the Prince—could muster that much courage to write such a nasty letter. Next day the Prince, the messenger, and 50 other Vagabonds were arrested and kept in the Hazaribagh jail, as undertrials. Many other criminals and convicts were already locked in this jail.

Police firing has become common now. The Government

rule is a strange combination of stagnancy with ritualistic orders to CBI and Police to resort to arrest without warrant—nothing short of conditions prevailing in the days of emergency. During the emergency people at least knew that there was emergency and there was law and order. But during the present regime of stagnation, people do what they want to do, and take the maximum advantage of lenient and stagnant government only to find that all of a sudden, they have been swept upon and put into a jail. Then there is a commission of inquiry as silly and time consuming as the stagnant government. Sometimes to expedite the inquiry, there is a judicial inquiry which moves at a snail's speed, but could supercede the commission of inquiry. Does it mean propounders of Democracy cannot decide, until the commission set into motion, completes its course of action, and then requests them to decide? Till then do they remain stagnant?

In the meanwhile the political undertrials languish in jails, in the company of original convicts. Both the undertrials and the convicts, try to teach one another, the secrets of their trades.

Jails are congested. It is a serious problem for the government. The police knows this. So the police has resorted to a regular practice of sweeping and winding up a hundred or so persons into their custody—the police chowky—every week and release them one by one, after some sort of money spinning is completed by the arrested. Those few who do not throw money into the police pockets are sent to the jail as undertrials. These undertrials are entitled to bail but the police officers have scared the people so much that even the relatives of the undertrials do not come forward to offer bails—afraid that they themselves will be arrested. At least the emergency rule was better in this respect—that there could be no bail.

The police has now been instructed by the government to register all complaints. Is it pouring salt on a wound

that has grown malignant? The ministers are now vying with one another, who excels in giving speeches and statements, who excels in performing opening ceremonies, and who excels in wasting his time in squabbles. If ministers have no value of time, how can police be quick.

Prince Vagabond finds a friend in a convict called Pahelwansing. He was arrested in a murder case, although police knew that he had nothing to do with the murder. He happened to be an on-looker in a crowd and was arrested and convicted along with others. He had to undergo three years of hard labour. Pahelwan was an expert in the art of Jujitsu, a method of fighting, by which, with your own small but intelligently and bravely applied subtle force, you could make use of the enemy's bulk or great force to overcome the very enemy.

CHAPTER 19

Birth of Vagabond Isle

Amar Pandhi came to see the Prince in the Hazaribagh jail. He was taking a bit of a risk. But the matter to be discussed was of great importance and he could not depute his assistant to meet the Prince.

Amar Pandhi told the Prince that an American newspaper had given a news item, about a new Island having been located, just 200 km. west of Great Nicobar Island, on longitude 92°. The news were kept secret by the Government of India. This Isle was not in existence till seven days back. It was first sighted by USA on a photographic plate radio relayed by an American Spy Satellite. Then it was confirmed by Diego Garcia. It could be seen from the Island of Great Nicobar with the help of binoculars. Lately Government of India sent a Central Reserve Police force of 20 men to occupy the Island. It seems that Indonesia had also claimed it. Indonesia had sent a force of ten armed personnel and then re-inforced it to forty. India likewise despatched an additional force of two hundred persons from its Andaman Base. There was a skirmish. Nineteen persons were killed. Ultimately Indonesia gave in. By International law the Island was just within the 200 mile limit of waters of India.

This was an exciting news. The Prince and Amar Pandhi were silent for a minute. Then the Prince said, "we Vagabonds must occupy it. We must have a home of our own."

Pandhi replied, "That is why I have come here, to discuss with you. I have already selected one thousand

Vagabonds to occupy the Island."

"But you have to be careful to occupy it quietly and calmly. You must not disturb the Indian forces. Act as if you have been on the Island for ages and that the name of the Island has been Vagabond Isle from its inception."

"Will the Indian Forces there believe it?"

"You have got to fool them. You must live and act and talk in such a way that they are compelled to believe you. You may be a rogue but you have to act to appear innocent. You may be intelligent, but you have to act and show that you are a fool. Take Fishing Equipment and show that you are a lot of Fishermen."

"O.K."

"Will you send a messenger to give me the news of the progress?"

"Right Prince. Vandanam."

"Vandanam."

That night the Prince didn't get any sleep. His mind was obsessed by the vision of the new Island. This Island must become the homeland of the Vagabonds. There can be no compromise on this issue. But how? All the night he paced up and down in his cell, thought out one plan after another plan, but the final solution and correct approach was eluding him.

Amar Pandhi went to Puri and met his team of Vagabonds selected for going to the Island, who had already hired two motorised fishing boats to take them to the new Island. From Puri the Island was about 900 miles (1500 km.). It took three days and nights to reach the Island in fishing boats. Each boat could carry 50 passengers. So both the boats had to make 10 trips to carry all the 1000 Vagabonds. Time was costly. So three hundred Vagabonds came to Karikal, south of Madras, and hired two more motorised fishing boats. Karikal was also about 900 miles from the Island. Amar Pandhi who had gone in the first boat, sent back one Vagabond to meet the Prince in jail, and to give

him first hand report.

For 10 days the Prince was having an anxious time in the jail. He could hardly rest. Till the Vagabond messenger could meet him, Time seemed to move like ages. He heaved a sigh of relief when at last he saw the face of the messenger, none other than Ajnabi. Ajnabi narrated to the Prince, the whole story from Puri to the Island, and back again. The Island was fairly large. Tents, bedding, food, drinking water had all been taken by the Vagabonds to the Island. The Prince was yearning to visit the Island himself but could not do so until he was freed. He had to accept this conditions and live without anxiety. The messenger left, saying he would go to Puri, catch the boat when it returned from the Island for its next trip, and return to meet the Prince within 10-12 days.

CHAPTER 20

Sudarshan Chakra

The Prince while in his cell was often thinking of the new Island. Slowly his mind would get fixed on one and only thought—"What shall I do for my people and for my motherland?" Then suddenly his mind would get in tune with some one far far away and he would start meditating and would then hum a soliloquy:

"Why did my mother keep my name Arjan? Tell me mother, why have I so much studied and analysed 'Geeta' and got myself absorbed in its philosophy? Will I learn something new from the 'Geeta'? Will I learn something new from the 'Mahabharata'? I feel to be drawn so much towards 'Sudarshan Chakra' of Krishna. Will I find some clue? Tell me my mother, will I invent and make some new weapon—altogether a new design and a new principle—to use against my enemy? Will this weapon be a subtle weapon to be used in a subtle way?

"Tell me my mother. A new invention will shatter the stability of many. Will I be the one to bring about a revolution? Will I be the one to invent a new awe-inspiring weapon? Will it give me subtle strength to bring down my enemy? What shall I do now?" His mind dwelt deeply upon the thought of the 'Sudarshan Chakra'. His eyes a bit swollen with tears, the Prince would pray, addressing his Mother—Mother Almighty—as if she was in front of him, "Tell me my Mother, what shall I do? What shall I do for you, my sweet Mother?"

This prayer gave an enormous solace and courage to the

Prince. In his solitary cell his mind would often become depressed, and in this depressed condition, tears would slowly trickle from his eyes, and he would atonce remember his Mother—the ever present supreme power—and then he would fall into a reverie, resolving and analysing a train of thoughts mingled with sorrow, doubt, dejection, fear, urge, hope, faith, wisdom, courage, struggle to achieve his desire and then a strange feeling would overcome him, and he would close his eyes and fall asleep. He would hardly recollect how long he had slept. He would see his mother and motherland and the supreme Mother—the Atma—all merged into one and then he would rise with a strange impulse as if an impelling force was stimulating him to get up and get up soon. "I have to shake up this lethargy to do something— something which will be completely new and something which will take me far and far away."

"My sweet Mother, tell me is'nt the 'Geeta' a discourse to Arjan, to make a warrior out of him? Why then do professional Pandits and Swamis make a mess of all this discourse, and give a saintly garb to the 'Geeta', and then read out its passages and pages to impress upon their disciples and to convince them to be saintly, without telling them what is meant by the word 'saintly'? Tell me my Mother, why do these Pandits and Swamis make a lethargic and weakling out of an ordinary working person? Tell me Mother, will I be a brave warrior?—A fearless warrior?"

CHAPTER 21

Reconditioned Fishing Trawlers

"What shall I do now for the Vagabond Isle? Can it sustain over a million Vagabonds? We must find some immediate support for atleast a part of this number, who will always or most of the time stay on the Isle. One solution is the Fishing Industry. Can this industry, by itself support us? And can we have a few Fishing Trawlers? We have hardly any experience in catching fish. This, however, will not be difficult. We can rely on the existing Fishery Institutes, located in at least 9 to 10 places in India, and get a bit of know-how from them. But the question is of procuring trawlers. Our organisation is not rich. We cannot purchase new trawlers at this moment. Perhaps we can get some damaged trawlers, duly reconditioned at a throw away price. There are many of them in Japan. Typhoons of the Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean, some times, have played havoc on trawlers. Perhaps, Amar Pandhi could send some suitable Vagabond to Japan and complete a deal."

This obsession—"What shall I do for the Isle"—simply possessed the Prince. He had plenty of time to think while he was in jail. He was impatient and ambitious, as he always was before. In his cell he could hardly sit. He paced and sat and stood up again to pace and all this almost absent mindedly, his mind fixed on one thought "the Fishing Trawlers". The Prince could hardly sleep till Ajnabi, the messenger, came for the second time. Ajnabi could only come after he had a chance to go to Puri, wait

for the hired trawler, then go to the Isle, and discuss with Amar Pandhi, return and then visit the Prince in jail. The minimum time, for this routine trip of the messenger, was 10 days.

At last Ajnabi visited the jail and gave the report of his talk with Amar Pandhi, the progress he had done in the Isle, the tricky problem of holding discussions with the Indian Police, and in handling the Government of India, so that Vagabonds retain this Isle for themselves alone. The messenger told him that Amar Pandhi had accompanied him and was staying with a friend in the city, not very far from the jail. The Prince told the messenger to convey to Amar Pandhi, his views about Fish Industry and the proposal of purchase of trawlers from Japan.

A few days later the messenger visited the jail again and told the Prince that Amar Pandhi liked the idea. Amar Pandhi himself would go to Japan, to complete the deal, as he knew the Japanese personnel at the Japanese Embassy at Calcutta, and further that Amar Pandhi had already got his Indian passport, and he only needed a visa from the Japanese Embassy.

Amar Pandhi didn't loose any time. He was always ready for a trip. He took the evening train to Calcutta and stayed the night with a friend and the next day visited the Japanese Embassy. He got his visa and a few letters addressed to the Japanese officials in Tokyo. All the formalities completed in one day, he left by the JAL airlines for Tokyo.

Pandhi was shown 20 damaged and obsolete trawlers at Osaka which the owner had been thinking of scrapping away. But now that there was a customer, the owner willingly agreed to have the trawlers overhauled and fitted with second-hand but in good condition—deck machinery, nets etc. One of the trawlers was to be fitted with electronic and sonic instruments and another one with Ice making Plant, for deep freezing of the fish, as soon as these were

caught and put in the fish holds of trawlers. Each trawler had a capacity of 100 gross tons and had a length of 60 feet (18 metres) breadth at middle 25 feet (7.5 metres) depth at middle 10 feet (3 metres) and each one was provided with a swing jib crane of 5 ton capacity. Diesel engine was the standard 10 ton Truck engine which was easily available in Japan. It's rating was 150 BHP at 1800 rpm. The capacity of the trawler for fuel oil was 4000 litres, for fresh water 2500 litres, and fish hold 5000 litres. The crew was to be a captain, a scientist and 5 to 8 helpers. The total price for the 20 trawlers was 33 lacs of rupees (100 million yens). The delivery period was 5 trawlers per month. The trawler owner was willing to give training in repair and fishing operation to Vagabonds at an extra charge. Now the question was how to pay. Pandhi could give them Indian money from the bank balance to the credit of Vagabond organisation, but then he would have to register the trawlers with the Indian Government. Finally it was settled that Pandhi would keep a security deposit of Rs. 5,00,000 (five lacs) with the Tokyo Bank in Calcutta and pay all the 33 lacs of rupees by way of deep frozen fish and for this a Japanese ship or trawler of big size, would meet the Vagabond trawlers at a point about 400 km. away from the Indian shores and that the cost of the frozen fish would be Rs. 3/- per kg. Pandhi had no idea about the prevailing prices and how would this actually cost Vagabonds, but completed the transaction. This took Pandhi only 5 days after which he returned to Calcutta and immediately gave a copy of the contract to the Japanese Embassy and deposited Rs. 5,00,000/- in the Tokyo Bank as security deposit for 3 years.

Ajnabi visited the jail and met the Prince and apprised him of the deal with Japan and told him that now Vagabonds would have to be selected to go to Japan. Pandhi had suggested 4 Vagabonds for each trawler. The Prince approved this and then said that it was necessary to select

at least 80 to 100 additional Vagabonds to take training in some of the Marine Institutes located in India.

The messenger met Amar Pandhi, who summoned fifty Vagabonds to meet him at Hazaribagh, at his friend's house. Pandhi gave his plan and 40 Vagabonds were ready to go to Japan. They had to get passports and visas. Twenty were to proceed as soon as possible and twenty after two months. The balance 10 Vagabonds had to collect information about the Marine Institutes and then get enrolled, not only themselves, but also 90 more Vagabonds, for a 3 months' course in Deep Sea Fishing. Like this 100 Vagabonds were being selected every 3 months for Fisheries course.

The first batch of five trawlers, was received by Amar Pandhi at the Vagabond Isle, exactly two months after the signing of the contract. These 5 trawlers were named Vandanam-1, Vandanam-2, Vandanam-3, Vandanam-4 and Vandanam-5, after the saluting format of Vagabonds. Vandanam-5 was the trawler with Ice Plant. Vandanam-1 was fitted with Sonic Instruments, Small Radar set and electronic Radio phones and receivers. Accordingly Vandanam-1 was the costliest of the of the trawlers and its Captain and scientist were the best and trusted Vagabonds. On the very first day of the arrival of trawlers, Pandhi, Ajnabi and 30 other Vagabonds, boarded the trawlers along with their regular crew and took the first test at a point longitude 90° and latitude 70° i.e. west of the Isle. They spent 14 days on high seas and caught 20 tons of various fish. The fish were immediately frozen, and all the 5 trawlers were taken back to the Isle.

No one had any idea of selling fish. The first Japanese boat was not expected until the second batch of 5 trawlers had left Japan. Diesel oil and lubricating oil had to be regularly purchased. Should they go to India, Bangladesh, or Indonesia, or Burma or Malasia or Singapore to sell fish and purchase fuel?

For the present they did not wish to go to India. So

Amar Pandhi sent his Vagabonds to Singapore, Rangoon, Kuala Lumpur and Chittagong. He himself went to Banda Atjeh, the nearest port in Indonesia and from there to Djakarta. Indonesians were very slow and rude to deal with. At first they started doubting him. Then by great patience Pandhi was able to convince them, that the frozen fish deal would increase the co-operation with a new-country, Vagabond Isle, and that the Vagabonds were not asking for money but diesel oil in exchange, which was in abundance in Indonesia, and that the fish could be delivered at any point as suggested by Djakarta. The Djakarta Government wanted Indian Rs. 1.00 per litre of diesel oil and that they were willing to pay only Rs. 3.50 per kg. of fish. Besides diesel oil, it was necessary to purchase lubricating oil and grease worth Rs. 400/-. The diesel oil tank in the trawler had to be filled to full capacity i.e. 4000 litres worth Rs. 4000/-. So total value of oil and grease was Rs. 4,400/-. Against this, the quantity of fish to be given was 1255 kgs. Locally in retail the fish sold at Rupiah 400/- per kg. (one Indian Rupee=40 Indonesian Rupiah). So the local merchant made up Rs. 10,000/- though this included some selling expenses. After the first transaction the Vagabond Government opened a bank account at Djarkarta.

Similar trade agreement was made with Singapore and Rangoon. Within a month an agreement was also made with India.

4,000 litres of diesel could make a trawler run for about 12,000 km. The distance from the Vagabond Isle to Djarkarta was approximately 2,000 km., the Isle to Singapore 1,500 km. and the Isle to Rangoon 1,250 km. To and fro idle running of a trawler, just to have the fuel oil filled, would be double the above distance and this was very costly as far as Djakarta was concerned. So Amar Pandhi again approached the Indonesian Government and got permit to give delivery of the fish at Banda Atjeh and also

have the fuel oil filled there. The distance from the Isle to Banda was only 500 km. So this was the best. However, Amar Pandhi did business with all the other neighbouring governments besides the Japanese.

By practice and gain in experience, the fish catch increased. All the 5 trawlers moved only slightly in one particular area. This saved fuel and time. Schools of fish were located by the first trawler i.e. Vandanam-1. As soon as the swarms of fish were located, all the trawlers were organised in such a way, that catching of fish in their nets would give best results. Two to three tons catch from every school of fish, became normal. In one ton there could be as many as 1000 to 5000 fish, depending on the size. Trawlers Vandanam-1 and Vandanam-5 didn't go to get fuel oil. In these two trawlers, oil was transferred on the sea from one of the other 3 trawlers, which were sent to get oil and sell fish to Indonesia, India, Singapore and Burma.

The best arrangement was with Japan, for they brought their ship in midstream for transfer of the fish. The first ship arrived as soon as second batch of five trawlers—Vandanam-6, Vandanam-7, Vndanam-8, Vandanam-9 and Vandanam-10 reached at the Vagabond Isle. Vandanam-6 was fitted with instruments and Vandanam-10 with an Ice Plant. When the Japanese ship arrived, the 10 trawlers had already caught 30 tons of fish and had stored these in their holds along with packed ice for deep freezing. To transfer these 30 tons, it took as much as 20 hours.

A suggestion was given to the ship's captain that this time could be reduced to 2 to 3 hours, if the fish were kept in standard 205 litre drums, and when transfer was required, these drums could be lifted by a crane, and transferred from the trawler to the ship. This idea was not liked by the ship's captain, but out of courtesy he said, that he would refer to his employers. Later on, it was found out that the Japanese wanted to stay over for the whole night

and move away the next day. The reason was also found out. It was that the Japanese wanted a natural excuse to come to these waters and stay for a day or so, mainly to photograph and listen Diego Garcia. Diego Garcia was about 1800 km. from the area where the trawlers were standing. And this distance was within the range of the Japanese instruments to take movie pictures of Diego Garcia and take recordings of all voices and sounds.

The Japanese ship now came regularly every 10 days and collected 25 to 30 tons of fish. The price of the fish was deposited by the ship's Captain in the account of the Vagabond Government in Osaka. As months passed by and all the 20 trawlers, came to the Vagabond Isle and went for fishing, the catch for Japan increased to 50-60 tons of fish every 10 days i.e. 1500 to 1600 tons every year. Besides this catch, plenty of fish was kept separate for purchase of fuel, grease and rice, wheat, tea, canned milk, sugar etc. for their fortnightly requirements.

It was found that a continuous exposure to sea was not good for health. Accordingly, every Vagabond was advised not to stay for more than two weeks at sea. A regular change was necessary. A few trawlers made regular visits to the Indian shores, specially Cochin and Madras. Here the Vagabonds who had taken rest in India, changed place with the Vagabonds who had come in these trawlers.

CHAPTER 22

Ju Jitsu-Indian Style

The Prince was now busy in his jail. The planning of Vagabond Isle, the work to be done there, the fishing trawlers, the American Base at Diego Garcia, occupied most of his time. He slept very little, and spent most of the time in thinking. Besides these, he didn't forget Pahelwan-Singh and Jujitsu. He had begun to realise that Jujitsu—a method of self defence—must be learned by every Vagabond. So he took lessons, whenever possible, from Pahelwan. He had resolved that he would be an expert master in the art of Jujitsu, so that when released, he could train a few Vagabonds, who in turn would train others.

The Prince became a pupil of Pahelwan Singh, who was happy in the company of the Prince, though such occasions in the jail, were not frequent. Pahelwan was eager to join the Vagabonds after completing his 3 year-term of jail life.

Pahelwan explained to the Prince, that Jujitsu was a set of techniques of weaponless fighting and that in order to be a successful fighter, one must develop suppleness and softness of his body, quickness of action or quickness of muscle reaction, improved breathing style, harmony of mind and body, and control on his arms, legs, and other limbs so that the fighter could skip, hop, and change position with ease and gentleness. He would then be able to use his small but gentle force to control the fierce or forceful strength of the enemy and throw him on the ground.

Pahelwan then told the Prince, "If you are really interested to learn Jujitsu, then keep in mind, the points which I tell you now.

