THE COLLECTED WORKS OF MAHATMA GANDHI

LXXXI (1945)

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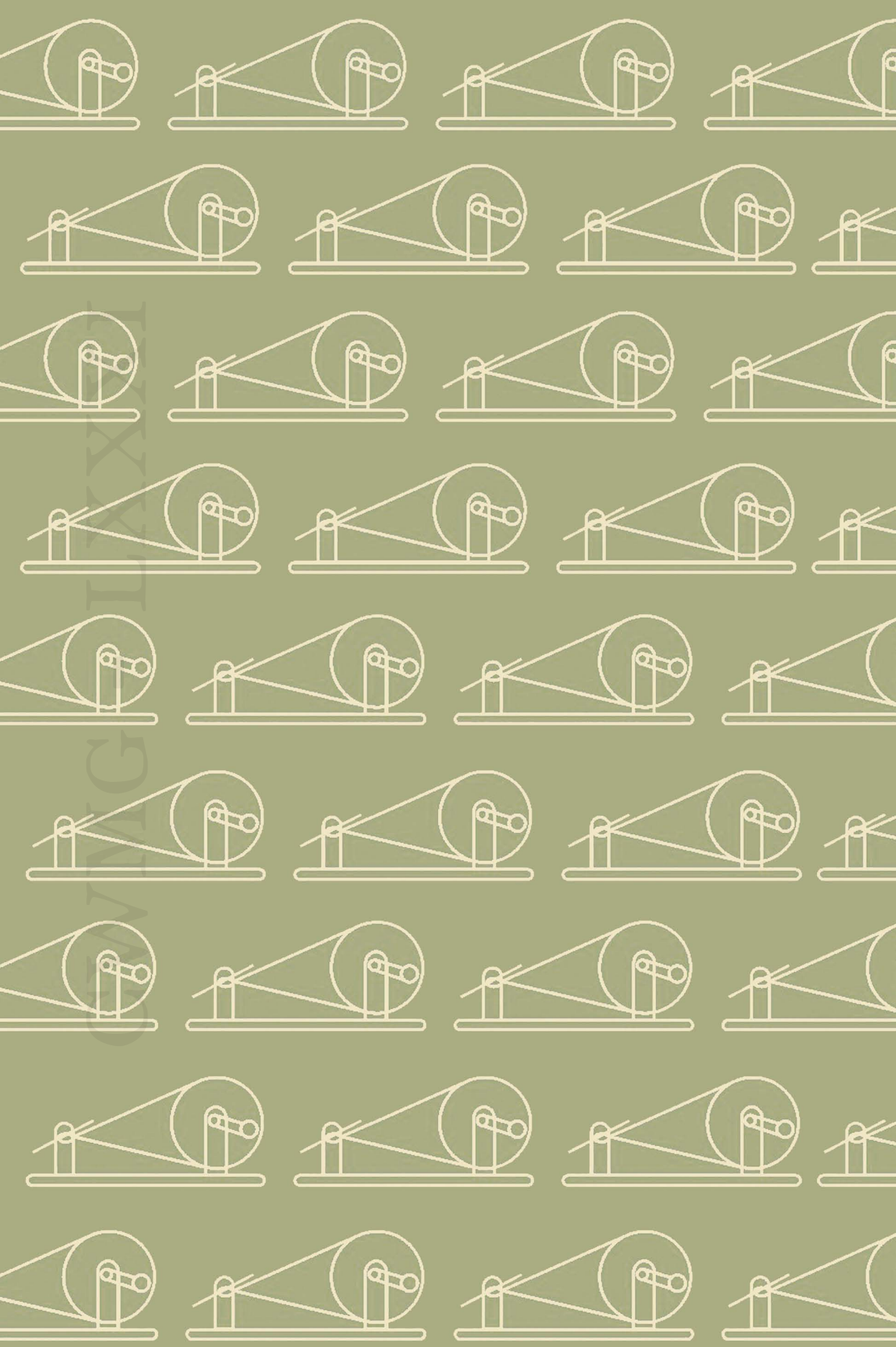
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THE PUBLICATIONS DIVISION

