

MAA TUJHE SALAAM

PREFACE

Mother Teresa, an idol of mercy, love and affection. Though she was born in Yugoslavia but once she came to India she got absorbed here. For the whole of her life she continued serving the poor- destitute and orphans. Initially she had started her mission of selfless service of the poor and destitute in Kolkata. Absolutely simple looking, down to earth this great lady was conferred with Noble Prize in 1979. The sense of service and beneficence was such deeply embedded in her personality that she donated all the funds and the prize money awarded to her along with the amounts received from other sources also in the service of poor and down trodden. Various head of the states Prime Minister of the countries world over approached her with great respect devotion and servitude. She was honored and revered for serving the human beings all over the world. Such a great personality like Mother Teresa who had devoted her entire life for the selfless service of fellow human beings visit this planet very rarely. From her life and actions we get encouragement and inspiration for committing ourselves to selfless service beneficence and servitude.

The present book- MAA TUJHE SALAAM consist of several happenings, activities and incidents of the life of the Mother as discovered by the author. The objective of the present work is to enlighten the masses with the noble goal, activities, efforts, life routine, idealism and principles which she set out remaining in the society, with the society, for the society and by the society. It was most humble and incessant effort of the author to keep the book in common man's language and easily understood- in the simplest form along with pictures etc so that readers could draw inspiration and gather encouragement from the life of the Mother. Though the author was cautious in assimilating and depicting the dates and events as described here and had extensive study and deliberation over the same even then there may be some contrasting version of those dates and events. If the reader(you) think that or find a contrast or an error or a better depiction of an event date or discussion then you are most humbly requested to intimate the same to the author or the publisher, so that necessary amendments and corrections could be made and incorporated in the further addition of this work. The revered Mother was always indulged in the humanitarian

acts. Every country was her field of action. Where ever she went she had showered pure love. In her views all the living beings in distress were alike.whether he is a Palestinian or Indian Mother Teresa had applied her soothing balm with love and affection to all.

Orphan children, destitute elderly persons and patients suffering from chronic serious ailments all for what their pain and sufferings as if Mother Teresa had a magical healing touch. In her Mother homes thousands of such inmates. Mother Teresa treated them all and spread love and affection like blessings after the prayers.

Mother Teresa had following in thousands. All her followers got inspiration from her work and servitude. Mother Teresa herself grew inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi. Though she never met Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi ji carried out drives and agitation against untouchability and discrimination against dalit, harijan and lepers. Mother Teresa was very much influenced and moved by these works of Gandhi ji. This call of inspiration was heard and acknowledged by the Mother and she herself started moving on the same path. Taking inspiration and encouragement from Florence nightingale(lady with the lamp), Nun Teresa of Spain and

St. Assisi Mother kept on all her life treading on the path of benevolence and selfless service and kept the lamp of service lighted.

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NOBLEST OF THE NOBLE LAUREATES

Dated:10th December 1989.

A grand old sleek personality clad in a white cotton saree with blue border was calmly approaching the podium in the colossal Oslo University Auditorium in Norway. Event organized, was for honoring this grand personality for her efforts for enhancing Peace and Cooperation in the world and the honor was “Noble Prize” the highest civilian honor conferred to a person and Professor John Sanice, Chairman of the Noble Prize Committee was present on the dais to confer the prize money of 90 thousand Pounds.

On this occasion audience comprised of the Acclaimed Intellectuals, Academician, Diplomats, Senior State Officials and to in a special gesture King of Norway himself was present. By now you must have understood that this apex honor was to be conferred on the beloved merciful Mother of the destitute, desolate, impoverished, disabled persons and the lepers - “MOTHER TERESA”.

Professor John Sanice, Chairman of the Noble Prize Committee stated regarding the short listing of Mother’s name for the honor that it was the action and deeds of the Mother which proved itself for her respect, honor and

recognition of others abilities and grace. Mother embraced and accepted aging singles, poor and desolate, dying destitute, homeless persons, abandoned lepers or the unwanted babies, all of them were her own and she dedicated her entire life for them in merely three cotton sarees. The true pleasure and happiness is in sacrificing one's life and personality for others. And Mother Teresa proved it in her life time.

While accepting the honor Mother Teresa said that this is the honor of all the poor and desolate all over the world and I received this in the name of destitute persons of the world over. Mother humbly refused to attend and dining in the festive dinner after the prize ceremony and clarified that it leads to wastage of money, the money spent on it should be utilize for feeding the poor and the starving. It was the charismatic effect of Mother's humbleness and simplicity that the Noble Prize Committee readily accepted this proposal led by the Mother.

Though Mother received 124 honors and prizes during her life time but Mother never yearned or wished for a honor. She felt uncomfortable in these kind of ceremonies.

In 1980 Mother was conferred with the highest civilian honor of India- 'Bharat Ratna' by his Excellency Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy President of India. Before the Mother this honor was conferred only to 17 dignitaries. Mother Teresa was the first non Indian bond woman to have been conferred with this honor. She was now less Indian than other Indian dignitaries.

Mother was not born in India but she was no less important than ourselves as Indian because we have taken birth in this auspicious land and it is our moral duty to serve our Motherland, share, virtues and woes of our fellow countrymen but a great personality like the Mother Teresa could only perform such an arduous task at a distant land away from own country, comforts and prosperity.

It has been truly cited, that either embrace or accept someone or be submissive to someone or submit yourself to someone. Mother Teresa had proved it to be true through her actions. She had embraced and accepted the lepers, helpless, weak and ailing persons of this country and all of them belong to her.



INTRODUCTION

Humans and other living beings consume the fruits borne by trees, rivers do not consume its own water and the rain clouds prospering the farms & fields do not consume the grains because a wise & virtuous person comes to this world for beneficence & prospering others.

These lines truly portray the life style of Mother Teresa – Image of love & mercy. Her life was devoted to the service of destitute, desolate, poor, hungry, ailing, diseased & disabled persons.

The world is full of self centered creatures, whether humans, or other living beings - animals, birds etc. each can successfully fill its belly, but it cannot be termed as achievement and nor it can be said that to be a life truly successful.

Today a tireless effort is on its zenith to discover the ends of the infinity by scientists, discoverers & inventors who have endlessly tried to gather means out of impossible reaches to provide comfort & happiness through their inventions. On the other hand we are ignoring the bare necessities of the human life. Several nations of the world are spending billions of rupees on the scientific research and inventions in its endeavor to

reach out to the moon and distant stellar systems, but not taking account of the grossly ignored destitute, desolate and poor fellow citizens.

This was the towering task taken up by the beloved Mother Teresa to fight this menace in the society. This crowning character & personality made her outstanding performance among other fellow human beings. The only aim of her life was to serve the cause of desolate, destitute, ailing, poor & disabled persons she considered her acts as worship of God and her thoughts venerated it to be the true following and adaptation of Christ's service and following.

She didn't have any pride or egoist thoughts of her objective but accepted it in a most simple form. In fact this simplicity and openness was her greatness, manifestation and spontaneity. For these entire specialties world bowed to her devotedly. That's why she was called the "Mother", statue of mercy, love, affection and grace.

This extraordinary excellent personality came to this world on 27 August 1910 in Skopje, a city in Yugoslavia. Her parental family originally was Albanian. Her parents christened the new born girl as (Agnes Gonaxha

Bejaxhiu).

At the time of birth of this girl neither any star appeared in the sky nor Angel descended on the earth, nor did any declaration came from the heaven that one day this girl will enlighten the humanity with her solemn deeds and would show a new path to the world.

It's a pleasant coincidence that birth year of Mother Teresa is the same in which year the symbol of service Florence Nightingale left to her heavenly abode.

May be Mother Teresa was a native of Yugoslavia where she was born but great persons are not property of specific place or region. They are the torch-bearer and guide of the entire humanity and their personality is Public and Universal asset. "Universal Brotherhood" and 'the entire earth belongs to the Lord where is the doubt about it' these proverbs indicate the special personality of these great icons.

Agnes Gonaxha Bejaxhiu was one among her four siblings, two brothers and two sisters. Like other children of the family she was also sent to the local primary school for education. Life, destiny, circumstances and wheel of time play vital role in one's life. Therefore some people call the Time as most powerful authority. In fact it

is absolutely true, not because time is not a material object but conveying that Time creates history. With time a child attains adolescence, an adolescent becomes youth, a youth becomes middle aged and further middle aged goes to old age. Not only has this but the happenings of one's life played a vital role to change human life greatly. The thought, philosophy and perception of a person change one's personality entirely.

In 1914 first world war erupted in Europe, which traumatized the entire society there Mother (who then was the four year old girl Agnes Gonaxha Bejaxhiu) was also greatly influence by this world event.

The holocaust the war is a said chapter of the history. Though this terrible incidence has not ended yet little girl Agnes faced a terrible blow. She was only seven years of age that a father left for heavenly abode. Death is the bitterest and the most profound rule of life. Each one of us has to face this point revolving in the temporal cycle. A life begins with birth and ends with death the period in between birth and death is life.

On one hand there was the trauma of the woes of the war instability and uncertainty originated from the war and on the other hand said demise of her father

must really have devastated the tender self of this child.

The time treaded forward. And along with it the tender girl Agnes Gonaxha Bejaxhiu grew up into adolescence and further from adolescent to a youth. Probably at that time no one have imagined that one day she will become the most popular respected personality in the world serving the destitute, desolate, and poor.

Future is beyond ones thought, unimaginable, unseen, and unknown. In her school days she was introduced to solidarity. She becomes the member of the institution. From here her life got a new direction her thoughts and perception got a new dimension. Finally this novice thought perception and direction built the statue of love and affection-Mother Teresa. A childhood has gone, the adolescent, was also gone. The home and the family has every comfort in the life. They was know scarcity or despondence. What Agnes has to become The Mother, of in numerous homeless destitute and depressed persons, Mother of the World, The Universal Mother?

How can Mother meant for the entire world could restrict herself to become a Mother of a few? How many children had the Mother? It cannot be ascertained

specifically. Numerous children of The Mother were living happily after being rendered new life by The Mother. Yet other uncountable children have received higher education not only in India but also abroad. Such personalities whose parentage was not known received love and affection from Mother and with her support are leading a new life, countless destitute have settled in their house hold. Many abandoned children were brought under the umbrella of Mother's love and blessings and now are happily being brought up.

Countless disabled, deaf and dumb children are leading normal life in Mother's children home those children received such love and affection from the sisters of the children home that they never feel of the orphanage. But when Mother is not among us they feel like an orphan/orphaned.

The first group of Jesuits landed in Kolkata on 30 December 1925. Thereon Jesuits began there work further, one of these persons when to Kurseong.

The Jesuit of Kurseong wrote several letters at length to their Mother land regarding their work here. These elaborately appreciating the same and those letters also contain the inspiring work done by the Jesuit

preachers working in Bengal.

The letters sent from Kurseong were also read over to the members of the society in the then school of Mother Teresa.

She decided firmly to visit India. Such a decision of tender age was not proven temporary with time nor it was rendered immature. The firm decision taken in adolescence may seem impossible but the strong conviction of Mothers Will was proved by this.

Such a small child and such strong decision, what a contradiction? There was no deficiency in the family happiness prosperity etc. even then Mother decided to part away from her entire belongings brother and sisters and family home and come to India. There was no match on one hand it was Yugoslavia on the other eastern proven of Bengal in India. What was the reason behind it? Why this land attracted her? In Mothers own reply it was the Lords wish and inspiration. There is no iota of doubt in Mothers such reply because the letters of Jesuit member of Kurseong were given a read over to all members but the inspiration devolved upon Mother only?

Kalidas the great poet wrote-“if otherwise happy and contented by all means a persons becomes inquisitive

observing pictures scenes and hearing melodious words then it is only possible that such inquisitiveness is the result of certain relations of the earlier births”.

Then whether Mother Teresa had something to do with this land since her earlier births? If not then why did she had chosen to lead a saintly life voluntarily?

Whenever she was asked about her family home Mothers reply was that her home was bed of roses, she had the inspiration and the Lords voice from the student life itself. And due to this inspiration she had decided to become an ascetic, then the thought of abandoning her family and home or imagination as such sometimes had shaken her/deviated her. But the inspiration from the conscience/inner self inspired and encouraged her again and again.

Due to this inspiration finally she overcame this duality. Finally she decided that she has to go. Bearing the torch of life for the fulfillment of the noblest cause, to show the world a new path.

For achieving a Noble goal petty selfish objectives, personal happiness and comfort, prosperity of the private life has to be sacrificed. For serving the world personal comfort had to be shunned, I am the same omnipresent

every other form is the image of the Lord then how can I be separate from it? Service of the poorest is the service of the God and the true following of the path shown by Jesus Christ.

The doubt was gone. Facing the Will Power doubt and dual has faded. Mother has formally decided to do away with the comforts and happiness of life behind that the whole world is blindly pursuing.

I am not only this body and self. This entire gigantic form of universe is me. All these poor and destitute are embedded in me, probably Mother had reached this kind of stature. After the adolescence Mother determine to become and acetic. And she was willing to visit Kolkata. She put forth her said desire before the concern missionaries.

Her determination was victorious. In reality no barrier can stand in the face of strongly willed determination but this kind of strength from such a determination only we visualized among the poor and general public or a person from it doesn't succeed in achieving its goal completely in the course of time.

This strong will power had made Agnes Gonaxha Bejaxhiu had made her Mother Teresa. Mother Teresa

meaning thereby lively image of love affection and compassion that is Mother Teresa. The Mother who had shown the world an exemplary path despite not being unnatural Mother she was a Universal Mother. Affectionate Mother was image of compassion and pity.

Tirelessly devoted to the service of the down trodden. The true follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. Live image of his teachings.

Later part of her life had become public rather Universal than a private life. The service to the down trodden and the poor had become the celebration of festivities for her.

She had practicalised the theoretical part of philosophy and idealism in true sense.



MOTHER AND INDIA

Mother always kept away from self praise rather praise of any kind. From the ancient times it is not in practice that great personalities and intellectuals got recorded their biography or autobiography.

It hardly matters that mother was not an Indian by birth. Through in her actions thought and lifestyle she was purely Indian. Her attire - white cotton saree with blue border, using floor to sit around to save cost on furniture etc. every part of her routine was truly Indian.

She never mentioned of her past nor liked that her biography be recorded during her life time.

We do not know voluminous account of the life and working of several intellectuals and great personalities of our country because they were not in practice of mentioning things about their own life and deeds, but through their great deeds and actions or their creations we come to know that such a great personality ever existed on this land. Today the circumstances have changed world has shrunk & become a unit, its one world therefore any such great personality may not be allowed to disappear in the past forever so that one

cannot remember them.

Knowing this fact very well Mother was against and idea of writing biography or autobiography during her life time. This attribute of her grand personality was not on consonance with that of the intellectuals and great personality of our country.

This was the reason that Mother when met or visited any Indian she said, "You are Indian by birth, it is a pleasant chance that I have made myself Indian".

In fact it is one's destiny to born as an Indian. It can't be attributed to us Indian but Mother herself had become Indian. Therefore it was the greatest attribute of her personality she deserved it.

In this context we are reminded of the episode of Mahabharata were in great warrior Karna, poor Karna, son of a unmarried Mother, who was abundant in a flowing river due to dishonor and shame by the founds him brought him up as his own son. Diamond is always a diamond whether it is in the possession of a jeweler or it is lying in the dust. Its shine and glitter discloses its true identity that it is a diamond.

Circumstances play positive role Karna is befriended by Duryodhana who makes him the king later.

But the conservative and orthodox Indian society was not welcome his qualifications and attributes due to casteist feelings. He was not allowed to participate in any competition with the princes and is held totally unqualified for that. Then Karna roars fumingly-“I am a horse keeper, son of a horse keeper or whatever I am it is not my fault it is purely one’s destiny where he takes birth, whereas proving my worth or manliness is in my control.

Karna had said it was not my control to take birth in a particular clan, yes giving and introduction of my valour and strength is in my control .How can be taking birth in a down trodden family can be my disqualification or its example. Because it was not in my control. My true introduction what is in my control?

Mother Teresa stated “I was not in India but I myself have become Indian” whom we will call great of these? Obviously the one who had become Indian through her actions. Being prosperous traditionally or with the family inheritance even if a person times the stairs of progress then much credit couldn’t be given to him but a person who through her own efforts climbs the success ladder is truly the greatest one.

If liberating ourselves from religious inhibitions we think in a balance manner than we find that Karna is better than Pandavas in valour. Mother Teresa was also comparatively better personality in greatness than fellow born Indian born citizens.

It is a pleasant coincidence that with a efforts, deeds and action of Mother Teresa several Karnas abundant by their Mother got a new life.

On the auspicious day of 29 November 1928 was a very important day in Mother life , this day she had left /set of for India, initially she reached Loreto Abbey in Pthaupterhem, Dublin (Ireland). Then she came to India.

With the secret touch of her feet this land became blessed. Now the land of India becomes her own land. Now not the Mother land but the land of Karmic-aspersions certainly. From this point of time in her life an unforgettable and golden chapter in her life began.

Arriving here she became “Mother Teresa”.

Arriving in India she acknowledged that it was her own land which terribly needed her services. This feeling had come automatically when she had put the first step on this land that she had true make this land the land of her own actions, the land for her Karmic devotion. It was

merely coincidence that Mother visited India or whether the destiny was playing an unseen hand. Nothing can be said specifically regarding it. According to the Mother all these causes actions and assignments were result of the divine inspiration.

Why she came here? Any discussion on this topic is totally meaningless. She actually arrive here is the most important. After arriving in India Mother reached Darjeeling thereafter she again came back to Kolkata. This was the stepping on her field of actions in her life.

She entered the world of action as a school teacher. She taught geography in St. Mary High School. This school was situated in the Intali area of Kolkata. There she taught almost for eighteen years. In her tenure as teacher she came across numerous problems of poor and destitute very closely. For some years she was also the chair person of this school in this place she was vested with the duty of 'Daughters of St.Anne' along with the Loretto sisters indirectly.

Close to the St. Mary High School there was a slum dwelling by the name of Moti Jheel. For the first time Mother experienced poverty coming to this neighborhood. The true disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ had found her

arena.

Mother was full of love and affection, compassion finding poor and destitute in pain. Her heart cried. During the teaching hours and study Mother was confined to the campus and used to visit in a Moti Jheel dwellings when ever she got time. Mother called children there to her and listened to their woes, normally this routine was during the interval in the school.

Even after returning from there Mother used to remember the faces of those children in her heart. Describing these works of the Mother Shri Sudev Roy Chaudhary wrote just outside the boundary wall of the St Mary School Moti Jheel dwelling were situated. Mother got her first experience of the poverty in this vicinity. While being in the service of the down trodden her heart wet. During the recess/interval she used to visit Moti Jheel area. Sitting in the courtyard of the thatched houses she patiently listen to the sweet and sorrow tales of the boys and girls. Even after returning from there Mother repeatedly thought of the unhappy state and woes of the children of innocent parents. She used to call students after suspending the studies and told them, "You all must bring some food for the recess time. Why

can't you give meals to these poor children who live down in the slums opposite there?"

All of the student affirmed Mothers request by raising there hands. Day by day observing the hardship faced by those people great turbulence erupted in her heart she found her in the midst of a whirlwind. She couldn't hold herself back for long. Before the Christmas day when she was on her way to Darjeeling in a train her heart was immersed in a whirlpool. Her serene personality having a combination of vastness Adriatic and greatness of Himalaya was facing a tied of change. That day became the decision day.

The love and affection compassion sprouted deep in her heart for the poor and desolate person kept on budding and growing further for the times to come. With the fleeting time this growth resulted in further branches and offshoots and become a gigantic tree. Only a pure and clean mirror could reflect the image truly. The same manner the inspiration from the lord descents only on a pure heart. Mother experience similar deliverance when she was a student in the school.