1. "Drill exercises are the same as you must have learnt in your school. However, in Jujitsu these exercises must be performed quickly. Repeated and quick steps of feet and hands and neck and stomach plus twisting and bending will give you suppleness of body and its harmonious development.
2. "During or after school you must have played one or the other game like hockey, football, basket-ball, tennis, swimming, lazem and running. Visualise any of the games which you may have played. Now visualise as if you are to increase the speed of your actions by 10% or 15% or 20%. Will this be possible and that without getting tired too quickly? Lot of practice is necessary. Not only this, but you will have to learn to breathe properly to sustain your stamina. Proper breathing is a science, which you must learn.
3. "While you are in your cell, practise any type of drill which you can do alone. You must control your limbs to move in harmony, as taught to students who learn Indian dancing. That is—as an example—jump and hop, so that your right hand and left leg are in front and then your left hand and right leg are in front, and vice versa and after a time your right hand and right leg are in front and then your left hand and left leg are in front. Your body will automatically take up a posture to harmonise with your above actions.
4. "Practise heavy blows on your pillow that you can hang.
5. "Swing your arms and body from side to side without moving your feet. The movements must be quick smooth and without jerks. Then swing your arms and upper body in one direction as you swing one of your

legs in the opposite direction. Repeat this exercise with your other leg in the other direction. Practise this often.

6. "From a spread leg stance position, your knees straight, bring your head to touch one knee and then the other knee. This exercise must be mastered in such a way that you can accomplish it smoothly and quickly.
7. "You must also practise quick rolling of your body in various ways—forward and backward—while you sit with your hands folded around your knees or at your back or on the ground.
8. "After you have gained confidence in yourself, that you can do all the above exercises with grace and smoothness, you are ready to fight with an assumed enemy. When we get together in the courtyard, I will give you actual practice. But as long as you are in your cell you have to make maximum use of your handicapped conditions. Find out any 2 extruding points on your cell wall or door and assume them to be the shoulders of your enemy. Hold one point as though you were gripping the enemy at the lapel or collar and the other as though you were gripping cloth at his sleeve. Then practise pulling and pushing to simulate your enemy's resistance. Practise various leg movements and leg throw positions.
9. "If you were in a gymnasium and if there were parallel bars or a single bar for exercise, you could have learnt to raise yourself and then throw yourself. This is a necessary practice, to assume that your enemy has thrown you, and you have to save yourself and get up quickly, to oppose your enemy again.
10. "You must also learn to raise your enemy upto your head height, all by using your enemy's attacking power which he will use, and then the art of throwing him on the ground on his back. As you prepare to throw, inhale, and when you execute the throw, exhale

sharply and yell. This breathing and yelling gives an extra effort and concentrates your extra power. While you raise your enemy, you must be careful to see that you yourself do not fall down along with the weight of your enemy. To prevent this, you must see that your feet are held apart and your knees slightly bent, to take up the full thrust of the enemy's weight.

11. "You must not underestimate your enemy. He may be having his method of dealing with you, and then you will be on the floor. Therefore you will have to learn to retain your balance, whenever your enemy pulls you from your shoulder or pushes you or tries to topple you. Your feet must never be parallel to each other, but always at an angle greater than 45° . Further you must never be on one foot, because that is the weakest position and an invitation to your enemy to topple you easily. You must always try to keep your balance and simultaneously change the alignment of the feet of your enemy, by canting, tilting and lifting your enemy, or by pulling or pushing him. You will have your first victory if you impair or weaken the balance of your enemy.
12. "Practise in your cell to throw a visionary enemy. You will have to imagine your enemy and then lift him and throw him. For this you will have to move in or move forward to your enemy very quickly and with ease, without putting in your gross force. You will have to see that you do not walk. Because if you walk, you are supporting yourself on one foot for more than 40% of your time and so vulnerable to being thrown by your enemy. In quick action, as soon as you lift one foot to move in, be sure that you put your body weight on both the feet in minimum time and that your feet are at least 200 mm (8") apart.
13. You must realise that your enemy can also throw you.

So you must practise as though your enemy has thrown you and you are on the ground. If you allow yourself to fall flat, you will be badly hurt and your enemy will lock you. So you must practise to fall on side on one of your hands and then roll back immediately you fall. Use your hands and feet in a quick movement to leap up.

14. "You must also know how to block your enemy's throw.
15. "There are various methods of throwing and falling. You must at least learn 2 or 3 methods and achieve skill in these methods.
16. "After throwing your enemy on the ground, you must immediately hold him and lock him and prevent him from rising. This requires a very great practice. Further in case your enemy throws you down and tries to hold you down, you must be able to break your enemy's hold on you and leap up.
17. "You must then learn to choke your enemy to suffocation. Wind pipe is the most delicate organ. If you can choke your enemy's wind pipe, you can suffocate him to death in no time. Simultaneously you must learn to unlock the enemy's choke, if he has been able to throw you and choke you.
18. "Now you have to assume that your enemy may be having a dagger or a knife. Your watchful eyes must detect the weapon, before the enemy uses it. You must miss the attack and try to give a jolt to your enemy so that he falls down. In the alternative, hold the enemy's hand with your left hand and with exceptionally quick movements keep your feet at a distance of 8" and at an angle and then raise your right hand and give a powerful punch on the enemy's face. You must also practise to kick at the enemy's groin.
19. "To tell you again, you have to instil fear in the mind of your enemy by your subtle and quick movements.

You must be sharp to see and analyse the footwork of your enemy. If his footwork is bad, he will be an easy target for you.

20. "I can teach you most of the difficult acts personally. But till then practise whatever you can, alone in your cell. Remember footwork is most important. This you can easily practise in your cell."

CHAPTER 23

Prince visits the Vagabond Isle

About 5 months after the Prince had been arrested and lodged in Hazaribagh jail, legal council of the Vagabond organisation met Amar Pandhi and showed him a news item in one of the dailies. This news was about another internee who had been arrested and kept in Patna Central jail and against whose arrest an appeal had been heard in the High Court. The court had found the arrest warrant having a flaw—in that a wrong section No. of the penal code had been applied. The Judge had accordingly accepted the appeal and had ordered the release of the internee.

Amar Pandhi checked up the warrant under which the Prince had been arrested. He found the same flaw and made an appeal and got the Prince released.

Prince and Amar Pandhi had a long discussion at the friend's house in Hazaribagh, and then left for Puri and thence to the Vagabond Isle. For 7 days continuously they walked, and surveyed all the places in the Isle and then the Prince told Amar Pandhi that the Isle was their country and therefore the best place for them. It should be developed very fast. During the survey of seven days, Amar Pandhi had shown the Prince a natural inclined ridge which could be converted into reservoirs, to store rain water. The Prince prepared a rough map of the area and on the spot sketched a rough drawing of three step reservoirs on the inclined ridge.

The Prince then said, "The rains will start within two

months. We have very little time. Let 200 or even 300 Vagabonds prepare and process stones with which we can build proper dams to make the water reservoirs. You must ask 3 or 4 Vagabonds to arrange cement to be loaded on the trawlers which will leave Puri."

Amar Pandhi selected 4 Vagabonds, gave them 3 blank cheques to purchase cement in Puri and adjoining areas and to send at least 60 tons in 4 trawlers. It meant that the trawlers on return from Puri would bring cement only. In the meanwhile stone, sand and other dam building material was prepared by 300 Vagabonds and as soon as the cement arrived, the work on the proposed dam of the top tank was started. The dam wall was to be 10' (3,000 mm) wide at the base and 5' (1,500 mm) wide at the top. At the centre its height was 15' (4.5 metres) and the dam wall length was 30' (9 metres). The work on the middle tank and the lower-most tank was taken up when further quantity of cement arrived. The middle tank dam wall had a length of 40' (12 metres) and depth at the centre was 12' (3.6 metres). The lower most tank had a dam wall length of 50' (15 metres) and the centre depth of 10' (3 metres).

The rain fall during the monsoon months of May, June, July and August was about 200 inches (5,000 mm) and by the end of August all the 3 tanks were practically full. The three water tanks gave an extra beauty to the Isle besides the utility of fresh water. The length of water surface in each tank was 300' (90 metres) but the width tapered from 20' to 30' in the top tank, 30' to 40' in the middle tank and 40' to 50' in the lowest tank.

The Prince had ordered out 25,000 saplings of coconut trees which arrived from Indonesia and Burma, during the month of June. These were now growing nicely, though about 10% had been washed away, in rains.

The rain water stored in the top and middle tanks was more than sufficient for all the needs of the Vagabonds on the Isle and in the trawlers. The lower-most tank was

used as an experimental fish farm. About two lacs small fish fry or spawn were obtained from Bali, and other two lacs from Dacca and 10 lacs from Calcutta. It was to be seen whether the 3 types from different countries would agree to live in peace or that one type would be aggressive and kill the other. The spawn from Calcutta was that of Rohu*fish (Indian carp) which proved to be the best, which in 12 months, grew to an approximate length of 14" (350 mm) and a weight of 450 grams. Of the 10 lacs fry only about 50,000 had survived. This shows Vagabonds were lacking in experience of fish culture.

About fifteen Vagabond scientists interested in fish culture, gave their plan to the Prince. And from this day onwards the Prince also became interested in the experimental and scientific exploitation of fish. He asked fishery scientists to prepare a system to have daily analysis of fresh and sea water samples collected from different localities to find pH value, temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, nitrogen, seston, nutrients, alkalinity, chlorophyll, plankton, and other environmental factors. The scientists had also to experiment on the quantity of excreta most appropriate for the fish farm. To find the optimum conditions they had to study all metabolic and physiological activities and the life cycle of feeding, reproduction, movement, distribution of various organisms and the effect of different inputs, on the final output or result.

CHAPTER 24

Swimming & Jujitsu Tests

Within one month of release from the jail, the Prince found many things missing, many ways full of indiscipline, and many irregularities. So he had a discussion with Amar Pandhi and Ajnabi, on the Isle :

Prince : Vandanam

Amar and Ajnabi : Vandanam Prince.

Prince : It seems there is a big vacuum and that the vacuum is growing bigger. Indiscipline is on the increase. The causes are mainly unemployment, laziness and looseness. To induce discipline, my first suggestion is that every Vagabond must learn Jujitsu and swimming. And then to reduce laziness and loose talk, we must plan for more trawlers. Ajnabi, you have to make a start. From today you must have a daily fight with me. I will show you my art of Jujitsu and you must show me your art of fighting, which you have learnt in your profession as a spy.

Ajnabi : At CBI and RAW, I was one of the teachers in the art of fighting. I know some aspects of Jujitsu and Boxing. I also do not like the laziness and ease loving tendency with big talk, that has crept into our organisation.

Prince : What do you say, Amar ?

Amar : I suggest strict measures. At present the number
Pandhi : of Vagabonds have increased to 1-1/2 millions.

One has only to purchase a membership ticket worth one rupee to become a member. This has to be stopped. I suggest that every member must know swimming and either Jujitsu or Boxing. And if any member knows swimming, he must be tested at the Isle. The test should be rigid—either 3 hours in water or 6 km of swimming. Only those Vagabonds who pass this test should be taken on the trawlers. The Captains, Scientists, Vagabond Watchers and the crew—all must pass this test. Many unwanted Vagabonds who will fail in the test will automatically cease to be the members of our organisation.

Prince : Ajnabi, will you take up the responsibility of testing every Vagabond? Further, every Vagabond who passes the test has to be given a registration number.

Ajnabi : I suggest that Vagabond Watchers be strictly tested in their fighting and intelligence collecting calibre.

Prince : At present we have only 20 trawlers. These must be used, not only for catching fish, but also for giving training to those Vagabonds who pass the swimming and fighting tests. This will be your duty Ajnabi. Now Amar, tell me again, what you told me day before yesterday, about more trawlers, which we must immediately purchase.

Amar : When I had been to Japan, I had gathered that there were about 400 more obsolete trawlers which could be repaired and sold to us.

Prince : If we purchase these immediately, we can give employment to 8,000 Vagabonds. How long do you think, it will take you to place the order and how much more time for receiving these in our waters?

- Amar : If you calculate, by now, we have paid $\frac{1}{4}$ the price of 20 trawlers, by way of frozen fish sold to Japanese. Now that all the 20 trawlers are received by the end of another 8 months we will have sold sufficient fish, to pay fully for all the 20 trawlers and there would be a small balance to our credit. So if we place the order for 400 trawlers now, it will be quite easy to convince the Japanese, that we will pay for all the 400 trawlers soon.
- Prince : Then you must not waste time.
- Amar : I can leave tomorrow and catch the JAL plane at Calcutta within 5 days. It will take me another 8 days to complete the purchase of all the 400 trawlers from various owners in Japan.
- Prince : What is the expected life of these reconditioned trawlers ?
- Amar : Not more than 4 years.
- Prince : So must think of purchasing new trawlers also.
- Amar : I will find out the prices and delivery periods of new trawlers, when I am in Japan.
- Prince : We have to think in terms of employing at least half a million Vagabonds, during the next few years. For this we must have at least 25,000 trawlers. Can we purchase this number out of our catch of fish ?
- Amar : We can catch 2,000 tons of fish per year in 20 Vandanam class trawlers and after keeping 400 tons per year for purchase of oil etc., if we sell 1600 tons per year, we get Rs. $1,600 \times 3,000$ i.e. Rs. 48,00,000/-. To my knowledge the cost of a new trawler will be Rs. 40 lacs, but it can be bargained down to Rs. 33 lacs if we place an order for 25,000 trawlers. With 25,000 trawlers we can catch per year 2-1/2 million tons to 3-1/2 million tons of fish out of which we can sell 2

million tons every year to pay towards the cost of trawlers. 2 million tons of fish will give us 4.5 billions to 5 billion rupees, covering the cost of 2,500 trawlers. One provision has to be visualised. If we catch so much fish, the selling price will have to be reduced.

Prince : Can Japan give us 25,000 new trawlers in one year? Further why should we not assemble trawlers at our Isle? We can purchase trawler hulls each fitted with standard 150 HP diesel engine, propeller shaft with propeller and steering mechanism. The balance equipment i.e. deck machinery, ice-plants, Instruments etc. can be purchased by us from original manufacturers and despatched along with the hulls. We can make cabins locally and do the fitting of equipment also locally. By this we can save a lot and simultaneously give employment to many Vagabonds and further, we can form a base for our future expansion.

Amar : That is a nice idea. I will collect all the information. Perhaps I will visit Korea and Taiwan to find out if these countries are interested in supplying trawlers.

Prince : Vandanam.

Amar : Vandanam.

Ajnabi : Vandanam.

CHAPTER 25

400 Re-Conditioned Trawlers

Amar Pandhi returned from Japan and gave his report to the Prince. Ajnabi was also present.

Amar : Vandanam Prince

Pandhi

Prince : Vandanam Amar.

Ajnabi : Vandanam Amar.

Amar : I have placed the order for 400 reconditioned trawlers for a total price of 6-1/2 crores of rupees (two billion yen). 80 of these will be fitted with Radar, Sonic and other instruments, 80 with ice-plants. One additional advantage is that every trawler will have a Radiophone. We will be getting delivery of fifty trawlers every month. So we have to select Vagabonds quickly, to send them to Japan.

Prince : Ajnabi will tell us how many Vagabonds have been selected by him.

Ajnabi : I have tested about 2,000 Vagabonds during the past three weeks. This includes captains, scientists, Vagabond watchers and crew.

Amar : We have to send one Captain, one Scientist one
Pandhi Vagabond watcher and two crew members to Japan for each and every trawler. First we must send those who have already got training on our 20 trawlers and allow other Vagabonds to take training here before they are sent to

Japan.

Ajnabi : It is very necessary that every Vagabond who goes to Japan must learn the Japanese language, and collect some daily papers, periodicals, maps and books on Japan and bring back, with himself in the trawler.

Prince : How far have you organised your system of enlarging the information ?

Ajnabi : Ten Vagabond watchers, including two scientists have completed training to scrutinise foreign papers, maps and consolidate information and make intelligence reports for our use. One such report has already been given to you. This section is to be further expanded. Every Vagabond who visits Japan must bring the daily papers, latest maps and periodicals. Likewise I am starting a section for Indonesia, Singapore and other places. As far as India, I have many contacts.

Prince : Now Amar, what about new trawlers ?

Amar : Japanese are eager to sell us new trawlers. I was shown the latest type of a trawler. It was 100 ft. (30 m) in length, 40 ft. (12 m) in width at the middle, 20 ft. (6 m) in depth at the middle. It had twin jib crane, 10 tons on each side of the trawler, 400 HP diesel engine, which again was standard with a Crawler Tractor. It had a special type of deck machinery, and an extra big ice-plant. What impressed me most was its instrumentation—highly sensitive and sophisticated Echograph and Fish finder, with integrated computer system, which can show roaming shoals of fish at depths upto 1500 metres, and high range Radar System and communication system to get advance information about clouds and storm. Communicating from this trawler with anyone on the Isle or with India will be an easy

job. Even messages from Intelsat can be recorded, leave aside TV broadcasts from India and Australia. This trawler can be an excellent laboratory for us. Its cost is one crore and 20 lacs of rupees. This trawler is equivalent to a mother trawler. 6 to 10 Vandanam class trawlers can be looked after by one mother trawler.

Prince : What is the delivery schedule ?

Amar : Mother trawlers can be had one per month immediately. But if we order out 25,000 Vandanam class trawlers, we will need 2,500 Mother trawlers. So if we immediately order out all the 2,500 Mother trawlers and 10,000 complete Vandanam class trawlers and 15,000 Vandanam hulls with engines etc., then the delivery schedule would be slow during the first year but with increasing tempo, the whole order would be planned and completed in 5 years. There is a terrible recession in Japan and the Japanese are eager to have this order which will greatly boost up the Japanese industry. Japan is willing to give us these trawlers with part deferred terms of payment.

Prince : Calculate the total investment, the payment every year and the value of the fish catch.

Amar : I will give you all the figures tomorrow. I will have to train up a Vagabond as finance secretary, who will assist me in keeping all the records upto date.

Prince : Ajnabi, you have a big task and a big opportunity ahead. For 2,500 Mother trawlers or shall I name them Mata-Samudram Class trawlers, and 25,000 Vandanam class trawlers, how many and how soon can you train our Vagabonds ?

Ajnabi : I will take 3 days to prepare a schedule of training and testing.

- Prince : Immediately you must prepare this schedule for 400 reconditioned trawlers and then for Mata-Samudram and new Vandanam class trawlers.
- Amar : We have to plan for assembly of 15,000 Vandanam class trawlers.
- Prince : It is time we expand our Trio to have another set of three men to help us in three different projects—one for purchase of trawlers, one for selling of fish and one for repair and assembly of trawlers.
- Amar : Let us call these three men a triumvirate, consisting of Jwala Jal, Nirmal Neer and Pavan Pani. These three men will have to be of the best calibre and very thoroughly tested.
- Prince : As we grow, the reins will have to be tightened more and more.
- Amar : True Prince. Looseness of any kind has to be squeezed out.
- Prince : Vandanam.
- Amar &
Ajnabi Vandanam.

CHAPTER 26

Japan in a Swoop

"10,000 Vandanam class trawlers fully assembled and tested plus 15,000 hulls each with engine, propeller, steering etc. and separately 15,000 sets of deck machinery, double walled freezing boxes and other equipment for assembling and testing at the Isle, would cost about 60 billion rupees. 2,500 Mata Samudram class trawlers would cost 30 billion rupees. Spares and servicing and assembling shops would cost another 10 billion rupees. That means a total of 100 billion rupees.

"The fish catch in 25,000 Vandanam trawlers, working under 2,500 Mata Samudram trawlers, would be about 5 million tons per year. The selling price of the fish would drop down to rupees 2,500 per ton. Perhaps, we could sort out and classify the fish catch, which will give us more money. If 3 million tons of fish were sold to Japan, the amount realised every year would be 7.5 billion rupees. The catch may increase to 6 million tons in which case 4 million tons could be sold to Japan and 10 billion rupees paid back every year."

Amar Pandhi, took his finance secretary and Jwala Jal to Japan and accepted the proposal of deferred payments spread out to 10 years—i.e. 10% every year. The order was finalised and Amar Pandhi along with his team returned to the Isle.

"How could a petty government on the petty Vagabond Isle place a single order of 100 billion rupees or 11 billion USA dollars? And how on earth could the foolish Japanese

accept such order? Sure, Japan was going to be drowned in the waters of the Indian Ocean and consumed away by the Vagabond Fish." This was a common comment throughout the world. Some envied Japan for getting this huge order. Others laughed and ridiculed Japan. India remained bewildered and said, 'Wait and Watch'. No country could ever place such a huge order in such a short period. It became a joke for many, but some sane people thought it otherwise. They imagined a rising power on the Isle, though they considered it a terrible gamble.

Japan was shaken. A happy wave of resurrection from recession, which had raised Japanese optimism during the first week of signing of the contract, gave place to doubts, criticism, self analysis and a complete re-evaluation. "Shall the order be cancelled? What will happen if the Vagabond Government failed?" Such doubts filled the media of Japan. But the hungry stomachs of recession echoed back to hold—the order must not be cancelled. Japan, however, asked the Vagabond Government to insure the Fleet of Trawlers with International Insurance Pool. This raised the cost of trawlers by 10%.

The Vagabond government thought over and over again. There was no choice. The Fleet would have to be insured. "We must hit back," said the Prince. So the Fleet was insured and the world criticism came to an end.

The reaction was altogether strange. Norway offered its famous trawlers, followed quickly by UK, Holland, Germany, France, Poland, Korea and Taiwan. They were willing to offer the same deferred terms of payment. They even extended the period of deferred payments to 15 years. They sent excellent literature, quotations and a lot of engineering data.

The Prince discussed with Pandhi and Ajnabi. "Can we take advantage of the situation? We want some trawlers with the latest instruments to listen to Diego Garcia. We want some protection devices. We must guard our Fleet

and for this advance intimation of any danger must be known to us. Say Ajnabi, what is your idea of protection?"

