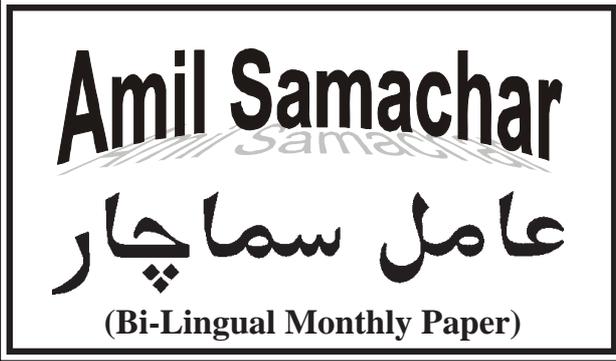


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DADA KRIPALANI

Acharya J. B. Kripalani. Coolie. Cook. Revolutionary student. Professor. God-fearing Congressman. Am I mixing up? Not really. I first saw Acharya Kripalani in Karachi, in 1947, around Partition time, when he came there as the president of the Indian National Congress. My image of Acharya Kripalani has been that of a Congressman - -pure and simple. I imagine that is his image with most of my readers also. In recent years, during my travels in the country as an oral historian collecting material on various persons and institutions, both in and out of politics, I kept hearing various interesting anecdotes about Acharya Kripalani.

And then in Bombay, I recently ran into his niece : authoress and journalist Kamla Hiranand. Jiwatram Bhagwandas Kripalani was an *asa*/Sindhi. He was born in Hyderabad Sind in 1888, spent the early years of his life in Sind and then moved out onto the bigger canvas of India. Since then he did visit Sind but as a visitor on Congress work. He eventually passed away at Mahatma Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram

in Ahmedabad, in 1982, at the age of ninety-four.

Kamla recalls that she was a small girl in Hyderabad Sind in pre-partition times. Acharya Kripalani had already moved out of Sind and she had only heard of him but not seen him. One evening her father told her that her *chacha* - Acharya Kripalani - would be arriving on a short trip, by train, the next morning. She was all excited. She did not sleep well and kept rolling in bed, waiting for the morning.

The next morning, a host of people including Kamla, trooped to the Hyderabad railway station. Out of the compartment emerged a tall man. Kamla was happy but flabbergasted. To Kamla, he looked like a *bhaiya* from Uttar Pradesh. Sindhis, in those days, hired cooks from Uttar Pradesh, who were generally known as *bhaiyas*. Kamla recalls that her *chacha* --- whom she called *dada* - wore a thick coat, a *dhoti* and *chappals*. Nowhere near what Sindhi menfolk generally wore.

But all the same, Kamla was excited. Acharya Kripalani was warmly received. Some touched his feet, others hugged him. Kamla recalls how

Put purpose in your life. Take the tools at hand and carve your own best life.

he sent everyone into peals of laughter. He had a good sense of humour and would often crack jokes at his own expense.

Soon after his arrival at Kamla's home, Acharya Kripalani went out on his rounds. He left word with Kamla's mother that his clothes should not be given to the *dhobi*. In Kamla's house, it was customary to give everything to the *dobhi*. When *dhobi* came that morning, Kamla's mother did not give Acharya's clothes but Kamla quietly did.

In the morning, when Acharya wanted to wash the clothes he had left behind, he found they were missing. He eventually confronted Kamla and asked her what was he to wear the next day? He had only two sets of clothes.

One to wear; one to wash. Kamla replied: "Good, you can now wear my father's clothes. You will then look like a proper Sindhi and not a U. P. *bhaiya*."

Kamla grew to be fond of *Dada*. Kamla learnt that *Dada* always considered other people's needs to be greater than his. The result was that while he himself would shiver in the cold, he would give away his blanket and shawl to the needy.

One day, when *Dada* was leaving for a tour from Hyderabad Sind, Kamla lovingly packed up a meal for him in her own tiffin basket. Kamla recalls that in those days they had tiffin baskets of German silver - good looking, precious ones. She was warned by her well-wishers not to be foolish in trusting her tiffin basket to *Dada*. They told that not only would *Dada* not eat the food but her tiffin basket would also be gone.