On 10th September 1946 when she was on her way to Darjeeling in a train. At that time message of the lord

was sighted in her conscience. The train was running, at that time the voice seems to have directed her,- we have to sacrifice everything and followed the lord Submit to his service and this service has been commended upon you in the form of the service of the poor destitute, desolate, disabled, helpless, diseased etc.

When the Mother heart conform and absorbed this voice since than she had completely devoted herself to the fulfillment of this objective selflessly.

Mother sometimes said this was the inspiration from the Lord. All these poor destitute, desolate, disabled, helpless, diseased persons are the images of Lord Jesus Christ, because Lord Christ had said I am hungry give me food. I am bare give me clothes. I am shelter less, give me shelter. I am yearning for compassion, give me love. Jesus Christ was the Lord of compassion and love and he himself had appeared in the form of orphanage disabled children in these children homes.

Mother heard the voices of heaven commanding her to serve the down trodden. At this point some of us may object by only Mother had heard and experienced this kind of feeling? We have already stated the answer to it,

that only a pure clean mirror can reflect a true image. Mothers heart was pure clean uncontaminated spotless and chaste, thus there is no wonder why only the Mother was chosen for such heavenly voice.

Mother some time said –every moment whether we are awake or sleeping we could experienced the Pure and Serene presence of the Lord. Mr. Malcolm Magridge who was affiliated to B B C London mentioned an incident in his book namely “something beautiful for god” – a telefilm was being produced for television program of B B C London. And to pursue this assignment Mr. Malcolm Magridge had arrived in Kolkata. The film being produced was on Mother Teresa and missionaries of charity.

The film unit arrived in ‘Nirmal Hriday’ (Kalighat Kolkata) which came in existence through the efforts of compassionate Mother. It was opinion of the cameraman that film is shot in the outdoors as it will be better than the shooting indoor. The film was shot outdoors. There after some work was remaining done indoors.

This unit believed that the indoor shooting will not be good enough even if they are exposed and develop. Film was completed. Later film was develop and to every

ones surprise the film which was shot indoor in less light was better exposed than the film shot outdoors in the natural light where is it was most unlikely to happen.

When it was enquired from the Mother regarding this incident she said it was true. And nothing in it amusing or wonderful. The Lord every day, every moment makes His serene presence plausible. We can always sense its presence among ourselves through tiniest incidence as mention above Mother had received this divine message deep in her heart. It was the Commandment which could not have been disobey.

The divine message was regarding the selfless service of the poor and down trodden for the welfare of the creatures of the universe equilaterally. Mother pondered over the divine communiqué. Umpteenth no. of times Mother sensed knocking on her heart. In those days the Mother was a school teacher, and it was not easy for her to have total submission towards the service of the poor and down trodden. On the one hand it was Her duties of the mortal world and on the hand the commandment. This Dual continued almost for two years. Finally the will of god prevail. Mother wanted to leave Loreto. For this purpose she thought it appropriate

to take permission of the mission officials. To get reliving order from the work of a teacher two years have past. Mother successfully got the permission from the officials. While requesting for permission she had clearly mentioned her future line of action and assignments. When she got the permission locally she had applied for the same from Rome. She also received the permission for this auspicious assignment quickly.

Now Mother started working in the Arena for selfless service to the poor desolate and the down trodden have nots of the society.

On the day of 18 August 1948 Mother entered into a new face of her life- The face devoted to the service of down trodden. She sacrificed her earlier uniform meant for Christian sisters of the mission, she completely changed her appearance casting off the old one and adopted entirely a new personality in changed dressing style.

She became Indian in complete sense. Without adopting wholesome Indian approached and parity with the down trodden how she could have felt and get acquainted with the sufferings and hardship of the poor.

Casting of her old garments Mother had adopted the

Indian attire comprising of saree, Yes this saree was not like that of prosperous or middle class women but such a simple piece of cloth which even most simple lady would have hesitated to wear in public.

While setting off on exile Lord Ram casted off his garments as the water flows further leaving the slime behind. Mother, In the same manner shed her attire of her teaching days. Not only the garments but she entirely sacrificed her earlier life in entirety, the school where she had taught for such a long period the fellow teachers her students all were left behind. The expensive and beautiful cloths of the Loreto were all sacrificed. Full sleeves blouse along with the blue bordered cotton saree became her new identity. The same attire she had chosen for the nuns of her Mission.

Not only the attire but the life style fooding interaction etc, almost every thing was completely Indian. Sitting on the floor bending the knees serving rice, curry etc in a Thali and having it with hands, washing clothes immersing it in the bucket and then beating on the floor and squeezing it to rinse water before drying etc was completely habituated.

Mother thought it essential to practice Indianness in

fooding, lodging to become Indian in true sense. It is true without adopting the complete behavioral pattern of the poor and down trodden of the Indian society how could their pain suffering be accessed or understood.

This was heart reincarnation with mortal body in other terms it could also be defined as refurbishment of her hot process. Now she had been completely liberated from the bondage, she bid adieu her past life.

For achieving the noblest goal of her life Mother willingly adopted poverty stricken life style. The class which is considered untouchable by the Indian society, Mother befriended the same.

In the Indian vedantic philosophy honor-dishonor, pride-ego, happiness-despair, higher and lower status are not attributed to the Acetic. Reaching that stratum a person visualizes the image of Lord in human being, cow, Brahmin, dog, untouchable i.e. in every living being but also in every object and place, the same Lord is Omni present. Such an acetic is called the master or wise or the pundit. But fallacy of the thought is that Indian society has ignored this vedantic ideal and have indulge in class conflict practice by castiest statues conscious orthodox majority today.

Mother Teresa readily adopted and practiced this valuable tenet of Vedanta, and in future made the service of poor and destitute her new Religion.

After inculcating this ideal in her life Mother set on procedurally implementing the same, because pursuing a pledge to the success is only through true and timely action and not by mere thoughts.

To render service on a particular subject it is necessary to obtain knowledge and techniques in respective field. The routine of the day today life of the poor and lower class was pathetic. The slums were infested with numerous diseases most of the time. Prime attention of the Mother works was initially drawn towards this menace. She thought that it is better to learn and have knowledge of First Aid and journal medicines first of all.

It was necessary to provide worldly articles to fulfill the fundamental needs of the poor and desolate along with the compassion, love and affection.

Denouncing the comforts and luxuries and embracing poverty Mother visited Patna with an objective to get training of nursing. Mother approached sisters of the American Medical Missionaries, where from she

received para-medical training for three months after completing the training successfully Mother came back to Kolkata again and thus the first phase of Mothers noble mission of serving the poor and destitute has began. From this point there was no turning back, and she progressed forward for the completion of her objective in her life.

Thou treading on this path Mother encountered several problems and difficulties, but Mother always kept stable unfazed and undisturbed. She had complete faith in the Lord. She very well knew that these hurdles are the test in life for the human beings. If the objective/goal is highly placed then the Lord blesses with success certainly. She has never looked back. Her talisman was that keep treading forward till the goal is not achieved.

There after Mother kept on climbing the steps of success. Earlier in the childhood she was Agnes- --HIU, then she became Mary Teresa and finally she was transformed into an image of love and compassion – Mother Teresa.

Mother acquired this nomenclature from famous ascetic of the sixteenth century by the same name. Almost four hundred years ago St Teresa has also

abandoned the worldly comforts and luxuries of her life to preach and promulgate the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ becoming a nun in the eighteenth year of her life. She had to face the misbehavior, maltreatment and abused of the fellow nuns. She wanted to establish a new mission in her birth place in Adilla (Spain). But this objective was strongly opposed by the local priests. But St Teresa had not paid any attention to this opposition. She had been granted permission to start work by the Pope. Thereafter she had established a new mission in Adilla. At that time there were only four sisters as colleague and strong will in the name of capital resources. And with the guidance and help of such determination she had carried out the Lords work in Spain.

Mother Teresa made this towering personality as her icon. While deriving inspiration and strength from the teachings of this great personality neither time nor distance was an obstacle. Time and distance could only put a physical barrier and may not displaced the firm determination of such a person who otherwise is strongly stable. Against the firm determination strong will and rock solid stable of the Mother no obstacle impediment

could survive.

In Loreto Mother was the head of the department of Bengali medium section. Before taking charge of disposed Mother herself had learnt Bengali.

Disposed proved to be a golden opportunity to the Mother for her future life. Many student of this period later became Mothers colleague. Among these colleagues name of Sister Agnes is on the top who became the first associate of the Mother in the year 1948. From the teaching days of this temple of education Mother came across the problems and suffering of the poor and desolate persons.

Mother became a grand personality in the universe only through this inspiration.

This was the place from where Mother took up the journey towards her goal. At present in India more than 60 institution under the aegis of missionaries of charities.

This institution is running one hundred schools 350 mobile dispensaries and around 28 family planning centers under the aegis of missionaries of charities almost 60-65stablishments are working in different cities.

An international-organization namely “of co workers of Mother Teresa is also the result of Mothers efforts.

Mother was Indian not only through her behaviour and habits but she was having a deep Indian thought. She had a great respect for the Indian tradition festivities and oriental way of life. She was a staunch supporter of joint family system. In this regard following words mention by her, are significant-“Today the whole world has united integrating the world but in India what can be better example of it than the joint family system of India? But joint family are fading away. Blindly chasing the western practices our families only have husband and wife and 1-2children. Some years ago this was not the case to strengthen the Indian society revitalizing it we have to reintroduce the joint family system.”

Mother always thought that the joint family system in India was essential for the bonding of love and affection among the family members. Since her birth she had consider that the fragmented families of the western countries were selfish in nature. And she wanted that Indians must not blindly chase/copy the western practices in this regard. She had a clear opinion that if India has to remain culturally at the top and build a

strong society with in then it has to reestablish the joint family system in a healthy manner.

Mother Teresa thought the selfish practices of the western world harmful for the Indian society. There the old and the weak members of the family are suffering abundant by there own families they are force to live solitary affectionless life which was consider by the Mother as a chronic unbearable disease for the Humanity. Despite being poor Indians are contended people but despite prosperity in the western world there is no peace and harmony. Mother praising this quality of the Indian people had stated –“In our country look at these patients, diseased persons despite deficient and scarcity stricken in every field these people keep well satisfied and contented. There is no food, no clothes but a don't feel sorry for it. These people have a great trust in luck and have accepted it as their destiny, it is not so. There endurance is extra ordinary. There lies their greatness. Western countries are lacking these qualities. They are not contented people therefore the feeling of pain is very strong. They don't believe in simplicity like us. Therefore they don't attain peace in their life, but in this country put a plate full of rice before the poorest

persons and their problem will be solved. All the deficiency disappears in a moment. what a great life! What an extraordinary ability is hidden in these ordinary people.I myself do not feel that I will ever be able to become such simple and down to earth like these peoples who are free of bondage, contention, protest and allegations.

Every thing belonging to the Mother was Indian. In her routine life behavior, practices and thoughts she was purely Indian. May be her taking birth in a western country could well be termed as a mistake of Nature. Mother had rectified this mistake by making the land of India as her working field out of Karmic aspect. Probably, there was a Divine command or inspiration behind her arrival in India.

Mother was proud of being Indian, therefore she used to say that “I have become an Indian willingly.”

How does it matter even though the Mother was not born in India she was always a True Indian.



TOWARDS THE GRAND OBJECTIVE

After receiving the training in nursing Mother returned to Kolkata. She had snapped ties from the old school. There was no arrangement for her boarding and lodging. If every comfort and luxury is provided to a person then what is the significance of one's services/ work? Such work will be called special when the person achieves a grand objective even remaining penniless. Acharya Chankya was most resourceless person even then through his immense determination and will power, along with great statesmanship and diplomacy, extinguished the Nand clan, established the Mauryan Empire, though this accomplishment of Chankya was totally fueled by the selfish and egoistic compulsions but the works of Mother Teresa were pure and to the service of humanity.

Returning back to Kolkata Mother arrived in an organization 'Little Sister of Poor'. The neighborhood of Moti Jheel was being flashed in her mind time and again. She wanted to inaugurate her work from this vicinity. She thought it appropriate to open a school there. On 21st December 1948 she got the permission to start the school. Till now Mother had not opted for the Indian citizenship. Having thought that if I have to serve others

remaining in India then it was her moral obligation to acquire Indian citizenship, In 1948 Mother became Indian citizen.

In her thoughts and actions Mother was an Indian from an earlier time, but for the statutory obligation she had to acquire the citizenship also. Thus, this formality was also completed.

Now Mother had become an Indian in totality. She was the Indian Mother of poor and desolate with Indian citizenship, Indian attire and Indian thought inspired by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mother took a vow to free Indians from sorrow and despondency. The pledge for liberating the orphans comforting the desolate accepting the abandoned nursing the diseased was taken as a true service.

When Mother resigned from the Loreto School she had only Rs 500 in her possession in the name of assets. May be this physical resource was negligible but she had the immense power of the self, a resource that can dwarf any of the worldly resources. Character of an ascetic namely Satykam has been mentioned in the Vedanta – ‘Chhandogya Upanishad’. Young Satykam was the son of a Jabala the mistress. When the child grew little older his

Mother Jabala sent him to the Guru –Ashram for learning and studies. In the contemporary Guru (master)-disciple traditions when the Teacher asked Satykam, ‘What is your father’s name?’ Little Satykam was totally strange to this, he could not give any reply and returned back to his home. He asked his Mother, ‘Mother, what is my father’s name? What is my clan and gotra?’

Jabala either did not have any answer to this, but it was necessary to satisfy the quest of her son. She said son! I had been working as a palace servant and in my life time I have served under numerous persons therefore I am not in a position to disclose the name of your father, clan or gotra. You go to the Guru’s place and tell the Guru that you are Satykam and Jabala is your Mother, thus you are Satykam Jabala.’

The little Satykam was satisfied. Next day again he went to the Guru’s place. Guru again asked him the same question regarding the name of his clan and gotra. Young Satykam replied without fear that, ‘my Mother was a palace servant, in her life time she has to serve under numerous persons, therefore she is unable to state the name of my father clan and gotra herself. My name is Satykam and name of my Mother is Jabala. Therefore I

am Satykam Jabala.'

Having heard the fearless reply of the young Satykam Guru was grossly influenced and stated 'only the Brahmin put give such a clear and fearless reply. To accept truth in such a discrete manner could only be done by a Brahmin. You are a Brahmin a true sense. I accept you as my disciple.'

Here Guru had not said that he was a son of Brahmin but had said that he himself was a true Brahmin meaning thereby becoming a Brahmin is not attributed to ones birth, clan or gotra but being truthful and the seeker of the truth.

But it is the matter of verification that how many members of the later Indian society have accepted the identity of a Brahmin in such a down to earth manner?

In the modern days if any such Satykam, Karna or Kabir takes birth then Mother of such a child would prefer to abandon him. Our proud and respectable Vedic period could not keep the proud full Vedic traditions and culture intact. From the times of the Puranas and other great poetic epics these traditions were started diminishing, that is why most valiant warrior Karna was subjected to humiliation and disgrace during the period

of Mahabharata. His only fault was that his real parents were not known to the society. He was brought up by a low caste family. He can not say that Mother got the inspiration of rearing up abandoned infants from Vedas, eventually to elaborate comparative analysis of the glorious heritage of the past and orthodox modern Indian society we have quoted the aforesaid incident of the Vedic Society.

After resigning from the Loreto School Mother arrange her residence near Sealdah in a very old house. From this place Mother kept the foundation of her future course of action. Lord the Jesus Christ had said, 'hate the sin not the sinner.' Whether this message of the Lord Jesus Christ was meant only for his Religious Christian followers?

Not at all, the teachings of great personalities or events of their life does not belong to a specific class or community but it is a common heritage of entire society-humanity at large. It can not be said that to become a true follower of the Lord Jesus Christ it is essential to convert to the Christianity. His messages and teachings were meant for all, there existed a message and sense of welfare of the entire Humanity or the Universe.

In her residence in Sealdah Mother started rearing up several abandoned infants. Such infants who were completely unwanted for our society. Despite being innocent these children were left for leading a cursed life. Those responsible for their birth roamed around in spotless white clothes were as the modern society rejected the innocent creatures. In a one room house Mother lived with her numerous children. She had meager resources. Even simple Bengali preparation of rice and pulses was not available for the meals regularly. On various occasions they had to sleep empty stomach during the evenings. Even then mother was a true Mother. She continued embracing these innocent meek children of her.

A son may turn bad but Mother could never become a bad Mother. Mentioning the conditions of those days Mother had written, 'sometimes we keep a fast for the whole day or part of the day then we face terrible hardship. Those who keep on fasting several days or even receive half a belly of diet for days, their sufferings may be cured dividing few hand full grains but something which can be given to them without any cost meaning – oral empathy, do we really give it to them?

In fact sympathy and compassion do not incur any cost. The importance of compassion, sympathy, love and affection is equally valuable as the requirements of food, clothes etc in a human life. In absence of these human values our life is becoming meaningless day by day despite the presence of materialistic luxuries in abundance.

Person whose heart is full of compassion and sympathy and love for the humanity only he will devote to the cause of humanity. It is true that Lord Jesus Christ had embraced the cross for the sake of human welfare.

Abraham Lincoln had sacrificed his life for the upheaval of Afro-American slaves. Martin Luther king faced the bullet for the welfare of his black brothers. Lord Buddha had shunned his royal life and family for showing the world a new path leading to the truth and countless other great personalities known or unknown have treaded on the path of benevolence sacrificing their own life and belonging for the sake of others. Mother Teresa was also such a luminary of this tradition.

Before setting out on a noble path a person faces several obstacles Mother's life has no exceptions in this

regard. Her works faced with problems and hindrances in the very first year of its inception.

In December 1948 when she got the permission to start the school as mentioned above then Mother started this work immediately. Almost after two months arrangements were made for her residence. The credit to this goes to Mr. Michael Gomez. The little ahead of Prachi Cinema in Kolkata near Moulali turning on the right hand situates a Dental College adjacent to this college is a lane which runs up to Malik Square. The ancestral house of Michael Gomez is situated here which is very old. When in 1947 the country was divided two brothers of Michael Gomez had shifted to East Pakistan. They were directed to serve the Christian Community there by the Arch Bishop of Kolkata. Daughter of Michael Gomez had been a student of Mother in Italy, in this manner Gomez was known to the Mother indirectly but they have still not seen of met each other.

When Mother was in Patna for her nursing training, she had written to Father Henry that she would return Kolkata shortly therefore an arrangements for her residence/home will be required.

Mother was a need of a shelter, but that doesn't

mean that a full furnished luxurious house but sufficient place for a respectable living. No matter it is a hut or a house. In the mean time Mother of Mr. Gomez was seriously ill. Believing it to be her last breathe Father Henry visited residence of Mr. Gomez. He read over some verses Bible to the Ailing person. Thereafter he mentioned the need of Mother Teresa to him that she is in need of a simple room to live in. You also told him that Mother does not want to live in a posh locality. Because she wants to work among the poor citizens and she needs a very simple room.

Having heard these words of Father Henry the little daughter of Mr. Michael suddenly said “there is a vacant room in the upper floor of our house you may kindly have a look of the same.”

“Yes I want to see” said Father Henry.

“Please come just have a look”, said the house owner.

Thereafter Father Henry visited the upper floor of the house. After departure of Michaels Brother to East Pakistan a corner of the upper floor was lying unoccupied. Some articles belonging to them were line there. Having seen the room Father was a little

disappointed. He said ‘Agnes is in need of a small room, this is a very large place.’”

Michael Gomez agreed to give that room to Mother Teresa. Thus arrangements were made appropriately for Mother’s stay there. After returning from Patna Mother made her residence in the house of Mr. Michael Gomez. When Mother started staying there she had a wooden box a chair an attaché case and a packing case. This packing case also served as the table for her.

The benevolence of Mr. Gomez was of such a degree that only oral appreciation will not justify its importance. He never accepted any rent from the Mother but some times always helped her in several manners. These days of the Mother could also be termed as the hard days or testing times. One time it was a month July it was around 10 O Clock in the night it was raining when Mother return to her home she was fully drowsed she sent a slip to Michael Gomez three minute after her arrival –“Gomez there is not a single grain of rice for the dinner. Whereas two people are still to have dinner. Will you please lend us some food so that visitors may be served food?”