"We can get such instruments from the European suppliers. I am inclined to think that an opportunity has just been thrown open to us. We have got to exploit this opportunity."

"Now Amar, you must select a team of the best scientists on our trawlers, and check up what type of instruments are available. Of the 2,500 Mata Samudram trawlers, we must at least convert 25 into spy ships. What do you say?"

"Even if we have one spy ship, it will be a great asset. We must not create suspicion. Diego Garcia can immediately find out our spy ships if we have 25. I suggest we equip one Mata Samudram and convert it into Mata Spy and then go ahead a bit slow in this direction. But we must all the same, place orders on all the European suppliers who have offered us trawlers."

"This morning an offer has been received from Canada. They are prepared to supply us trawlers. I am sure USA, China and USSR will also offer their trawlers. Every new design from every different country will give us a new experience, though it may cost us more to keep a big inventory. We have to place orders on all the supplier countries."

"Amar, what will happen if you placed orders with all these countries? Will they not doubt in our capacity? It is necessary that you meet them—one and all—who have offered us trawlers. Get maximum information specially about the instruments and controls. At the end tell them, that we want to be frank, that we must create more faith by showing to the world, that we have paid due instalments to the Japanese. Accordingly we can place the order only when we have paid at least 2 years instalments, which means the European trawlers must be delivered to us only 3 years hence or later."

"Yes, Prince. Vandanam".

"Vandanam".

CHAPTER 27

Pahelwansingh shows his Mettle

Pahelwansingh was released from Jail, 6 months before his term. He was considered a good prisoner. So he was given 2 months remission per year.

Pahelwansingh came right away to the Isle and met the Prince. The Prince asked Ajnabi to arrange a mock fight and test Pahelwan. The first fight was between Pahelwan and Ajnabi. Pahelwan won. Then there were 5 more fights, between Pahelwan and selected crew. In all the fights, Pahelwan won with merit. Pahelwan was acclaimed the best fighter. He was given charge of teaching all the Vagabonds in Jujitsu, in the centres, spread throughout India and on the Isle as well as on the trawlers. Pahelwan knew swimming and he introduced a new technique of water Jujitsu.

By this time, there were 50 Mata Samudram class trawlers and 500 new Vandanam class of trawlers, engaged in catching fish in the Indian Ocean. The echo and sonic penetration power of Mata Samudram instruments, helped greatly in locating many shoals of fish, which otherwise could have gone untraced. The fish catch had increased beyond expectations. The deferred instalments were therefore very easily given to the Japanese. The catch of fish was much more than sold to Japan against deferred payments plus that given to India, Indonesia etc. for getting fuel and food. The surplus fish was offered to USA at Rs. 2,500/- per ton in bulk and at Rs. 7/- per kg. for selected fish in retail. Diego Garcia wanted this selected fish,

not only for their consumption, but also to get a chance to send their launches to the Vagabond Isle.

The Prince remarked to Amar Pandhi and Ajnabi, "The game of prowling by foxes and cats has started. Will you continue the game or get tired?"

Ajnabi was quick to reply. "Our watchers will remain alert now 24 hours every day. We have one Mata Spy now. But within another 12 months, our scientists will be fitting 5 more Mata Samudrams with electronic instruments to make them Mata Spies. Our Isle is also being fitted with all types of electronic listening devices."

Amar Pandhi said, "First 5 trawlers of the Norwegian make will be ready at the end of this month. Five Vagabond captains with their teams have gone to take delivery. These trawlers are about the same size as Mata Samudram but are fitted with different instruments and different types of longline automated hooks."

"India is now eager to get our order. Our Vandanam class of trawlers can be easily made by many ship yards in India.

"I have already dicussed with the Indian authorities. India has started making CRP, GRP and JRP (Cofirfibre, Glassfibre and Jutefibre Reinforced Poleyster resin) moulded hulls. They can make Vandanam class reinforced moulded hulls at 75% of the cost of steel plate hulls. The diesel engine of 150 HP is standard for the Indian 10 Ton trucks. The deck machinery, propellers etc. and electronic instrumentation is made in many factories in India. I am awaiting their confirmed offer for 10,000 trawlers for delivery in 5 years."

"Our Vagabonds can easily be absorbed by them and released while the trawlers are handed over."

"India is willing to pay Rs. 2,500/- per ton of fish delivered at Cochin, Mangalore or Machhlipatnam."

"I have placed order for 5000 Vandanam class trawlers with Korea and 5000 with Taiwan. Both will be completing

the delivery in 5 years."

"Do you mean to say that at the end of 5 years from today, we will be having as many as 6000 Mata Samudram trawlers and 60,000 Vandanam trawlers, i.e. when all the trawlers will have been received from Japan, India, Korea, Taiwan, European countries, Canada and USA?"

"Our fish catch will then be 14 to 15 million tons per year. The selling price of 12 million tons of fish—which we will be giving to cover instalment payments—will be Rs. $12,000,000 \times 2,500 =$ Rs. 30,000,000,000/- say 30 billions. And as we have now started grading and classifying fish, I expect a return of about 5 billion rupees more per year."

"Are we not expanding too fast?"

"True, but you must remember, we have been forced to expand so quick, by conditions which condition you, me and every one and over which we have no control. Simultaneously you must know that if we fail to keep up the level of expansion or if we ever become stagnant, it will be our doom."

CHAPTER 28

Alice Springs

"Vandanam Prince."

"Vandanam Ajnabi. What information?"

"Diego Garcia is going to have a major American Task Force in 6 months. It is going to be an eye wash to deceive all the Littoral States around the Indian Ocean. The existing Air Base and the Naval Base at Diego are to be reduced in force to satisfy Soviets, Indians and a host of other Nations. But this again is a further eye wash. The real rogue is hidden in the water-hole wilderness of Alice Springs, far far away in the central desert area of Australia. This Alice Base is the world's most sophisticated Electronic Installation and a top secret Listening Post which can monitor even the talk we are having just now."

"So are you afraid of it?"

"No, Prince. We have to guard ourselves now in a bit different way. Diego Base has an Electronic Monitoring System, which even by itself is far superior to ours. Even our Mata Spy is a child before Diego. We will have to think deep and find a solution to deceive the deceivers at Diego and Alice. The Americans have already poured in 10 billion dollars in the Electronic Installation at Alice—which they just call Waterhole Project. About 200 Australian Scientists are also working there. Besides, there is a host of American Intelligence Cargo, selected from CIA and FBI. This waterhole Project at Alice is connected to Diego, and Diego receives every bit of information collected by the Waterhole. This is not an end. The Waterhole is

also connected to the Australian Electronic Base at Canberra, fully financed by NASA."

"Well Ajnabi, have you heard of a new American Base at Philippine? This is also a highly intricate Electronic Base. It came in papers that Philippine Government will receive a rent and retainer of 500 million dollars every year from USA. How many Americans will man this Philip Base? I do not know, nor was it mentioned in the papers."

"It will be easy. I will find out. If Philip is getting 500 million dollars every year, Aussies must be getting double or triple this amount."

"The Pacific Islands—Johnston, Wake, Midway, Guam, Hawaii, Somoa, Kwajalein, Marshall and a score more—are all military bases and all provided with the most sophisticated electronic ears and linked to Alice Springs Base. It is a grand American Strategy to gridle the Globe".

"So much the better."

"We must be grateful to USA, for being instrumental in making us remain on the alert. But for their pin-pricking policy, we could easily have fallen into a snare of self-deceiving ease. It is high time we thought of countering the American Strategy."

"Yes Prince, Vandanam"

"Vandanam."

CHAPTER 29

Floating Factory

The old reconditioned trawlers were getting obsolete. The Prince discussed with Amar Pandhi, then selected a captain and three scientists and asked them to provide a Floating Gantry Crane of 20 Tons capacity, on 2 trawlers. The Prince prepared a rough sketch and asked the selected scientists to make detailed drawings for connecting the 2 trawlers at 4 points—2 points near the bottom of each trawler and 2 points on the deck. The Gantry crane was to have one leg on the first trawler and the other leg on the second trawler. This became the first Vagabond Floating Factory for repairing, overhauling and assembling new trawlers. Out of 420 old reconditioned trawlers. 220 trawlers were converted into 110 Floating Factories.

2 trawlers likewise were connected at 4 points. But instead of a Gantry Crane, the Prince asked for drawings to be prepared for a hollow shaft, one metre in diameter and 5 metres long, to be made of glass fibre reinforced polyester resin, for fixing between the 2 trawlers, for scientific study of fish and for underwater fish photography. This shaft was therefore provided with several windows, fitted with leakproof glasses. After experimentation and success 50 such Floating Photo Shafts were made.

Amar Pandhi had purchased underwater cameras, Aqua lungs, lights and air cylinders for frogmen. Already 10 Vagabond frogmen were taking underwater photos of fish, and other sea animals. With this equipment the frogmen could remain in water till the air in the cylinders was con-

sumed. One frogman could expose one roll of 1,000 ft., of 35 mm film in one day and shoot extra-ordinary film of fishes anemones and many sea animals. 5 rolls were necessary for a documentary film show of 10 minutes. 5 negative colour film rolls from Japan cost Rs. 2,000/-. After exposure, development, sound dubbing, editing and printing one copy, a 10 minute run film and a copy could be sold in India for Rs. 50,000/-. Development, sound dubbing, editing and one print cost Rs. 8,000/-. So there was a gross income of Rs. 40,000/ on 5 rolls. With 10 Vagabond frogmen daily income was Rs. 80,000/-.

Now 50 Floating Photoshafts were also used to take moving pictures of all marine animals. One Floating Photoshaft could expose 5 rolls of film per day. So 50 documentary films could be prepared every day, with a daily income of $50 \times 40,000/-$ i.e. Rs. 2,000,000/- or a yearly income of $2000,000 \times 300$ i.e. sixty crores of rupees.

A new device was invented by a few Vagabond scientists. This was a GRP Bathyscope 3 metres in diameter, which could be lowered by a Mata Samudram trawler, down to 1,500 metres, or even 2,000 metres, by means of deck winches. Chains and airtubes were connected to the Bathyscope. 3 scientist photographers could remain in the Bathyscope and shoot pictures of detailed process of catching fish—right from locating of shoal of fish, lowering and manoeuvring of nets or seine, catching of fish and raising the seine. When this film was developed, printed and projected on the screen—apparatus for which was provided in every Mata Spy trawler—the Vagabonds could actually see their own operation and could bring about many improvements and innovations in their work.

One Vagabond scientist innovated mechanical manipulators for the Bathyscope. With electronic instruments and LASER beam—Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation—provided in the Bathyscope, it was possible to locate marine ridges and plateaus. If any ridge or

plateau was within 2,000 metres reach, it was possible to take up samples of earth and sometimes precious stones, with the help of manipulators. One Bathyscope, while searching for plateaus, came across innumerable nodules of manganese, chrome, nickel, iron and molybdenum. The location was kept secret. Another crane was used to raise these nodules. These nodules were very costly and could fetch Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 50,000/- per ton.

The Prince provided the remaining 100 obsolete trawlers with automatic remote controlled steering and remote controlled engine operation, so that a scientist standing on the Isle or on another trawler and having the controlling panel in his hands, could control the movements of the remote controlled trawler (RC trawler). First three RC trawlers were tested by the Prince, Amar Pandhi and Ajnabi. They practiced for many days and innovated a mock fight of RC trawlers. The Prince called it trawler Jujitsu. The remote control operation was improved by the Prince and then he told Ajnabi to select one hundred scientists for learning the operation of RC trawlers, and the art of trawler Jujitsu. Out of these 100, only 10 were to be finally selected for a new type of venture.

CHAPTER 30

Come what May

Time passes quickly. One year elapses and then the other. You hardly realise that you have grown old and a bit more experienced. However, you would remember your time, if you had fallen into a deep ditch, or had been compelled to pass through hurdles untold, or had fallen into a trap. If you came out of the ditch, or if you crossed the hurdles or if you got out of the trap, then you would sure remember your time very well.

This happened to the Prince. Life at the Isle was not smooth. Every day there would be one or the other accident, or a project gone all amiss, or a note from a supplier, which would normally unbalance any one and put one into a deep depression. But the Prince withstood all the shocks calmly. Every slap made him more courageous and resolute. "Come what may, we have got to go ahead". This is what he said to Amar Pandhi and Ajnabi and then added, "Every slap gives us a chance to withstand it. Every hurdle gives us a chance to overcome it. This in turn gives us a chance to learn from our experience and be more resolute and firm."

Six years had gone by on the Isle. There were two million Vagabonds now, and out of these five lacs were Vagabond watchers. Of the 6,000 Mata Samudram trawlers and 60,000 Vandanam trawlers, about 85% had been received—i.e. about 5,000 Matasamudrams and 50,000 Vandanams. Out of the cost of these—which was a formidable 230 billion rupees—35% i.e. 80 billion rupees had been

paid as deferred instalments.

The Vagabond trawlers had traversed every point of the Indian Ocean, except those that were forbidden i.e. 200 mile EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone) and far reaches of Antarctica. The life at the sea was very harsh. Quite a number of Vagabonds had become sea sick.

The Prince was searching a different track. He had been making experiment after experiment, to find out a subtle weapon to outmanoeuvre Vagabond enemies. He had achieved a part success. He had yet to perfect his subtle weapon—a GRP missile only 500 mm (20") long and 150 mm (6") diameter at the centre.

Ajnabi had selected 25 RC scientists from amongst the 100, who could control and operate the remote controlled trawlers properly. The Prince called these RC Scientists and told them to practise regularly every day for 2 months, when they would again be tested for a final selection of 10 RC Scientists.

The Prince had kept one RC trawler for his personal use and so also Amar Pandhi, whereas Ajnabi kept the Mata Spy for his use.

CHAPTER 31

The Flute

The Prince called Amar Pandhi and Ajnabi to his RC trawler. He had brought his box containing the 500 mm long missile.

The Prince started, "I have called you here to show you my missile, which I have often called Flute. However, it is just the reverse. This Flute of mine is neither sweet nor melodious. It cannot be compared to Krishna's Flute, which was so sweet and melodious that even the cattle would be attracted to its melody. My Flute produces extra high pitch sound waves, which you do not hear, but which creates an acute pain in your ears and then within 2 minutes ruptures your ear drums. You loose your control and reach a maddening state, before being deaf."

"When will you test it " asked Amar.

"I have brought the Flute to test for the first time and the test will be performed before your very eyes. I and Amar will stay on this RC trawler and you Ajnabi will go to your Mata Spy and keep a watch on the Russian Base at Aden. Keep in constant tune with Aden. Our RC trawler will be kept 5 km away from your Mata Spy. As soon as you find that a Russian plane has left Aden for reconnaissance of either Diego Garcia or of our Isle, inform us giving accurate position of the plane and time. Then you must watch how I release the Flute and control it to keep parallel to the fuselage of the Russian plane and also watch how I keep the Flute at a distance of 300 mm above the wings.

Within half an hour there was an alert. Ajnabi was call-

ing, "One Russian Jet left Aden some time back. The jet plane is now nearing Sri Lanka, and is expected to be over our Isle within next 40 minutes after which it may turn back to fly over Diego and thence to its Base at Aden."

The Prince stood alert, and asked Ajnabi to keep track of the plane. 40 minutes passed. The Russian plane flew over the Isle and then turned back to fly towards Diego. The Prince was watching the plane through his radarscope, and 5 minutes after the plane had turned back, he pressed a button in the control panel of the Flute. Amar Pandhi was watching very keenly. The box lid opened, the Flute came out and with a swish went up into atmosphere at an angle of 70° to the horizon. Within 15 seconds it achieved a speed of Mach 4 (four times the speed of sound) and at this speed the Flute quickly came within 5 km of the plane when the speed of the Flute was reduced. Speed of the Russian plane was Mach 2. The Prince's mind was fully concentrated on the control board. Slowly the Flute approached the plane from behind and within another 15 seconds, the Flute was cruising at Mach 2 and over the fuselage of the plane.

Ajnabi was watching the Flute on his Mata Spy Radarscope, and was also tuned to the Russian pilot. The speech of the pilot was being decoded and recorded—"It is all fine. I have just passed over the Vagabond Isle and am 1000 km from Diego Garcia. The American Base seems full of activity." There was silence for 2 minutes. Then suddenly the pilot complained, "I don't know what is happening to me. I feel terrible pain in my ears, eyes, and brain. I am utterly confused. I cannot control the plane. I am feeling a jolt. I am going." With this the plane was seen swirling down and within a minute it dropped into the Indian Ocean and was drowned into its waters in no time. No trace was left of the plane or the pilot.

The Flute returned to its box. The Russians were bewildered and could not know the reason of tragedy. It remained a riddle for them.

CHAPTER 32

Sea Exercise

The Prince explained to Amar Pandhi and Ajnabi, how the Flute worked. The Flute was provided with a solid fuel cartridge and 10 special battery cells. 5 cells were connected to a siren, which produced extra high pitch sound waves. The balance 5 cells were connected to a turbo-motor for giving cruising motion to the missile. The missile or the Flute was remote controlled and radar guided. The life of the cartridge and 10 cells was limited and so these had to be replaced after every sortie.

The Prince told Ajnabi to train himself on the operation of the Flute after which 10 RC Scientists selected from amongst the 25, would have to be trained.

Ajnabi practiced on a dummy Flute for several days. Then the Prince told him to test himself on the use of actual Flute but without enemy's plane. After a few trials, the Prince told Ajnabi to attack one R.C. Trawler—in which 2 goats and 2 monkeys were kept—which was controlled by Amar Pandhi. The effect of the Flute on goats and monkeys was filmed. When the film was developed and screened, it was found that the goats and monkeys were screeching with pain and moving in an unsteady way. Later on the goats and monkeys were examined and found to be deaf.

Both—Amar Pandhi and Ajnabi—were astounded. The Prince told them, "We have now got to think out, how to make maximum use of the Flute, and how to keep it secret." Within a few days the Prince and Amar Pandhi tested the

25 RC Scientists and out of them selected 10. The Prince told the selected 10, "From now on, whatever you are told, you will have to keep that secret. Immediately you must practice further for 2 more months and perfect your art of controlling the RC trawlers." To the remaining 15 RC Scientists, the Prince said, "Time has come that you contribute your mind and effort to improve the performance of the remote control system. You have to spend 3 months on experimentation over the RC trawlers. Everyone of you will be given one RC trawler. At the end of 3 months, everyone will have to give his report about the improvement."

The Prince then told Amar Pandhi and Ajnabi, to collect all the captains of the Matasamudrams, and inform them that for a new assignment, it was necessary to be on the sea, continuously for 2 months. Therefore, all those captains who were ready, must give their names and numbers and then they must get confirmation from their scientist crew and also from captains, scientists crew and watchers of Vandanam trawlers attached to them. The job would be tough and harsh. Proper fuel and food etc., would have to be taken for 2 months.

Within one month, all those captains who had shown readiness for a tough job for 2 months, were told to move their Matasamudram trawlers along with their attached Vandanam trawlers from their existing sites, to new sites, about 300 km to 700 km away.

Exact position was marked out for every Matasamudram trawler. They had to catch fish as usual and supply it to the Japanese and other ships as usual at the pre-arranged spots. It meant longer runs for some of the Vandanam trawlers. 5 regional Mataspy trawlers were going to be in constant touch with all the Matasamudram trawlers.

Ajnabi's Mataspy received information from the regional Mataspies that all the Matasamudrams with their Vandanam trawlers were stationed as per plan and were collect-

ing fish as usual. The fish catch was practically the same as before. Five weeks passed without any mishap. Then Ajnabi's Mataspy reported brewing of a storm, 650 km south of its position. It meant that within 10-14 hours, the storm would hit most of the trawlers.

Ajnabi received a report from one of the regional Mataspies, that a Japanese super tanker was approaching them, possibly loaded with oil from Iran. Within half an hour one Matasamudram—located near Diego Garcia, reported to Ajnabi that an American Super-tanker was coming from Sumatra. The movement of Supertankers in the Indian Ocean was a normal affair. Practically every day one or more supertankers passed in between the trawlers at various locations and exchanged greetings. But this day, amidst a brewing storm the situation seemed serious.

The sun was practically gone out of sight. The twilight was fading. The sky was getting dark. There was an eerie feeling on every trawler. The storm was gathering momentum. All the trawlers were duly warned to remain steady. Catching of fish was suspended. The trawler lights were giving an effect of star-lit-night on sea. The two supertankers were still 50 km from one another. They were moving along their routes, and were in communication with each other and the Matasamudram trawlers. By midnight the storm had taken a fierce mood. Waves were rolling higher and higher. Many trawlers were pitching and oscillating.