THE
COLLECTED
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OF
MAHATMA
GANDHI
LXXXI
(1945)

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(July 17 – October 31, 1945)

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PREFACE

Of the three and a half months covered in this volume (July 17 to October 31, 1945), Gandhiji spent nearly two and a half (except for a brief visit to Bombay) in a nature-cure clinic in Poona supervising Vallabhbhai Patel's treatment and attending to heavy correspondence. He was in a mood of patient detachment from public affairs and said or wrote little about them. He withheld comment even on so momentous an event as the dropping of atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki (on August 6 and 9). All he could tell an American correspondent was: "I must act if I can" (p. 420). He had told the same correspondent earlier, "The world is not in a hurry to know my views" (p. 163).

The volume opens with echoes of the failure of the Simla Conference, held in June-July to form a provisional National Government. In an interview to a correspondent of *People's War* on his return journey from Simla, Gandhiji explained the Congress stand at the Conference as a vindication of the party's "national character". "It is wrong to say that the Conference broke over the question of one seat. The Congress fought for a principle. . . we were seeking able men of all parties and communities. We did not bother which party got what number of seats." He realized that there was "a danger of the situation drifting into a civil war" and wanted mutual recriminations to be avoided, though, he added, "truth will have to be spoken" (pp. 2-3).

Soon, however, the political climate changed for the better when the Labour Party of Great Britain, after a landslide victory in the general election, assumed office in the first week of August. Expressing a feeling of cautious optimism, Gandhiji in a letter of congratulations to Lord Pethick-Lawrence on his appointment as Secretary of State for India, hoped that the India Office would "receive a decent burial" at his hands and "a nobler monument . . . rise from its ashes" (p. 69). The hope seemed to be justified. The Government of India announced on August 21 that elections to the Central and provincial legislatures, which were held in abeyance during the war, would soon take place, and after a visit to London for consultation with the Home Government the Viceroy announced on September 19 the British Government's intention to bring into being a constitution-making body in consultation with the newly elected members of the

legislatures. The Congress, accordingly, occupied itself with preparations for the elections, with Vallabhbhai in charge.

Gandhiji took no interest in these preparations. As he explained in a letter to the Bombay Liberal leader Chimanlal Setalvad, he had ceased taking interest in elections for many years and, though on this occasion he was staying under the same roof with Vallabhbhai in Poona, he seldom talked with him about the subject (p. 310). Gandhiji was always careful to avoid embarrassing co-workers and now this restraint was all the more necessary in view of the serious differences in outlook between the Congress leaders and himself. He even issued a public statement explaining that, though he offered occasional advice about Congress matters while the members of the Congress Working Committee were in jail, such questions should no longer be addressed to him since his advice "independently given, may be in conflict with their opinion and it may embarrass them and even put them or me in a wrong position . . ." (p. 74). Such a situation had in fact arisen at the time of the Simla Conference. The Bhulabhai Desai-Liaquat Ali agreement which had Gandhiji's approval had stipulated Congress-League parity in the provisional Government. But the Congress Working Committee, despite Gandhiji's earnest pleading, had acquiesced in implementing the Viceroy's formula of Hindu-Muslim parity instead (p. 3). Members of the Working Committee had also disapproved of Gandhiji's offer of limited Pakistan to Jinnah during their talks in September 1944 (*vide* Vol. LXXVIII) and Gandhiji felt it necessary to explain that it represented his personal conviction (p. 74) and that Vallabhbhai and others were free to declare their disapproval of it in public (p. 110).