Mr. Gomez solved the problem faced by the Mother immediately. This incidence is just an indication of the

testing time and the circumstances faced by the Mother in those days. It happened very frequently but during the hard times one must not leave the stability of not remaining balanced in facing greatest of the crises. Keeping your cool and calmness one sails through every kind of disaster. Whenever a ship is wrecked in the midst of the sea sailors are not discouraged, they fight for the survival till the last moment for keeping them afloat. This statement truly describes the circumstances and the truth faced by the Mother on her life. She never deviated from the path. Mother always believed in the saying keep on fighting till the problems vanished.

The auspicious work started from this house continuously went forward. The Gomez family always cooperated in the Mothers activities. Shri Sudev Roy Chaudhary has mentioned an unforgettable incidence which was the proof of Gomez's family contribution to help the Mother in her endeavor. The activities of Mother kept in growing. One day Mother sent a small slips Mr. Gomez stating, "a sister is reaching here, she is suffering from smallpox. Whether a separate accommodation in a room can be arranged for her?"

How it was possible for a person to accommodate a

diseased person suffering from such a vulnerable disease? But the Gomez family immediately arrange for the same. Thereafter a problem arose regarding the use of bathrooms, it was only true and used by 30 persons and it was necessary to give the patient a separate bathroom, therefore a temporary separate bathroom was got constructed on the upper floor.

Whether it was the charisma of Mother's personality or the goodwill of Gomez family that such problem were over come ease. The detail descriptions of all these episodes concerning such difficulties that cannot be made, possibly because no one has the full description of these problems. Mother herself never mentioned about her problems to anybody else.

In fact Mother always behaved a like in happiness and despair, profit and loss sorrow and despondency, grief never existed for her. In the hard times she always kept cool and behaved with others with simplicity.

Ever since the ancient times people use to beg for their livelihood therefore Mother has to do the same traditionally approaching each door for alms and help. Somehow the time was being managed. Had the time when Mother started the Vidya Mandir in Moti Jheel, she

was almost penniless. In an open space surrounded by huts on all the side Vidya Mandir was established. At that time school existed but there was no building, furniture no equipments or even the blackboards for the school. Under the open sky the school came into existence. At that place neither a tree nor other plants etc existed. Mother engage a labour who clean the open space with a spade, Mother started drawing the Bengali alphabets on the earth and started the teaching work. First of all prayers were said, there after lesson comprising English poetry were held.

This was a self starter primary school for the Mother inaugurating a new life as a teacher. That day gentleman approached mother. He donated some funds for this Vidya Mandir. When he was issued with a receipt he informed that he will come another day but he never returned.

In fact when the objective and thoughts are pure and for some time going gets tough deviating one from one's path even then resources are assimilated.



NIRMAL SHISHU BHAWAN

- A Children's Home

Mother is always a Mother. An image of compassion, love and And Mother Teresa was the wonderful divine and amazing Mother of the entire Universe. Due to her love and compassion several children, such infants who were abandoned by their own parents as unwanted like the articles lifeless goods which are dispensable, got a new lease of life and are now happily living prosperous life. In India the centre of Mother's actions was Kolkata. The maximum populated busy metropolitan city in those days where on one hand posh locality were situated having rising buildings on the other hand there were people who were shelter less and did not even have the two meals a day.

In the same city of Kolkata at 94-A, Lower Circular Road, Kolkata-6, the head quarters of Missionaries of Charities is situated this is the main centre of the activities run by Mother Teresa. Near by in the opposite direction of Intali Market near the pair of Churches on the lower circular road (at present Acharya Jagdish Basu Road) situates the Nirmal Shishu Bhawan. On the way to the second floor of the building the following words are inscribed-"the poor's want your love, not service only."

When a foreign tourist visited and wrote about the Nirmal Shishu Bhawan 'when entering the premises the heart full of love is evident from the beginning itself. On entering small children welcome with differential smile and gestures, uttering various tones narrate the story of Mother's heart.

In this place several nuns, embodiment of selfless service were busy in making their life successful by serving the children. Someone was giving oil massage to a child another playing toys with the children yet another was feeding a baby with a bottle further another sister was feeding a child of 4-5years rice.

All around small cots were spread some children were lying some were sitting in it, some children were lying on the well cleaned floor. Mother herself was having a baby in her hands caressing and playing with it keeping it in her lap. Yet another active child was having a bandage on his leg he was limping when Mother calls him and asks -'you have got a bandage on your leg you must have done something naughty.' Then Mother used to embrace the child holding its leg. A sister informs her that this child was coming down from the stairs when he slipped and got her.

Introducing a dumb girl Mother said, 'I have brought her lifting from the road, at that time she was a newly born. Now the sisters of the Shishu Bhawan are her parents.

None of the girls were ready to leave Mother's lap. No one had put on full clothes then Mother used to scold lovingly, 'daughter you have not put on all the clothes this is very bad.'

One of the children is singing yet another is sitting in a Yoga pose in front of the Mother.

All these children had a peculiar past, a painful past, disclosed or undisclosed, but the compassionate Mother had liberated them from the pain, sufferings and the cursed past wherein they had been dumped devoid of proximity to mother's care and compassion.

These children are no more orphans, they are not homeless. They have got strong support of the Mother. Each sister of the Shishu Bhawan serves and adores each child as an image of Lord Jesus Christ. These Sisters of the Shishu Bhawan are the true mother of these unblemished, pure and innocent children.

Why it shouldn't be so? Their biological mothers have abandoned them just after their birth and relieved

her from their responsibility. Whether a biological mother abandoning her baby to live a cursed life could ever be able to have rendered love, care and compassion to her own child.

Therefore the children of the Shishu Bhawan consider these sisters of the Shishu Bhawan as their mother. As a child in a family embraces and looks to her mother for every petty cause, these little angles of the Shishu Bhawan also do the same they become restless and run to the lap of their mother. This scene is very common in the Shishu Bhawan. Children get such pleasure and joy which they could find only in their mother's company. Having seen these Sisters children would run to embrace them, some would ride on their back, yet another would pick the corner of her saree and some others would ride on the shoulder of the caring and loving sisters treating them as their mother.

For these children Shishu Bhawan is their home and family. Those sisters are their mothers. These babies here are living a normal life. Not one, two, ten or twenty but one hundred babies were getting love, compassion and motherly care in the Shishu Bhawan, the love and compassion which is priceless and no one is capable of

repaying for such love and care, it is invaluable and no one in the world could equate the same. Such precious thing is the mother's compassion, care and love.

From where these babies come to the Shishu Bhawan.

Most of these are sent from the hospitals. Unwedded Mothers abandoned them after giving birth in the hospital. Not only from hospitals but also from private nursing homes these babies are sent as some maiden girls take admission there in fake names and abandon there new born babies in the cruel hands of fate and vanished silently in the selfish world. The midwives bring these babies to the Nirmal Shishu Bhawan. Some of the new born babies were recovered from public dustbin. These are the sources from where babies come to the Nirmal Shishu Bhawan.

The curse of free sex has also spread in India like the western world. Due to this reason the arrival of these unwanted babies have reason multifold. Today the means to prevent unwanted progeny has become easy available, even though in the country such a large population this menace is in uncontrolled form.

Mother was a pious religious lady. Though

narrowness of the religion in any manner had been untouched by her despite that she was an image of love and compassion. Compassionate Mother. She supported the birth control measures before the actual conception of the child, but she treated it sacrilegious to terminate the pregnancy or killing of the embryo or killing of the baby before its actual birth. Her opinion was clear that new generation must practice abstinence. In a momentary sexual excitement people conceive and bearing the same child almost for nine months abandoning it was a greatest sin. Mother got very sad and sorrowful whenever she heard that some well educated maiden girl had committed this act.

At present any woman who is married or unmarried can get rid of her unwanted conception. Though this has become legal even then Mother considers the abortion a sad affair.

In Mother's opinion it was the greatest immoral act to kill an innocent barely living creature for a momentary conjugal-bliss and pleasure. Mother was solving this sinful problem of the society by offering life to these unwanted babies, adopting them caring and comforting them and resisting the menace of abortion. In this regard

Mother used to say- 'I am fighting abortion with adoption.'

When these babies were brought to the Shishu Bhawan they were very pathetic and serious condition. It was not easy to give them a new lease of life. Even though the sisters of the Nirmal Shishu Bhawan to consider that saving life and bringing up these babies to be the most revered duty of their's.

These sisters with a total devotion and sincerity and full efforts rear up these babies. Neither they yearn for appreciation nor any other return for performing this duty. They are true followers of the Mothers trading in the path, the way shown by their Lord Jesus Christ. All of these have common slogan inspiring them, 'we do not need royal estate or luxuries, we only want to comfort others from despair and despondency. For us each of the living being is the image of our Lord. And their service is our Utmost Duty.'

Some of the babies were such who were entrusted to the Mother or other sisters after the death of their parents by helpless grand-parents or relatives. Those guardians discussed their inability or helplessness in bringing up these children with Mother there after

Mother readily accepted their children. Or such babies could also be found whose parents had died and were living under the care of some near relatives. Their said relative abused those children exposing them to severe assignment/work and subjected to beating when ever they were tired and unable to work. They were also not given sufficient food. Getting frustrated and tired of such cruelty of the benefactor children flee from home arriving in Kolkata alone. There they get a job in a restaurant to do the dishes. There also they are subjected to same treatment as earlier then he fled from the restaurant also. There after came in the contact of bad elements and criminal minded children, begging in the street committing petty thefts for livelihood. In such conditions they were discovered by the Mother. The compassionate Mother brought them to Nirmal Shishu Bhawan.

Here he got and began a new life. He started studying. Later on these children either become a Pastor or take up a job.

When such a child become eligible for marriage and showed such desire Mother manage and arranged complete task with her own responsibility. After the marriage all the necessary articles for an independent

family even land or house property was also provided by the Mother.

Such babies comprised of not only boys but also young girls or infant girls, e.g. when some adolescent girl lost her Mother and her father got remarried then the step Mother some time was very cruel. The girl was abused and beaten frequently.

In this manner she was subjected to great torture. Her father was also used to be drawn in the lust of new wife. And the new wife asks the husband to get rid of the unwanted step daughter. Blindly devoted husband forgets his duty as a father. He would ask his daughter to visit Kolkata on a fake pretext and dumped her on the railway platform and returned to his native place. The daughter will wait endlessly on the platform then start weeping. When a sister of the Shishu Bhawan spots her and brings her to the Bhawan.

Scores of such girls are being brought up in Nirmal Shishu Bhawan, when they grow up they are got married to appropriate eligible Youngman. They are also provided it with all the household articles and sometimes a piece of land to build a house. The girls brought up in the Nirmal Shishu Bhawan even when were married away

were attached to the Bhawan in an unbreakable ties, Shishu Bhawan was their matrimonial home and whenever they were in distress in their married life they were provided with all possible assistance.

If, unfortunately any such girl was widowed or her husband suffers from any life threatening illness then funds were arranged for the assistance of such girls. In fact Mother had a vast ocean of love, benevolence, empathy and compassion deep in her heart. Everyday through the years some issueless couples visited the Shishu Bhawan and these people not only consisted of locals or Indian citizens but also foreign nationals from different countries.

Some of the people abandon their children, yet others yearn for a child, being unsuccessful despite making all possible efforts to conceive such through natural means. What an irony. These childless couples want to adopt child from among the inmates of the Shishu Bhawan, to hear and decorate their homes with sweet voices of the little angel. Coming here they sit among the children listen to their innocent talks, and enjoy divine comfort, solace and happiness hearing stammering voices of the young children. Such joy is not

possible through materialistic means.

These couples adopt one of these children readily. With the efforts of the Shishu Bhawan some of the children get a parent again, and a golden future. Several such babies are living happily in India and abroad. Who were abandon by their biological parents as if they were dead. Today same person are working in high profile offices.

A piece of iron becomes gold when it comes in the contact of flint stone. These orphans if had not reached the lap of the revered Mother then what would have been their fate. It can merely be thought only. Even while giving in adoption Mother was fully attentive and considerate the regarding the future of the child.

Several kind hearted childless couples from the foreign countries want to get a child in adoption, but the legal procedure meant for such adoption is not very easy that when ever they demand they could be given an appropriate child immediately. Whenever such couple discloses its desire to adopt a child then Mother initially collects complete whereabouts of such family. Having been fully satisfied that the family adopting the child would take full care of the bringing up of the child truth

fully then only Mother parted with the child giving it in adoption.

While giving girl child in adoption Mother was extra vigilant, because today's girl child would become a maiden some day. To prevent her from sexual exploitation Mother was extra careful and verifine all the details she would hand over her girls to the new parents. Mother never wanted that any of her child to face hardship in future.

She was the Mother, therefore she had a natural instinct for the welfare of her child always that wherever child lives his life must blossom and remains growing in happiness. When ever children of the Shishu Bhawan entered adolescent age thereafter youth then such inmates were shifted to appropriate accommodations at other places. As per their capabilities they were sent abroad for studies. Every year some of the young men and women are being sent abroad. In this divine place namely Nirmal Shishu Bhawan of the Mother thousands of babies have been brought to a new life. Most of these have learnt standing and walking in the Bhawan, initially they started uttering broken words and sentences in their naïve voices thereafter learnt pronunciation and later

were introduced to the alphabets, they have spent their infancy adolescence and stepped into their youth.

On becoming a youth these children were also allowed to marry. In the marriage Mother played the role of parents. Mother received great satisfaction when some kind hearted gentleman approached her to wed any of her girl child to his son. Sometimes some youth came to wed these daughters for living happily in their future life.

The Mother was greatly self contented having seen her children entering new life, the quantum of happiness in Mothers heart was beyond imagination. Even after living in the in-laws family these daughters used to visit their parental house in the Bhawan.

Karna was brought up by a low caste charioteer and his wife, therefore they became his parents. Kunti the biological Mother could not be called his Mother because she had disposed her child in a basket floating in the river Ganges and thought her duties were over.

Nima and Neeru the weaver couple had found Kabir near a pond in Lahartara. His biological Mother had also abandoned him considering him unwanted. Neeru-Nima had brought up Kabir therefore they were known as the parents of Kabir.

Menka had abandoned her daughter Shakuntla in the forest who was born to her from Muni Vishwamitr. Rishi Kanwa had brought up Shakuntla. Therefore kanwa was called as the parent of Shakuntla.

After being abandoned by their biological Mothers these children became great personalities. Karna became a great warrior in Mahabharata for slaying him Pandavas have to resort to several kind of fraud fake and untruthful actions. Saint Kabir was an extra ordinary personality in the Indian society. He fought against the orthodox, narrow-minded society of the contemporary India and had shown a new path. Shakuntla became the queen of emperor Dushyant, she gave birth to famous Bharat, after him over country is called Bharatvarsh and Jeevak became a well known physician of Texla, who got the privilege of coming in contact with Lord Buddha, he had nursed and treated Lord Buddha till her last breathe. Ones Jeevak asked Abhay Kumar regarding his biological parents. Thereupon Abhay Kumar stated that, 'what I have brought you up therefore I am your father.' Then who is my Mother? Ask jeevak again. I do not know anything in this regard how can I tell you who your Mother was? Said Abhay Kumar.

The main purpose of mentioning all these examples is that the parents who brought up a child are always important and great than the biological parents. True parents are the one who brought up and groom the life of a child. These examples also reveal that no ones future could be assessed or foretold.

At the time when the charioteer found a floating newly born child, could he imagine that one day this boy will become Karna a great warrior? Whose unparalleled bravery will impress not only Pandavas who were dwarf but also his teacher i.e. Guru Parshoram.

When Nima-Neeru had found the newly born Kabir they could not have thought that one day he would become such a famous social reformist.

In a shimmering cold night when Abhay Kumar had found a newly born baby on the highway he would not have thought one day he would become a famous physician of Texla –Jeevak? Not at all. Who had seen the future? Who can tell that these babies on unknown parents may have hidden Karna, Jeevak, Kabir, Shakuntla among them. This question was meaning less for Mother Teresa. She was the Mother and duty of a Mother is to perform Motherly activities in bringing up

the child which she was doing very well. With full devotion sincerity and selflessness. In an indifferent manner. Similar to the Mothers attitude towards the service of the children other sisters associated to her always treated every children alike. In every baby they would seek the image of their Lord. For them each baby was the living form of Lord Jesus Christ. In this regard Mother clearly mention time and again I see the image of Lord Jesus Christ in every person, when I feed a person tormented by hunger I feel that I am feeding the Lord Jesus. And while serving and nursing other ailing persons the same image remains there. When I clean the wounds of a diseased or wash limb of a bedridden I feel that I am washing auspicious form of the Lord Jesus Himself. While performing these activities the joy and happiness and the feeling I get is such which cannot be described in words it can only be felt. Several children of the Nirmal Shishu Bhawan today are being brought up by their foster parents and are progressing in their life. In fact this is the magical effect of Mothers charismatic personality. It is not easy take care of the newly born baby, even then the sisters of the babies give the nectar of their compassion and lease a new life to these babies.

Most of the babies do not know anything about their biological Mothers because they have not seen her. They grew up in the Shishu Bhawan. But some time a Kunti preaches to her Karna by herself only.

Karna had vowed to kill the valiant Arjun. With a selfish motive Kunti approached Karna and accepted that she was his Mother. This acceptance of Kunti was with a selfish motive because she wanted commutation of life for Arjun, but just in opposition to this some Kuntis come to the Nirmal Shishu Bhawan to accept and take back their abandoned babies. Certainly these Mothers repent for their earlier actions which tormented their conscience. When the remembrance and the proximity to their own child becomes unbearable they would not prevent themselves and disclosing the truth under such mind set they would come to the Shishu Bhawan ignoring the social stigma and clearly mention the details of their child and take him back. Some times they after marriage try to take back the babies which were born when they were unmarried and was abandoned by her. Some times they had to run pillar to post to find the baby back.

Maybe for compelling reasons unmarried Mothers abandon their new born babies but even after the

marriage they still remember their child. In this regard Mother Teresa used to say that Mother is only a Mother nothing else. There is no substitute of that.

Mother was an ascetic in true sense she had grown above the life. She did not have any feelings of respect and disrespect, high and low status, she was free from all these emotions. Once she was going through a posh colony along with her sisters when the Mother asked her associates that she will have to go to these houses and beg for food and help for the children of the Shishu Bhawan.

Anything of this sort could only be said by an intellectual with such simplicity who do not have any differences among people around her no pain or comfort for any respectful or disrespectful talks. Suddenly having heard these words of the Mother said associate was stunned and she could not utter a single word. For even by the thought of such begging sister was full of hesitation and shame unwantedly she had nodded her head in affirmation. There upon Mother again said the same, 'sister you have to take up this work because its only you who can do this work successfully.'

Hearing this the hesitation and the shame was

gone. These words have cleared the duality of her self. She easily when to start the begging. Thereafter it became a routine. Sisters had varied of experience during this kind of schedule. Some persons got angry with them others started shouting abuses and sometimes it was a happy scene to observe that the eldest of the house came out to give alms walking slowly with the help of a stick giving and appreciable proof of their wisdom.

IT depends on the person contributing that with what objective he is giving the alms. The disciples of the Mother not only accepted the faith, belief or happiness of the person but also the anger, annoyance and rejection of the contributor where upon they were always calm and remorseless.

‘Solid to be retained and hollow be blown in the air’.

This is the guiding principle of saintly life. A true ascetic neither gets no enjoyment in positive matters nor gets sorrow or annoyance from the negative behavior. He is free from jealousy and hatred, nor feels bad when ever misbehaved with. Mother and her associates proved meritorious on this kind of trial or testing.