The supertankers had slowed down their speed. They were now only 10 km. apart. Suddenly the Japanese supertanker reported a fault in its rudder. It tilted a little and swirled by 5°. It was just an ordinary tilt and could be rectified but needed time. The Japanese Supertanker was 1500' long and carrying 3,50,000 (3-1/2 lacs) tons of oil and had changed its course by 5°. To correct it, would need 20 km run at a slow speed of 1 knot. The Japanese Captain warned the American Super-

tanker to keep away. But it was too late. The American supertanker was coming along its normal route and would need one hour to change it by 5° and at least 15 km. run to do so. The American captain tried its best to avoid an accident, but only plowed his supertanker into the Japanese supertanker. The American supertanker heaved into the side of the Japanese supertanker, breaking it into two. Oil started gushing out from the Japanese supertanker and within a few minutes it caught fire. Within another 5 minutes the American supertanker also caught fire. There were 500 Matasamudram trawlers and 5,000 Vandanam trawlers nearby some of whom tried to save the crew of the supertankers. In their venture to pick up the crew, the trawlers themselves were caught in the fire. One after the other, the trawlers now tried to rescue the marooned Vagabonds, but the storm which had, by now, gathered a speed of 200 km. per hour, would only hamper the rescue operation. A thick oil slick was spreading over the sea. Huge waves were throwing this oil slick over the trawlers and over the Vagabonds who had jumped from their trawlers to save their mates. Fire had spread everywhere. The whole ocean seemed to have been lit up. American helicopters from Diego Garcia were hovering over the fire, but were helpless to render any help.

The tragic night of horror passed off. Dawn was breaking in. The fire was still burning. The oil slick had spread more than 50 km. Ajnabi reported to the Prince, a loss of 50,000 Vagabonds, who perished into the Indian Ocean, partly due to oil slick suffocation and partly due to scorching. A terrible tragedy had occurred. The tragic night was the topic of talk everywhere throughout the world.

"How could such a tragedy happen?"

"Was it a foolish act of the Japanese Captain?"

"Or was the American captain stubborn?"

Many stories were concocted but there was no tangible or plausible diagnose.

"Whom to blame and whom not to blame."

"But what use?"

"What can be done now?"

"What help can you extend?"

Such discussions continued for days.

CHAPTER 33

Will I Ferry my boat Across This Ocean

Alone and in deep sorrow, the Prince wept silently over the loss of 50,000 Vagabonds, suffocated, scorched and drowned in the thick oil slick covered rolling waves of the Indian Ocean. Never before had there been such a grave tragedy for him.

The memory of the 50,000 Vagabonds was haunting him. He could not forget the long established bond of friendship with them. He was confounded, demoralised a bit and lost into a slumber. Slowly he recouped, remembered his lost friends and thought of the struggle that they had to put in to save the lives of their comrades. "All of them perished like unknown warriors and vanished into their watery grave. All of them were great swimmers. How then could they drown? Or were they scorched to death?"

The Indian Ocean began to obsess him. The memory of his lost Vagabonds could not leave his mind. He conceived a rough turbulent ocean over which a storm was brewing. He then thought of his 50,000 Vagabonds and hummed, "Why was I not amongst them? Were the Vagabonds crossing this terrible hurdle of oil slick and fire? What would I have done if I were present there?" Slowly his desire to cross the slick covered turbulent waves of ocean overpowered him and he hummed again, "If my desire were a boat, could I ferry it across the ocean and save my 50,000 Vagabonds " He could not resist musing :

- (1) "This ocean is very deep and rough,
I have a boat of my desire,
And I want to save my 50,000 Vagabonds,
Will I ferry my boat across this Ocean ?
- (2) This ocean is very turbulent,
A storm is brewing and my faith is shivering,
My Vagabond friends are desperately calling
Will I take my boat yonder across the ocean ?
- (3) My boat is tossing and slipping,
The ocean is covered with slick and fire,
But I have the sails of my courage,
Will my boat cross this fiery surface of the ocean ?
- (4) The tankers and trawlers are burning and the ocean
is covered with smoke,
A terrible heat is scorching my boat,
But I have the oars of my strength,
Will I lead my boat across this ocean ?
- (5) Fury of the storm is growing and fear has
engulfed my mind,
I am the only occupant of my boat,
But I want to save my Vagabond friends,
Will I ferry my boat across this ocean ?
- (6) The sails have been torn and the mighty waves
are rolling over,
Will I muster my courage and resolve,
And bring back my brave Vagabonds,
In my fragile wobbling and pitching little boat ?
- (7) My boat is completely waylaid,
But I have the rudders of my wisdom still under
my control,
Will I gather my guts and overcome my fear,
And ferry my friends home in my boat of desire ?"

CHAPTER 34

Letters of Condolence

Amar Pandhi lost no time in contacting the relatives of the 50,000 lost Vagabonds. He got 50,000 letters typed out, addressed individually, either to the widow of the deceased Vagabond or to his mother and father. Every letter was carefully read and signed by him. All the letters were then closed, stamped with Indian postage, and sent through Nirmal Neer, to be posted at the Cochin GPO.

The letters are reproduced here :

(1)

"Vandanam Sister,

I send you my homage and my deep sympathy, for the sorrow that has befallen us and you, over the loss of your husband. How I yearn to meet you personally to convey to you my solace and to tell you, how brave was your husband, who left you and left us, to swim away—away into the unfathomable depths of the ocean, covered by the slippery and smoky rolling waves, caused by a thick sheet of oil slick and fire.

When the circumstances become tragic, they imprint a deep mark on your mind, which cannot be easily erased. This imprint can become your guide and a source of recurring remembrance, from which you can imbibe a subtle strength and a subtle courage. Your power of resistance may sometimes fail, when you will no doubt weep silently, to relieve your overflowing mind. Will you not be brave then—as brave as your husband was ?

When you cannot forget the tragedy and when you feel

utterly confused, a vacuum will form in your mind. This vacuum will hold within its walls, the recurring memories of the past—the memories of the noble heart of your husband, the genius that he was. Will the cruelty of circumstances and the lofty ideals of your husband, inspire in you a sense of duty to overcome your sorrow and shock?

Das

Amar Pandhi".

(2)

"Vandanam Mataji/Pitaji,

I join you in your deep sorrow over the tragic death of your son, and send you my homage and heart-felt sympathies.

How sad it is to know that the oil slick along with the heat of burning tankers bereaved you and also us of your courageous son. We pay our reverence to him—your son—who had become so dear to us. Time comes when circumstances prevail upon us, to watch calmly and sadly, how our best friends disappear to swim away and vanish from our sight. Perhaps then, we may develop a lingering memory of them—of their nearness to us and of their loss for ever. Some day we too will swim away—away from those who will watch us vanish.

We Vagabonds and you—the mother and father—have remained behind to cherish a fond memory of him, who left us for ever. Will this memory that you will have retained, help you, swim through the storm and suffering? And then will this memory help you fill up the vacuum in your minds?

The storm of sorrow and suffering will calm off, but it will need your courage. Will you then pray to the Almighty to give you strength and wisdom to face this storm courageously?

Das

Amar Pandhi".

CHAPTER 35

UN Indecision

The oil slick and the triple tragedy—of USA, Japan and Vagabond Isle, which resulted in the loss of 2 supertankers with their crew, and several trawlers with 50,000 Vagabonds, plus millions of fish and other sea animals—echoed and re-echoed in the lobbies and meetings of the UN General Assembly. Hundreds and thousands of suggestions came pouring in, from all over the world. One small nation suggested, covering the third party risk by insuring every tanker, the premium varying directly as the weight of the oil carried multiplied by the distance in kilometers of open sea, traversed by the tanker. Every suggestion was kept for members to read and revise, but ultimately filed away.

The UN machinery moves graciously and sluggishly, in a democratic behaviour, controlled and guided by the Super Powers. You need not listen, but you must give statements and speeches, and then condemn or appreciate a resolution, as required by the Super Powers. You may discuss again and over again or ask for amendments and new dates for further discussion, because you know fully well that the decision is not wanted so soon. So the meeting is terminated with a vote of thanks to all and an appreciation of all speakers. The vote of thanks, expresses a regret at the delay in decision but a hope is expressed that at the next meeting, some sane and congenial envoys will be sent by the member nations, to discuss in a better frame of mind, to be unanimous in their decision to have further talks again.

CHAPTER 36

Oath of Secrecy

One month after the tragic death of 50,000 Vagabonds, the Prince called Amar Pandhi and Ajnabi and ten selected RC Scientists. Amar Pandhi had brought 2 goats and 2 monkeys on his RC trawler. All of them now assembled on the RC trawler of the Prince.

The Prince said, "We have assembled here today to take an oath of utmost secrecy. From today onwards, we will have to swear to give up our own life rather than the secret. If any one of you hesitates or is not sure of himself or has a doubt in his capacity to keep the secret to himself, then he must forthwith leave the Assembly. I call upon everyone of you to say aloud, 'I will keep my secrets to myself and for this I am prepared to take the oath of secrecy.' Those who cannot keep our secrets may leave this RC trawler and go to the Isle in the RC trawler standing idle for this purpose."

Everyone repeated, "I will keep my secrets to myself and for this I am prepared to take the oath of secrecy."

The Prince then took out a sharp and pointed knife, a thin writing brush and a plain sheet of paper. He then asked Ajnabi, to make a small cut in his (Prince's) forearm with the knife. Ajnabi obeyed the command. Within no time the Prince's left forearm was bleeding. The Prince took up the brush, dipped it in his blood, and said aloud the oath of secrecy and simultaneously wrote with the blood dipped brush, "This day—the first day of September—in the name of our 50,000 Vagabond Warriors, who gave

up their lives in the smoky oil slick covered Indian Ocean, I solemnly take this oath, to keep the secrets about the Flute, and all the secrets which may be directly or indirectly connected with the Flute, only to myself and that these secrets shall die with me." And then the Prince signed his name and put the date and place. Every one repeated this without hesitation.

When everyone had taken the oath and had written it down with his own blood, the Prince asked everyone to see the Flute box with attention. He took out his Flute control Panel and held it in his left hand. With his right hand he pressed and controlled the panel to manoeuvre the Flute. The Flute box lid opened and up went the Flute. All the 10 RC scientists were amazed at its speed, acceleration and manoeuvrability. The Prince increased the speed of the Flute to mach 4, then allowed it to cruise horizontally, and then reduced the speed to that of the RC trawler which was being controlled by Amar Pandhi and which at that time was about 15 km. away, housing 2 goats and 2 monkeys. The maximum speed of the animal trawler was 10 knots, so the Prince reduced the cruising speed of the Flute to be in line with the animal trawler and then controlled and guided the Flute through his Radarscope, to stay parallel to the hull of the animal trawler, at a distance of 300 mm. from it.

Everyone of the 10 RC scientists saw on the Radarscope, how the goats and monkeys were screeching with pain. After 2 minutes the Flute came back to go into its box. Amar Pandhi brought the animal trawler along side the Prince's trawler and asked the 10 RC scientists to check up the animals and give their report the following day. The Prince instructed the RC scientists to bring the animal trawler and then left with Amar Pandhi and Ajnabi.

Next day, the Prince explained to the 10 RC scientists, the detailed working of the Flute and asked them to take 10 RC trawlers and one Flute without siren battery cells, and practise for one month at secluded spots.

CHAPTER 37

Planning the Project

One month passed away after taking of the oath of secrecy. The Prince held a meeting with Amar Pandhi and Ajnabi.

"Vandanam Amar, Vandanam Ajnabi."

"Vandanam Prince."

"We are getting squeezed. The Isle and all the trawlers, do not give us sufficient space. We have reached a stage, when we cannot expand our activities further."

"Yes Prince. That is not the only criterion. We must have more land to live and have our families. We cannot remain wanderers for ever."

"I agree with you Amar. Are you ready for a very difficult move?"

"For the last 6-1/2 years, we have taken only difficult and dangerous moves. So can there be a more difficult or a more dangerous move which we cannot undertake?"

"I have been thinking on and planning out a very difficult move, and this, for the last 12 months. Australia—specially the Western half of it—is practically a vacant desert. Its density of population is only one person per square mile. This is an average figure. If you cut out Perth, Darwin and some other coastal cities, then the density will hardly be .01 person per square mile, or one person per 100 square miles. We must occupy this desert and with our effort make it bloom. What do you say?"

"A wonderful idea!"

"When shall we start?"

"We must reach the shores of Western Australia by about 10th December. There are barely 2 months more. Tell us Ajnabi, how long, our Matasamudrams with their retinue of Vandanam trawlers, will take to reach Perth, Banbury and Augusta."

"Prince, I reckon one month."

"We have to cover the whole length, along latitude 110°E, from latitude 10°S to latitude 40°S. I, you and 10 RC scientists, will have to use Flutes, to deafen personnel in the enemy planes, ships, tanks etc. By the 10th December, our trawlers must reach their preplanned destination, along longitude 110°E, but not within EEZ of 200 miles of Australian shore. You Ajnabi will have to prepare a plan showing exact position of every Matasamudram and every regional Mataspy. When can you give the plan?"

"I will need only one day."

"Prince, will we be fighting against a formidable enemy, with only the Flute and a few pistols?"

"Yes Amar. At present every captain in every trawler has a pistol with a few rounds of bullets. Besides, some senior watchers also have pistols. You must realise that we Vagabonds have always fought out and carved out our existence under terrible handicaps. Tell me, whenever we have fought, have we been sure of victory in advance?"

"I admire you Prince. Just for a moment only, I got a wrong brain wave and my confidence was a bit shaken, and so I spoke out our deficiency. It was a small depression of my mind. Now I have recouped. I know your philosophy—the philosophy of a subtle or a Rajsi force which conquers a big force or a Tamasi force."

"Amar and Ajnabi, we have to use the Flute only in a subtle way and with this we have to control the enemy's gross and fierce force and use it against the very enemy. This method alone can give us a victory over our formid-

able enemy."

"We understand it fully."

"But then, you have also got to understand, that there cannot be a 100% certainty that victory will be ours. We can lose if anyone of us uses the Flute in a crude way. We can lose if the Flutes fail. We can lose if the Americans come to the rescue of Australians with a new type of weapon unknown to us. There are many odds against us. Our best weapon is our readiness to die for our Vagabond knot of union. Victory or defeat are two sides of the struggle. We have to attack because there is no other way open to us. We are in a cornered position, no where else to go, except to Australia, which can readily absorb us."

"Our lives are dedicated to the cause of our Vagabond Knot. We are ready to die."

"Ajnabi, after giving me the plan tomorrow, you have to give actual training to the 10 RC scientists on the Flute. It will be your full test. Take the RC scientists to your Mataspy. Watch for a military plane of any country and use the Flute to bring it down. Every RC scientist must be tested, on one or two military planes. I have fabricated only 12 Flutes. One will be used by me, one by you, and the remaining 10 by 10 RC scientists. Every RC scientist must be properly tested by you."

"That will be done."

"Amar, talk to each and every Matasamudram captain, and ask him if he is ready for a 2-month adventure, involving a big risk. If he says yes, then ask him to get confirmation for this venture, from all the personnel working under him in his Matasamudram and in the Vandanam trawlers."

"Shall we give any name to our Venture?"

"Yes. The name that I have thought out is Project Asha Atal."

"Prince, it is better that the 10 RC scientists be called

AA scientists."

"Right. Vandanam."

"Vandanam."

CHAPTER 38

Project Asha Atal

Project Asha Atal has started. There is excitement. The Prince told Amar Pandhi and Ajnabi, "Our aim is to attack only military targets. You will have to take maximum precaution to see that not a single commercial ship or freighter or bulk carrier or oil tanker is disturbed. Ports at Albany, Banbury, Fremantle, Geraldton, Carnarvon, Dampier, Hedland, Yampi Sound and Darwin, must be kept clear, so that usual work of loading and unloading is not hampered. Likewise all commercial aeroplanes flying to or from Australia and Australian Islands must be allowed safe passage."

From 10th December to 16th December, all trawlers took up their allotted positions, between longitudes 70°E and 110°E and distributed from latitudes 10°S to 40°S. There were 5,000 Matasamudram, 50,000 Vandanam, 5 Regional Mataspy, 50 RC trawlers plus those of the Prince, Amar Pandhi and Ajnabi. All the trawlers were positioned in such a way that there was a minimum space of 3 km between any 2 trawlers and further all the trawlers were given position so that they were at least 5 km. away from the international shipping lanes.

Amar Pandhi, on the northern sector, was controlling 4 AA scientists with their Flutes on Matasamudram trawlers. Each Matasamudram captain was controlling 10 Vandanam trawler captains as usual. Position of Amar Pandhi on the first day was longitude 110°E latitude 15°S. Position of his first AA scientist was longitude 120°E lati-

tude 14°S and of second AA scientist longitude 115°E latitude 17°S and of third AA scientist longitude 110°E latitude 23°S and of fourth AA scientist longitude, 105°E latitude 20°S.

The Prince, on the central sector, was controlling his Flute as well as 3 AA scientists with their Flutes on Matasamudram trawlers. Position of the Prince on the first day was longitude 90°E latitude 25°S. Position of his first AA scientist was longitude 75°E latitude 26°S and of his second AA scientist longitude 100°E latitude 22°S and of his third AA scientist longitude 100°E latitude 28°S.

Ajnabi, on the southern sector, was controlling his Flute as well as 3 AA scientists with their Flutes on Matasamudram trawlers. On the first day, position of Ajnabi was longitude 110°E latitude 35°S. Position of the first AA scientist was longitude 70°E latitude 30°S, and that of the second AA scientist longitude 110°E latitude 30°S. and that of his third AA scientist longitude 118°E latitude 36°S. Further all the 5 Mataspies were required to keep in constant touch with the Prince, Amar Pandhi and Ajnabi and give them up-to-date information about locations, approach speeds of enemy craft, both on sea and in air.

Americans at Diego Garcia knew about the intentions of Vagabonds, two weeks before the proposed attack, but wondered how the hell could the fishermen of Vagabond Isle occupy Australia without weapons. "Silly fools. They will be an easy target," said some Americans at Diego Garcia. Anyway the West Australian Coast was heavily guarded.

From 10th December, the Americans and the Australians resorted to minute by minute aerial surveillance and reconnaissance of the trawlers. Vagabond trawlers were fishing as usual. The Americans and the Australians could find no trace of preparation of an attack. But soon their patience gave way. On the 16th morning, 5 Australian planes dropped 35 bombs over the trawlers. 30 bombs

fell in water, very much wide from the mark. 2 bombs were a direct hit, destroying 2 Vandanam trawlers completely. 3 bombs fell just touching the edges of 3 trawlers, slightly damaging them. The captains, scientists, crew and Watchers of the 2 destroyed trawlers jumped into the ocean and swam to the other trawlers which were nearest.

At 4.00 PM, on the 16th December, Amar Pandhi reported to the Prince that 2 Australian Patrol boats had left the coastal area and were approaching the Vandanam trawlers which were fishing just near the 200 mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Amar Pandhi further reported that one Patrol boat was 20 km. away and the other 26 km. away and may reach the Vandanam trawlers within 2 hours. The Prince told Amar Pandhi to finish the Patrol boat personnel. Amar Pandhi instructed his first AA scientist to start the Flute and deafen the personnel of the Patrol boat No. 1. Within 10 seconds, the Flute left its box and within another one minute it was over the Patrol boat No. 1. After 2 more minutes the Flute returned. There was all silence on the Patrol boat, and the boat came to a stand still. The second Patrol boat found that there was no response from the first Patrol boat, and thought that its radio transmission had gone out of order. So the second Patrol boat informed its head quarters at Aircraft Carrier "Melbourne" which was positioned at longitude 120°E latitude 20°S, and then moved to meet the Patrol boat No. 1. As soon as the second Patrol boat came within 50 meters of the first Patrol boat, the Flute of the first AA scientist left its box and came unnoticed over the second Patrol boat, deafening all its personnel. The Aircraft Carrier could not talk to the second Patrol boat.

The Aircraft Carrier "Mel" was carrying 8 turboprop planes. It had 25 guns and a complement of 1200 officers and men. There were 3 guided missile Destroyers and 4 Escorts and 2 Submarines attached to the Aircraft Carrier. The commandant of the "Mel" who was in command of the

fleet, ordered its Escorts to find out the trouble. All the 4 Escorts, one by one, met the same silencing deafness. By this time sun had already set and there was just a little vanishing twilight. The Commandant of the 'Mel' informed his President in Canberra and authorities in Garcia. Diego Garcia alerted the Commandant of the Seventh Fleet positioned at that time, at longitude 80°E and latitude 25°S.

The Commandant of the "Mel", pretty nervous now, instructed all the 8 pilots to survey the trawlers and the ocean. One regional Mataspy alerted Amar Pandhi about the 8 planes. Amar Pandhi instructed his first and second AA scientists to send their Flutes to follow the planes and deafen the pilots. There was complete darkness, but the planes were visible in the Radarscopes of the AA scientists. The Flutes followed the planes unnoticed and one by one, all the 8 planes saw their watery grave.

The "Mel" Commandant hesitated now, not knowing the cause of the disaster. He awaited instructions from Canberra, but could'nt get definite instructions, for 8 hours. Amar Pandhi now asked his 3 AA scientists to fly their Flutes over the "Mel" and 3 Destroyers and 2 Submarines. The first Flute came over the Commandants cabin and the second Flute moved slowly around the hull of the Aircraft Carrier. Both Flutes took one hour to deafen all the 1200 personnel of the Aircraft Carrier "Mel". The third Flute came over three Destroyers, and one by one, deafened the personnel in half an hour. All the Flutes returned to their respective boxes. Amar Pandhi asked the Mataspy captain to locate the two submarines and inform. This was not difficult as both the "Subs" were diesel driven and had their air intake snorkels and had to surface pretty often. The Mataspy tuned its electronic listening ears to both the "Subs".