Another disagreement, however,—one with Jawaharlal Nehru —touched Gandhiji personally, and though, as a democrat, he accepted Jawaharlal's freedom to follow his own convictions, the disagreement between them was a deep wrench to him. The disagreement related to Gandhiji's vision of free India as he had outlined it in *Hind Swaraj*. The booklet had been much misunderstood and had earned for Gandhiji the obloquy of being a mediævalist and a revivalist. Nehru probably shared this view, and, with his buoyant faith in progress through science and industrialization, was impatient with Gandhiji's programmes of village reconstruction. Gandhiji poured out his heart in a frank personal letter, in which he explained the humane values that inspired and sustained his concrete programmes. The central

theme was his conviction that without truth and non-violence as the foundation of society "mankind will be doomed". And people could have "the vision of that truth and non-violence only in the simplicity of the villages", in an economic order, symbolized by the spinning-wheel, where the individual will have "control over the things that are necessary for the sustenance of life." In the absence of such control, Gandhi argued, "the individual cannot survive. Ultimately, the world is made up only of individuals. If there were no drops there would be no ocean." This view of the significance of the individual is a perennial spiritual insight, and Gandhiji wanted it to be integrated with the achievements of modern thought and science. "You will not be able to understand me," he confessed, "if you think that I am talking about the villages of today. My ideal village still exists only in my imagination." This village would be free from the squalor and the ignorance and the disease of the present Indian villages, as also from their social and economic inequalities. To realize this ideal, Gandhiji said, he could "still envisage a number of things that will have to be organized on a large scale." Gandhiji was keen that Nehru and he should understand each other on this fundamental issue. "Our bond," he pleaded with Nehru, "is not merely political. It is much deeper. I have no measure to fathom that depth. . . . It is only proper that I should at least understand my heir and my heir in turn should understand me. I shall then be at peace" (pp. 319-21). Nehru answered elaborately and the debate continued.

In the foreword (p. 145) to J. C. Kumarappa's *Economy of Permanence*, Gandhiji re-affirmed his faith in village industries as the only means through which the body could healthily satisfy its few wants and "be free to subserve the end of the imperishable soul".

Gandhiji avoided public criticism of the Government and preferred to communicate his views privately to the authorities. There were several cases in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Bengal of prisoners condemned to death on criminal charges arising out of the "Quit India" upheaval of 1942, and representations were made to the Viceroy for remission of the sentences. Gandhiji wrote to the Viceroy appealing to him to exercise his prerogative of mercy (pp. 67, 253-4, 380-1 and Vol. LXXX, pp. 426-7) and succeeded in all cases except one, that of Mahendra Chowdhury, a young man of Bihar whom the courts had found guilty of dacoity and murder but whom the people considered innocent. Gandhiji regretted the Viceroy's decision as unwise

(p. 19) and described it in a letter to Amrit Kaur as "a bad augury" (p. 20). However, in the public statement which he issued on the subject (pp. 105-6) he wanted people to learn dispassionately "the lesson of this accomplished death sentence" and he put the Government's view of the case with objective impartiality, admitting, "Many professionals used the political ferment for their own ends." Whether or not it was so in this particular case could be established only by "a body of utterly impartial lawyers" and Gandhiji appealed to the Government also to welcome such an inquiry.

Another matter which had begun to arouse popular feelings was that of the officers and men of Subhas Chandra Bose's Indian National Army who had been captured during the operations against Japan and locked up in the Red Fort at Delhi. It was rumoured that some of them had been court-martialled and that the rest were going to be tried. Gandhiji wrote to the Viceroy and appealed for legal assistance of their choice being given to the prisoners (p. 35). The request was conceded, and when the trial began the defence was led by Bhulabhai Desai with Tej Bahadur Sapru serving on the Defence Committee and Jawaharlal Nehru appearing in court in his barrister's robe. Gandhiji made a last-minute appeal to the Viceroy to reconsider the whole matter, pleading, "India adores these men who are on their trial" (p. 438).