Today many young men and women are receiving higher education with the mercy from the Mother and the

Lord, touching different levels of success. Some of them pursue a job in the day time and study in the night. Each one of them shows his gratitude towards the Mother they do not hesitate to admit and adore.

Today you can find many young ones admitting that had it not being the love mercy and compassion of the Mother they would not have been having such a good life may be they would have become a criminal or a beggar. With the pure touch and compassion of the merciful Mother many abandoned babies are leading a normal life. Deserving students are sent abroad for further studies by the merciful Mother. Obviously the biological parents could not do better than this.

Mother was actually the Mother for these children. It makes no difference that she was not biological Mother of these children. Certainly Nirmal Shishu Bhawan was the embodiment of mercy, love and compassion of the Mother. Where countless homeless destitute and abandoned children got new life.

How Mother reared show many babies and brought up so many children, when normal families are not able to cope up with two or three children they find no spare time in bringing up their two-three children. Mother did

not have any fixed accept or regular income. Even then how Mother manage every think for her children.

It was Mother Sincerity, dexterity and agility, was her belief in god this was her asset combined with selfless service was the source of her income. Every arrangement for the cause of children was managed from the contributed fund and articles of goods received by the Mother.

Whether Mother got so much funds and articles that these arrangements were made possible easily? Whether these contributions were received regularly?

No, it was not so neither sufficient fund was received, whatever was received that was also not always continuing, it was not so. Sufficiency and deficiency is weight and consider only when somebody tempts to live a contentious and luxurious life. The main objective of the Nirmal Shishu Bhawan was to give life to the abandoned child and thereafter make them self dependent. Under these circumstances talk of prosperous and luxurious life seems to be meaning less, despite that giving life to such babies were helpless even the most simple life is more than enough.

Contributions and funds were not received

regularly. Sometimes such circumstances happened that not a single penny remained and nothing was left to feed or give to the children of the Shishu Bhawan. One time it happened that every thought it was a fasting day there was nothing to eat, but immediately someone would come and donate something voluntarily. It happened not once, twice but several times. How it happened? When asked to the Mother she would reply that –‘all runs through His (God’s) will.’ Surrender mind body and soul to the god and then realize that there exists no problems. Sorrow, grief, pain etc. would visit but don’t worry let them come. Remember grief results in joy and pain brings success and makes the life sweet. Whose life is full of pain, only he can relieve the pain and the sorrow of the ailing person. In fact submitting his life for the pain of others, such persons are actually the embodiment of god and aptly such person should be revered respected and worship. Defining the word god our intellectuals have stated that He who contributes, donate, guides or shows the light is god. Therefore for the entire humanity sacrificing ones life to show the true path are the ordinate tasks of godly persons. Today crises a food and hunger is taking a demonic form due to rising population

and materialistic way of life in the society. Whenever asked what you can do for it? Whether a solution to this problem is possible? Replying to these questions Mother would say –

‘Our performance and work may be like putting a drop in the ocean, but had it not been that this drop is edit to the ocean, then ocean would have been deprived of that single drop two. This is it? All the hungry persons can not be given food. In the like manner it is not possible to nurse and care for all the diseased and ailing persons. It means that service, donation and love should be secured hanging in the air. If by chance a hungry desperate person confronts you then its our duty to take care of him and to feed him to over come his hunger is the apex duty of the humanity. Whether those are in thousands, millions or billions whatever they may be in numbers if every person in the society adopts to do a good deed every day, then there shall be no crisis in the world.’

There is no doubt or different opinion to the words of the Mother. A difference of opinion from these words shall be called as disrespect or ill-will.



NIRMAL HRIDAY

- A HOSPICE FOR DYING DESTITUTE

Death is the stark reality of life. Every living being has to face it. Nobody can refrain from it.

Ever since the beginning of her independent work she was moved by the sight of a dying destitute. Having found such a person Mother would induct herself into the service of that person without thinking about any other thing. Whether such person is lying on the road, on the footpath or any other place. At that time Mother was in scarcity of proper accommodation to keep and care such person.

At that time also Mother had to consult Michael Gomez time and again for taking care of such dying destitute, that some one will come forward to help in this work or not. After some days Pastor of Kolkata arranged a small space for the outdoor dispensary for this purpose. Thereafter herd of patients started visiting the place. When the first School Vidya Mandir was opened a person has donated table and chair to the Mother for its use in the school. Some other person donated medicines for this dispensary. These services to the diseased and ailing persons were being run in a parallel and fluent

manner. One's Mother was on her way to some place, she saw a person lying on the road waiting to die. In the city of Kolkata this was not an important incidence, despite that something struck to Mother's thought that some place or a hospice be arranged for the care of these dying destitute so that they were afforded the opportunity to die with dignity.

Mother readily started arranging resources for it after two months she got space for the same. This place was an abandoned accommodation behind the Kali Ghat Temple, earlier pilgrims used to stay there. Local business community and religious citizens provided boarding lodging and clothes free of cost to these pilgrims visiting Kolkata. Earlier this was done for religious goals but later persons of the neighborhood started playing cards and gambling there. Mother wanted to utilize this place for the care and comfort of dying destitute. How she acquired this place is a different story all together, that what obstacles Mother had to cross for getting this place.

The ancient Hindu Kali Temple at Kali Ghat is a centre of great religious importance. Every day several religious devotees come here to have glimpses of Mother Kali worshipping and revering the Mother. For the stay of

these devotees boarding house was arranged adjacent to the Kali Temple where bad elements started a gambling den. For the better use of this place Mother struggled tediously. Finally in the year 1952 Kolkata Municipal Corporation gave it to the Mother.

The moment Mother put a display board for the home of the dying destitute local priests and religious conservatives were alerted. In reaction they started an agitation. What, a Christian missionary in a Hindu Temple? It was unbearable for the hard liner narrow minded Hindu conservatives. They have never thought that other person a part from their faith could take this advantage. 400 priests of the Kali Mandir wanted to take advantage of these sentiments. Staunch opposition started all around. People started saying that this kind of think had never happened even during the British rule. Now this is happening in the independent India. We will not tolerate it.

Different people different talks a variety of them. Opposition and further opposition. Ever increasing continued opposition. Finally, Mother had to go to the persons opposing her.

Fearless-determined, sincere and calm very

confidently Mother approached those priests. Those opposing her kept on shouting their own slogans. Mother pacified them and stated, 'If you want you can kill me dying in this manner is not a loss to me but kindly don't disturb these dying destitute who have taken refuge in this hospices. These are the last moments of these persons let them die in peace.

Those words of the Mother had magical effect all those persons. Their violent, shouts were cool down by the non violent peaceful voice of the Mother like putting water on the lava. All the opponents, the priests of the Temple got dazed kept starrng, as if a metaphysical personality has stunned them.

One of these priest after some time got ill suffering from tuberculosis. His family and relatives took medical care but were not successful. The death was near. When the illness got worst Mother came to know about it. Her passion took her to the patient by now the near and dear ones have started ignoring the patient, she brought him to Nirmal Hriday.

Death is inevitable, still Mother had done her duty. Mother perform those acts which his near and dear ones had not done. Rejected by his own relatives he was given

love and affection by the Mother. Though he could not be saved despite that the service care and treatment love and affection which he received from the Mother made his death very peaceful. In the final moments of life a person just needs that. By this divine behavior of the Mother, benevolence and humanity the priests of the Kali Ghat Temple bowed before the Mother with praise and love. They repented their earlier actions. In Mother they started seeking Universal Mother. One of the priest could not check his such emotions. He revered the Mother with folded hands and said, 'since last twenty years I had been worshiping the Mother. But only today I saw her image in your form only. Today I feel contented, obliged and liberated. Today my life got its goal.

Through ones narrow mindedness a person may oppose such a divine personality but when he is able to see through the smoke and realizes the true self of the opponent then only he is able to accept the truth.

In the present time that hospices adjacent to the Kali Mandir of the Kali Ghat namely Nirmal Hriday is the place of comfort for dying destitute. On the entrance of this yellow building a placard is found where following words are inscribed:-

“Corporation of Calcutta
Nirmal Hriday
Home for dying destitutes”

Below it the translation of it is also written in Bengali. Due to this placard the priests started opposing the efforts of Mother. This Nirmal Hriday home for dying destitute is not for spreading ones theoretical, academic and religious teaching but also it was a place for the comfort and dignity of dying destitute in real sense. A sister associated to Mother is responsible for its management.

Though the Nirmal Hriday comprises of only two rooms, one for males and the other for females. In these two rooms at the most 300 persons could be accommodated. Even then any body is not denied entry ones reaching Nirmal Hriday. Lack of space is not an obstacle in getting admission to the Nirmal Hriday any such person reaching the place becomes the accept of Nirmal Hriday. Around 300 cots have been spread there and not a single person is turned back. How every one is accommodated? The answer this question is that despite the number of beds we do not turn away any destitute. Why he should be with held, no question of turning away it is their own home some arrangements are done as may

be possible. Every citizen of the city of Kolkata love and revered Mother Teresa. Ask anybody who is the most popular personality in Kolkata. There will be the same reply 'Mother Teresa'.

What was the reason behind it as Mother never prefers advertisement propaganda appreciation etc. She was self contented and wandered with in her own self. What ever she performs she thought it to be her duty for the benefits of others not for exhibition or appreciation. Therefore she kept aloof from lectures, speeches, press, journalist etc. Each of her actions was submitted to the cause of God. Service of the despondent was her religion and in this service she sought the glimpses of the God. The embodiment of these sentiments of the Mother is Nirmal Hriday. If asked to somebody in Kolkata he would say that he does not know anything about it.

Mother has special affection for the Nirmal Hriday, whenever Mother was in Kolkata, every Sunday morning she would visit Nirmal Hriday. She could not even forget Nirmal Hriday whenever she was abroad.

Serving the dying person was the service of Jesus was the opinion of the Mother, the service of such pure soul which dedicated his life for the service of the

humanity. Because of this Mother Liked a word Pure and the names giving to the establishments Nirmal Shishu Bhawan and Nirmal Hriday were the proof of this attachment. In fact Mothers hard ached for the others and she was Pure clean, unblemished and serene. All the institutions establish by the Mother pointed to this characteristics of hers two large rooms one for men other for the women a white curtain separates the room on the right side of the kitchen and in a corner an elevated space which serves the purpose of office. Office consists of a pair of chairs, tables and two registers.

From one end to the other steel beds are arranged in a row which can be shifted by folding or stacked in a corner. Cleanliness was maintained all over the place only the scarcity of space was the constraints; otherwise every management was as good as a hospital. Around every cot small space was left for approaching the person.

Almost 200 patients were seen there every day. In a register of the office name and address of the patient admitted there was recorded and in the other register date of death was recorded. Normally patients on the verge of death are brought here, who after some time depart from the world. Despite that the sisters of the

Nirmal Hriday cautiously perform their duties. If somebody was saved fortunately then that person never left Nirmal Hriday as the affection and love he got here was not available to him else where. Then were to go, in this regard Mother said, 'where would they go? There is no asylum for them else were.'

Every Sunday in the morning after the prayers in the church Mother use to visit Nirmal Hriday. Reaching there Mother visited each patient enquired about the condition. Every day there critical and heart breaking scenes were found like, due to lack of beds some patient is lying on the floor and trembling. That person belong to a well to do family. When he is asked why you have not gone to the hospital? There was nobody to take care therefore I want to stay here only. I like to stay here. Was the reply.

There upon Mother comforted him –'OK don't worry its good.'

Thereafter Mother would approach the other bed. Some patient is their his face is covered with a blanket. Mother would uncover the face from the blanket. Thereafter Mother comforted the patient on the forehead with her hand, the patient is senseless, suddenly Mother

said, 'it seems that he would not live long.'

At the same time that patient dies. Mother covers the whole body. Further on the other bed an old person is lying making groaning sound. He is breathing with strong efforts. Mother turns away and visits other patients in the mean time the earlier patient calms down being dead. Mother would put her hand on the forehead feels the pulse and would say, 'he is gone.' On Mothers instruction a sister covers his body with a white sheet.

Further on the next bed a person is lying, a truck has crushed him. There are wife, children in the family. He was sent to the govt. hospital. There was no relief family members also turned their faces. Hospital dumped him on the road. Some how he was brought to the Nirmal Hriday, his leg was amputated.

On a bed a young man was sitting. His parents had died when he was a child. Then he came to Kolkata.

Here he engaged himself as a laborer earned his livelihood that he was engulfed by tuberculosis. He was cured in the Nirmal Hriday where he got a new life. In the female ward a young woman is lying on the bed on the verge of death. Sisters are attending her.

Another girl is sitting on the bed she is from rural

area. She is suffering from tuberculosis, she had shifted to the city but got no refuge she was made to suffer on the road in the night fortunately the sisters of Nirmal Hriday found her and took with them. Now she is gaining health.

Most of the time sisters brought these kind of patients to Nirmal Hriday who were refused admission by the other hospitals.

Once Mother found such an ailing woman on the road whose body was eaten and bitten by the rats and ants. Mother took her to the hospital because at that time Nirmal Hriday has not come into existence. The physician of the hospital refused to admit the patient. Mother never expected such a behavior from the doctors taking a vow to serve the patients. This stubbornness of these doctors was discussed by the Mothers –“doctors, nurse are the workmen of the social welfare it is true that all are not alike and all are not bad but it cannot be denied that some times doctors do not practice in a positive manner.”

When denied by the doctors Mother had not moved from there. Due to agitation of the Mother doctors got defeated and that woman was admitted to the hospital.

This incidence had shaken the Mother. May be the hurt and grief had inspired Mother for the establishment of Nirmal Hriday feeling the pains of others merciful Mother was unable to ignore the pain and sorrow of others. Mother was not able to bear the pain of others as every such patient for her was the replica of Jesus. Those ignored and abandoned by the society got sympathy from the Mother. It was Mother's incessant efforts that all the ignored persons got the feeling that somebody is there also to love them.

Every patient in Nirmal Hriday had a touching past. The tale of their woes differed. Every day several patients arrived and some of them died. At least on their death they were peaceful that they are dying among human beings and their bodies will not be mutilated. Which is a natural human instinct even though a person knows that this body will become useless and despite that nobody wants his body to be abused even after death.

Most of the time patients set for their final journey in Nirmal Hriday thus the terror of death is a normal routine there. Despite that persons watching these scenes have to take a tough stand. Sometimes they get annoyed by the death of a specific person. In fact these

incidence must have shaken the Mothers heart also. One's a young woman was brought to Nirmal Hriday in ambulance from Sealdah, it was around 10.0 clock in the night almost all the occupants of Nirmal Hriday had finished their meals. That young woman was passing her final moments. She was breathing very difficultly, even then she was requesting in a crime manner again and again, "give me rice-give me rice".

Having seen her pathetic condition Mother got prepared rice and pulses. In a plate it was served to her the moment she saw the food in front of her she forgot her ailment and quickly sat down. For a moment she had seen the food and the next moment she fell down. Took her last breathe and was gone from the world.

At the time of death she must have been well contented that at least there are certain human beings who had provided a plate of rice to her.

Nobody can prevent death. But mercy and sympathy are valueless. Mother got enormous content from this kind of service that she is providing to the destitute. At least the person and the tired mind got comfort in the last moments finding that there are certain beings who are having sympathy with him/her. There

different versions of life after death and heaven but no one likes that his peace of mind and tranquility of soul be disturbed in the final moments of life.

Once we read a story. A king told a person, 'tomorrow morning you keep on running since sunrise to sunset. Whatever area you will run through that will be given to you.' A person blinded by the greed started running early in the morning whole day he kept running. He did not take care of his body. As the day passed he got tired but greed forced him to run and run. Even near the sunset he started running fast. When the sun set he was very much tired. To know that how much land he has got in his favour he looked back and as he turned back he died. In the end Mother earth has got him in its lap for which only two yards of land.

The objective behind narrating this story is that death is of two kinds, first having a sigh of relief and another violent death. In Nirmal Hriday aforesaid young woman should have been very much contented that at the time of death she is got the food. In the other story a person in the clutches of greed had died, but at the time of death he was not peaceful and contented. He wanted that the sun set should have been a little later so that he

may have got some more land.

Before coming in existence of Nirmal Hriday and after that sisters brought the patients from the road side. After some time Nirmal Hriday became a heaven for the dying patient, it became so popular that journal public finding such a patient would brought him to the Nirmal Hriday or had called a ambulance thereafter ambulance would bring them to Nirmal Hriday.

Reaching Nirmal Hriday each person was made to feel that some people are there to love him/her on this earth in this regard Mother said that , 'first of all we wanted them to feel that they are loved by someone on this earth. Death is in evitable. If a small solace and affection is brought to their life then their presence in Nirmal Hriday proves to be successful'. Almost 95% of the dying destitute coming to Nirmal Hriday died. Rest 5% never wanted to go back leaving the place. Out of these the persons able to were sorted out. Such young men and women are pursuing their occupation in this manner, some of those are working in Nirmal Hriday serving the patient.

Those person unable to work and surviving were sent to the home were they lived rest of the life happily.

Mother was the embodiment of goddess for dying destitute in Nirmal Hriday. But Mother never took credit of these works. She submitted all her services to the God. This was her selfless unattached greed less sense of service.

Sisters of the Nirmal Hriday took it as their stringent duty to serve the patients. Many young men for foreign countries also have come to Kolkata despite the fact that they belong to a prosperous family but Mother takes care of these young patients selflessly and indifferently. Somebody is performing the massage, other is giving bath, in doing these tasks they have no discomfort nor inhibition. In the service of humanity to give ones contribution is a noble at this is the main objective of the true service. One gets immense self satisfaction. Such satisfaction which cannot be described in words but only be felt and experience. In the same manner as the poet Surdas had said – “As a dumb cherishes the taste of ripen fruit within his own self.”

These service oriented youths neither are free bird nor have they escaped from their families. All these persons belong to prosperous families. They have joint the mission with the permission from their guardian

therefore they have come to this testing grounds. Getting bored of the western style of living these youths come to the Ashram and receive divine pleasure.

Incurring their own expenses investing their own time these youths come to Kolkata and all through the day they render their services to the dying destitute in the Nirmal Hriday and during the night they take rest in their hotel accommodation. Here they receive such education of selfless service inartificial life style, humble behavior affection and attachment towards the diseased and despondent which is like extracting oil from the send.



SHANTINAGAR - LEPERS HOME
(Shantinagar means city of peace)

Leprosy is a dreaded disease in the history of mankind. This disease has a great social stigma and a person suffering from it is hated in the society. We pray to God that one must not get to suffer from this disease so that this beautiful life becomes help for him.

Today leprosy is a very controllable in all its forms. This is not an infectious disease.

But at one time this was an extra ordinarily dreaded disease and it had a great hatred against it in the society.

Generally the mankind even today are full of hate for this disease. For this reason only the patients suffering from this disease are abandoned by their relatives family and society entirely are forced to beg for their bare necessities. If they do not live like a beggar then what else they can do? Because their own family disowns them.

A gentleman, who is in service with U.P police, unfortunately his Mother, got contacted with dreaded disease leprosy. Son apart from getting his Mother treated induced her to commit suicide. He took his Mother to Haridwar on the instance of taking a holy dip in the river Ganges. Till now the intensity of the disease

was not uncontrollable. He took his Mother on a deserted place and said to her, “Mother, now your life is useless. It will bring dishonor to me also. My children could also contact this dreaded disease from you. You have come to a holy place you will not get a better opportunity than this. Take final rest in the pious stream of the Ganges you will directly ascend to the heaven”.

His Mother was illiterate but every living being loves its life. The old Mother would have thought that how to come out of it even though she readily accepted to do like that.

This is a true story. Not even an hour at past. This incidence shows what kind of pain and agony the leprosy patients have to undergo. Mother Teresa took this problem spread in the society very seriously. One of his associates had told her that this not an infectious disease even then the general public does not sympathizes with leprosy patient.