It was 12.00 midnight. Amar Pandhi talked to the Prince, who told him to occupy. Amar Pandhi instructed 15 Matasamudram captains to occupy the Aircraft Carrier "Mel",

and then instructed 3 other Matasamudram captains to occupy 3 destroyers and 4 other Matasamudram captains to occupy the 4 Escorts. Finally he asked 2 other Matasamudram captains to occupy the two Patrol boats. By 6.00 AM on the 17th December all these were occupied, by captains, scientists, crew and watchers of the Matasamudram and their Vandanam trawlers.

The two Submarines surfaced between 2.00 AM and 3.00 AM. Mataspy captain immediately informed Amar Pandhi, who instructed the third and the fourth AA scientists to fly their Flutes over the "Subs". The complement of each "Sub" was 70 officers and men. All were deafened and the "Subs" occupied before 6.00 AM. Amar Pandhi told Vagabond captains, controlling the "Mel" Fleet to check up the drive mechanisms and be ready to move out within 12 hours.

Down South Ajnabi similarly captured about 20% of the fleet of the Royal Australian Navy. This consisted of two Destroyers, two Escorts, two Submarines, one Frigate, one Survey Ship, and 4 Patrol boats.

News had spread all over the world. "Vagabonds strike." "Vagabond Cobra consumes half the Navy of Australia." "Australians flee by air and road to Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra". "America in a horrible dejection. America prepares to take revenge."

By 7.00 AM, the next day, Diego Garcia sent 15 bombers of B52 class, each with 20 incendiary bombs of 1000 lb., to destroy the trawlers. B52 bomber had a maximum speed of 660 miles per hour, and could fly at as low a height as 200 ft. at slightly reduced speed. One Mataspy alerted the Prince. The 15 bombers were coming in 3 formations, each of 5 bombers. The Prince released his Flute to follow the first formation. He then asked his first and second AA scientists to release their Flutes to follow the second and the third bomber formations respectively. By 7.30 AM all the 15 bombers were swirling down to be drowned into

the Indian Ocean.

Deigo Garcia and Alice Spring bases watched with concern. "What type of Cobra do these Vagabonds possess?" The American Spy Satellite had still not sent any photos of the crashing of any of the 15 B52 bombers. "What shall be done now?" asked Diego from Washington. Washington instructed Commandant of the Seventh Fleet to find the so called Cobra and finish it. Then approximate position of the Aircraft Carrier of the 7th Fleet was longitude 82°E and latitude 26°S.

The Seventh Fleet advanced. The Commandant of the Fleet, who controlled the Nuclear Fuel Aircraft Carrier "Enterprise" was all alert. The Seventh Fleet was a formidable task force. Its Aircraft Carrier "Enterprise" had 85 Jet planes on its deck, and 4 catapults. It had several guided missiles. Its complement consisted of 120 officers, 170 pilots, 3,700 crew. It had nuclear fuelled power plant of 3,00,000 SHP. It could move at a speed of 30 knots, which meant three times the speed of the trawlers. To augment and protect the "Enterprise", the 7th Fleet included 6 diesel powered Submarines, 8 Destroyers, 8 Frigates, and 16 Escorts.

The Commandant of the "Enterprise" ordered 40 planes to take off and kill the target. 3 of the 5 Regional Mataspies were now focussed on the Seventh Fleet. The Prince, Amar Pandhi and Ajnabi had their Radarscopes tuned to the "Enterprise". All the 5 Regional Mataspies alerted the Prince, Amar Pandhi and Ajnabi, that planes were being catapulted from the "Enterprise", flying without formation, i.e. as single plane sorties. One by one 40 planes left the "Enterprise" and flew over trawlers. The Prince asked Amar Pandhi and Ajnabi, to release only 2 Flutes each and he himself asked his AA scientists, first and second to release their Flutes to follow the 40 odd planes, all the while keeping in touch with AA scientists of Amar Pandhi and Ajnabi. Simultaneously the Commandant of the Seventh

Fleet, ordered 4 "Subs", 4 Destroyers and 4 Frigates to torpedo the trawlers and destroy as many of them as possible.

Six Flutes chasing the planes, deafened their pilots and crew, one by one, in just 20 minutes. During these 20 minutes, the torpedoes had destroyed 12 trawlers. The Captains of the Destroyers and Frigates, were watching with awe, the swirling and plummeting of 40 planes. They wanted to torpedo all the trawlers, but found their targets very much apart. Moreover, the torpedoes often went astray, widely away from their targets. Six Flutes returned to their boxes for refill.

One Mataspy informed the Prince that 2 "Subs" had surfaced and disclosed exact location. The Prince immediately focussed one of the "Subs" in his Radarscope and released his Flute and then kept it over this "Sub". He then asked his AA scientist No. 3 to release his Flute and keep it over the second "Sub". Each "Sub" had a complement of 80 persons and was provided with 10 tubes and could fire 24 torpedoes. The Flutes deafened all the personnel in 2 minutes. These 2 "Subs" were positioned not very far from the "Enterprise".

The Prince told his scientist, "The two submarines are quite near to the Aircraft Carrier "Enterprise". We can control our Flutes to fly unobserved at the rear of the 7th Fleet and then on to the top of the cabin of the "Enterprise" Commandant. Watch my Flute and then send your Flute on to the cabin top." Within 5 minutes both the Flutes were over the cabin top. Within another 10 minutes the Commandant, 200 officers and pilots and some crew members had become deaf. The Flutes remained on top of the cabin. As darkness approached, the Prince moved his Flute, slowly, around the "Enterprise" and deafened all the personnel on board.

Four Destroyers and 4 Frigates, that had moved forward to desroy trawlers, tried to contact the Commandant for

further instructions but found no reply. So they turned back, to meet the "Enterprise". The Prince was notified by a Mataspy that all the Destroyers and Frigates were withdrawing. The Prince ordered his AA scientists No. 1 and No. 2, "Follow one Destroyer and one Frigate and attach the Flutes on to their hulls unobserved, but start the siren only when the Destroyers and Frigates are in vicinity of other crafts and when darkness approaches. At that time deafen all the personnel in 8 Destroyers, 8 Frigates and 16 Escorts, one by one."

By 4.00 PM, remaining 6 Submarines also surfaced and were silenced by Flutes. Evening was approaching. The Prince asked 40 Matasamudram Captains to move along with their Vandanam trawlers, towards "Enterprise" and occupy it after 10.00 PM. He then asked 8 Matasamudram captains to occupy 8 "Subs" and 8 further Matasamudram captains to occupy the Destroyers, and 8 further Matasamudram captains to occupy Frigates and 16 further Matasamudram captains to occupy Escorts. By 2.00 AM the occupation operation was complete. The Prince himself was commanding the "Enterprise". At 8.00 AM, on the 18th morning, the 7th Fleet started moving towards Adelaide. The speed of the Fleet was 10 knots in the beginning and later on 20 knots. Adelaide was at a distance of 3,600 miles (4500 km) and so, needed 8 days to reach.

"America subdued".

"American Navy vanquished".

"7th Fleet captured intact."

"Vagabond Jumping Cobra paralyses American Pilots".

"Quickest slap of War".

Such headlines dotted all the newspapers of the world. American ego was aflame. How could they be subjugated at the hands of Vagabonds? They had by now received photographs from their Spy satellite. The fast moving Flute looked like a cobra jumping from plane to plane. "Will USA sit back lamenting or will it retaliate?" This

became a common question.

America was at an ebb of its morale. "Shall we retaliate? And how and how soon? The photos of the Cobra from the spy satellite are not clear. Shall we send our most heinous B1 bombers with cruise missiles fitted with Atomic Warheads, capacity 200 kilotons of Atomic punch. And what, if these also are consumed by the Vagabond Cobra? And are we sure it is a jumping Cobra? Shall we destroy the 7th Fleet. What a shame, we cannot decide?" Some fanatics insisted, "We must strike and strike quickly. Let not the World laugh at us." The Pentagon finally decided to strike at the trawlers, with B1 bombers and simultaneously decided to get sharpest possible pictures of the Cobra through its Super spy plane, the Lockheed "Big Bird", stuffed with electronic instruments and infra-red television cameras called technical marvels, and till then kept in a high sounding secrecy. This "Bigbird" could fly 250 miles above the earth and come down to 90 miles above the earth to take extra clear photos. The "Bigbird" was supposed to fly over the B1 bombers.

The American hesitation had cost them 2 precious days. Five B1 bombers, each fitted with 24 Cruise missiles were instructed to fly to a secret refuelling station 80 miles North-West of Durban in South Africa and there await final instructions for destroying the Vagabond trawlers. Each Cruise missile had a warhead of 50 kg. of Plutonium, which meant a destroying power of 10 Hiroshima Atom bombs. The maximum speed of B1 bomber was Mach 2.2 (1,800 miles per hour). 24 Cruise missiles carried $50 \times 24 = 1,200$ kg. of Plutonium radiation poison. Five B1 bombers carried 6,000 kg. of Plutonium that is 1,200 Hiroshima bombs.

The "Bigbird" flew over the trawlers, 250 miles above to take photos of all space metre by metre. The photos were being relayed to Pentagon. There was no sign of Cobra. Pentagon had already sent five B1 Bombers to South Africa, to await instructions. There was no choice

for America. It was the 20th December 12.00 noon. Pentagon issued instructions to the five B1 bombers to attack.

By 12.10 PM one Regional Mataspy informed Ajnabi that B1 bombers had been sighted over Durban. Ajnabi informed the Prince and Amar Pandhi and also alerted his AA scientist No. 1, stationed at longitude 70°E latitude 30°S. The Prince told Ajnabi, "When the defeat is near, the madman becomes desperate." The AA scientist No. 1 released his Flute to fly past the five B1 bombers and then turn back, to follow the last one in the formation. At 12.45 PM, the Flute came over the last B1 bomber. Within 3 minutes, one B1 bomber went swirling down and was drowned in the ocean, at a point near about longitude 45°E latitude 30°S, i.e. over the Madagascar ridge. Two more B1 planes fell in the deep ocean practically in the South portion of Mauritius Basin. The fourth B1 plane fell over the South-West Indian Ridge. The fifth B1 fell deep down into the Kargualen Basin.

The "Bigbird" was watching through its electronic spoofing gadgetry and sending television pictures to the Pentagon. These pictures were extremely clear and showed that the so called jumping Cobra was nothing more than a 500 mm long missile. But beyond this the experts at various American Establishments could not find any dope.

The world was aghast. All the Littoral States around the Indian Ocean remained stupefied with horror. Indian Atomic Scientists issued a warning "The Zirconium sheath around the Warhead—Plutonium 239 will get corroded in three months under joint influence of sea water and radiation from Plutonium. The sheath will then crack. The neutrons will then travel freely, dangerously irradiating all the water, all the fish, sea animals and sea plants, within 700 kilometre radius. The coastal towns of South Malagasy, the coastal towns and ports of South Africa from Cape Town to Lourenco Marques, will be in danger of receiving lethal doses of Alfa, Beta and Gamma Radiations.

Free Neutrons released from the Plutonium will further incapacitate the people who do not flee from the southern coasts of Malagasy and South Africa. The Islands of Reunion and Mauritius will be seriously affected by the lethal doses."

There was awe and fear all throughout the world. The Indian warning, only accentuated and accelerated the fear of the dreaded Plutonium poison. The whole world blamed America. But some nations blamed the Vagabonds, for wanton and cruel destruction of B1 bombers. Russians, Chinese, Japanese and Europeans were silent witnesses. They just waited for the American reply. America replied after 24 hours of hesitation, "The blame lies equally on the Vagabonds and the Indians. We cannot be blamed. But we will be ready to give compensation to those who suffer." Vagabonds gave no rejoinder, but stationed 2 Matasamudram trawlers along with their Vandanam trawlers, to take samples of water, fish, plankton, and other sea vegetation and sea life, every 2 hours, from five locations just above the B1 planes.

The Japanese, who had seen the horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, commented on the so called self-negation of Atomic responsibility of America, "Do you imagine what would have happened to the world at large and the Indian Ocean in particular, if the Cruise missiles with Plutonium charge had exploded over the trawlers? There would have been Atomic Explosions equivalent to 1,200 Atomic Bombs of Hiroshima Bomb strength. Can America question this truth?" America was silent, but burning to the very core of its ego. Some American papers openly and profusely blamed Pentagon, asking "America must accept its responsibility."

It was 22nd December. Amar Pandhi and Ajnabi had already entered Australia on 20th December—Amar Pandhi at Wyndham and Ajnabi at Kwinana. Amar Pandhi with 2,00,000 Vagabonds occupied the Meatworks and the Mili-

tary Camp at Wyndham. He used his Flute only twice, when there was resistance from the armoury at the Military Camp. The morale of the Australians was extremely low. Amar Pandhi captured 50 tanks, 100 armoured personnel carriers and 500 trucks. He moved his Vagabonds in tanks and trucks, towards Darwin on the North East and towards Port Hedland, South West of Wyndham. Ajnabi with 3,00,000 Vagabonds occupied Steel Works at Kwinana, Collieries at Collie. Ajnabi then used his Flute to deafen the military personnel in the military camp, just a few kilometres from Perth. The Australian defence had cracked. Their confidence and will to fight had been paralysed. Their judgement had been terribly shaken. Ajnabi captured 200 tanks, 300 Armour cars, and a few hundred personnel carriers and trucks, and a full armoury with several thousand automatic rifles, revolvers, pistols and untold number of bullets. Ajnabi instructed 500 captains to take charge of tanks and armoured cars and go forth along with one lac Vagabonds towards Adelaide and wait for the arrival of the Prince. Ajnabi then informed the Prince, and asked him to instruct the Mataspy, moving in his convoy, to keep a watch on South Australian skies for possible air attack by Mirage planes.

Pentagon pondered and thought feverishly. "No use getting excited. We must think coolly. No doubt we have practically lost the war. We have still one weapon left—the Atomic powered submarine, which remains under water and un-noticed for months. These "Atom Subs" are provided with Nukes—nuclear warheads—and are also provided with standard rockets. We must destroy as many trawlers as possible, before the 7th Fleet reaches Adelaide or before Australia capitulates."

Twelve "Atom Subs" were ordered to destroy trawlers with rockets. Out of the 12 "Atom Subs", four only were plying in the Indian Ocean, which moved immediately towards the trawlers and fired 200 rockets in one hour,

damaging 40 trawlers. Their stock of rockets was limited. These "Atom Subs" must go to Diego Garcia, load rockets and return. This needed 10 days. The balance of 8 "Atom Subs" were still moving towards Indian Ocean from their location in South Atlantic Ocean. They were too faraway from the trawlers, and could not reach, before the Australians capitulated.

As anticipated by Ajnabi, on the 25th morning Australia sent 10 Mirage planes loaded with bombs, for dropping these over the Vagabonds in Australian tanks and trucks. The Mataspy immediately alerted the Prince who sent his Flute behind the Mirage planes, and sent them swirling down, one by one.

On the morning of 27th December the Prince arrived at Adelaide—just 30 km. South of the port. The Vagabond force of 1,00,000 Watchers had already arrived 2 days earlier and was awaiting the arrival of the 7th Fleet. Australia was counting minutes to capitulate. The Prince gave them 3 alternate conditions—(a) To absorb 2 million Vagabonds and their families (b) to hand over Western half of Australia West of longitude 135°E (c) to hand over Eastern half of Australia East of longitude 135°—saying that if none of the conditions was accepted then Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne and Adelaide would be levelled.

Australia heaved a sigh of relief. They were not being subjugated. They requested for a period of 72 hours, to enable call the cabinet and discuss and then give their final choice. The Prince granted this request. Australia contacted Washington. Washington was amazed at the 3 alternatives. Americans also found these alternatives very accommodating. The decision of Australian Cabinet, signed by the Governor General was sent to the Prince about one hour before the expiry of 72-hour period. The decision said, "Australian Cabinet is accepting the second condition of the Prince i.e. the Vagabond will be handed over the Western half of Australia, west of longitude 135°E."

The Prince and his staff of 12 Vagabonds flew from Adelaide on the 30th December at 7.00 AM and reached Perth within 3 hours. By Perth standard time it was 9.00 AM at Perth—i.e. one hour back. The 7th Fleet left Adelaide and slowly moved to Albany. Amar Pandhi and Ajnabi also arrived at Perth about 9.00 AM on the same day. Ajnabi instructed his 1,00,000 Vagabonds at Adelaide to move and occupy the border at 135°E.

CHAPTER 39

Vandanbhoomi is Born

It was 30th December—the first day of creation of Vandanbhoomi when Australia accepted the terms of Vagabonds, and handed over Western half of Australia, west of longitude 135°E. According to strict orders of the Prince, no happiness or joy was to be shown. He told all the Vagabonds, "This day gives us a chance to test ourselves, to show maximum discipline of our mind and body, and to resolve to work hard and raise our Motherland Vandanbhoomi, to become a World Power in as little a time as possible. To achieve this, it is necessary that we must neither show our joy now, nor any sorrow later when we are slapped. Our first step now will be to show to all the Australians, that we are not conquerers, but ordinary settlers, who have come to live here, along side our Australian brothers and sisters. We have further got to endeavour to get the maximum faith and cooperation from the Australian citizens."

The Prince, Amar Pandhi, Ajnabi and the Triumvirate, consisting of Jwala Jal, Nirmal Neer and Pavan Pani, then sat together to jot down the work that must be done immediately. The first task was to announce on Radio and TV, that all Australians were the most honoured citizens of Vandanbhoomi. For this the Prince had already drafted an address which he read out over the radio and on TV and he then assured all the Australians that the new government would give equal status to all its citizens and that the Australians should have no fear of any kind.

The second task was to form the Vandanbhoomi Government. The Prince said that he would remain outside the administration, but would keep a watch, and therefore, the new Government should be formed with Amar Pandhi as President, helped by Ajnabi, the Triumvirate and 40 or so secretaries. He then said that the Vagabond Watchers should have a better name now and suggested, Kangaroo Intelligence and Political Analysis Agency or just KIPAA and Ajnabi, as head of KIPAA, be called Kipaavar, and that the Triumvirate of Jwala Jal, Nirmal Neer and Pawan Pani would become the Triumvirate of 3 ministers.

The Prince added, "Our next task is to get acquainted with all the Australians personally and show them our maximum regard and win their faith in us. For this, we must send Kipaas in gangs of 2 or 3, in all the localities of Vandanbhoomi. We have to be very careful when contacting aborigines. These unfortunate people were the original settlers in Australia, and are now almost outcasts, having been deprived of their land and rights by the English settlers, who came to be called the Australians. These aborigines feel like strangers on their own lands—just like refugees. So, you Kipaavar have to tell all the Kipaas to handle these aborigines very carefully and kindly. The first reaction of the aborigines would be doubt in us, and a feeling that we may be another set of looters and killers. Kipaas must therefore explain to them that they will be considered part and parcel of us. Their needs are limited, but these few needs must be fulfilled without delay. You, Kipaavar, must now get printed 3 million copies of my letter, addressed to each and every Australian, and hand over about 1,000 copies to each gang, with instructions to visit every home and every establishment within their beat and to hand over 4 copies to the head of the family or head of the establishment. The gang must then write out on the back of the letter, the names of the members of the family or the establishment, ages etc." The letter read :

"Dear Sir/Madam.

I send you my greetings. I extend my full faith in you and hope you too will extend your full faith in me and in the new government.

We Vagabonds haven't come as conquerers. We have just come to reside side by side with you. You will be considered the most honourable citizens of Vandanbhoomi and will be revered by the government and by the Vagabonds. May I request you to stay where you are, have no fear and do your work without interruption as before?

I request you further, to increase the output of your work. If you are serving in the government or semi-government or in a private establishment, continue to do so without a break. If you are a Farm owner or have an industry, then this government expects you double the output during the next year. If you have a contract with any foreign government for supply of material, then continue to fulfil the commitment. For all this, whatever help—finance or extra manpower or import licence—is required by you, will be given to you without delay. The back page of this letter may be filled in by you, giving the required information and your signature. Hand back 2 copies to the messenger who has brought this letter to you, and I assure you that within 10 days the same messenger will come back to you, with the required help.

Amar Pandhi

President—Vandanbhoomi".

With this letter in hand, the gangs of Kipaa visited all the residences and offices and industrial establishments in 7 days and brought back the necessary information for Kipaavar. This letter and the personal visits of Kipaa gang received a very good response. There was a rush of requests for import licences, and finance. These were granted within 3 days of receipt of the application. Immediate result was the employment of 5,00,000 Vagabonds. At the end of the year, it was actually found that the Farm output had trebled and the industrial output had gone up to more than twice.

CHAPTER 40

In Search of Flute

In search of the Flute, and the Flute factory, the intelligence men and women of the world—CIA, KGB, Scotland Yard, M-15 DST, Mossad and a host of spymen and spywomen from every country—infested India and swarmed every city and village, just like bees. Never before had there been so many spies in India. They came in waves and scattered away to elude the Indian police and the Indian counter-intelligence. They occupied most of the rooms in every hotel, every "Dharamsala", every "Mahemansarai", and also stayed in many private lodgings. They even disguised themselves, concealed their identity, donned "gerua" dresses, and shaved their heads, to appear as disciples of famous Swamis and Gurus. Some lived as missionaries in churches, some lived as 'mullas' in mosques. Some became 'shevadharis' to live in 'gurudwaras' and 'mandirs'. Some even opened fake offices to evade suspicion.