True enough, by the time Acharya Kripalani reached the railway station, he had already distributed most of the food to those looking for alms. At that stage, Kamla quickly retrieved her tiffin basket from *Dada*.

Kamla remembers that once there was a visitor for Mahatma Gandhi at Sabarmati Ashram at Ahmedabad. The visitor and the Acharya knew each

other only by name. The Acharya went to the railway station to receive him. The visitor, on alighting from the train, was looking for a coolie. The Acharya quietly picked up the visitor's luggage, brought him to Sabarmati Ashram and left him with Gandhiji. The meeting over, the visitor asked Gandhiji for Acharya Kripalani, little realising that it was the Acharya who had escorted him from the station.

Kamla recalls that *Dada* did not like to eat alone. When there were no guests, Acharya Kripalani would go out and bring in guests from the roadside to share his meal. *Dada* liked simple food. He preferred *bhindi*, *sai bhaji*, *sai turi* and curd but no milk, no butter and no eggs. As for mangoes, he could devour them on and on.

Kamla says *Dada* travelled light but he always carried with him a copy of the *Shah Jo Rasalo*. That, to him, was like the *Bible* or the *Koran* or the *Gita*. Kamla says she has seen him read the *Shah Jo Rasalo*, recite from it and then burst out sobbing. He was god-fearing. He knew the frailty of man.

Courtesy Mr. Hiro Shroff

Aroona Reejhsinghani – Par Excellence

Aroona Reejhsinghani has written more than 200 books. She has entered 'Limca book of records' in 1991, American book of honour'. She started her writing career at the age of 10 when she won the first prize in the All India writing competition organised by the American magazine 'Spectator'. At the age of 16 she became a freelance journalist and she wrote hundreds of articles for such leading newspapers and magazines such as 'The Times of India' 'Indian Express' 'HindustanTimes' 'Femina' 'Eve's weekly' etc. For sometime she was editor-in-chief of 'Cuisine magazine' India's first magazine on food, then she started her own food magazine 'Aroona's world of food'. And a tabloid 'News Unlimited' Her first book 'woman's world', was printed when she was 18 years since then she has not

looked back. She has been the beauty editor of 'Manorama magazine', For 5 years she wrote a very popular weekly column for 'Free Press Journal' titled 'Health without medicine'. Today she runs her own food consultancy services, she is also recipe consultant to hotels and restaurants, sells her own creations like pickles sauces and spices develops special recipes for multinationals does food styling and has worked for more than 30 multinationals for whom she creates new recipes and advises them on their products. She also does signature modelling. At present she is a beauty columnist for 'Navhind Times' Goa. Janam Bhoomi Mumbai and Deccan Herald Banglore. She has also started cookery clubs in Mumbai for her fans and the students of her cooking classes. Aroona Reejhsinghani who is the ultimate icon in the cooking world with the twist of her magic wand has created for the first time in the world a cookbook called Cooking in 5 minutes, 2 minutes & 60 seconds. Cooking in 60 seconds it is a magical book which gives you a variety of mouthwatering dishes which can be made in 60

seconds flat. From chats to snacks vegetarian dishes to roties and puries from chutneys to cocktails and mocktails, from desserts to sweetmeats everything you can cook in 60 seconds, and she gives you her personal assurance that all the dishes will turn out mouthwatering delicious because like all her books each and every recipe has been tried and tested in her own experimental kitchen, Aroona Reejhsinghani is the only write in the world who has written more then 150 cookbooks and most of them have turned best sellers throughout the world, the versatile genius of Aroona has never left any recipe she has written without raising it to the most sublime heights of perfection she is a genius in the world of cooking who strides like a colluses in her field such a genius can hardly be found anywhere else in the world she has been Real cookery queen of India Culinary goddess of cooking Cuisine Queen Regional Cookery queen. She has her own beauty clinic where Aroona Reejhsinghani teaches beauty doctor's certificate course which teaches you how to be doctor of beauty. Sun therapy aroma therapy and homeopathy all pertaining to beauty. She cures warts under eye dark circles pigmentation pimples baldness gives fair skin. Long lashes and eye brows and permanent pink lips with natural vitaminised oils developed for the first time in the world. Learn Bridal grooming makeup saree draping hair styling. Winner 50 national and international awards writer 7 beauty books Beauty Columnist. She also teaches facial exercises which will make you look ten years younger. No need for Botox injections. These exercises will make you look young and beautiful forever and she has written books on cooking childcare health nutrition medicinal books beauty care poetries short stories etc. In 1998 she won the 2000 millenium award for being the most memorable personality of the century by 'ABI' America. She is also declared as the cookery queen in Pakistan and Africa and London.