Mother could not bear this pain of the leprosy patient. Her heart ached for them. Mother started serious efforts for their treatment and rehabilitation. In consequences to her efforts West Bengal Govt. gave her 35acres of land. Today this rehabilitation of leprosy

patient on this land is spread and situated by the name of Shantinagar. In the year 1957 first of all 5 leprosy patients came their. Who were not fully engulfed by this dreaded disease? Not from the services but they were remove from their homes by family members. Even after the characteristics symptoms of the disease was seen they were remove from their services also. They were forced to live like beggars on pavement having been rejected all around.

Incidentally during these days a leprosy specialist Dr. Sen came to visit Mother. She discussed the nature and cure of the disease extensively with her. Dr. Sen gave training to the sisters associates with the Mother.

Then Mother started the service of leprosy patients. She received medicines from America and other countries fro the selfless service rendered by the sisters to these patients while treatment of leprosy patients. Mother proved that leprosy is a curable disease it can be completely got rid off.

It is the ironies of the patients suffering from this disease that even if the disease is cured the family members and the society are not ready to accept the person back to the normal life for these persons who

have got them free from dreaded leprosy consider Shantinagar as heaven and these persons permanently inhabit Shantinagar. And they are not dependent on any body else.

Mother first of all established a printing press for the rehabilitation of the patients. Though Mother herself did not know those jobs, even then her efforts were not wasted. Some leprosy patients run that press now a day.

The patients reaching Shantinagar were not all poor, even the rich and prosperous highly educated people were also among the patients. These people were dumped by their family members to leave the house therefore they were forced to take refuge here. Mother got contributions through her efforts from abroad in form of medicines. Mother had great sympathy for these leprosy patients in her heart. It can be seen from an incidence. In 1964 Pope Paul VIth visited India. He was acquainted with the works done by the Mother. For the first time he saw the efforts and services of the Mother towards the mankind with his own eyes directly being in India. When he returned from India he gifted his Lincoln car to the Mother. Mother had no use for it. She did not ride the car even once. Mother wanted to use that car for the benefit

of the leprosy patient. She kept this car as a price in the lottery draw. For this draw several Lakhs of rupees were received from the sale of lottery tickets. The entire income received from the

Sale of these tickets Mother donated the same for the establishment of a leper's home.

In 1971 Mother was awarded with the Pope John Paul peace prize. The prize amount of 21 thousands 500 dollars were contributed by the Mother to the leper's home.

Today in 55 centres operated by the Mother around 50 thousand leprosy patient are being cured. Through these divine efforts of the Mother several lepers have been completely liberated from the curse of leprosy. Shri Sudev Roy Chaudhary in his book 'Mother Teresa' had mentioned an incidence as follows:-

'The mercy full Mother and more than thousands of her sisters every day render her services to the world with the balm their love and recreating the greatness. We will remember for long the words of a young woman who was liberated from this disease on the day of 2nd October in the leper home Titagarh. A leper home by the name of 'Gandhi Prem Niwas' was inaugurated by the governor

Dias had left. Slowly the venue was being vacated. Suddenly a middle aged person came before the Mother. Having seeing the Mother he said, 'Mother my daughter had been cured, his marriage is settled. Date and auspicious time has also been fixed. The groom is asking for a gold ring, watch and golden buttons. From where I will bring all these ornaments and clothes O Mother. Even by your presence.....'

Mother had a very great heart it melted. She said every thing will be arranged, when her leprosy will be cured then she will also be married.

As the Mother had said it happened. The moment she alighted the train she called a sister and asked her in pure Bengali you have a ring, it remains or not this girl as to be provided for these things.

Near by a girl aged 13-14years was standing Mother called her waving hand. When she came near by she asked how your hand is do you massage it with oil and are you visiting the O P D regularly. The girl kept on looking Mother's face attracting then stated Mother all the spots have been vanished.

Mother suffered great pain when she saw some leper begging. If Mother was going somewhere and she came

across leprosy patients begging then Mother would directly approach them and talk to them, touched their person. From this behavior these leprosy patient felt such a great happiness that could not be easily measured.

Not only this Mother would go to their neighborhood to take care of them. She would clean their wounds comforted them it was a normal routine for Mother.

It gave them immense happiness and pleasure. Can a normal human being perform these acts? It is not easy for every one to overcome the hatred it is uncontrollable.

Overcome ones hatred, control the envy perform unattached selfless service. This kind of great life could only command respect and honor.

Our father of nation Mahatma Gandhi used to apply oil to the person of the leprosy patient. Famous Yogi Swami Muktananda also served the lepers with joy. Ones some Christian Pastors asked Swamiji whether he can make us see the God.

Yes, said Swamiji, come tomorrow morning.

Next day in the morning both the priests came to the place but when they came Swamiji took them to undisclosed destination and kept silent. After some time walking to huts Swamiji took them to a leper who was

lying on the floor. Swamiji started applying oil to his body. After some time when the massage was over he asked those priests – whether you got the glimpses of the God? Both the pastors fell in the feet of Swamiji. They could only utter that we have seen the Lord Jesus today.

Sister Nivedita disciple of swami Vivekananda had also set an ideal for serving the downtrodden. In 1899 when plague spread in Kolkata then swami ji to prevent its extension asked his disciple to take responsibility. Sister Nivedita holding a broom in her hands started cleaning the streets then some youth took the broom from her hands and started cleaning the road.

Mother always served the ailing human beings as her duty. Mother also encouraged her associate sisters to perform in a similar manner. Once she had also written to one of her colleagues – I am hungry for peace and not only for food. But that peace shall be attained by a pure heart.

I am thirsty but there is no such water which can quench the thirst of a war. This peace and the total peace are dear to me.

I am bare –not from scarcity of clothes, but from the dishonor of man and woman. I am homeless but not due

to lack of buildings made of bricks and stones but in the absence of such support from the root of the heart which can spread love.

God could only be achieved by spreading love among to all shunning the greed. Love is the only tool to get rid of the hatred, envy and violence. The sweetness of Life is inherent in performing all the acts smilingly.



CHARITIES OF LOVE AND AFFECTION

Home for mentally retarded and physically disabled children

Love and Affection flowing from the Mothers heart took the form of 'Premdan', abode for mentally retarded and physically disabled children. Her 'Premdan' situates in Tiljala, in the eastern part of Kolkata.

Earlier this building belongs to ICI (India). It has planned to commission a scientific laboratory in the said building. In 1973 ICI has given it to the Mother in donation. As the gift was inconsequence to the Love and affection towards the Mother, this building was rechristened as 'Premdan'. Which in its renovated form is giving success true to its name?

On 5th April, 1973, then Governor of West Bengal A L Dias inaugurated 'Premdan'. This premise has 5 acres of land in the centre of which this building is situated. Having sufficient space in the premises this institution is ably serving thousands of children. It has got large halls, rooms, corridor and office. On one side there is a primary school and children admitted to this part of the building start new life as well as learn some techniques and ability to earn their livelihood.

Here a part from mentally retarded and physically

handicapped children other dying destitute are also given shelter. Such mentally retarded and handicapped children are brought by the sisters of this institution from different towns and villages. They are given medical treatment along with the vocational training. On being cured and becoming healthy these children are sent to their parents.

While walking on the road Mother observed that several disposed dewatered fresh coconut shells are lying on the footpath everyday all over Kolkata. Mother thought why it should not be better utilized? For acquiring these no extra money, effort and time has to be devoted. After extracting milky water and the cream these shells are dumped by the users here and there. The roads are littered. Why not some thing is prepared from it?

Having this thought Mother collected some empty shells and started using it for preparing different articles. There upon Mother got a new inspiration. In the area of 'Premdan' a rehabilitation centre has been operating boys and girls collect these kinds of shells and bring it to the sisters. Thereafter these are processed to manufacture durries, quilt, floor mats etc.

By the afternoon the children collect these empty shells but it is not possible to bring all these shells together to the centre because only one lorry is engaged for this assignment. Those are collected in the form of a pyramid on the footpath behind the night shelter at Sealdah. In the evening every child gets one pound of bread or sixteen biscuits what ever he chooses in lieu of hundred such empty shells.

From near the night shelter these are brought to the centre where those are utilized for manufacturing. This process gives employment and livelihood to almost 300 children of the 'Premdan'. In fact the step taken by the Mother in this regard is uttermost and appreciable. Mother taught these handicapped children to lead a new life utilizing a wasteful article littering the roads. By one hundred such empty shells almost a meal for one time is arranged. This drop of work may not be significant monetarily but handicapped children got a new inspiration and life out of it which is valueless.



NIGHT SHELTERS

Love and affection of the Mother had different forms when applied upon the practical problems. Nirmal Shishu Bhawan, Premdan, Nirmal Hriday, Shantinagar etc are the token of Mother's Love and affection. One of these institutions other than this is the Night Shelter at Sealdah. Persons dwelling in this town on footpaths or other earning their bread here take refuge for the night stay.

In this night shelter several forms of a young life is found each day. Some of the children are studying sitting on the floor, some other are enjoying carom etc, some are standing and some are sitting. Almost every one is wearing a knickers. Sisters wash them every day. Therefore none of the children is found filthy. Some orphan child is also here who do not have any other place to live. They devote their day hours on the Sealdah platform or footpath.

A small school has been established to teach these children. The children of all faiths –Hindu, Muslim and Christian are taught here. After teaching them up to fourth standard these are sent to Pratibha Sen School near St Anne Church for further studies. There they are

taught up to eight standards.

When these children arrive here first of all, they come directly from the footpath and the conditions of these children could very well be accessed easily. Their clothes were draped in dust. Most of the children were criminally activated pick pocketeers. These were to engage themselves in pick pocketing in buses, trams, and other such crowded places. Whenever caught they were beaten thoroughly.

The sisters of the night shelter and other responsible persons bring these children here. And after bringing them here they were made to acknowledge their guilt and were further taught not to engage in criminal activity. In this manner the night shelter becomes their refuge. And then starts a new chapter in their life.



NIRMAL KENNEDY KENDRA

'Nirmal Kennedy Kendra' is another form of Mother's mercy, love and affection. In the year 1971 when thousands of refugees have arrived from Bangladesh to India then a camp had been established for their shelter near Dumdum. At that time America's Senator Edward Kennedy also visited India. Mr. Kennedy was scheduled to visit these refugees camp. It is natural that a leader of such a stature was always in the company of several journalists and reporters, that is why he was finding it difficult to meet the refugees properly. When he was going to some place in Kolkata then he lagged behind a crowd. He saw that a nun was washing clothes of a cholera patient. This sister was nun other than Mother Teresa's first disciple sister Agnes. Edward Kennedy came forward to shake hands with her.

'But my hands are dirty' - said sister Agnes.

Kennedy said – 'As much more dirty your hands will be I will think it to be a divine blessing for myself to shake hands with you. It can not be compared with any other work'.

When the displaced persons of Bangladesh started returning to their country after getting independence

then Mother had not vacated the land provided for establishing the camps. At the same place this Nirmal Kennedy Centre has been established. In this centre mentally retarded children, patients suffering from stroke and paralysis and physically handicapped had been accommodated. In this manner children grow up here playing among the trees of mango, jamun, and coconut etc, this picture of children playing in the orchard is mind soothing. Entering the building one finds abandoned, unwanted and homeless children along with handicapped and mentally disabled women folks and deserted women. In this place specialist take care of these patients. Persons disabled by stroke or paralysis are kept under service nursing and care of sisters sometimes foreign youths and sisters also apply massage to these patients. A serene tranquility and immeasurable satisfaction is visualized on the faces of persons who served them.

All the patients admitted here have got their own painful past. Somebody is deaf and dumb since birth some other persons is suffering from paralysis due to accident and is unable to speak or hear.

The handicapped and mentally retarded children

moved the heart of the Mother greatly and she over flows with mercy and love for the children Mother finds these children as the benefactor of the mankind. She used to say that homeless handicapped deaf and dumb children bear the sins of the human society and make others free of sufferings. Once a well-wisher of the Mother asked her, 'Mother what sins these children have committed? We the grown ups commit the sin. We must face the consequences then it is all right, then why these children who do not commit sin and are pure, clean and unblemished, they suffer for what punishment'.

In fact this question was apt for consideration. For sometime Mother kept silence and then said this is the beauty actually. Had it not been that these innocent unblemished children took these pain then the earth would have gone to the hell. All these innocent, un sinful children suffer so that we can enjoy happiness. We can not imagine the great sacrifice done by these. We are so much debited to them that we can not think of or described in words. What a wise and open hearted thought could not accrue to a normal person? Mother saw the children who were suffering with pain as the benefactor or reliever of the mankind. In her opinion each

child innocent, unblemished, sinless. The life, she thought was most pure and it was her duty to make it more and more beautiful for the welfare of mankind. It was her greatness. In the year 1971 when the refugees came to India from Bangladesh then she got merciful finding their sufferings. She thought of arranging of ample space to accommodate them. She took up this matter. First she got to know about a place, this was a orchard, containing fruit bearing trees. Mother named that orchard as Green Park. Mother sitting in the same place talked to its owner. The conversation went up for the whole day. Mother was foodless since the morning. In the night when she was returning then the owner of the place and his wife of her lemonade all were tired when it was offered to the Mother. Then she said over taking meals outside is prohibited.

We are not asking you to take food. This is only lemonade. There is no harm in accepting this. Said the owner of the place.

Then Mother took that lemonade and at around 11O'clock in the night she returned she had got the land well in time and medicine etc were also arranged for the refugees.

WHERE THERE IS A WILL THERE IS A WAY

Mother was a great believer of God. She used to say that the God has shown me the way. The inspiration was in my heart since early days.

She thought to be a medium herself. It was her firm opinion that after her the work started by her shall be carried out smoothly- If I assume for a moment that all the works are done by me then all these work will cease as i die. Presuming this kind of think it will and naturally in this manner. It is my firm belief that it is the God who is the doer and who performs all the acts through us. Therefore after the demise of a person his body is absorbed by the five elements but the work continuous endlessly. Some other person will be chosen by the God as medium.

When Mother started her work independent ally what resources she had? Without having much she had unshakeable belief in God due to this firm belief she was able to make possible the impossible goals. Mother said- only wealth can not perform service. For performing selflessly one has to be totally devoted to the God's was, must have total submission, full of love and affection and must feel good for whatever he does. This is our principle

wealth. This strength is our basic resource. For service one must be daring. In the hospital doctors and nurses attend the patients but this can not be called a true service because it is not filled with love and affection. It is a debatable point that it has a touch of love and affection or not. In the word of love there is no place for deception. Only by saying that we love them it can not be held like wise but by the nature of work and performance we will had to understand that we love them or not. The love which emanates from the deepest corner of Mother's heart. Therefore we must approach them with pleasant mind. With a heavy heart if we approach them then it will make them said. They will break down.

Sometime Mother reached such a state of mind that no way was seen and nothing occurred so as to overcome the non decisiveness such moments were faced by the Mother several times in her life. Under such circumstances any normal human being surrenders, before the destiny, but Mother always accepted the hurdles and problems with great heart. For her problems and obstacles were the essential parts of her life. In the earlier chapters such difficulties and problems faced by the Mother has been discussed as per context. Whenever

the Mother was in need resources were assimilated. Once Mother said, 'First I had only Rs.500 with me but when the masses got to know about our work and its scope then they started donating funds and articles helping our cause. All this is possible only with the mercy of God. Ever since the very first day we were not required to beg before any one. The funds kept on flowing as per our requirements.

Mother experienced this divine benevolence several time in her life time. In 1962 Mother received a telegram from the missionaries in Agra. Missionaries wanted to build a children home for which funds were required. To this telegram they have requested the Mother to arrange for a sum of Rs.15, 000.

Mother faced serious problem. She was finding it her duty to contribute and help in this cause. But Mother did not have money in those days.

On one hand it was an auspicious work on the other compulsion of scarcity of funds. Mother has no way out. With a heavy heart she had intimated the missionaries at Agra regarding her hardship.

Mother was in great grief. She was sitting idle and worried about this cause that the phone rang. Mother

picked up the phone. Some gentleman intimated her government of Philippines has decided to confer upon you the Ramon Magsaysay award, along with it you will be paid Rs. 50,000.

Getting the intimation Mother said laughingly, “It seems God wills to get a children home built in Agra.” Mother was very much delighted hearing this news, but this joy was not motivated with selfishness of a common man. This was innocent pure selfless smile, a joy emanating from divine joy.

In this manner Mother always attributed all the successes in her life to God. Others may just call it a chance or coincidence, but in Mother’s view it was the blessings of God. Not only this, Mother always translated the message of God from the activities and incidence happening every moment around her.

It was Mother’s firm belief that in the earlier days she faced difficulties in pursuing her work. She was in stress, but the sorrow and sadness will continue ever. Mother always thought that sadness is complementary to happiness. This kind of elated perception that sadness and happiness are complementary to each other and while in distress a feeling or meritating of divine

happiness is the proof that her feelings and behavior were that of an uncommon person.

One has to become a selfless ascetic develop of feeling that the grief and despair of a person were her own sufferings and in that suffering pain or despondency she always visualized the God. Mother always considered a diseased, a hungry, down trodden and poor persons as her brother. Despite scarcity of resources the great heart of the Mother accepted him and incorporated to her.

With such great belief and trust in the God Mother use to say that, "it is important than the funds and money that a person may be encourage or inspired to take up a work. It is very difficult to make someone believe that these destitute diseased hungry and weak persons are our brother.

A common man can inculcate these teachings only when one comes in contact or exposure of great personalities. Otherwise one can adopt these teachings in principle but in a routine life one can not practically carry out these activities. It is not a difficult task to give a lecture in a detail on any subject in this manner.

Mother never believed in giving lectures but always performing her duties. Talkativeness is the mark of

weakness of a person. This was the difference between a common person and the Mother Teresa. The persons following the great personalities could not be said to be the true supporter are well-wisher, these people do it for selfishness. The appreciation and admiration is done as a means for achieving their selfish motives.

Mother was not holding any post, even though she had following and disciple all around the world. This devotion towards the Mother is not due to selfish motives but the affection and devotion towards the Mother is like giving thanks or thankfulness towards the liberal and selfless activities of a true human being.

These great personalities, true human beings persons with empathy towards humanity and persons with outstanding character and performance and others who are devoted to the service of mankind. Are always worship in the world all around. This faithy and affection of the world community towards the Mother is proof of their sentiments.

Former chief minister of Bengal Dr. Widhan Chand Roy was over whelmed by the Mother's personality. Whenever Mother wished she could approach and visit him in his office or residence without giving any

intimation.

Dr. Widhan Chand Roy knew that Mother was the true image of selfless service. Once yet set to Mother, “people take funds from the government and misuse the same. But you can take as much as you like for smooth operation of your hospices homes etc. You can autonomously conduct their administration as per your will. You don’t have to submit the accounts etc or intimate any thing of this sort. I have total trust in you.”

In Mother’s life several such occasions have come when Mother had full trust in God and obstacles were overcome only with faith. One such incidence of the missionaries of Agra and their telegram has earlier being mentioned. Another such incidence is significant to be mentioned herein. Once during the winters Mother faced shortage of quilts. The covers for making those quilts were received but cotton to be filled in those cover could not be managed. Mother torn her pillow from one side and she wanted to use that cotton for making for quilt that the bell rang and somebody was standing on the door to meet the Mother.

When he was welcome a gentleman came in he was going abroad. He had blanket, durry, quilt etc the whole

new set of bed furnishing he wanted to donate it to the Mother. Now the difficulty, Mother faced was removed.

Common man may term this as merely a chance but Mother never consider it a chance and always believe it to be blessings of God. From time to time several great personality have come to this earth who have set a precedence and ideal before the world through mercy, love , compassion, affection and encouragement in the society.

The great ascetic Dadhichi had donated his skeleton to the demy gods sacrificing his life and body. The demy gods used his bones for the preparation of Vajra to kill the demon Vrittasura. This sacrifice of Dadhichi is a true example of One's contribution for the cause of All setting an example.