Very often they—the spies of the world—collided and clashed with one another. They didn't mind kicking up a row, or picking up a quarrel, to kill their rival. They bribed the police, the CID, the IB, the CBI and the RAW personnel. They made friendship with leaders of political parties, leaders of labour unions and leaders of religious organisations.

But their efforts gave no clue. Dejected, disheartened and discouraged, the spies lamented at their failure, but didn't give in. They put in fresh efforts with renewed

vigour. They even called more spies from their countries. They laughed sometimes and took pity on the Indian government which seemed sitting pretty in a paradise of its own, accepting the foreign spies good and genuine tourists.

For weeks and months, the tourists kept coming as never before. They spent lavishly. Some of them befriended the Minister of Tourism, elevating his spirits. He was very happy. He wanted more of such tourists. He often giggled in merriment. He would boast that the coffers of Indian Exchequer were now overflowing, because of these tourists, and the credit was his. He was perhaps blind. He could not see the moving carriage—that was India—being shaken badly. Now the carriage was hardly able to trudge. But the Minister of Tourism was happy in his oblivion and ignorance. The Prime Minister got alarmed at the utter negligence of his colleague—The Minister of Tourism—and was compelled to sack him.

The spies now turned their attention to all the defence projects, nuclear installations, strategic centres, and industrial establishments. They resorted to sabotage—sabotage of even nuclear installations—letting out a hell of radio active fall out. All this to cripple India, to bring it down to its knees, to compel it to divulge the secrets of the Flute. It became a terrible aspect.

After liquidating the RAW, the Prime Minister thought it necessary to double up its original strength. Even doubling of the RAW, didn't give India sufficient leverage against the ever increasing danger from spies.

The American and the Russian satellites started taking innumerable photos of all the spots of India and Vagabond Isle. Not satisfied, they photographed all the fishing boats, now plying in the Indian Ocean. They also photographed neighbouring countries and their vessels on high seas. They even photographed Diego Garcia. But they could find no trace of the Flute.

Fear now gripped the American authorities. They became

desperate, and in this desperation, the USA Embassy in India, offered many Indian Scientists and Engineers immigration visas to settle and work in the USA. The frantic search for the Flute, however, continued. Selection of Indian Scientists and Engineers was quickened. Visas were now given without delay—just within one hour or so. The flow of immigrant Scientists and Engineers to the USA got a big momentum in no time.

India looked on with silent apprehension, over the loss of so many scientists and engineers. A small solace was there, that these very Indians, would one day occupy important posts in the USA, and raise the prestige of India. Actual loss to India was negligible. India produces over a million scientists and engineers every year. So it was a blessing in disguise, as many of those who migrated, would have remained unemployed in India.

CHAPTER 41

Financial & Industrial Base

On the second day of Vandanbhoomi, i.e. 31st December, the Prince, Amar Pandhi, Kipaavar, Triumvirate and the Finance Secretary met at 8.00 AM. The Prince said, "Our costliest raw material is Time. We must think quickly, decide quickly and remain firm on our decision. We must then act quickly according to our decision, and remain responsible for our decision and the result whatever it be. Our first job today is to form our Financial base, on which will depend our industrial base. Our assets are not only the land and other property but also the time and the labour. Our labour becomes a great asset, if we do not waste it but mobilise it properly."

The Prince continued, "We Vagabonds have so far worked with very little remuneration. I suggest that every Vagabond, who was a member of our organisation on the day we occupied the Isle, be given a credit of 1.5 lacs of rupees. There were about one million members on that date. Another one million joined after the occupation of the Isle. Each of these latter members be given a credit of Rs. 20,000/- for every year of his life as Vagabond. This means those who joined during the first year of the Isle will get a credit of Rs. 1,40,000/- each and those who joined during the 7th year, will get a credit of Rs. 20,000/- each. The total will become 225 billion rupees. This amount must form a reserve, out of which, those who are able to form companies and start industries, will get finance plus loan. This total includes the amount credited to the families of

50,000 Vagabonds perished in the oil slick and also to the families of those Vagabonds who gave their lives in the Project Asha Atal. Interest at the rate of 8% per annum must be sent to the families of these honoured Vagabonds. These families must be given the same privileges as given to other Vagabonds."

The Prince continued after a pause, "My second advice is again based on the principle, that Time must not be wasted. Accordingly all our commercial and industrial companies must be standardised. I suggest that we should start with only 2 standard limited companies—one with a capital of one crore of rupees and the other with a capital of one million rupees. Later on, we can have companies with rupees ten crores and hundred crores capital. The Memorandum and Articles of these companies must be simple to cover every item. A 4 page bulletin is enough for the Memorandum and Articles. If the finance secretary gets a few million copies of this 4 page bulletin printed, in such a way that the company's name and the directors' names can be written on blank spaces provided for the purpose, then a lot of our nation's time could be saved. The name of the crore rupees company shall be—Croco Ltd. and that of the million rupee company shall be—Milco Ltd. The first name of the company, can be a number which will further help in standardisation. The registrar must register the company within 8 hours. Each company shall be eligible to receive a loan upto 80% of the value of machines, raw material and finished goods or semi-finished goods. The companies need not invest on land, as the land will only be given on rent."

Amar Pandhi said, "We have to re-organise the states of Vandanbhoomi. South Australia West of 135°E should be called Somnath. Northern Territory, west of 135°E should be divided in 2 parts along latitude 22°S. Northern half,

north of 22°S should be called Norvanda and the Southern half, south of 22°S should be called Madhyam Experimental Area or just MEA. The Western Australia should be divided in 2 parts. Southern part—a trapezium shaped area—bounded by latitude 31°S on its north, longitude 120°E on the west, sea on the south and border with Somnath on the east. This should be named Trapezium Experimental Area or TEA. The rest of Western Australia should be called Wesvanda. The capital, for the present should be Perth, but within 10 years a new capital area must be developed near Malcolm and Lake Carey and be named Kurukshetra.

The Prince then said, "While running the administration of Vandanhoomi, you must never forget the Raja-Praja equilibrium. The theory of this principle or Rajsi-Tamsi principle, must be properly understood by you and then applied in practice. The government has to control every activity of the people. People or Praja is the gross force of the country, whereas the government must only be the subtle force or Rajsi force of the country, to control the gross force. The government must not become the gross force itself. Accordingly, people or Praja must be allowed to undertake operation of farm and industry. The government must never undertake such works which can be undertaken by the people. All small, medium and big industry and the farm and livestock industry must be the privilege of the people or Praja. The government may run only the defence and energy industries and communication and transport. In accordance with this fundamental principle, we must now select our secretaries who will establish commissions and institutes, to control the day to day work of the people."

Amar Pandhi submitted then the numbers and names of the secretaries, selected by him to head various commissions. The list of commissions was as under:

Ser. No.	Name	Code	Place
1.	Central Finance Commission (CFC)	(a)	Perth
2.	„ Farm & Livestock „ (CFLC)	(a)	Gascoyne
		(b)	Penong
3.	„ Marine „ (CMC)	(a)	Exmouth
		(b)	Onslow
4.	„ Housing & Con- struction „ (CHCC)	(a)	Geraldton
5.	„ Industries „ (CIC)	(a)	Broome
		(b)	Roebourne
6.	„ Transport „ (CTC)	(a)	Darwin
		(b)	Denison
7.	„ Immigration & Employment „ (CIEC)	(a)	Fremantle
8.	„ Flora & Fauna „ (CFFC)	(a)	Wiluna
		(b)	Pine Creek
9.	„ Tractor & Combine „ (CTCC)	(a)	Birdum
		(b)	Oolda
10.	„ Road & Bridge „ (CRBC)	(a)	Miling
11.	„ TEA „ (TEA)	(a)	TEA
12.	„ MEA „ (MEA)	(a)	MEA
13.	„ Nuclear Energy „ (CNEC)	(a)	TEA
14.	„ Defence Equipment „ (CDEC)	(a)	TEA
15.	„ Switchgear & Electronic „ (CSEC)	(a)	Ceduna
16.	„ Joint Laboratories „ (CJLC)	(a)	Guilderton
17.	„ Power Plants „ (CPPC)	(a)	Perth
18.	„ Petrol & Gas „ (CPGC)	(a)	Palm Valley
		(b)	Barrow
19.	„ Satellite & Com- munication „ (CSCC)	(a)	Lake Moore
		(b)	Vagabond Isle
20.	„ Artery „ (CAC)	(a)	Lalla Rookha
21.	„ Fertiliser & Chemical „ (CFCC)	(a)	Palm Valley
		(b)	Dongara

Ser. No.	Name	Code	Place
22.	Central Colliery Commission (CCC)	(a)	Collie
		(b)	Lalla Sookha
23.	„ Mining & Metallurgical „ (CMMC)	(a)	Kalgoorlie
		(b)	Yampi Sound
24.	„ Survey & Water „ (CSWC)	(a)	Bradshaw
	Resources	(b)	Lake Carnegie
25.	„ Railway & Carriage „ (CRCC)	(a)	Albany
26.	„ Ports „ (CPC)	(a)	Geraldton
27.	„ Aviation „ (CAC)	(a)	Darwin
		(b)	Perth
28.	„ Steel & Iron „ (CSIC)	(a)	Hedland
		(b)	Kwinana
29.	„ Bauxite & Alumi- „ (CBIC)	(a)	Pinjarra
	nium		
30.	„ Public Health „ (CPHC)	(a)	Lake Carey
31.	„ Information & Broadcasting „ (CIBC)	(a)	Lake Moore
32.	„ Posts & Telegraphs „ (CPTC)	(a)	Lake Moore
33.	„ Textiles & Gar- „ (CTGC)	(a)	Wyndham
	ments	(b)	Smoky Bay
34.	„ Paper & Film „ (CPFC)	(a)	Birdum
35.	„ Lime & Cement „ (CLCC)	(a)	Youanmi
		(b)	Tanami
36.	„ Glass & Fire brick „ (CGFC)	(a)	Sandstone
37.	„ Science & Meteorological „ (CSMC)	(a)	Merredin
38.	„ Education „ (CEC)	(a)	Ajanta
		(b)	Marble Bar
39.	„ Island & Antarctica „ (CIAC)	(a)	Vagabond Isle
		(b)	Mc Donald Is.
40.	„ Pollution Control „ (CPCC)	(a)	Perth

Secretaries for commissions serial No. 11 to 20 were chosen AA Scientists, now called AA Secretaries.

CHAPTER 42

Prince Addresses the Secretaries

"We gather here today, the first of January, to evolve our future work, and plan our projects, as accurate as possible, so that we complete them as per plan. We have to put in our continuous effort—of both mind and body—so that our aims do not misfire much and further if there is any misfire at any time, we have to see that we remain alert to diagnose the trouble and then rectify it without wasting time. We cannot be lenient to ourselves. We cannot afford to sing any songs of praise for ourselves. We cannot be self-flatterers. We should not gather sycophants around us, who are eager to accept laurels for themselves when the result is good but throw away the responsibility of their actions and blame some body else when the result is bad. We have to see that we accept all responsibilities for our work, whether we succeed or fail. We must not shun difficulties and ditches—which are going to be our lot—but face them and cross them boldly, quietly, diligently and with painstaking and persevering attention. We are surrounded by enemies. Our enemies will squeeze us and will take maximum advantage of our leniency and lethargy. We must remain strong and alert. We cannot allow ourselves to be deceived into oblivion and over confidence. We have to keep the image of our Motherland Vandanbhoomi and the Mother Almighty before us, and then move forward in harmony and unison."

Amar Pandhi said, "This morning the USA has offered its full cooperation and help in industrialising Vandan-

bhoomi. It is rather strange but we have to accept it with reservation. The USA has also offered 5 billion dollars for the return of the whole of the Seventh Fleet. The offer has been accepted by us. The American base at the Alice Springs will remain and it will be operated jointly by Americans, Australians and Vandannies. The USA wants that the Russians and the Chinese do not enter Vandanbhoomi and it is possible that the USA is keen on knowing the secrets of the Flute. All the 12 Flutes have been dismantled by the Prince. While cooperating with the Americans, we have to guard our independence. Now I will call upon the Finance Secretary to give his plan."

The Finance Secretary said, "Our greatest problem will be foreign exchange. We have to check it and control it, whatever it be now, and then we must increase the exports to earn more of foreign exchange. Up till now we were exporting 12 million tons of fish yearly, giving us a foreign exchange of 30 billion rupees. Out of this we have to give away 20 billion rupees as yearly instalment payment for trawlers. So only 10 billion rupees or 1.1 billion USA dollars remain as the balance of foreign exchange. Our fish catch can be increased, particularly from the 200 mile exclusive economic zone. If we can catch krill from Antarctica, we can easily earn more foreign exchange. The existing export of iron ore and other raw materials will be equal to the import of machines etc., by the Australian Vandannies. This, of course, will have to continue. Our next asset is the huge areas which have remained un-utilised. We have to give maximum stress on the farm output, so that during the third year we can export at least 6 million tons of foodgrains. This quantity of wheat, and soya and other beans, can fetch us one billion USA dollars, during the third year and much more during subsequent years."

The Finance Secretary continued, "We must issue our own currency, Vandan Rupee, as early as possible. We can get a few million notes printed in India, within a couple of

weeks but we should establish our own mint as early as possible, along with the Reserve Bank of Vandanbhoomi, which will control the existing banks and future banks."

The Farm Secretary said, "5,00,000 farms each of 50 hectares can be easily allocated to Vagabonds. There is no dearth of agricultural land. But water will be the problem. If adequate quantity of water is supplied to these farms, the output on the basis of 2 tons of wheat per hectare, will be 50 million tons per year. We will have to import 3 to 4 million tons of fertiliser till we manufacture our own. Further for 5,00,000 farms we must also import 5,000 to 10,000 tractors and agricultural equipment. Every farm will need 4 to 6 sheds, about 30' by 10'. Kissan from India can do farming very well. It means within 2 years, as many as 5,00,000 kisan families can be absorbed on these farms. Out of 50 million tons of grain, we can easily export 30 million tons a year.

The Marine Secretary said, "On 5000 Matasamudram and 50,000 Vandanam trawlers, we have 1,10,000 Captains, 1,10,000 Scientists, 6,00,000 Crew who are excellent fitters, and several Watchers. Some of these captains and scientists will be eager to start Croco and Milco companies. Further many of them and crew members will be eager to start immediately Small or Tiny industries. I suggest that anyone who can form and control a Croco Company be allotted one Matasamudram and 10 Vandanam trawlers, at book value, on condition that he increases the fish catch. By this way 5,000 Trawlers Croco Companies can be formed forthwith. The marine city can become the hub of our industries, if we sanction another 5,000 Croco Companies, 50,000 Milco Companies, 5,00,000 Small and Tiny industries within a period of 3 years or so."

The Foreign Secretary said, "For the Trawler Croco Companies no other foreign exchange, is needed except the yearly instalments. For new industries, I suggest that foreign exchange upto the paid up capital of the company

may be allotted for spending in 3 years, on condition that before the end of 3 years, the company manufactures one third of items imported. And during the 4th year, a second import licence of the value of 25% of the paid up capital be given after the company starts manufacture and that this second import licence shall only be for the essential parts. The secretaries to different commissions are requested to prepare a list of requirements of machines, instruments, trucks and other equipments and guide the Vagabonds who want to start the industries. The lists must be prepared and given to me within 7 days to enable me to estimate the total foreign exchange commitment."

Amar Pandhi then asked the Housing Secretary and Immigration Secretary to give their plans.

The Housing Secretary said, "I have prepared drawings for standard tenements, markets, tiny industrial sheds and small scale industrial sheds. One tenement is of 100 sq. metre carpet area. It could be a hostel tenement having 4 rooms each with an attached bath or it could be a family tenement having one drawing room, two bed rooms with attached baths and one kitchen with a store room. One tenement block 32 m x 14 m, has a ground floor plus three upper floors. Each floor has 4 tenements. One tenement compound contains 4 tenement blocks. This tenement compound has a ground area of 120 m x 60 m. This means one hostel type tenement compound can have 192 rooms, each of 24 sq. metre carpet area on upper floors in 4 tenement blocks plus 4 ground floors for common facilities. In a family tenement compound, there will be 64 family tenements. The hostel tenement compound can be used as workers hostel or Nursing home, or School, or Hotel, or Offices."

The Housing Secretary continued, "Standard market block will consist of 50 shophouses in one line. Each shop house will have a shop on the ground and residence cum office or store on the first floor. Area of the shop will be

6 m wide x 12 m deep. The tiny industrial shed will be same as market shop house. The small scale industrial shed will be located in an area 60 m x 30 m. Tenements and shops and tiny sheds will be constructed in concrete and brick, whereas small scale sheds will be of steel fabrication. Any number of tenement compounds or shops or sheds could be erected at any required place. I have asked from local and some Australian building contractors for estimates. I will send the drawings to India for the estimates from there."

The Immigration Secretary said, "I have drafted Immigration rules and have brought 50 copies. I have only to enter the price and rents of different types of tenements and sheds."

The Prince said, "I expect 2 million immigrant workers will be coming to Vandanbhoomi every year for the first 3 years. After this, when the buildings are ready for the families, more numbers will be coming to become Vandanite citizens. We will have to absorb all of them.

CHAPTER 43

Nuclear Program

On the second January, the Prince called a meeting of Amar Pandhi, Kipaavar, Triumvirate and AA Secretaries.

The Prince said, "The work to be done by you and by your commissions will often involve utmost secrecy. Bear this point and see that no information of any kind, escapes through your assistants. The first problem to be discussed now is, how to make our desert bloom in a few years. We can exploit thousands of Antarctica icebergs, every year, and get any amount of fresh water required. An average iceberg, common in Antarctica, is about one km. long, 300 metres wide and 250 metres deep, having a volume of $1000 \times 300 \times 250 = 75$ million cubic metres. Assuming a wastage of 20% in collection, we can get as much as 60 million c. metres from one Iceberg. Now tell us TEA Secretary, how will you undertake to complete this job?"

The TEA Secretary said, "Hauling of Iceberg upto Eucla will be easy. 10 Vandanam trawlers can do the job. Before the iceberg reaches the shore at Eucla, we will have to cover it from all sides with plastic coated canvas. The bottom of this cover will have a port about 100 mm. diameter, which will be connected to a flexible hose. This in turn will be connected to a 100 mm pipe, attached to a 25 H.P. centrifugal pump. The pump will suck in, all melted water and deliver it to a service tank. One iceberg may take 2 to 4 months to melt. I can take the trawlers to a point longitude 130°E latitude 55°S , alongside the iceberg, and haul it to the shore. To arrange equipment, I will need

one month. The first iceberg can reach the shores in another 20 days. This means, in 2 months from today, I can deliver fresh water of the first iceberg. If the experiment succeeds, it will be necessary to reserve 500 km. of shore, for hauling 1000 icebergs every year."

The Prince then addressed the MEA Secretary, "You have immediately 2 big assignments. One is the overall control of the American Electronic Base at Alice Springs and the other is for Uranium mines and Enriched Uranium Plant at Rum Jungle near Darwin. Kipaavar has already taken over possession of these 2 centres and both are being guarded by Kipaas. All American and Australian employees have been told to work as before. Your duty will be to select 1,500 to 2,000 Vagabond scientists to work along with Americans and Australians."

The Prince then addressed the Nuclear Secretary, "We must have Nuclear Energy within as short a period as possible—say our first Nuclear Power house should be ready within 8 years. For this we must have 4 or 5 Research reactors. The first research reactor should be ready in 3 years. The MEA Secretary will supply you with any Nuclear fuel needed for the Reactors."

The Nuclear Secretary said, "Crude Uranium Oxide Ore found at the Rum Jungle, near Darwin, contains about 0.2% of Uranium. This ore is concentrated at site to give about 75% of Uranium Oxide, which is then reduced to give Uranium metal. This natural Uranium metal contains about 0.7% Uranium-235 and balance Uranium-238. This small but very important percentage of 0.7% of Uranium-235 is the only fissile material, which means it will undergo fission by neutrons of any energy, from almost zero upwards. But Uranium-238 requires neutrons of at least 1 MeV to induce fission. The natural Uranium can be enriched, so that its Uranium-235 percentage is increased. We can make Uranium fuel elements, either from natural Uranium metal or enriched Uranium metal. This fuel element is

clad in zirconium or stainless steel or in other non-corroding metals. In thermal reactors, either natural Uranium is used as fuel or upto say 5% enriched Uranium. However, in fast reactors it is necessary to use minimum 20% enriched fuel i.e. having more than 20% of Uranium-235 or Uranium-233 or Plutonium-239. As Uranium-233 is derived from thorium—plenty in India but not available in Vandarbhoomi—we are concerned only with Uranium-235 and Plutonium-239. Fuel material can also be in the form of oxide or carbide of Uranium metal.

"In thermal reactors, moderator and reflector materials should be such that they do not capture neutrons to any appreciable extent. Accordingly, ordinary pure water or heavy water or pure graphite are often used. Coolant can be ordinary water or heavy water or liquid sodium or organic compounds like polyphenyls, or gases like helium or carbon dioxide. The coolant, which takes up the heat of fusion is allowed to pass through an external heat exchanger, where steam must be produced at proper temperature—say 400°C to 500°C—to run the turbo-alternator. The fission of the reactor core, containing the fuel, must be controlled to match the power output. This is done by adjustable neutron absorbing material rods, like those of cadmium, or silver alloy, or boron aluminium alloy. Reactor shielding is necessary to reduce the strength of gamma rays and neutrons—coming from the reactor—to such an extent that they do not become hazardous to persons working nearby. The first shield is generally that of Iron or steel and the second shield that of concrete.