With Gandhiji's involvement in public affairs reduced to a minimum, the volume carries mostly personal letters. Many of them are concerned with personal problems and illustrate Gandhiji's gift of combining motherly tenderness with strict objectivity in dealing with human beings. We see this delicacy at its best in the way he soothes Bhulabhai Desai's hurt feelings. The latter was thought to have harmed the Congress cause by the manner in which he had carried on negotiations with Liaquat Ali Khan and in particular by accepting the principle of Congress-League parity. His name, therefore, was not included among the proposed Congress nominees for the Viceroy's Executive Council though he had been leader of the Congress Party in the Central Legislative Assembly since 1934. And now he was not being considered as a Congress candidate for the Assembly in the impending election. Taking on himself the responsibility for the decision, Gandhiji wrote: " . . . I am firm, for I am acting as your well-wisher. I want a big service from you, if you can give it. I wish to see you as a people's man" (p. 400). C. Rajagopalachari too was very close to Gandhiji, but Gandhiji

could not save him, either, from the displeasure of Congressmen who could not forgive his opposition to the "Quit India" movement and his having fathered the so-called Rajaji Formula offering a limited Pakistan. Gandhiji wrote to him: "... I do not want you to feel over the thing.... you should come here ... and let us amuse ourselves. Let the elections take care of themselves.... You will come to a friend, not as a Congressman to another, not on business" (pp. 299-300). Gandhiji's prescription, however, failed in both cases. Bhulabhai Desai died soon afterwards broken-hearted and Rajagopalachari continued to nurse his grievance so that Gandhiji wrote to him once again: "It distresses me to find that you were ill and morose. . . . I could not believe that you with your fund of humour at your disposal could ever be morose. . ." (p. 324).

There were the usual conflicts among the Ashram workers at Sevagram (pp. 102, 116-7, 128, 141, 186, 239, 249, 262-3 and 287-8); there were differences between Amritlal Thakkar and Mridula Sarabhai regarding the activities of the Kasturba Memorial Trust (pp. 357-8) and between the khadi workers of Bengal, Satis Chandra Das Gupta and Profulla Chandra Ghosh (pp. 372 and 396). Kasturba's brother who had been ill and whom Gandhiji had sent to a nature-cure doctor was dissatisfied and insisted on leaving the clinic though he was without resources and had nobody to look after him (pp. 70-1). Gandhiji dealt with them all with a strict sense of discipline, yet with a protective concern. He told one of them rather harshly, "Your ignorance and vanity is eating you up", and even asked him to leave the Ashram if he could not do his work quietly (pp. 208 and 234). In all such situations Gandhiji's effort was to help the correspondent to see the truth for himself. He wrote to one of them who felt sore over his failure to interest people in his plan of Hindu-Muslim unity: "I suggest to you to look inward for your failure and not outward. . . . I have not written this for argument but, if possible, to enable you to see the light" (p. 86).

Gandhiji's concern for co-workers also found expression in his solicitude for their health. He advised Mirabehn and Sucheta Kripalani to go to some cool place (pp. 29 and 40), worried over the illness of Sushila Nayyar (p. 17), Amrit Kaur (pp. 91 and 274) and Kishorelal Mashruwala (pp. 385-6), sent a number of patients for nature-cure treatment (pp. 7, 8, 9-10 and 58) and himself supervised Vallabhbhai Patel's treatment at Dinshaw Mehta's clinic at Poona. The illness of Sharda Chokhawala, daughter of

a valued Ashram worker, Chimanlal Shah, caused Gandhiji so much anxiety (pp. 148 and 164) that when he heard of heavy rains in Surat where she lived, he wrote to her: "On reading about the rains there, my thoughts flew to you as if I did not care for the others. Despite every effort to cultivate non-attachment, such things do happen sometimes" (p. 279).