The king Shivi gave protection to the pigeon who took refuge by donating his flesh to the hawk for saving pigeons life and started detaching his body parts equivalent to the weight of the pigeon. Finally he had to sit on the balance himself as pigeon weight more than his body weight. This is a rare example of self sacrifice for the protection of others in one's custody.

King Ranti Dev was hungry for several days. At last

he got meals, when he was going to take food one by one three hungry beggars came to him and asked for food. The king one by one gave all his food kept before him to these beggars in donation. Not only was this he not even left with a mouth full of drinking water. This act of Ranti Dev is a significant example of a person's emotion for the pain and suffering of other person. All these three elements can be found in Mother's life together. For the benefit of the poor and down trodden she had sacrificed personal comforts. No body is turned back denying services from the hospices and homes run by the Mother.

Taking a broad view of Mother's life we find that Mother to remove the sufferings and pain of her children was always in the front to bear their pain and stood by them in their sufferings. She had stability that of Himalaya and tranquility, vastness and gravity of the ocean. She had never evaluated what and how much resources are with her physically and with it how she can manage the welfare of a certain number of persons. She only wanted to perform selfless service; she knew to perform as per the Karmic attributes. This was her worship and offering to the God.

Mother's lap was open for every one, the poor, the

diseased, the shelter less and the abandoned. It is true that Mother was not able to give good quality food to her children even then normal salty rice was available to all. This food was bear minimum but was saturated with the love, affection and blessings of the Mother and her children consider and accepted it to be the 'Prasad and Divine gift'.

In the donation by a donator amount and quality of the article in donation is not evaluated but the sentiments and the objectives of the benefactor is consider. The simple food laced with inspiration, faith, regard, love and affection gives ample satisfaction. But a lavish food provided with dishonor, despise, hatred and ignorance is not worth one's taste.

Along with the financial hardships Mother had less number of associates, but as the work progress she got sufficient associates and assistants. In the earlier days Mother had to do all the work by her self, but gradually the masses and the elite understood the significance of the activities carried out by Mother and they all cooperated with her work. Not only the financial help but also the practical help.

Always contented. She accepted whatever who so

ever contributed for the cause of the down trodden and the poor. She thought that in accepting these articles one should not hesitate or keep inhibition in mind. Suddenly this noble cause pursued by the Mother reminds us of the deeds of Mahamana Madanmohan Malviya. He had collected even a single penny for the establishment of the largest Temple of Knowledge 'Kashi Hindu Vishwavidyalaya'. Defining his character it is said- though he was short statured but his goals were high in the sky.

In the earlier days Mother had to face many difficulties but a time came when these difficulties bade good bye. Today on the Acharya Jagdish Basu Road situates a large building where lots of people live. Here the associate sisters of the Mother can entertain themselves in sports walking etc.

This is the outcome of protracted, persistent service to the cause of poor and down trodden. To reach this goal Mother has to traverse to several steps. Then it was a very difficult time, but now the situation has changed. In those days when the morning bell rang very one used to come out in the open perform prayers and study also. Once the work had started no time for rest or recharge was left in the hectic schedule.

In consequence to this untiring efforts many forms of the Mother were exposed to the world. The symbol of love and affection among these is Nirmal Shishu Bhawan, Nirmal Hriday is synonymous to mercy and compassion, Night-Shelter and Premdan are the symbol of love, care and sense of universal service.

In real terms Mother was a great personality she had set such an example before the world which is not expected from a common person. Only great personality with immense will power and incessant service and devotion overcome the impossible goals.

In fact a true man of action keeps balance in happiness-distress and profit-loss this is an outstanding element of once personality. It is the result of Mother's incessant efforts or her continuous tireless practice that today missionaries of charities is imparting education through one hundred schools, where in teachers do their work out of charity without receiving remuneration.

In fact alleviation of poverty and extension of education both are complementary activities. Mother always started educating the down trodden and poor students with the introduction of alphabets, Her schools have come into existence through this practice only. In

those schools Mother imparted education regarding action and not fundamental or religious activities.

These students included boys and girls from the age of 12 to 22-23 years. These students came from such section of the society where getting educated was neither an easy task nor it was freely available. Many of these have never seen nursery or primary schools. Some of them have earlier tried to go to a school but were turned away.

In these schools established by the Mother they are exposed to the light of education.

Mother treated all the religions equally. She always saw them as forms of God. Having a distinctive view is a symbol of ignorance; a true Yogi is indifferent intellectual and ascetic in his routine. Before giving the formal education a child is given basic knowledge of health and hygiene. They are taught practically the importance and practice of cleanliness.

The greatest specialty of the Mother was keeping aloof from the propaganda and extension of religious education. She never taught or converted any of her student of catholic religion. It was not her mission for her God and religion were two different things Motherc

exposed the knowledge of God to the common persons. In this regard she used to say, 'my mission is to turn the people towards the God. And for this essential work is to serve the masses'.

'If with the efforts of one's own self and grace of God if you can serve even a single child of God then you will be blessed. Don't give importance to your self, you are blessed that you were given the right and opportunity to perform service, that was not given to others'.

This sense of service became the canon of Mother's life. She always visualized a person as the image of God. It was meaningless for her to consider one's caste and religion. This was the true religiosity of the Mother. A true believer is always above narrow-minded communalism. For her religion was a element for bonding the society and not disintegrating it.

This was the true religious instinct which brought her from Yugoslavia to India. It was mother's religion to serve the poor and down trodden, the backward and destitute, give roof to shelter less and orphans, treat and nurse the diseased and the ailing persons. She was the true disciple of Jesus Christ. She always visualized the image of Jesus Christ in every orphan, shelter less, ailing

and their care nursing and service.

Initially when the schools were established the education was spread among the lowest class of the society it was the common rule of the Mother that none of the sister would not go out of the premises of Missionaries of Charity all alone. Whenever it was required two sisters attended the work together. When all the sisters were away on work, Mother was left alone and when she also had to go out to attend a work then the daughter or any other lady of Michael Gomez family would use to accompany her.

Whenever out of the place at 8 in the morning she has to return by 12-1.0clock. Sometimes it got late. One day Mother was much delayed in returning. When she had not return then the wife of Michael Gomez got worried. When Mother return she was fully soaked in the rain.

Always concerned about others Mother was not worried about her getting drenched in the rain.

When Mrs. Michael Gomez drew her attention to her wet state, then Mother said, 'This wetness is nothing to comparison to what I saw in the town today'.

She narrated her heart moving experience in words,

'In a dilapidated room in the town I saw a woman standing and room was filled with knee deep water all over. The woman was carrying her child on her shoulders, who was suffering from eye fever. To save the child his Mother had put an utensil using it as umbrella over his head. The main cause of all this was that this lady was not able to pay her rents for two months. Therefore the landlord had removed the roof of the room'.

After narrating this Mother again said, 'look I am going to that area again now. Only for eight rupees that innocent child is suffering and may die due to high fever'.

This kind of incidences were not kept in record. Therefore it has moved the heart of the compassionate Mother in a great turbulence. In a same manner another incidence is also worth mentioning. One day some sisters brought a child to the Mother. The child was suffering from stomach-ache. Sisters told her that he is in such a state due to consuming food articles from garbage heap and because of it this pain occurred.

Mother's heart melted with pain. She sat before the child and asked him what have you eaten? Hearing the compassionate voice of the Mother the child started weeping, but he was weeping silently, it was soundless

weep. The child sat that since last two mornings not a single grain of food had been in his stomach. He was completely starving since last two days. Therefore his intestines were tingling. This was the cause of his stomach-ache.

Earlier all the household errands were attended personally by the Mother. While working she used to get tired, but she never stopped working. Most of the time colleague sisters have to persuade her to go to bed.

During her struggle period Mother had to work very hard, despite immense tiredness and wearing out Mother never surrendered to cease the work for her tiredness was not for body but of the will and state of mind. Therefore Mother never accepted defeat. Her will-power was invincible firm, like the Himalaya. In consequence of these struggles Mother's compassion and affection took multiple forms serving the mankind at different places. In these activities her colleague sisters give their unforgettable contribution. All of them stay away from propaganda and publicity and without protest work tirelessly.

A work horse, Karmyogi works ceaselessly. He believes in Action only. Publicity propaganda

appreciation etc in his view are not important, his talisman is get going-get going with the life. Therefore Mother could reach such an apex success in her life.

Earlier Mother on her own entered into the arena of selfless service. At that time she was all alone following the principle get going alone.

After sometime some service oriented young girls approached Mother. Where there is a will a way is found automatically. First of all on 19march 1949 one Bengali young girl, sister Agnes presented herself to become associate of the Mother. Only there after she became sister Agnes. Earlier her name was Subhashini-Das, who was once Mother's students.

Thereafter within one year of this several Bengali young girls came to Mother and started helping her in this auspicious work. Most of these were former students of the Mother. These former students included Kiran Dutt, Rosario, daughters of the Gomez family. Kiran Dutt became Sister Claire. Rosario was given a new name of sister Bernard, to former students of the Mother of Gomez family became Dorothy Francis and sister Gorduse. Knees of Michael Gomez was given the new name of sister Lericia. One other student Rosario became

sister Francisca. To other young girls of the Gomez family sister Florence Vincent and sister Margret Mary became associate of the Mother also.

At present there are more than one thousand sisters serving in the missionaries of charities in performance of there religious duty of service of mankind. Many of these have attained middle age. Most of these sisters are very young. Senior most sister takes it as her duty to purify the heart and soul of the young sisters.

In the earlier days Mother was all alone, there after sister Agnes became her disciple. In this manner the number of her disciples kept on increasing. Not only sisters but brothers also are working for her institution.

The life of an ascetic is not a bed of flowers, it is a very discipline tough life. The saying-‘one who sets his house on fire comes along with us’. The ascetics having these kind of thoughts and following could only become the followers of the Mother’s pursuit. Mother never asked or made it compulsory for anyone to follow her track.

In the institutions conducted by the Mother all the associate render services out of selfless inspiration without any inhibition. There none has the sense of

seniority or high profile neither of them have envious attitude towards the other. All are equal, nobody has special privileges. None of them want to have any other right or comforts. Every one engages himself in all sorts of work whether it is cleaning of the room or sweeping the floor or doing the utensils etc works are done by all of them. While performing these activities all of them consider it to be their pious duty.

In the beginning 5-6 young girls came forward to take up the Mother's mission, all of them hailed from Bengal. Thereafter youths started to arrive from other state also. In few years the number of members willing to serve the cause of humanity and live rest of their life an ascetic grew to more than one thousand.

Today in the metropolitan city of Kolkata here and there these sisters could be seen. Wearing white saree with blue border. This saree is worn in a conservative sober and simple manner that of a traditional Indian village women. Not the veil but entire hair on the head always was kept covered in the head gear and the blouse or top has to be full sleeved. Up till 1952 there work around 11 colleagues with the Mother.

These sisters are taught to perform duty as the

cleaning rooms, washing clothes, bringing water, nursing the patients taking care of the infants in Shishu Bhawan to go to the town areas and serve the cause of poor members of the society etc.

The life style of these sisters is a noble example of the life of a Yogi performing saintly duties tirelessly. Mother's activities are their guiding principle.

Nobody thinks of his own comforts here. They seek true happiness in serving others. Around 9-10 o'clock in reaching the missionaries of charities situated at Acharaya Jagdish Basu Road one finds sisters cleaning the place. Pick up the garbage bin dispose of the garbage in the municipal corporation garbage collection centre. This is integral part of their daily routine.

Mother's life style was very simple, no comforts, no utilities or facilities. For her lying down a rectangular wooden bed had been placed covered with cotton mattress and a plain bed sheet.

It was a delightful experience for the Mother to go and have meals with these sisters, not only this when a religious cinema is being run then Mother took the group of sisters to view the cinema. Finding such movies in the city Mother use to manage complementary tickets for her

associates.

Despite all these sisters always treated and consider the selfless service as their utter most duty. It is not easy for a common man to sacrifice all the comfort and luxuries and take up the vow to serve the poor and destitute. They submit to the God in entirety. This is the ultimate goal and few meaning of life for them.

If any young women wanted to the work with the Mother then she never turned her back. Such new comers have to work for six months with already working associates, so that she could understand that whatever she is doing is being done for and on behalf of God. God is the strength and cause behind all the activities which are carried out indirectly by Him. In this period these trainee young women are also subjected to test and examination regarding their inclination inspiration and sense of service.

Thereafter for next six months they are subjected to basic teachings of spiritual life. After the completion of this teaching two years training is imparted regarding the religion and faith. In these trainings trainee is also subjected to difficulties and physical hardship. They are also taught the rules and the instructions of discipline of

the missionaries of charities. Behind this teaching the objective is that sister should be made aware of the goals which they are going to pursue by taking vow to serve others with all their efforts life mind and body.

To elaborate these objectives following words said by the Mother are being coated here-

‘Sisters wanted to sacrifice everything, by submitting all they want to attain God. They very well know that Jesus Christ always come to us in the guise of homeless bare or naked beggars and starving and hungry. We love and serve the cause and the Jesus Christ in this manner. They get delighted by having in their hands the element which they were searching till now. All these are to be experienced. This delightful does not come by investing money or exerting force. This is felt and received in the deepest part of the heart.

If we look upon this task in the perspective of the religious view point then it comes to us naturally that we are not able to do anything but when we treat it as the work of Jesus Christ then there will be know obstacle difficulty or hindrance for this reason only this work had been successful. We are without worry in this regard because Jesus Christ gets this work done through us.

Whatever is provided for the poor and destitute is through His will’.

‘Everything comes to the Jesus. We can pray only nothing else is in our hands. While in prayer on our knees before the Jesus we visualized the picture of poor and destitute in pain and despair. It seems that everything comes alive in our memory whatever we feel and experience that sorrow and pain is the grand path to enter the greater empire love and benevolence’.

‘Due to distrust non delivers became selfish and keep themselves busy in personal profit and loss completely being self centered. Faith and believe does not originate when there is no contribution of unconditional love and affection and sacrifice. Love and trust are not synonymous but they move in the same direction, with the same momentum. Both of these are complementary to each other’.

‘We will have to go to the people and make them understand that God is present in every human being. And within that limit in its unlimited form the most powerful God enlightens Himself in the human beings in new forms. We can not see Jesus Christ, we can not introduce our love and benevolence in physical form to

him but we can see our neighbors always. Whatever we do, act in the name of Jesus Christ, we can always treat our neighbors as Jesus Christ and help our poor neighbors considering them as another form of Jesus Christ’.

‘At every step in this path of service it seems that new difficulties and obstacles keep on erupting. But one thing we must keep on over mind that what ever we do it is for the sake of everyone. In every neighborhood slums etc whoever had been dump in ignorance passing their time are also human beings like us subjected to happiness and sorrows of life. We must not forget this fact. Its only the expression of one’s ego who ignores poor persons and nothing else. If everyone takes the opportunity and performs his duty for the sake of poor’s and down trodden then the world will be transformed to another state’. This is the result of continuous tireless efforts of the Mother that today the institutions and branches of missionaries of charities is spread all over including Kolkata’s Kalighat, Dumdum, Shantinagar, Tiljala, Asansol, Titagarh and also in Delhi, Mumbai, Agra, Ranchi, Ambala, Jhansi, Amravati, Bhagalpur, Raigarh etc, in all 60-65 institutions are in service of the

poor and destitute.

Not only in India In foreign country also these establishments are in operation. In Switzerland, Australia, America, Canada, Italy, Austria, England, Holland, Denmark, Malta, Venezuela, Ireland, New Zealand almost 30 institutions have been working on the path shown by the Mother and serving the cause of humanity. Along with the missionaries of charities one more institution of the Mother symbolizes her greatness it is 'International association of co-workers of Mother Teresa'. In all there are different forms of Mother's personality that is emanating the message of the Mother in its greatest form.

In India Nirmal Hriday, Nirmal Shishu Bhawan, Nirmal Kennedy Centre are engaged in the service of the poor destitute homeless and handicapped persons and showing a new path and direction to the humanity.

First of all almost after nine years of her hard work Mother in the year 1959 got a building constructed in Kolkata because the number of associate sisters were increasing day by day. Only after giving them proper training the activities could only be spread in other parts of the country. Then Mothers scope of work was limited

only to Kolkata and adjoining areas. Thereafter one more building was got constructed in Delhi.

In the year 1950 Mother had only seven associate's sisters. Slowly this number increased. Most of these were from Bengal, Bihar, Assam, U.P, Meghalaya and Orissa, some anglo-Indian and foreigners also came to join the mission. The most of these sisters belong to the middle class but some work daughters of the rich families who had come living the attraction and greed of the wealth and property to join this auspicious work.

Mother has described the sense of service of these sisters in following words-“these daughters of the hire and middle class families have left every thing and have forgotten other things of the life. They have devoted their life entirely to the service of God. In this manner it is the true meaning and success of their life that they have sacrificed every thing to the God. Living every thing behind including honor comforts etc they have taken a vow to serve the humanity and attain the God. They have come to this world to serve the poorest of the poor as the chosen one by the God, immense volume of compassion and love may not forget Him therefore they have been given this opportunity. From the very first day when

these people are inducted into service we discuss every thing regarding the sense of service and the task ahead regularly. It is also discuss that whatever we do, we do it, keeping ourselves near the God and on behalf of the God. Prayers revitalizes the spiritual strength and with the help of that strength we go to the slums and serve the people. Working there and combining with the common people both these task are the part of training. Normally novices don't visit outside the mission in the early days of their training, but our fourth vow says-to serve the poorest of the poor person one has to perceive Jesus in every poor person it is necessary to reach out to them and mingle with them. Therefore they are send to interact with people in the slum. Where the stream of life would take them to know this they have to be properly given the training on this aspect this slums are the centres to acquire knowledge and presence of the Jesus among these poorest of the poor 24 hours before going for even the basic formal training.

When the new comers take admission then these sisters are explain the protein the procedure and life style in the future. For this group discussions are organized on those subjects. These novices are also tested in the

meantime because one can reach to a conclusion only when arguments and counter arguments are led on the subject then one can find the opinion of the novices on different subjects.

All these practice is very tough, only totally dedicated devoted person can pass through the stringent routine as novice, even then today sisters leaving missionaries of charities is almost nil. In this regard Mother had said-

‘Very less, only a few sisters have left. And those who have left could be counted on fingers. Actually it is a matter of joy that since the beginning so many sisters are working with such faith and obedience’,

‘It was a challenge for them. They had to sacrifice every thing in their life, and they were ready to face the most difficult life style. We have to love this life to the lowest brim with soul. And scarcity should be accepted as decorations and have to go to serve selflessly among everyone. To give form to love is the true service for the cause of God, the ultimate sacrifice. The touch of our love has been determined to be rendered to a specific person. The true strength of our society comes from the healthy smile of the faces we serve. Sacrificing your own self to

the God, faith in love, affection, happiness and benevolence are the forms of wealth which we own. Is the service rendered only by money? No, only money cannot make somebody perform service. One has to have a heart and mind set to serve others. In the hospitals doctors and nurses also perform services. But whether those services have the touch of love and affection or not it is a debatable point’.

‘In the world of love and affection there is no place for deceit. It is not through words but through work and activity it has to be understood that we love them. We love them from the deepest point of our heart therefore we have to approach them always with a happy state of mind. If we approach them with a heavy heart and unsmiling face then they will break down’.

‘This is our goal, cheating the poorest of the poor as the image of the poor and love him and serve him with the heart’.

This is the inspiration and sentiments which prepares one for the complete submission and sacrifice towards the God, visualize His image in every person, everywhere with eternal compassion, affection for the whole of the mankind considering the comforts as small

and dispensable and devote one's life and time for the service of the poorest of the poor treating it as the real happiness festivity and greatest humane thought, this kind of life style & mind set to pursue the selfless service of the mankind was the key to success for the Mother.

This kind of devotion and determination in pursuance of her simple but the grand life style made her the most revered person of the world. Therefore she won over all the difficulties and obstacles which crossed her path. Whenever the associate sisters of the Mother enquired her about the arrangement for next days supply and resources then she would have only one answer, 'why? Do you think God is not watching us?'