"Uranium-235 is the only fissile material in nature. Fission of U-235 brings about a nuclear transformation, accompanied by liberation of enormous energy, and in the process neutrons are released which bombard Uranium-238 and produce a new isotope of Uranium which is called Plutonium-239. Plutonium-239 does not occur in nature, and is an unstable fissile element."

Amer Pandhi, asked, "Now tell us, how do you plan to construct Nuclear Energy Power Houses for our country?"

The Nuclear Secretary said, "Before the installation of Nuclear Power Houses is undertaken, it is necessary to have a Nuclear Material Base. We must be able to produce indigenously all the material for fuel, moderator, reflector, coolant etc. Accordingly, a Nuclear Fuel Complex must be started at MEA where all types of solid, liquid and gaseous Uranium and Plutonium fuel elements can be fabricated. We should also have a plan to manufacture helium and heavy water. Perhaps prototype plants for these nuclear materials may be necessary in the first stage."

The Nuclear Secretary continued, "I can start immediately on the planning work for experimental Nuclear reactors, and complete the first reactor within 3 years. This research reactor will be based on natural Uranium rods clad in stainless steel with graphite as moderator. This can be our starting point. The second research reactor with enriched Uranium-235 of 5% can then be ready within one more year. The third research reactor with enriched Uranium but pure water as moderator can be ready during the fifth year. If by the fifth year, we have created a capacity to make heavy water and helium, we can make a few more research reactors, and then we will have a very good base to go ahead for the fabrication of 200 or 400 MW production reactors required for Nuclear Power Projects."

Amar Pandhi then addressed the Power Plant Secretary and said, "We have to standardise on 200 MW turbo-alternator sets. It means the coal fired boilers or nuclear reactors must be suitable for producing steam for this purpose. We will have to import about 15 to 20 complete coal fired thermal power plants of 200 MW from USA, India, Germany, UK etc. Within 5 years, boilers and switch gear must be made by us indigenously. For some years, we must import only the standard 200 MW turbo alternator

sets. These same turbo sets should be used with nuclear reactors."

The Prince then asked the Artery Secretary to give his plan for the National Artery which will connect North, South and West at a junction called Sangam Seven.

The Artery Secretary said, "I have prepared a rough layout of the National Artery, connecting Cape Londonderry on the North to Madura in the South, a distance of about 2,100 km. I have provided for a railway station at every 100 km. The 7th station from Londonderry is Sangam Seven, and from this point a Western line starts to connect to Lalla Sookha and Lalla Rookha, 700 and 800 km. respectively west of Sangam Seven. Except Sangam Seven all other stations will have heavy and medium industries along with small and tiny ones. Sangam Seven will remain a commercial and educational city, where every secretary will be establishing an additional Institute. There will be 8 stations on the Western leg, 7 on the Northern leg and 14 on the Southern leg. The Eastern leg will be planned when Australia will show interest. The railway line will be a double track line fully electrified. On both the sides of the railway line, there will be 8 lane roads for extra heavy vehicle traffic. Township on each station will have a Centicro industry, 4 Tencro industries, several Croco and Milko industries, and innumerable small and tiny factories. Every township will have a 1000 MW Power Plant either coal fired or nuclear. 4 big water ponds will be provided in every township except Sangam Seven, where there will be 7 ponds in each sector. Underground market connecting the 4 sectors will be provided in every township. The completion of the whole scheme will require about 40 to 50 years. The Western and Northern leg will have to be taken up first."

The Prince then addressed the Defence secretary, "I have stationed 2 Matasamudram and 20 Vandanam trawlers, near South West Indian Ridge and South Madagaskar Ridge,

where the American B1 bombers plunged into the sea. Your duty will be to recover these bombers and their cargo of cruise missiles each with 50 kg. of plutonium. You may use bathyscopes and devise handling of under water cutting torches. You can then cut out and separate missile nose constaining plutonium. After that, cut out small parts and raise them one by one."

CHAPTER 44

Immigration Rules

The Immigration Secretary had prepared a small booklet, containing Immigration Rules, and plans for tenements, market block, tiny sheds and small scale sheds. The booklet was priced at Rs. 2/- and was available at every book-stall in India. The rules were as under :

1. *Time is our God*
Time is the costliest material.
Any one who wastes his time is a criminal.
Any one who wastes other's time is a double criminal.
2. While on duty every one has to work diligently. No one is allowed to gossip.
3. Men and material must keep on moving in an orderly and streamlined way. Any one causing hinderance is treated as a criminal.
4. Religion is not allowed to interfere in politics. Every one has freedom to follow any religion and practise any religious ceremonies in his/her house or a temple or place of worship only.
5. Lethargy, loitering, and idleness are breeding points for sin and crime. Absenteeism is a crime. Stealing is also a crime.
6. Strikes and Lockouts are illegal. Even speaking of strike is a crime. All time, of everyone, for which he gets his wages, belongs to the government. Every one has got to remain employed or occupied.
7. There are only 2 festival holidays and 18 privilege

- holidays. There is no separate sick leave.
8. Doctors are costly. Every one must remain healthy. There are no free hospitals, or free medicines.
 9. Age limits for getting immigration permit are 16 years and 40 years.
 10. Educational qualifications are, minimum 6th standard of any school. This qualification is waived in case of of kissans who will be employed as farmers.
 11. Every one who is selected must get a medical certificate showing that he/she is not having any incurable disease.
 12. Every one who is selected must pay Rs. 100/- towards the cost of 2 standard steel trunks. These trunks are designed to be stacked in twos and five high, for being clamped together, for loading and unloading by a ship crane. No other type of trunk or box is allowed. Everyone must carry a water bag. A hand bag is allowed but not compulsory.
 13. Every immigrant receives a registration number. This number is to be painted on the boxes, water bag and hand bag if carried.
 14. Every one must submit 6 copies of application. 3 copies, after being marked with the registration No., will be returned to the applicant, for submitting at the port of entry in Vandanbhoomi.
 15. Every one, who is selected, will get a job within one day of landing at the port.
 16. The wages are as under :—

Per month

a. Minimum wage for inexperienced helper	V. Rs. 400/-
b. Helper having 5 years experience	V. Rs. 600/-
c. Fitter having 5 years experience	V. Rs. 800/-
d. Steno typist	V. Rs. 800/-

- e. Graduate without experience V. Rs. 800/-
 f. Graduate with 5 years experience V. Rs. 1,000/-
 g. Scientists, Engineers Last salary + 25%
17. Dependents can only be called after 3 or 4 years when tenements are expected to be ready.
 18. Immigrants can remit to their parents, upto 20% of their net income, till their parents are called to Vandanbhoomi.
 19. Those who are above 40 years can come to Vandanbhoomi, but they will not get any job. They will have to start an industry or business or nursing home etc. of their own.
 20. Every immigrant becomes a Vandanite on arrival at the port of entry.
 21. At the end of this booklet there are 6 application forms, and drawings showing the layouts of family tenement, hostel tenement, market shop, tiny industrial shop, and small scale shed. Any Vandanite can apply for allotment of any of these, by depositing 20%.
 22. All land in Vandanbhoomi belongs to the Government. Rent is fixed by the government. There is no 'Pugri' or goodwill. Standard family tenements and hostel rooms can be had on rent or hire-purchase, at the values shown below, at new localities:—

	Family Tenement	Hostel Room
Approx. Carpet Area sq.metres	100	24
H. Purchase Advance	12,000/-	3,000/-
Ground rent per month	200/-	50/-
Monthly instalment for 20 years	320/-	80/-
Municipal tax	actual	actual
Water & electric bill	actual	actual

23. Government ground rent, actually charged, will be 20% of that shown¹ above for the first 5 years, 50% for the next 5 years and full after that.
24. These tenements or rooms can also be had on rent.

CHAPTER 45

An Immigrant Writes to an Indian Friend

(3rd year of Vandanbhoomi)

Vandanam Swaran,

Don't be surprised at my way of addressing you. Vandanam is the standard mode of addressing here.

I came to Geraldton a month back. On the very day of my landing at Port Fremantle, along with about 10,000 other immigrants, I registered my name, which took only 2 minutes, when I was told to report for duty at Geraldton the next day, as a Carpenter on a salary of Rs. 800/- per month. As a matter of fact, all the 10,000 immigrants, were told to join duty, at one site or the other. For most of us, it was a 'great surprise—and a very pleasant surprise. When I had left India, I had hardly any idea, as to when I would be absorbed or given a job in Vandanbhoomi. The Indian way of appointing and Indian way of moving at a snails pace and then the Indian way of 'apply, apply no reply', was very much in my mind, when our ship reached Fremantle.

At Fremantle all of us were told to get down from the ship and walk 3 km. to the Immigration Registration Office (IRO). In a way it was a good exercise. Every one had to walk in one of the 10 queues. On the way to IRO, there were plenty of posters reading, 'Time is Our God', 'Do not waste Time', 'Anyone who wastes time is a criminal', 'Do not waste anyone else's time', 'Move quickly', 'Do not obstruct'. At the end of 2-1/2 km. every one

had to stop for half a minute to know the registration table number at IRO., where he must report for getting himself registered. There were in all 100 registration tables, to attend to 10,000 immigrants. I was told to register at table No. 43.

A very novel and a very efficient system is adopted. Applications given by immigrants in India, are received at the kipaa office at Perth by air, and within one week, every application is marked with the job, salary and name of the employer. So when I went to register, I was amazed to find, not only my application on top of papers, but also the job already noted on it. I was told to produce 3 copies of my application which I had in my hand. These copies were then marked with the date of entry, job, salary and name of the employer. One copy was returned to me, with instructions to show it to my employer and then keep it safe for future. It took the IRO officer only 2 minutes to dispose me off. I was then told to go to the refreshment room, where tea and snacks were free for immigrants. I was also given a few snacks for the way to Geraldton. Later on, I found that all the 10,000 immigrants were registered within a total time of 4-1/2 hours.

Within half an hour of my registration, many lorries arrived, one after the other, loaded with trunks. We had to help in unloading. One lorry was to proceed to Geraldton, and I was instructed to put my trunks in that lorry. The lorry had to carry 10 immigrants like me. Within half an hour all the 10 had kept their trunks and the lorry was ready to move. I noticed that the driver, had been given copies of our registration cards, to be handed over to our employer at Geraldton. We reached Geraldton at 9.00 PM and were asked to unload our trunks and sleep in a shed and report for duty at 8.00 AM the following day. The next day, all of us were assigned our work, within 15 minutes. I had to make doors and windows.

Do you remember Bhalla ? This lucky guy had come here

2 years back. He joined as a fitter, saved sufficient amount during the first year, and applied for a Tiny Shed, 2 lathes, one drilling machine and a shaper. He deposited Rs. 10,000/- and within one week he got what he wanted, on hire-purchase. He has to pay remaining Rs. 90,000/- in 10 years. Recently, he received a repeat order for 1,000 lathe chucks for supply to a Croco Machine Tool Co. Like Bhalla's factory there are thousands of other factories. All the factories are working overtime. I am just yearning for a factory of my own.

Bhalla tells me, no worker or supervisor or he himself can afford to waste time. Time belongs to the government, if you are paid. And therefore, if you waste your time or if you waste somebody else's time, you are a criminal. Even the Inspector, who comes to Bhalla's factory cannot waste his own time or Bhalla's time. If by chance, a part of any machine, is found defective by the Inspector, then it is his duty to suggest a remedy. The factory owner will then replace the defective part as per remedy suggested by the Inspector. The Inspector must see that not only the part so made is approved but further, it has to be approved within the time schedule.

At the worksite, 3 standard lunches are available. The costliest is frozen tandoori half chicken, with boiled potatoes, bread and tea, which costs Rs. 8/- The second standard lunch is fried fish, chips, bread and tea, costing Rs. 3/-. The third is Vegetarian lunch, costing Rs. 3/-. The frozen tandoori chicken is very good, and I often take this, though very costly. My total expense on food is Rs. 350/- per month. I spend a further Rs. 150/-. So my monthly saving is only Rs. 300/-. I do 2 hours of overtime daily, which brings me Rs. 400/- per month. I work on Sundays with Bhalla, who gives me Rs. 100/- for 4 Sundays. Thus I save Rs. 800/- per month. I hope to save Rs. 10,000/- by the end of the first year.

With me there is one other carpenter. He is an

Indonesian¹ and his name is Ku Chai. He says, his Chinese grandfather had come to Indonesia, where he settled and married an Indonesian girl. Ku Chai migrated to Vandanbhoomi, about 4 months before I came here. He also wants to start his factory. Like me, he is also saving for this.

Kipaas—an intelligence force—are every where to keep discipline. Strike is unknown. Work continues unhampered. There is no looting, no cheating and no encroachment. Cycles, scooters, cars and lorries move in a streamlined manner. If there is a puncture, the car driver must take his car on the side, away from the metalled part of the road. If he doesn't, he is fined there and then by a kipaa officer—and the fine is very high.

Every Vandanite—let him be an Aborigine, an Australian, an Indian or of any other nationality—is given the same opportunity. I like every thing here, except that we have too much of monotony. Why don't you send Puran and Pritam?

Das
Sital Singh.

CHAPTER 46

Asylum & Kipaa

Vandanbhoomi Asylum has been established at many places. However, its function is not as mentioned in any dictionary—i.e. an institution for the care (and relief of the unfortunate or a place of refuge—but just the reverse. It is a place to punish the culprits. It is worse than a jail. The very mention of the word 'Asylum', induces a terrific fear in the minds of Vandanites, who perforce have to show discipline every where. All Asylums are in direct charge of the Kipaavar.

Kangaroo Intelligence & Political Analysis Agency or just Kipaa, has an unrivalled network, spread through out Vandanbhoomi, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Japan, USA, and many other countries and of course in India. The result is astounding. Kipaas work in Vandanbhoomi and other parts of the world, most efficiently. Quite a number of them are truck and taxi drivers or employed in offices or have their fake offices.

There can not be any acts of sabotage in Vandanbhoomi. The culprits are generally found before they do any damage. If any Vandanite is found in league with foreign spies, then he is sent to the Asylum to be interrogated. Kipaas have their methods of extracting information.

A very important job which Kipaas have to perform is to educate every one that Time must not be wasted. Any government officer who does not decide within the required period, is not only sacked but is sent to the Asylum, where he has to work 12 hours but, receives his food which is just

one fourth of what a normal person needs. The result is that he becomes extremely thin in 10 weeks and often dies before this period. Every one knows, what will happen to him if he delayed, and therefore every one works efficiently and every responsible officer gives decision quickly, and sees to it that his decisions are carried out and work completed within the stipulated time.

Another function of Kipaas is to maintain law and order. Kipaa officers have the authority to decide on the spot. If any truck or car stops on a road in such a way, as to block the passage of other traffic, then the truck driver or car driver is sent to the Asylum. If there is an accident between any 2 vehicles, then both the vehicle drivers are culprits and have to take the victims immediately to the nearest hospital, and both drivers are equally fined there and then. If the victim is not taken to the hospital, then both the drivers are sent to the Asylum.

Yet another function of Kipaas is to visit every foreign supplier, from whom Vandanites had to import equipment and raw materials. Not only the price and the quality of the material is checked by Kipaas, but their duty also is to get every possible information as required by Kipaavar. Any Vandanite who cheats the Government is sent to the Asylum. This infuses so much fear that every Vandanite does his foreign purchases without any mischief and also produces the results very quickly.

The overall picture is extremely good. There is no looting. No thieves ever enter any house. Even remote farm houses are free from thieves and looters. There are no street fights or murders. Girls and children are safe, every where.

Every Vandanite has a registration number, and tracing of culprits is easy. This, as well as the fear of Asylum, helps very much, in keeping law and order.

CHAPTER 47

Unemployment

"Unemployment and more unemployment! The cry of unemployment is increasing every day. Nations are preparing to defend their countries, against a possible attack. This preparation reduces unemployment. They wage a war and the unemployment is reduced further. When there is no scope of carrying on the war further, it ends resulting in an extra acute unemployment. Unemployment tends to create internal stresses, which the sane and rational persons call an internal enemy, with fangs of a cobra like monster, ever increasing its ugly encroachment over the economy of the country. It results in emptying out the stomachs of the unemployed and also of those who would become unemployed. To fight this monster, the so called advanced countries—which are developed to the extent that they close their vision to the fangs of their internal enemy—have prepared a ready hand dose, in the form of a dole, for those who remain unemployed, and who in turn may convert the dole into a dope.

"The unemployed person is a lazy person, sluggish in his thinking, and sluggish in his movements. In developed countries, he becomes accustomed to getting a free meal, a free house, a free medicine and a free care. The habit of sitting idle becomes a disease. For him, lethargy, becomes a matter of fact. He indulges in sins and crimes, which are akin to idleness, and he does not see any harm, in the sins and crimes committed by him. As a matter of fact he gets used to committing sins and crimes." The

Prince was addressing the Central Core and the secretaries. He continued, "What will be your reaction if there is unemployment in our country?"

Amar Pandhi expressed, "Europe is in a severe economic trouble—inflation spiralling, prices jumping, recession rendering millions of workers jobless. Governments of France, Germany, Italy, UK, and other European countries, are in a terrible mess. Their muddled minds are only capable of bungling their burden, and dissolving their problems in a gross disorderly way. They do not find any fault in themselves, but accuse foreign labour of being guilty—guilty of robbing bread and butter of their kith and kin, who are the original citizens of France, Germany and UK. And do you know, who the foreign workers are, who are being blamed? Naturally the poor folk—the Greek, the Turk, the Spaniard, the Italian and the Irish—the poor folk who helped out these very insipid and ungrateful French, German and English Elites to reach the highest standards in society. Now these Elites do not want the poor folk, who are termed the 'Guestworkers'. So they are offering every Guestworker, 10,000 French francs or the equivalent in any currency, to get rid of them. The Elites call these poor folk as parasites because they don't want to leave the country, because they do not want to give up the dole. The ugly face of recession and price spiralling is making these countries limp badly. The French Government has requested us to take about one lac 'Guestworkers' as immigrants to Vandanbhoomi. We have told them, we do not mind, and that all these 'guestworkers' will be most welcome to become Vandanites, when there will be no difference shown between them and the resident Vandanites. But simple said, difficult to achieve. The 'Guestworkers' do not want to leave France."

The Prince said, "We have to guard our own country. We have to learn a bitter lesson from all the European countries, USA, Japan, Australia and of course India,

where unemployment has become an accute problem. We must see that no one remains idle or unemployed in Vandanbhoomi."

CHAPTER 48

Fifth Year of Vandanbhoomi

"Vandanam Prince".

"Vandanam Amar".

"The Marine City has become a great centre of Industry. The City covers the whole Gulf of Exmouth—from Onslow to Learmonth to N.W. Cape to Pt. Cloates. About 5,000 Croco and 20,000 Milco and lacs of Small and Tiny Industries are making every item, required for the manufacture of trawlers. Last year, six Tencro companies started manufacturing coal fired boilers and pressure vessels. Their combined annual output is 12 boilers, each capable of giving a firm power of 200 MW at turbo-alternator end. The capacity of boilers is expected to go up to 18 boilers per year giving a total yearly addition of 3,600 MW thermal electric power, with imported turbo-alternators."

"What about Nuclear Power, Amar?"

"The first Nuclear power reactor based on 5% enriched Uranium is under installation at TEA. It will be fully ready for operation within 12 months, to provide steam to the Indian made 200 MW turbo-alternator being installed there. The switchgear has already been supplied by 2 Croco companies situated at Ceduna. The Nuclear Secretary has said, that by the 10th year, the output of Nuclear reactors for power will be two every year. This means an addition of 400 MW of Nuclear power every year. The Nuclear Secretary has further informed me, that our Nuclear scientists are now working on 2 other projects—

(1) A fast breeder power reactor of 200 MW, based on 22-1/2% plutonium, balance natural Uranium which again has 0.7% Uranium 235 and 99.3% Uranium 238. (2) A gas cooled power reactor of 200 MW, having enriched Uranium dioxide as fuel and helium gas as coolant, which can attain a temperature of 700°C and which in turn will produce a superheated steam in the heat exchanger. This superheated steam is the same as in our coal fired boilers."

"What about trucks and tractors ?

"Two Centicro Truck Companies at Darwin and Denison started assembling trucks about 3 years back with imported engines. Both the companies have now been manufacturing 150 BHP diesel engines for their trucks as well as for other industries. Output of trucks from both the companies, is 30,000 this year. By the 10th year, the output is expected to be one lac per year. We can then easily export 50,000 trucks, at a price less than that of any other make. During the last 6 months we have exported 5,000 trucks and 500 buses to New Zealand. We have opened 100 service centres throughout NZ. We have also provided truck drivers and cleaners, who are Kipaa agents."

"Amar, are you going to spread Vandanite Umbrella over NZ ?"

"That is what you said."

"You have to be very subtle in your venture. Does Kipaavar fully understand the theory of Umbrella and its shadow ?"

"I suppose so. It is Kipaavar's job to spread the Vandanite Umbrella over NZ. I can only help him."