Friendship improves happiness and abates misery, by the doubling of our joy, and the dividing of our grief.

What is the caste of an Amil student?

This question is highly relevant because in almost all forms for competitive exams, our children are asked to specify caste - one form even gave Brahmin, Teli, Mahar, etc. as examples.

I would like to know from elders and experts what answer a Sindhi Amil child should give in this column.

Amil Samachar is the best forum to seek this answer.

Dr. D. V. Punwani

SHRI NARIAN BHAVNANI - A
DEDICATED COMPASSIONATE SOUL

A SOCIALABLE AND COMPASSIONATE SHRI NARIAN BHAVNANI BREATHED HIS LAST ON 27TH NOV 2006.

A SWAYAMSEWAK, DEDICATED TO SERVE HUMANITY IN ALL ITS SPHERE GOT INTO PEOPLES HEART WITH HIS SELFLESS DEEDS WITH PASSION.

SINCE DECADES HE HAS BEEN SERVING PATIENTS, ESPECIALLY CANCER PATIENTS IN HOSPITALS, EVEN IN HIS LAST DAYS HE CONTINUED HIS SERVICE WITH UTMOST DEDICATION. SEEING HIS DEDICATION, TATA MEMORABLE CANCER HOSPITAL ALLOTTED ROOM, TABLES AND TELEPHONE IN THEIR PREMISES. HE HELPED PATIENTS IN ALL RESPECTS, RENDERING FINANCIAL AIDS AND ALSO MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE RELATIVES OF THE PATIENTS IF THE NEED BE.

HE SERVED NOT ONLY HUMANITY BUT PLAYED GREAT ROLE IN THE FREEDOM STRUGGLE.

HE SERVED OUR PANCHAYAT AS BEING A MANAGING COMMITTEE, HIS CONTRIBUTION WILL BE UNPARALLELED IN HIS SERVICE AND WILL ALWAYS BE DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY ONE AND ALL. WE PRAY THAT HIS NEAR AND DEAR ONES GET THE STRENGTH TO BEAR HIS LOSS AND MAY HE FIND A SPECIAL PLACE IN THE REALM OF THE ALMIGHTY.

Khudabadi Amil Panchayat of Bombay

Tribute

Paying Homage to the departed soul

1. Shri Jagtiani Shyam D.	- 21/12/06
2. ShriRamchandani Santu A.	- 24/12/06
3. Smt. Mirchandani Rekha Mohan	- 25/12/06
4. Smt. Kirpalani Devibai Bulchand	- 29/12/06
5. Smt. Shivdasani Sangeeta Suresh	- 04/01/07
6. Shri Malkani Bhagwan	- 06/01/07
7. Smt. Mirchandani Rekha Hargobind	- 08/01/07
8. Shri Mirchandani Moti Ramchand	- 09/01/06
9. Ms. Shivdasani Gul R.	- 10/01/07
10. Smt. Hiranandani Lata Bhagwan	- 09/01/07
11. Shri Thadani Thaku Vatanmal	- 10/01/07
12. Shri Sujan Parsaram Jethanand	- 05/01/07
13. Shri Wadhvani Khubchand H.	- 11/01/07
14. Smt. Thadani Chandra Gulabrai	- 14/01/07
15. Shri Gidwani Santosh Narayandas	- 13/01/07
16. Smt. Lalwani Devi Gopaldas	- 16/01/07
17. Shri Kripalani Chetan Dharamdas	- 19/01/07
18. Smt. Lalwani Rukmani Motiram	- 17/01/07
19. Shri Punwani Partdas (Partu)	- 18/01/07
20. Shri Sippy Khushi Parmanand	- 21/01/07
21. Shri Kripalani Doulat Dharamdas	- 22/01/07
22. Shri Mirchandani Ram K.	- 23/01/07

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Seldom can a heart be lonely, if it seeks one lonelier still.