All these nuns had to follow a laborious tough lifestyle. Their dress comprised of white saree with blue border and full sleeved white blouse.

Everyone had to get up at 4 O clock in the morning. After attending the daily natural calls the prayer was performed at 6.30. There after morning breakfast and cleaning etc were done, cleaning the house and washing of clothes had to be done by all the members. Thereafter they have to go for their own respective jobs. In the afternoon everyone return to the house. Lunch was

conducted together. After the lunch prayers were said again.

During the afternoon regular classes were held, wherein rules and procedures are taught. Returning to the house at 12.30 they had to go their respective jobs at 2.30 again. In the evening 7 O clock everyone returned to home, then again the prayers were said.

It was compulsory for all the sisters to attend the prayers. It was a firm belief of the Mother that these sister should also follow the faith and religion along with doing the social service.

In there life style and principles there were no place for the thought & wish for comforts and luxuries. Hard work, service, purity, believing and remembering God every time was only their routine. All the sisters with total obedience and faith followed these principles. During the work time no sister could stay back at the house idly. This rule was never broken. Because they always took doing their duty as their religion.

All the sister had to do their own work. The goods and articles meant for comforts and luxuries were neither bought from the market nor were accepted in donation. One's a gentleman wanted to donate a washing machine

to the missionaries of charities. He proposed in a like manner to the Mother. When all the sisters came to Mother, she wanted to know their view on the issue. They all answered in a single voice, 'Mother we will wash our clothes machine is not required.' Obviously Mother expected this answer from her associates; therefore the washing machine was not accepted in donation.

In the beginning there was no telephone connection in the house of missionaries of charities. Later on when the work spread, it was required. Therefore a phone connection was installed.

Mother received millions of rupees as award money all around the world in these years, but the Mother donated this entire amount for the welfare of mankind. In this manner whatever funds Mother received she never owned it right fully.

In 1979 when Mother was conferred with Noble Prize for her efforts for world peace, then Mother had said, 'this prize is not mine, but for the champions of humanity in the world over.'

Keeping this principle before her Mother always advocated for leading a very simple life style, Mother never asked requested or begged for any donations or

funds before anybody, even then she was given huge amounts as prize money. After due deliberation this fund was spend on welfare schemes. Brothers and sisters of Nirmal Hriday also took the same food which was served to the other patients.

Today in different countries of the world the sisters of the Mother organization are rendering their service religiously. Before opening a new centre at any place or even before sending sisters to a new centre Mother personally visits the place town analyzing the number of persons starving helpless destitute etc. After being satisfied of all the details Mother took initiated to set up a new centre.

Once when Mother came to know that the numbers of abandoned child was increasing day by day in Venezuela then her heart filled with compassion, Mother went to Venezuela, in fact a problem was menacing, therefore Mother accepted to open a new centre there.

Tireless practice and service matchless sacrifice total submission were the forms of Mother's life style. She was an image of service even being totally resource less she put forward an idle before the world which is not only appreciable but as well fit for worship.

In the beginning when she started her work she had to face many difficulties. But she never got annoyed nor she deviated from her path. She also had accepted the problems and difficulties as the blessing of God. She was a woman of action selfless Karmyogi. Neither she was afraid of the problems nor she was joyous of successes. She considered the continuous actions and activities in pursuance of sacred goals and objectives. She visualized and experienced the God in serving the poor and destitute. Consequently despite several difficulties she was ultimately victorious and successful.

Jesus Christ promulgated four principle thrift purity following and benevolence all these became the guiding principle of the missionaries of charities for the future. All these are inscribed on a placard in a room in this institution situated at Jagdish Basu Road.

The sisters, followers of the Mother are pursuing these principles all around the world. They have to serve all kinds of destitute, ailing, diseased and shelter less persons. They do not avoid filth, neither the hateful leprosy, nor any other sinful ailing person they do not envy others nor are attached to the worldly comforts.

O lord! make us strong enough to serve entire ailing

destitute of the world, such ailing, diseased and destitute persons who take birth in poverty and starvation and elope in the deeps of death and destiny. Our arms that give them bread, our love and affection keep on providing them peace and calmness.

Keeping this guiding principle before them they keep on serving the poor and destitute persons continuously.

These sisters taking this activity as the divine act are serving the ailing and destitute of many countries of the world. They keep themselves happy even while amidst the tribal's. They have to face such kind of problems while working among the tribal's of India, Africa, Australia which we can not even imagine of.

For them the planet earth in its entirety had been their home. Whether it was Kolkata, London any such metropolitan city or the tribal hutments for them every where it was the same. The sisters associated with the Mother never touched leakier and were teetotalers even then they used to devote time and space among the drunkards in the foreign countries. Because they hated the sin not the sinner. Mother always acclimatized them with the society and traditions of every country as in

Africa nobody is call as poor. This word there is used in different meaning and sense therefore sisters use words like brothers and sisters there.

Mother and her associate sisters due to this sense of service got appreciation from the diplomat and statesman all around the world time to time. One such example are the words spoken by Sen. Edward Kennedy regarding sister Agnes, 'I consider myself blessed as much as your hands are soiled'.

Mother did not remain a person she had become an institution. One symbol sense of service compassion love and affection all together in one form. Due to these qualities and qualification the world has begin to respect and worship the Mother. Members of the society would consider themselves blessed if they contributed even a little bit in the great efforts of the Mother's mission.

Mother received scores of letter every day. In those letters different kinds of demands and offers were made. Some persons offer to contribute and get associated in the sacred works of the Mother. Youths from the foreign country even on their holidays or after taking a few days leave always offered to stay in the hospices and the homes wanted to serve the ailing the diseased persons.

Due to the electrifying personality of the Mother fill the rich people started considering themselves resource less and poor. Mother never considered herself different from the masses, she considered her existence together with the human society, therefore she found know difference among the rich and the poor child youth or the old and never hesitated in doing any kind of their were.

After 2-3years of Mother's commencing of her work, when the number of associate sisters of the missionaries of charities was not much once it came to the knowledge of the Mother in the evening that there was not a single penny in the house. Mother called sister Claire and said, 'sister today there is nothing to eat in the house and there is no money left to buy anything, if something is not arranged then we all have to sleep in starvation'.

Sister Claire could not understand anything. She was not able to understand what Mother was saying. She kept gaping at Mother's face as if she was asking what to do or what not to do. She asked giving the solution, 'look there is nothing to get afraid of. Please go to the Goanese gentleman in Taltala who had a bakery and tall him the problem may be he provide some bread'.

On hearing this sister Claire left the place without

uttering a word. Taltala is near by the missionaries of charities. She approached that gentleman named Dominique Parriera. In clear words she narrated her problem to him. Parriera voluntarily delivered ten pounds of bread to sister Claire.

In the ancient times ascetics and hermits use to go in the neighborhood begging for the daily meals. When a person who had sacrificed is all belongings, saintly character when stands before a household then he do not had to request for anything. The owners, housewife etc by themselves provided them food cooked or uncooked with respect.

Later when Mother established a school for homeless then the said gentleman Mr. Parriera donated a part of his factory for this purpose.

Struggle, service and fearlessness-

Firm and stable in difficulties and crisis-

Belief and faith in true actions-

Not hesitating in begging or asking for help in pursuing a sacred goal.

Mother always remembered principles before her. She started her work as an ascetic, then she only had Rs.500 and such a grand objective. May be she had to

face tremendous numerous problems but she never deviated or got sacred meaning thereby whenever she thought of a mission or faced a crisis she got her way out of the same through her strong will power and spirituality.



EMBLEM OF FAITH

Mother Teresa was an unparalleled personality in the world, she neither craved for self praise nor asked for any appreciation from others, she never propagated published or advertised her activities or work. She never asked for any aid or help from the government. Even then the importance of her work could not be concealed or held back from public. Because the whole world comes to know of the presence of the Sun as and when it rises above the horizon.

Time to time Mother was conferred with several prizes through out the world. In comparison to her great sacred deeds these honors and prizes are insignificant even though these prizes and honors conferred world around are the great belief and the emblem of such belief of honor and thankfulness shown by the world community towards her activities.

In Hindi Literature epic poet Tulsi Dass has been described as, 'by composing poems and verses the importance of the poet Tulsi dass has not increased but with the shine of great art and ability of this poet the poem itself got the glitters'.

In this manner Mother's efforts could also be define

that by conferring these awards and prizes the honor and respect or the status of the Mother was not elevated but that of the institution and the award it self has been enhanced. When conferring these awards to any other persons one can raise doubts and objections but now such criticism could be raised regarding the Mother.

Mother never yearned for any honor or felicitations nor she had any worldly desires. She only wanted to serve the poorest of the poor considering it as her only duty. Mother only said that :-

“Its all His will. If you will trust the God and place your mind and soul in totality, then their will be now problems. Woes, pain, meaninglessness, lowness shall attack you, let them come. Remember it's the sorrow and pain which bring the pleasure and happiness and meaninglessness brings success. Pain fills the life with sweetness, as such person whose life is full of pain could only understand and eradicate the pain and sufferings of the others.”

Mother's life was dedicated to the service of the destitute. The entire world always bowed before her for this sense of service. In the year 1962 government of India awarded her with 'Padma Shree'. This was not the

award of honor for the Mother but expression of offerings for her great deeds and activities.

Clad in a white saree Mother received this honor from the then President Dr. Rajendra Prasad in the President House. The dignitaries Present there clapped zealously expressing their pleasure and happiness. Smt. Vijaylaxmi Pandit expressed her feelings in following words:-

“When image of humanity clad in a saree this nun approached the podium, then, venue in the President house went in pindrop silence. In a manner she used to embrace a child or a dying destitute, unlikely she had not expressed the same pleasure while reaching out her hands for receiving the award, even then the visitors went mad with happiness. Mother Teresa got the maximum praise. His Excellency the President also wetted his eyes with tears in happiness. Later when we were returning to our residence then I asked my brother Jawahar lal Nehru, “whether the personality of Mother Teresa isn’t a dashing one?” Thereupon he replied, “I cannot say how you felt but it was very difficult for me to hold my tears.”

Certainly his Excellency and Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru

were greatly influenced by the personality and character of the Mother. There honor and respect towards the Mother- an appearance of a liberated soul was expressed in the form of tears.

In the words of Smt. Vijaylaxmi Pandit the selfless service and unattached actions of the Mother were also described very beautifully. The Mother who was akin to embrace the destitute homeless with a great spirit an enthusiasm, the same person approached the podium in an unattached manner to receive the honor.

Such an ascetic who considered it to be her utmost duty to serve the poorest of the poor and the destitute, she had now greed or wish to such an award or honor. On 25march 1963 Mother founded a new branch of Missionaries of Charities by the name of 'Missionary of Brothers'. The same year government of Philippines conferred upon her the prestigious 'Ramon Magsaysay Award'. The fund which came with this award were donated by the Mother in a discrete manner.

Mother had received a letter a few days ago from the missionaries of Agra. The missionary of Agra wanted to establish a children home in Agra. By this letter they have requested the Mother to extend help in the form of

fifty thousand rupees. At that time Mother had no funds, and when this amount along with the said award was received then Mother had said in this context- “it seems that the God wants to built the children home in Agra.”

And she had donated the aforesaid prize money for the said noble cause.

In 1971 the master honored the disciple. Mother Teresa was selected for the award of ‘John Jean Prize’ of the Vatican city.

This year Mother also received to other awards, one ‘Good Samaritan Award’ and second ‘John F. Kennedy international award’.

Keeping distance, aloof from the stunt and publicity or self praise.

Considering the service of the destitute as the service of the Lord or God.

Finding the image and picture of the God in every destitute or person suffering.

All these were the guiding Principle of her life. The objective of her life was to practice and preach these guiding principles.

One who had such benevolent principles and objectives in her life, then what remains to be her

attachment towards honor-award, post and status, publicity and propaganda. They are unimportant to such a person. One who attains the ocean of happiness and festivities of nectar. What happiness or faith one would seek in the pleasures of this perishable world.

Earlier it has been mentioned in the context of Shanti nagar that how the Mother showed her benevolence and wisdom towards the lepers. Generally the people hesitate in even touching the lepers, Mother served them isn't it are her great deeds. When in 1964 Pope Paul the VIth while leaving India donated his Lincoln car to the Mother then the Mother donated that car for the welfare of lepers and leprosy patients. At that time a draw of lottery was held and the funds received from it were given to establish Shanti Nagar.

In the year 1971 Mother was conferred with Pope John Peace Award. Mother also spent the amount of twenty one thousand five hundred dollar on this auspicious work. Whether this kind of unattachment could be expected from a normal human being.

Love and affection of the Mother comes alive in the Shishu Bhawan. There are several such babies who have opened their eyes coming to this place, thereafter grew

up became mature and literate. In this place they started moving around on their knees there upon stood on their feet and settle down in their family life.

Mother never supported the killing of foetus or abortion, though abortion is held legal now a days, even then Mother's heart cries in pain me a rely on mentioning or hearing of abortion, as if the baby in the womb had been complaining, "I am innocent and completely helpless, why I am being punished in this manner of what crime. Why my right to life is being snatched away?"

Mother considers abstainism for solving this crisis. Finally she said-"I am fighting abortion with adoption".

Ones it happened during the Christmas festivities every one was busy in having fun and enjoyment but the coffer of the Shishu Bhawan was completely empty. There was no way that festivities be held in the Shishu Bhawan every one was having a sorrowful face. The only worry which haunted them that these children's are the have knots deprived of the enjoyments of the life. Whether on this auspicious day these children will remain in this poverty stricken desolate straight? Every one was engulfed in this worry.

At the same time a beautiful woman reached the Shishu Bhawan. Even before the sisters of the Bhawan could asked her anything she uttered by herself, “today on this auspicious day of Christmas the whole of the expenses of the Shishu Bhawan be made upon me let me bear it all.”

Saying this she handed over Rs.1000 to the sisters.

Whether you will coin these incidence merely a chance? Or that there is the hand of God behind these divine inspiration.

Many a prosperous and wealthy families on the X-Mas day donot prefer to go to the hotels or the clubs but instead go to these institutions established by the Mother and want a complete success in their efforts towards having real enjoyment.

Mother never cared for or got worried about her own body and health. She could not stand others woes and sorrows. In the beginning of her activities in earliar days one night she return to the house totally soaked in the rain. Those days she was reciding in the house of Michael Gomez. Having seen her in such wet condition the wife of Michael Gomez said, “You all have drenched in the rain and are completely wet.”

Then Mother said, “The seen which we have witnessed in the slums, incomparision of that our such soaking in the rain is nothing.”

The Mother had seen such a scene there in context to it was disclose that a woman who lived with her child under a thatched roof on rent. She was not able to pay the rent for two months therefore the owner of that thatch at remove the shade. The child of that lady was suffering from fever. The lady holding her baby in fever in her lap had spread a plate over his head like an umbrella and trying unsuccessfully to save him from the rain. Having seen this scene Mother's are cried. Mother immediately went to the slum and brought that woman and the baby to her residence. Mother who was always feeling and suffering from the pain of others never really cared for her own health and body. She never wasted time in maintaining her person. In the earliar period of her activities she used to get haplessly tired then her associate sisters would forcibly put her on the bed to get sleep.

Once she had became very weak. Due to this the associate sisters got very much worried, but despite that Mother did not got ready to take rest, then those sisters

admitted her to the nursing home coercively.

The associate sisters of the Mother bore all the hardship and tiredness smilingly by keeping in fore the dedicated sense of service and ideal of the Mother. They also said that when we serve a diseased person then it is felt by us that we are serving the God. When we feed a dying destitute with our own hands, we feel that we are feeding this food to the Lord Himself.

Once a person on the verge of death was lying on a heap of garbage. Mother was trying to bring him out from there. But she was not finding it possible to get him out from there, it is then a young man who was a student of M.A in Kolkata University passed there by. Mother requested said youth to help in her efforts to rescue the dying destitute.

Said youth had never imagine of doing such a kind of work. As a general person. But he looked something strange in the face of the Mother there was something peculiar in her face that made him spontaneously to volunteer hell in Mother's efforts. Ambulance was called. He accompanied the Mother in carrying the said patient to the home for dying destitute. He also contributed in the treatment of the said patient. It seems he found all

these activities of heavenly nature.

For her such deeds and great activities Mother had become a revered personality in the world. Within two years from the beginning of her work Mother extended it in such a manner which was not possible even when abundant resources were made available freely.

Almost with a height of five feet clad in a white saree with blue border she was completely Indian except for the colour of her skin. This was her external appearance but who could have fathomed the deep inside of Mother's heart. Mother dedicated all her deeds to the Lord Jesus Christ. She had liberated herself from all extreme practices of the religion and had made an ideal in the form of a new religion. This religion was- the selfless service of the homeless, destitute, impoverished, poor, ailing, weak, desolate and abandoned females. In practicing this religion she got unlimited satisfaction and self content.

On coming to India Mother was sent to Darjeeling. There she taught in Loreto convent, but shortly she had to go to Kolkata.

In the Loreto Convent of Intali most of the student were homeless abandoned children. They came from all

the religion and communities of the society.

St. Mary School is for the girls from the posh families. When Mother came to this school as a teacher she had not become Mother Teresa but she was Mary Teresa.

After sometime having been teacher in this school Mother also became had of this institution.

She was attached to this institution from the year 1929 to 1948. Thereafter the Mother freed herself from the teaching life and entered into the Arena of selfless service of the destitute and the poorest of the poor.

In the year 1946 while on her way to Darjeeling Mother received a Divine Call, therefore she had decided to serve the poor and the down trodden that was the Noblest decision of her life.

She disclosed this decision of her's to the Arch Bishop of Kolkata and sought his permission to start the work in the service of the poor and the down trodden.

After getting a permission from him it was necessary to get permission for initiating the work from Rome. This permission to the nuns was granted by the Mother General of the Nuns of the Loreto in Rome. Mother had vowed to serve the destitute, therefore she had to seek

the permission from the apex religious authority, the Pope. At that time Pope Paul XIIth was the Pope. Mother wrote the entire description to the Pope.

Very soon on 12th April 1948 Mother got the permission from the Papal Authority. Pope while granting permission to commence this work directed that she will work in subordination to the Arch Bishop of Kolkata further on.

As the permission was granted by the Pope to the Mother she disengaged herself from her earlier life style. First of all she went to Patna, where she took training in nursing with the nurse of an American Missionary. Thereafter she came back to Kolkata.

An image of sacrifice and benevolence the Mother followed the principle of begging bare handedly and taking shelter under a tree without any belongings and attachment she started the Noble work of serving the poor and destitute. Initially she was all alone in doing the service later on she got associates, who were also unattached and sacrificial as the Mother. By the passage of time others were influenced by the love and affection of the Mother and excepted her importance in the society. Today in several cities of India as well as in several other

countries the homes and institutions established by the revered Mother a serving the ailing, helpless, poor.

The love and affection of this wonderful ascetic has cherished in the world over showing a new light to the entire humanity.

Such a tough, strict and stringent vow was taken by the Mother at the age of just 35years. For taking such a decisive step in ones life now better time or suitable stage could have been available.

Mother had already taken a pledge, for which she had also been granted the permission from the Arch Bishop of Kolkata as well as the head of religion, the Pope.

Possibly considering the middle age of the Mother and such an arduous task the obstacles in the future course of action the Pope must have thought that it is a matter of time Mother Teresa will revered her decision or deviating from the path due to the obstacles or by any other reason unforeseen she may be unsuccessful in her future course of action, therefore reluctantly he gave the permission hoping that she will return back Loreto again.

This apprehension of the Pope was proved to be baseless. Mother had been given a call by the God. She

had taken a permanent decision, a pledge.

She was still young.

She was not very well built but her inner strength will power and determination were more than the Himalayas in height.