"OK. Now tell me how is our fresh water front ?"

"The TEA Secretary is now giving us fresh water from 600 icebergs every year. This, at present, is more than required for 5,00,000 new farms given to Vagabonds. Accordingly, we have planted 2 million orange and pomegranate sapplings in the desert area of 5000 hectares, which works out to 400 trees per hectare. We hope to create

200 orange and pomegranate gardens, each of 5,000 hectares, within another 5 years. By that time, the TEA secretary has promised to give fresh water from 1,000 Icebergs, every year."

"How much grain and other products are we getting from 5,00,000 Vagabond Farms?"

"Today's average is 1-1/2 tons of grain—wheat, soya, other pulses—per hectare, because we are importing fertilizer and the quantity has been insufficient. Now we hope to get 2 million tons of Urea from Palm Valley every year plus 300 tons of heavy water. The grain output will be over 2 tons per hectare or more than 50 million tons, during the next year. This is expected to increase during coming years. Besides, we are getting 10 million tons of grain from old farms worked by Australian Vandhanites. Other than the foodgrain, every farm has either a poultry or piggery and a few cattle. Every community of 50 farms has an Electric Sub-Station or a Diesel Alternator Station and every farm gets whatever electric power is required by it. Every community has 10 tractors and corresponding farm equipment."

"What is the position about housing and immigrants?"

"Every immigrant gets an accommodation in the hostel tenement, at the place of his work. The yearly in-flow of immigrants is now 3-1/2 millions by chartered ships. Many more are coming by daily Air services from New Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay, Cochin. Quite a number of immigrants are from Japan, Indonesia and other places. Industries have started up all over Vandhanbhoomi. Kipaa agents have been looking after the immigrants very nicely."

"How much money are the immigrants remitting to India and other places?"

"Last year, out of 10 million immigrants, about half sent 10% to 20% of their net earning to India. This amounted to 2-1/2 billion rupees. We do not have to grudge, because these very immigrants are the major contributors to Van-

danbhoomi economy. As the number of immigrants grow, the amount remitted to India and other countries will also grow."

CHAPTER 49

Umbrella—One

"Vandanam Prince."

"Vandanam Ajnabi. Tell me Ajnabi, have you understood the theory of Umbrella and its application? When Chinese had attacked India in 1962, President Kennedy had offered Prime Minister Nehru, an Atomic Umbrella. Do you remember how Nehru had rejected this offer?"

"Yes Prince. I know the theory, and my first chance to use it will be over New Zealand. I remember a paragraph from your diary :

*If you give, you know what you have given,
But you do not know what you have received.
If you receive, you know what you have received,
But you do not know what you have given."*

"Tell me Ajnabi. What do you think of American Protective Umbrella over Japan and American help to India and Russian Umbrella over East European countries, and Russian help to India?"

"Japan is compelled to accept the American defence Umbrella because of its defeat at the hands of Americans in 1945. So is the case of East European countries who have to accept Russian Umbrella. But silly is India which is eager to accept any help—any Umbrella—from America and from Russia. India's case is a pitiable one. In spite of its enormous resources—in material and in manpower—India has remained in a bad shape. The Pandits

of Politics and the Pandits of Religion, vie with one another, in grappling and catching any droppings from the protective Umbrella of Super Powers. Begging Bowl is ever present in the hands of these Pandits. To cover up their greed—often personal—they call it the Begging Bowl diplomacy.

"But Ajnabi, you have to learn a great practical lesson from the Indian example. You will have to create a similar atmosphere in NZ, so much so that NZ authorities are compelled to ask for our Umbrella."

"Yes Prince. Vandanam".

"Vandanam."

CHAPTER 50

Umbrella—Two

Ajnabi called Venkat Rao from New Zealand. Venkat was the Counsellor for Economic Affairs in the Vandanite Embassy in NZ. He was a Kipaa officer, directly working under Kipaavar, but disguised as a Counsellor working under the Vandanite Ambassador in NZ. Venkat was one of the oldest Vagabond Watchers, and a very clever and intelligent spy.

"Vandanam Ajnabi."

"Vandanam Venkat. How are the horses moving in NZ?"

"Pretty fast. But I will see that they limp within 5 to 6 years. I am providing Vandanite drivers and cleaners and servants, to everyone who asks for them in NZ. At present, there are 25,000 of them and all Kipaa agents. At the end of 5 years from today, this number should be 2,50,000 to 3,50,000. Simultaneously, I am inducing New Zealanders to take schooling and/or training in Vandanbhoomi and then settle there and sell milk products of NZ. If I succeed in inducing about 2,50,000 New Zealanders to settle in Vandanbhoomi, that will reduce 10% of the local population of NZ. The density of population in NZ is only 27 persons per square mile. So, even if, we can send a few millions of Vandanites to NZ, it will not matter much, but will heavily shatter the present balance."

"You know, that you have to move rather cautiously. Have you studied the history of India and how did the British enter and slowly helped and then squeezed the Indians and in the end consumed the whole of India. Now the tide

has turned. The British in UK are hopelessly dependent on the USA. The USA has an upper hand on India. The American diplomacy is moving its claws, very indirectly to help India to cripple it. Do you know how? The Pandit or Swami or Guru has many disciples. When the Guru becomes famous, he gets a few foreign disciples. These foreign disciples, even excel Indian disciples, in performing ceremonies and 'pujas' as dictated by the Guru. Not only this, they—the foreign disciples—don 'Gerua' dress and shave their heads and become the chosen disciples. The silly and gullible Indian is easily caught in the triple bonded snare of the Guru cum foreign disciple cum foreign power. The Indian exclaims, "Oh! How wonderful is our Guru! He has even foreign shaven disciples, who don the 'gerua' dress. Our Guru must be an 'Avtar'. Let us tell every one." The foolish Indian disciple does not know that the foreign disciple could be a very competent and discreet spy. This Indian wants to reach God quickly and so he surrenders himself at the feet of his master, the Guru. The Indian disciple becomes a ceremony crazy person, otherwise a lazy and lethargic citizen and an easy prey."

"Yes Anabi. India's condition is hopelessly pitiable one. We have to learn a great lesson from India, to keep ourselves alert but induce the enemy to become lazy."

"Tell me Venkat, how will you prepare to induce New Zealanders to depend more and more on Vandanite services?"

"I have instructed every Kipaa agent—in the garb of truck driver, cleaner, assistant or servant—to be very obedient and sweet in his manners. He must work 12 hours a day or as dictated by his employer. He must see that his employer is always satisfied with him. He gets a 'weekly off' when he has to come to my office and submit his report. From these reports, I am keeping a file on every important NZ person. I have succeeded in inducing some NZ drivers to become secretaries of the drivers unions.

Kipaa drivers and cleaners pay a handsome fee to their Union Secretary. I have arranged to give him an additional payment, under the table. Most of these secretaries are drunkards and want plenty of wine and women. These secretaries in exchange help increase Vandanite drivers."

"I suggest you give a 3 year free service for all Vandanite trucks. By this way, you will be able to sell more trucks and open more service stations."

"Yes, I will do that immediately. Vandanam Ajnabi."

"Vandanam Venkat."

CHAPTER 51

A Scientist writes from Antarctica

"Vandanam President,

I am so happy to be on the ice cap of Antarctica. It reminds me of my young age, when I often trekked over the snow covered Himalayan mountains at Ladakh, with 3 of my college friends. It reminds me too, of Siliguri, of Darjeeling, of Tiger Hill, and of the most beautiful snow peaks of Kanchanjunga, which I visited much later.

While sitting in my tent here, I feel very much drawn to the snow peaks of Himalayan mountains. No doubt Antarctica is flat, but it has its own beauty and awe. The temperature outside is as low as -50°C , while inside the tent it is just 0°C . It is quite comfortable, though chilling. Along with my team of 20 Scientists, I have been here for almost 3 months, which has given me and given us a chance to wander and trek over the vast expanses of Antarctica. How wonderful is this lonely place abounding in Nature's lively and lovely abundance? Night skies are often extremely clear. The stars can be seen with a clarity, you can never see anywhere else.

Here Nature shows itself, with a different variety of animals, birds, and microbes. There are no trees here. Conditions are very different. All the same the Nature is beautifully exhilarating. The quietness is broken only by the hissing sound of the ferocious and untamed winds. It gives me an altogether new experience of life—life which is in every part of Nature. Even the tiny drop of water is full of life. I begin to realise fullness of Nature every

where. Every particle and every wave seems to throb with life—life which is continuously changing. I begin to realise that conditions, that condition you, me and everyone and every particle, are conditioned conditions, which are part and parcel of the Supreme force that is Atma.

No doubt, we are all one and the same. But we can never visualise this truth, except under very rare conditions.

We will still be working in Antarctica for another 3 months. If there be any commands for me or other Scientists, please convey as usual.

Das

Daman Din.

CHAPTER 52

12th Year of Vandanhoomi

"Vandanam Prince."

"Vandanam Amar."

"The National Artery is being constructed much ahead of schedule. The Western leg of the Artery is nearly 25% ready. The railway line has been laid from Lalla Rookha to station W3. By the 15th year, the double track rail line will have been completed upto Sangam Seven. By that year, stations W4, W5, W6 and Sangam Seven also will have been completed. At present townships at Lalla Rookha, Lalla Sookha, W1 and W2 are more or less ready and duly occupied, at 2 of the 4 sectors. At each township, one 1000 MW coal fired Power Plant consisting of 5 turbo-alternator sets have also been installed, supplying power to 4 Centicro, about 8 Tencro and several Croco, Milco, Small and Tiny industries. Of the 16 Centicro companies at these 4 townships, 3 are producing steel, each at the rate of one million tons per year, to be expanded to 2 millions per year in a few years. Two Centicro companies have started manufacturing 200 MW turbo-alternator sets. One 8 lane road is completed from Lalla Rookha to Sangam Seven. There are huge water tanks in each sector. Township W3 is being provided with Nuclear Power Plant of 1000 MW. It will be completed in 3 stages."

"What are our trawlers catching now, Amar?"

"Fish catch from EEZ of our shores is about 1-1/2 million tons per year. The deep sea fish catch beyond EEZ is 12 million tons per year. Four years back, we started fishing

Antarctica Krill—a small sister of shrimp—and now the catch is about 8 million tons of krill per year. Krill is in great demand by the Japanese, Americans, Russians and European countries. It fetches us 5,000/- rupees per ton. It seems krill has a big future."

"And Immigration?"

"Today's count is 36 millions and some more. From the 4th year, when families started coming here, we have had 3 million babies born in Vandanbhoomi till last year. 15 million immigrants, last year, remitted 20 billion rupees to India and other places. India placed an order for 52,000 Vandanam class trawlers, on Marine City, seven years back. The Indian Government have introduced a new system of selling these trawlers to fishermen. Each trawler is sold to a co-op society of 12 fishermen, who must go beyond the EEZ of India for fishing. 10 Vandanam class trawlers, which means 120 fishermen, must go out to deep sea along with one big trawler, owned by an Indian Multinational company. The fish caught daily is brought to the shore, in one Vandanam trawler, for the fish processing factory belonging to the Multinational, which gives proper and proportional credit to the fishermen. Out of this credit 60% is remitted to the government towards cost plus interest, against the fishermen's instalments. Indian catch this year is expected to be 13 million tons of sea fish."

CHAPTER 53

Umbrella—Three

The NZ government is alarmed at the inflow of Vandanite truck drivers and cleaners. It sent a note of warning to Vandanite Embassy at Wellington. The ambassador replied back that the Vandanites had given no occasion for any mischief anytime and therefore the NZ government should not get alarmed. Exchange of notes became common. The inflow of Vandanites was quickened. About 3,50,000 Vandanites were now working in NZ as against 1,00,000 New Zealanders in Vandanbhoomi. A bill was passed in the NZ parliament, by which further entry of Vandanites was stopped.

Kipaavar called Venkat.

"Vandanam Ajnabi."

"Vandanam Venkat."

"What is the latest position?"

"We have prepared all maps necessary for the occupation of all military camps, armouries, broad-casting stations, police stations and telephone exchanges."

"How many Vandanites do you want?"

"One million."

"These can be sent in 50,000 trawlers."

"Where will these be sent and when shall I strike?"

"20 days from today, our trawlers will arrive at a few points on the coastal strips of Southern island. The points will be 15 km south of Westport, 15 km. west of Invercargill, 15 km. south of Dunedin, 15 km. north of Christchurch and 10 points of which you will be informed in 7 days. You

have to use the Kipaa drivers and cleaners to keep the bridgeheads clean."

"OK, Vandanam."

"Vandanam".

50,000 trawlers were getting ready to move east. Within the time limit, they must reach their allotted positions. The NZ government knew of this Vandanite attack 10 days before the target date. It sent a note of protest, and yet another stronger note of protest. But of no avail.

On the 20th day, one million Vandanites landed as per schedule. There was no resistance. New Zealanders were afraid—terribly afraid of Vandanites. The Vandanite superiority was piercing the hearts of New Zealanders. The physical size of Vandanite force and superiority of Vandanite technological development, simply over awed the NZ Government. They often said that Vandabhoomi could swallow up the whole NZ in just one gulp.

Amar Pandhi sent a proposal to NZ government to form a Union with Vandanbhoomi, under which, all import duties between the two countries be abolished and further, any citizen of the two countries could live in either country. The NZ government accepted the proposal.

Amar Pandhi then asked Australia to join the Union. Australia too joined the Union, which now came to be called the Great Oceania Union. Within 3 months, the neighbouring island kingdoms of New Caledonia, Fiji, New Hebrides, Solomon, Nauru, W. Samoa and a few more joined the GOU.

CHAPTER 54

The Last Vandanam

"Vandanam Prince".

"Vandanam Amar, Vandanam Ajnabi."

"14-1/2 years have passed away. Our latest experiment is the 'mini-missile in millions'. We first tested it 2 years back. A few goats were kept in a trawler. 3 mini-missiles, each with a tip charge of 0.1 gram of plutonium, were catapulted into the air from a special rifle kept in another trawler, 500 km away. The mini-missile, after being catapulted, cruised for 500 km in a curved path and then struck the trawler and the goats. There was a small triple atomic explosion, having a strength of half ton of TNT per missile. The explosion was filmed by our scientists. There were American, Russian, Chinese and also Japanese satellites, taking and relaying pictures to their receiving centres. Our experiment is known to our rivals. We do not mind. Presently we have developed a mini-missile having a cruising range of 10,000 km. We have't yet tested this. But our rivals—the Americans, the Russians and the Chinese—know fully well that their anti-ballistic missiles, their warships and war planes, are now as good as obsolete. The common strategy of war has changed. The whole concept of war and weaponry has changed."

"Amar, you have achieved what I expected of you. But your strategy is a miscalculation. You have't visualised the population explosion and the ecological unbalance in nature. The population explosion is going to be much more powerful and devastating than the so called neutron

bomb, or hydrogen bomb or your mini-missiles in millions. Do not overlook this population explosion and the movement of its wave, from the thickly populated areas to the near vacuums. The clash that will take place, will shatter all the calculations and all the estimates of the so called projections for the period 20 years hence, prepared by the supposedly developed nations. All these projections will go wide of their mark. Do you know why? The conditions that condition us, as well as every thing around us, are not fully understood and taken in view, while projecting the future. The advance of science and technology, has taken us far enough, to teach us a lesson, that we are advancing and going ahead, only to be boomeranged and destroyed by our ownelves. Time is not far, when this boomerang will occur. And when this does occur, those who envelop themselves within the supposedly tight web of atom bombs, missiles and computerised accuracy of aim, will find themselves, along with their friends and foes alike, captured in the very network, made by them for their protection."

"True Prince. We too have to learn a bitter lesson. But let us not be cowards in the game of annihilation. We have made a deterrent in the form of mini-missiles. Do you think we will be compelled to use this annihilating weapon?"

"Time will show, whether, you will be compelled to annihilate others who will annihilate you. But all the same, you have got to remain fearless—fearless about annihilation. Now Amar, my time is approaching. Very soon I will leave you, and before I leave, I will destroy the Flute."

"Don't leave us Prince. We do not care for the Flute. It gave us this land. What we care for, is your presence."

"No Amar, No Ajnabi. You have got to be independent of me. You have to learn to work without me. I must go. Vandanam Amar. Vandanam Ajnabi."

"Vandanam Prince."

"Vandanam Prince."

CHAPTER 55

Reflections of a Reader

"Have I understood it—this book full of contradicting wisdom? Has it produced in me a conflicting confusion? Or has it given me a confiding clarity? It is so baffling. I remain confused. But then, every confusion is baffling. And every confusion gives me a chance to solve it. Will I find a solution?

"Full of lingering doubts, I have often wandered alone—alone with my mind confounded and confused. Will I ever find the truth? All my life, I have been trekking over a few ruts formed by my elders. How can I know whether these ruts are right or wrong? I can only put my faith in my elders and accept them and their path. But will I ever succeed in paving my own path?

"I seem to have changed so much. But does not every one change? What shall I do now? Have I, till now, accepted faulty statements and considered them to be right? How could I have remained, for so long, under wrong impressions? What I have understood all my life and believed it so thoroughly—how could it be wrong now? How much do I yearn, to analyse each and every statement?

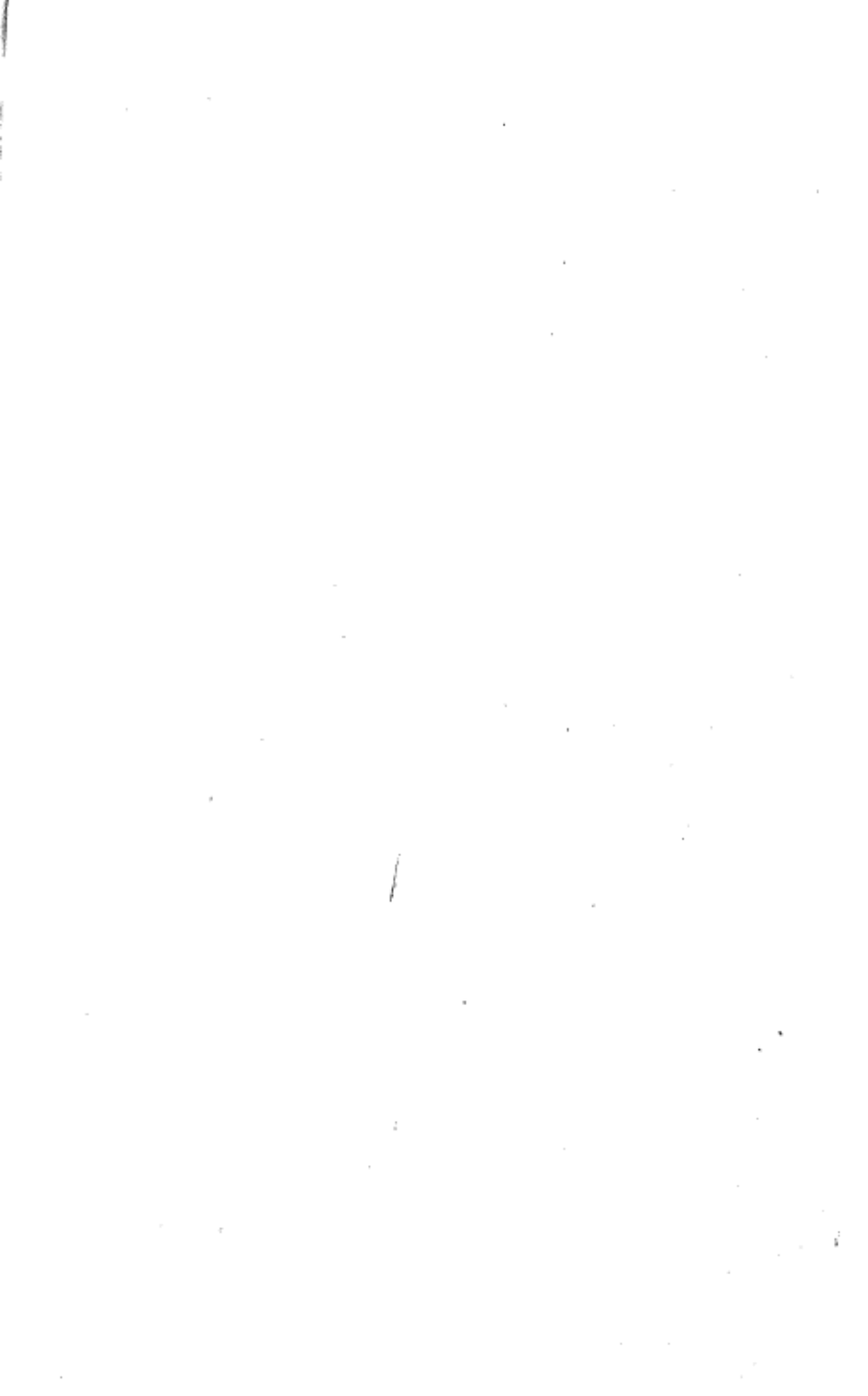
"Will I find a new path? And will the new path be right? Even if the new path be right, how can I align myself with the new path? Even though, this new path seems to be correct, how can I change over to the new path?

"What shall I do now? Shall I change? How much shall I change? Will my change be stable? Will my change give

me more of subtle strength ? Or will the new path, the new knowledge, give me wisdom to use my strength in a subtle way—in a Rajsi way ?”

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