

11f B Prabhudas Gandhi 19910103

From Okhla to New Delhi, that what is it, Villa Temple, nearly 8 miles long. So we walked about 4 miles or so and then we went to Tongar. At that time it was 2 varnas per person, Tongar was too high.

And Bapu had given me time before prayers. So I went to Bapu, all the girls have come these 2 times. I asked all the girls, so they were standing there.

So it was a girl's school? After all, yes. I had the prayers on. Bapu came out of his camp, his tent and walked with me in front of my house.

Meanwhile, walking, he asked me, how you came? He said, I came half way by walking and half way by Tongar. Why? I have made you walk for 20 miles, 1 mile daily. We walked there in Phoenix, have you forgot that? If you are now feeling that I am old and I can't walk so much, so leave the school, don't mind school.

I won't give time today. Go, come tomorrow morning, all the girls should come here walking. Then only I will see.

So you went back and you came next morning? Next day at this time. Walking? Walking. And I said, 2 or 3 teachers, many teachers were not able to walk.

They were not ready to walk. So we can walk. So all the children, I came with all the children and the ladies, teachers who were ready to walk, they came.

Not ready to walk, they didn't come to see me. Then Bapu gave me time to see you all. So now see how strict was he.

Quite impressive. Impressive. Yes.

He was tough man. Once in Bombay, Mani Bhavan, we were there, Sardar Vallabhbhai, you know, he was also there. I was to wash Bapu's clothes, his bathing, his food, I was arranging.

When Vallabhbhai came, he was also guest, so I had to wash his cloth, his dhoti and kurta. I went in bathroom and started washing. Bapu came.

He was talking with working committee meeting. He came and stood when I was washing. And he told, this is Vallabhbhai's dhoti.

You should wash this way. Do it this way. So he taught me more better washing.

But I used to wash Bapu's clothes once or twice. He never told me my clothes should be like this. But for Vallabhbhai, it should be more white, more clean.

See this. And then Vallabhbhai's dhoti should be perfectly washed. So I was very dependent.

It means that Bapu's clothes I washed were not so fine as he wanted. He never called for his own clothes. But for Vallabhbhai's clothes, he asked me to do it this way.

So he was a saint. He was a saint. From Phoenix to Durban, did you walk always? Many times.

With Bapuji also. To Phoenix and back? Yes. What was the distance? It was not more than 16 miles.

But about 12 miles after we got that tram. So we used tram. But then if it was later, then Gandhi wouldn't have allowed that too.

Yes, he allowed that. After we reached the city, he wouldn't give us train charges, but he would allow tram charges. To save money, we had to walk.

No, no, no. You should not use public funds in railway and travelling. It is luxury.

Well, it depends on where. In India, if you have to go from Bombay to Delhi and you can walk all your life, you won't get that. But he even said, why should you go? We students didn't know.

You go as far as you want. One more. Whole school should not, if there is some cause, always let go.

No other members. Even Bapu told, he asked, Bapuji, I am with you, you have not talked everything, you have not sent me to school, I am nothing, I have to move in society, I can't stand on platform, I can't do that. If you want to learn that, I will send you to Motilal Dehradun.

Go and learn that. You stay with me, go to that Haridwar and learn giving. That was his advice.

That is why Bapu's love for me. And you chose to stay with him. You chose to stay with him.

It was your choice. Not stay with him. For stay with him, if you want to stay with me, you go and work with the weavers, and if you are weavers, then think that I am with you.

You must be satisfied that I am working with Bapu. Are you satisfied that you are working with Bapu? I am satisfied that I have done what Bapu asked. Are you not satisfied that you did something good for your own self? Let me say that I was not working in village and can't have Bapu's... stay with Bapu in Sevagram.

That was for me, but I was not able to stay in Sevagram. But then both can come together. But you were doing something useful.

Yes, I was doing something useful. I was working for Harijan. I was working for weavers.

All this cloth I was doing and teaching. Gandhi's institutions. Not in the way of Gandhi.

Actually they are working. They are merchandised now. Commercialised? Commercialised.

So it's not good? I am not satisfied. You are not satisfied? And in UP where I am president of the committee there, organising committee, when I don't agree, sometimes they are unsatisfied. You have to say yes to everything they say.

This will be washed very much by bleaching powder. It should be very, very bright. One wash is complete.

Not so many heavy printing of colours. You are old man, you don't know. Now the new age has come.

And as far as politics is concerned? Politics is, I am, we don't... Parliamentary politics, we don't go into it. We read it but we don't go into it. What do you think of Rajmohan Gandhi? Gandhi's grandson is now in politics.

He is in politics. He has... So he is capable for this. And in politics also he is in pure side.

Not wrong side. He is on the good side? Good side. Did you meet him? I had, I met, I had sent letter.

But younger brother, Gopu and I had... Thank you very much. If anything more you want to say, microphone is open. Maybe it's enough.

Enough.