Therefore despite several obstacles and problems facing in her path she had not deviated from her goal or it can be said that obstacles and problems had ceased to exist by the enormous determination and will power of the Mother taking it defeat. Mother had not expressed a word of reply on the apprehension of the religious masters. She started alone-towards the attainment of her Noblest goal. The time came, Mother reached the zenith of human service. She made no complaints to the others. But through her humanistic actions and performances her greatness was exposed to the world itself. Mother symbolized many a human values.

In this manner this divine experience is only cherished by the persons or souls with divine purity unblemished cleanliness. When due to this Divine Call Mother took leave from her life as a teacher and she also was granting permission from Rome then those students who considered her as their idol were very said and

desperate. One of these students was Subhashani Das, who later became the chief associate of the Mother by the name of sister Agnes. Subhashani Das came to know about the designation of the Mother. Father Henry had given her this intimation. He had said, “Mary Teresa had been granted special permission from Rome. According to the Call she would have to dedicate herself to the service of God.”

“After all why only she got this Divine Call? There are other Nuns too.” Enquired the students. “Nobody can be put on this path by force. This call was given by the God, it has to be answered and obeyed. Without receiving a commandment gearing up for this mission or taking this sort of course of action is not possible.”

In fact these words of Father Henry were true word by word. Without the Divine Call it is not possible to take this arduous course of action. Nobody can imagine of setting on this arduous path without the Divine inspiration.

The God found Mother Teresa suitable for the service of destitute and poor, she was qualified therefore she received this Divine Call.

Thereafter her scope of action started. It was a

beginning of a very tremendous, immense practice. Such a practice which a normal human being can not imagine of. Mother was successful in her practice and trading on this arduous path. She got heavenly powers and Divine strength. There are always problems and obstacles in ones course of action and sincere practice these divine powers come shrouded with problems. But due to Mother's untiring efforts and practice of selfless service many poor persons, ailing, diseased and homeless orphans are being infused with a new life.

The greatness of Mother's heart and her very bright future and progress was visible from her childhood itself when the take account of events of her childhood. After the death of her father and the trauma of world war left a permanent impression on the tender self of the little girl Agnes Gonaxha Bejaxhiu. Thereafter during her school life she came in the contact of Irish Nuns in the Loreto Convent. The priest of her school use to discuss and inform the students about the prayers etc. Here, for the first time came to know that service of the destitute and the ailing was the utmost task in one's life.

The descriptions of India sent by the missionaries a wish to serve in India and work for the poor erupted in

her mind and she geared herself to go to the mission for Bengal. In 1929 Mother was sent to India.

In 1931 Mother took the pledge as her duty to serve others and in 1937 she gave this pledge a final form. Though in the earlier days of her life Mother never thought of becoming a Nun, but after her adolescence she felt that this life was suitable for her. On coming to India she became a teacher in Mary High school situated at Intali in Kolkata. Along with it she was also associated with the Loreto School and thereafter was associated to the department of the Bengali language.

In 1946 while on her way to Darjeeling she felt in her inner self a call from the God. She felt that God is calling her, “where you have been held up in these matters? This path is not for you. Follow me serve my cause. Go to the every slum serve each diseased, ailing and destitute. Only through this path you will be able to serve me.”

This realization was the most important event of the Mother’s life. Later this event made her ‘Mother Teresa’.

After this incidence Mother Teresa took leave from her teaching life. She entered the Field of Actions. From here she had first gone to take training in nursing at

Patna, because this knowledge was required initially for the service of destitute. After taking training in Patna she came back to Kolkata. This time she was in such a state of mind of an ascetic who owns nothing, does not have any belongings, and sleeps on the ground having the roof of the blue sky. Without having any funds Mother set on to practice the difficult task.

Thereafter nobody knows better than her that how many difficulties she had faced while treading on this path nor had she ever spoken about the difficulties and obstacles to any other person. Indeed only those who had seen her working from very near they had some knowledge of these difficulties. Even though only by looking at these difficulties from a distance does not give the true realization of hardship.

Mother while facing these difficulties got the realization true image of the God and remembered the Divine Call.

In the beginning finding a residence in the house of Michael Gomez setting on the path of service of the poor and destitute, embracing the homeless and disabled children, establishing a home for the dying destitute, establishing Nirmal Hriday, a home for destitute,

establishing Nirmal Shishu Bhawan a home for orphaned and abandoned children etc were the results of Mother's this incessant and tireless practice of a selfless service.

Mother had great faith in the God. She never got worried about the coming day in petty selfishness. To widen her work further she had worked very hard. She had nothing with her own no belongings. Not even arrangement for proper lodging and boarding. In those days Mother would take a begging bowl and would set out door to door for asking for food she would say to the house hold, "If you have left with surplus food then please do not through it instead put it in this bowl."

Having seen Mother doing this kind of practice associate sisters also set out for asking for food door to door. All of them would visit each house asking for any food left as surplus and collecting the same while returning to the house and in this manner this collection of eatables was used to feed the hungry and destitute helpless persons.

Donation of food is the most pious of the donation. Whereas in those families surplus food was thrown away in garbage on the other hand many a human beings dye of hunger. In the metropolitan city of the country on one

hand a prosperous class is flourishing on the other hand certain other section of the society comprises of such persons who could not manage even to meals a day. And some times people dye of hunger.

On the railway platform in Kolkata several persons hungry foodless and shelter less her lying every where there stomach depressed up to the back folded knees huddled in a heap of bones. When Mother visited such places, then she would go to the passengers and request, “if you are left with surplus food then please do not through it away. Kindly give it to me I will take it with me.”

This was another form of mercy of the Mother another face of her Noble Heart.

A person could live in torn clothes on the footpath, but every one requires food. How long a person could remain hungry? Whether it is humane to through away food like this? This food could satiate the hunger of several desolate hungry persons.

Sacrificing every belonging for the sake of others and begging for feeding the hungry and desolate, she never hesitated in performing these acts. These two qualities were unparalleled elements of Mother’s

personality.

On the one hand there is posh and prosperous section of the society on the other hand there are continuously hungry poorest of the poor. Obviously this extreme situation had inspired the Mother to serve the destitute and down trodden members of the society. During her teaching life in Kolkata Mother used to visit the slums nearby. For the first time she had come across the hungry poor persons, ailing with deficiency diseases from very near. Therefore she requested her students of the prosperous families to donate there Tiffin once a week.

Mother's heart was softer than a flower. But she had a tremendous will power to serve the poor, ailing, homeless and helpless person. Acting tenderly in all sorts of situations and work will be treated as weakness. The key of success for the Mother was her tender heart and strong tough will power.

Human beings are nearly the medium. All the transactions and actions of this perishable world are done by the God Himself; it was the firm belief of the Mother. In this regard she used to say, "if I consider myself to be the doer of these acts then after my death these

works and actions will cease to progress and will end abruptly. By considering yourself to be the doer the end will come resultantly. It is the God who gets every thing done through ourselves, it is my firm believes. It is for this reason that even after our death, our actions never cease to exist. The God will get it done further by somebody else.”

Mother was foe less. She considered every person as her friend. Human beings see the image of their own thoughts in the form of friend or foe. In this context a story is reminded- once a dog entered such a house where all the walls, roof and the floor were made of glass, the dog entering that house saw his image every where. Where ever it turned its face it saw a dog. The poor animal never found out that it is only the image of its own body. It started groaning. The same manner its image also changed the gesture and started groaning, now it considered his own image as his enemy and assaulted. Where ever it found the image it attacked vociferously, in retaliation its image also counters attack in the same manner, this continued for the day long and the dog was soaked in blood being wounded.

The next day another dog came to that house. As

soon as it saw its image got delighted may be due to feeling of the company of the other friend. It waved the tale started making friendly noises and the image also responded in the same manner. The dog thought that the image also wants to be friendly with it. Thus it kept on playing the whole day.

From this story it is clear that living beings take it for granted other persons as friend or foe. But this is the mind that causes one to be its friend or foe.

In this manner if we evaluate the life long activities of the Mother it seems that Mother always replied in benevolence. In the case of the home for dying destitute which was established in an inn near the Kali Temple of Kali Ghat, that act of hers was opposed by the priest of the Kali Temple. When Mother appeared before them they softened their stand. Later on one of the priests suffered from Tuberculosis, that priest was ignored by his family members and the friends, Mother with a pure heart served him and he got a peaceful death. Then death priest of Kali temple had said to the Mother, “I had been serving the Mother Kali for last thirty years. But today I have had the glimpses of the Mother Kali in your form. My life finally found its meaning.”

Looking the poor and helpless persons in pain Mother got very unhappy. She used to say, where on one hand a normal person finds it heart to manage for one meal a day and gets troubled if he fails to get it, on the other hand in our society there are several persons who do not get meals for several days or get in a very meager quantity. The prosperous and persons with ability do not provide food to such persons but rebuke them off. If we keep hungry even for a day or one time in a day we are in distress. Those who keep hungry for several days or do not get full belly food every day, they do not give them even hand full of grains, but they do not even give oral consolation which is possible even without spending a penny. Are we able to do it?"

Mother had said that-"submit all your belongings to the God there will be no problems around you. When one had felt the distress and hard ship then that person could feel the happiness also. A person who has not seen the hardships and the distress, he cannot understand others problems hardship or pain."

Mother clearly stated that "a single person cannot resolve the problem of hunger completely; even then we must do our duties,"

In Gita Lord Krishna stated while teaching Arjuna regarding the true sense of action-“your duty is to perform your part of action and not place your mind in the fruits to be result of that action. Do your duty completely being unattached to your actions.”

Mercy, love, benevolence etc are human values. These values exist only because human being have to follow those. Their existence cannot be justified only because they are contained in the dictionary or merely they are used for pronouncing. Therefore the Mother had said- “it may be that our efforts are like putting a drop in the ocean. We cannot provide food to all the hungry people nor we could serve all the ailing persons, that does not mean that we must keep a side the service donation love etc. While going on the way if we meet a hungry/starving person then taking care of him is our duty. And stepping forward to satisfy is hunger is a human expectation.”

It may vary in numbers it may be in thousands lakhs or crores whatever it may be, if every person decides to do a good deed every day then there will be no problem all around.

In principle we talk of high ideals and high thinking

but nobody can equate the behavior and practice of Mother Teresa. In Mother's view lack of empathy and affection was a greatest social crime. Mother said-"in more than last 25 year's period I have met several persons. I have seen and hard many events it is the biggest drawback of the society that those were not loved by anyone, who do not have any relatives, nobody comes forward to embracing or accept those. The only medicine to remove this ailment of the society is love and affection.

Those babies who are abandoned by our society considering them illegal, Mother embraces them in her lap. Such abandoned homeless babies were infused with a new life by the compassion and mercy love and affection of the Mother. In Mother's view these babies were completely innocent, sinless and unblemished. She considered the life pure in its original form and resolved it to be her duty to make efforts to make the life beautiful. There are desperate and unhappy human beings in the western world also. Poverty is not there but despite that persons are not happy and contented, because there is a lack of empathy togetherness love and affection. Mother coined it by the name of poverty of another kind. She said that-"poor and impoverished

persons are every where not restricted to this place only. Yes, there is a difference in the problems there here people are hungry for the lack of food and eatables. In the west this kind of need is less. There people are hungry of love, affection and togetherness, there loneliness is a curse. Our scarcity is physical, your scarcity is psychological. Both these poverties and deficiencies are of varied form, but both these problems are equally important. Not only this, its solution is very complex and difficult. Here if somebody is starving a plate full of meal would resolve the problem and full fill the purpose, but in those countries they are starving of compassion love and affection of fellow beings. Could a plate full of compassion love and affection could be served to them like the food in the plate here? It is difficult to satiate the hunger of those who are starving in their hard.”

Mother considered it success of the human life when it became simple spontaneous and without any bondage. At ‘Nirmal Hriday’ she compassionately cultured these values in the patients admitted there. Considering it to be the greatness of economically impoverished Indians Mother once had said-

“Look at these patients of our country, though each one is facing misery and scarcity in his life but even then they are not complaining ever for these conditions. They have no food, no clothes, but they are not annoyed or desperate for the same. They have surrendered completely in the hands of destiny, as if it is the unavoidable authority of the wheel of time, but it is not so, this is their extra ordinary endurance and their greatness lies in it. In the western country’s these feelings are lacking completely. There is lack of contentment, therefore the pain of sorrow is at its extreme there. They do not consider it in a simple manner like us, therefore they do not attain peace of mind but in India if you put a plate or bowl full of rice in front of a have not poor person then whole of the problem is completely vanished. Despite all the scarcity they get liberated from it in a fraction of second... What a great life these people have. What an extra ordinary character and ability is hidden these ordinary looking persons. I do not feel that I can ever become so simple and down to earth like these people. People without complains, allegations or free of bondage.

Mother had incessant love with the poor and

destitute, whether one was physically poor or facing scarcity of love, affection, compassion and intimacy. Mother had dedicated her entire life for eradicating poverty scarcity and slackness from the life's of destitute person. Whatever she got or received every thing was dedicated to the service of the poor and destitute persons. She never retained anything with her personally, except for compassion, love, mercy, affection, sense of service and dutifulness. Mother enjoyed divine pleasure and happiness in the same.

The life of dignitaries and great personalities is dedicated for the assistance of others and beneficence, the entire life of Mother Teresa was its most suitable example.

By birth Mother Teresa was Yugoslavian, but completely Indian through her actions. She had chosen India as her field of actions. Though the entire world was her birth place but the pivot of all these activities was India which was most favorite of the Mother, therefore she had adopted life style food routine and as well as the Indian citizen ship.

Mother was not an individual, but was the true image of varied human values such as compassion, love,

mercy, sympathy, liberal and sense of service etc. She was in ascetic in true sense. She always found the image of the God coming alive in the service of poor and destitute persons. Every penny, scratch of belonging was dedicated to the service of ailing poor and desolate person.

Even having scarcity and hardship of means and measures she took the pledge to serve the poor and destitute and jumped into the vast field of action. Her unparalleled faith and trust in God and enormous will power kept herself going in her practice despite all odds. Despite all these happenings Mother remained absolutely simple spontaneous unmoved, unblemished and sober, as to why the rain clouds pulling of the scorching mountains, spread greenery and fertility on the earth, fill the river and streams up to the brim, become waterless and milky white in the winter season. It is there greatness and achievement.



ENDING THE JOURNEY: HOMAGE TO THE MOTHER

On 5 September 1997 at around 9.30 in the night Mother breathed her last - one of the greatest souls of this earth left us forever to its heavenly abode. Death of 'Mother Teresa' the hope of light for the billions of poor, homeless, desolate, destitute persons immersed the entire world in grief. Noble Laureate 'The Mother' died in the 87th year of her life in Kolkata.

Secretary General of the United Nations Kofi Annan called the Mother as the unparalleled example of beneficence, service, spiritual inspiration and encouragement. Shri Annan said that she was an icon of love and hope. Pope John Paul II, Bill Clinton the President of USA and several other world leaders and Statesman appreciated her devotion and commitment for the cause of poor, downtrodden and destitute. Shri Clinton in his condolence message said – “She had served the poor, ailing and the dying destitute. She was the source of inspiration for the entire world.”

Jacques Chirac President of France had said, “Today the Mother is not among us but she always spread the sense of togetherness, faith, brotherhood,

responsibility, and sharing of love with one another in the time of distress and the message to shower love and affection.”

The President of Italy Oscar Louigi Scalfrou stated that Mother devoted her life for the cause of others especially for the poorest of the poor, destitute and abandoned persons. Today when the world is stuck up in violence, caste, communal and racist hatred, on the other hand this Saint gave the message of pure love and idealism.

Buckingham Palace termed the Mother’s demise as the saddest event. The head priest of the Roman Catholic Church of England and Wales Cardinal Bessie Hume also extended his condolences on the sad demise of the revered Mother.

President of Guatemala Alvaro Arzou Ereguaen also called the death of the Mother as unreplenish able loss to the human society. President of Sri Lanka Chandrika Kumaratunga said we feel deeply sorrowed by this news. President of Ireland Mary Robinson said Mother was honored by several Presidents and International Organizations. Sister in Chief of the ‘Missionaries of Charities’, Sister Nirmala requested that serving the poor

and the down trodden will be the true condolence, memoriam and homage to the Mother.

During the last rites ceremonies of the Mother she said that the Mother in her every message & speech gave us instructions to preserve the image of God. Poor, starving, thirsty, ailing and psychologically depressed person were the Mother's favorite.

President of India K R Narayanan extended his deep condolences on the death of Mother Teresa. Calling the Mother as the Goddess of mercy Shri Narayanan said- 'Mother spread love and affinity the world over & she became messiah of the ailing, needy and poorest of the poor persons. Though she was a world citizen, yet like the true soul of Indian culture she was a true Indian in her distinctiveness and her said demise is a great loss to our billions of people.

Prime Minister Indra Kumar Gujral expressed deep sorrow on her demise, said I do not have words to express my sorrow. Shri Gujral stated, "Mother Teresa committed her love & affection, peace and happiness to those whom the world has ignored and rebuked."

Speaker of Lok Sabha P A Sangama said that Mother's message of peace love, mercy and compassion

will keep us inspiring and encouraging eternally.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Inderjeet Gupt called the Mother as an Angel of peace and love and said that She was the benefactor of poor and the downtrodden persons. She spread message of love and peace all over the world. Home Minister further said that her death has incurred a loss not only to India but it's an unrecoverable loss to the entire world community.

Former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar expressed deep sorrow and grief on the death of Mother Teresa and said that her sudden demise has snatched a true servant and benefactor of the poor from the world. Mother Teresa tried to share the pain with compassion in the society and always stood by the side of abandoned young and old wiping their tears and now after her death to keep alive her memory the whole world specially India and its countrymen should keep on making efforts incessantly in this direction. Former Prime Minister H D Devegouda in his condolence message said that every breath of the Mother Teresa was committed for the service of people. The life of the Mother would keep inspiring the persons world over. She without any discrimination served the humanity.

Former Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh in his condolence message said that Mother understood and imbibed the pain of the poor and the helpless persons; her life was the true service and worship of the God.

Leader of the opposition in Lok Sabha Atal Bihari Vajpayee expressed his deep sorrow and grief on the death of Mother Teresa and said that her selfless service will keep inspiring the fellow countrymen in coming times. Shri Vajpayee in his condolence message said that Mother Teresa was the messenger of love and peace and she devoted her life to the service of poor and destitute.

He said these days when our faith and trust is shaken Mother was the icon of endless faith and trust. In the modern times when people are selfish Mother Teresa selflessly served those whom the society has forgotten. The values and status which she maintained in her actions is difficult to attain by many others. He further said she considered India as her land and became the source of inspiration for the Indian people as Mother.

Chief Minister of West Bengal Jyoti Basu expressed deep sorrow on the death of Mother Teresa and called her as the greatest humanitarian. Chief Minister said that if Mother had not accepted and absorbed the orphans in

her compound then they would have been in the prison. By the death of Mother Teresa a super human being has been snatched away from us. She helped and served the crying, ailing, diseased, physically handicapped persons lying under by the side of road. Her compassion was not discriminatory. In her lean stature of 5 feet she had a very spacious large heart for the unwanted and abandoned persons spreading her empire from a corner of the Kali Ghat Temple to the 'Mother Homes' over hundreds of acres and later this spread crossing the boundaries of India world over in hundreds of countries where Mother homes were established at several places.

Her work made the Former Secretary General of the United Nations Perez de Cuiar said Mother Teresa herself was the United Nations. She was an icon of world peace. The Former President of America Ronald Reagan called her as the global Actress.

Today Mother Teresa is not among us. This has obviously created void in the world. Today's world is engulfed in terrorism and violence and such Noble personalities are diminishing day by day and they will be remembered more and more in the coming days. The helpless, homeless and abandoned as unwanted persons

would always think that their benefactor has vanished;
their messiah has been snatched away.



IN LIFE WE CAN NOT DO GREAT THINGS,
WE CAN ONLY DO SMALL THINGS WITH GREAT LOVE.



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