But it was so only sometimes. Ordinarily, Gandhiji's mind was preoccupied with the plight of the millions. Writing to Narandas he confessed: " . . . at present my mind is occupied with the work lying before me and, therefore, I am not able to concentrate on problems of individuals. If something occurs to me on the spur of the moment, well and good. After that, the attention wanders off to the original problem" (p. 11). To another correspondent he wrote: "I do not belong to any single human being now" (p. 376). His prevailing mood may be judged from a remark about his proposed visit to Bengal, "I am not going there for a fixed period. I want to lose myself in the misery of Bengal" (p. 134).

In spite of this weight on his heart, however, Gandhiji could occasionally relax. He read Humayun Kabir's novel *Men and Rivers* "with great interest" and recognized the author's ability (p. 389). Likewise he wrote to a poet friend, "I would like to come over to Mahabaleshwar just to hear your poems" (p. 305). How well Gandhiji loved poetry can be seen also from his charming letter to one Mrs. M. H. Morrison of the Green Cross Society for the protection of wild life and nature. Here, echoing Wordsworth, he wrote : " . . . I have long believed that there is a 'spirit in the wood'. . ." (pp. 433-4). Consoling a bereaved sister Gandhiji said that he read for a few minutes daily the verses of Bhartrihari and found his reflections on "moral wisdom and detachment . . . worth pondering over at such times" (p. 361).

Gandhiji wrote to an American friend, " 'The Kingdom of God is within you' is all-sufficient. Follow it out in action and you need nothing else" (p. 162). To Pushpa Desai who needed guidance in a quandary, he gave the assurance: "Not only is disinterested action not an obstacle to *bhakti*, but on the contrary . . . it alone is true *bhakti*" (p. 220). He accepted a Christian social worker's statement that "just as faith without work is dead, so is work without faith" (p. 233).

NOTE TO THE READER

In reproducing English material, every endeavour has been made to adhere strictly to the original. Obvious typographical errors have been corrected and words abbreviated in the text generally spelt out. Variant spellings of names have, however, been retained as in the original.

Matter in square brackets has been supplied by the Editors. Quoted passages, where these are in English, have been set up in small type and printed with an indent. Indirect reports of speeches and interviews, as also passages which are not by Gandhiji, have been set up in small type. In reports of speeches and interviews slight changes and omissions, where necessary, have been made in passages not attributed to Gandhiji.

While translating from Gujarati and Hindi, efforts have been made to achieve fidelity and also readability in English. Where English translations are available, they have been used with such changes as were necessary to bring them into conformity with the original.

The date of an item has been indicated at the top right-hand corner; if the original is undated, the inferred date is supplied within square brackets, the reasons being given where necessary. The date given at the end of an item alongside the source is that of publication. The writings are placed under the date of publication, except where they carry a date-line or where the date of writing has special significance and is ascertainable.

In the source-line, the symbol S.N. stands for documents available in the Sabarmati Sangrahalaya, Ahmedabad; G.N. refers to those available in the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi and Sangrahalaya, New Delhi; C.W. denotes documents secured by the Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi.

The Appendices provide background material relevant to the text. A list of sources and a chronology for the period covered by the volume are also provided at the end.

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1. MESSAGE TO STUDENTS[1]

AGRA,
July 17, 1945

[GANDHIJI :] Study and work for the country's freedom. This is my message to the students of India.

Gandhiji said that he realized the despondency of the student community on the failure of the Simla Conference[2] and the danger of ill-feeling that might creep in between Hindu and Muslim students. Hopes must not be lost.

Gandhiji stressed the need of unity among students and said it was deplorable that a number of parties existed and things had reached such a stage that the police were sometimes required to intervene. He wished that students of every creed, colour and caste worked as a united body for the common cause. He advised the people [to refrain] from indulging in mutual recriminations.

Asked if the Simla Conference failed on the issue of one seat given to a non-Leaguer, Mahatma Gandhi refuted the contention. He said that he would publicize his views regarding this problem at the earliest opportunity.

The Hindustan Times, 19-7-1945

[1] On his way to Wardha after the Simla Conference, Gandhiji addressed the crowd assembled at the Agra Cantt. station where the special carrying him arrived at 3.40 p. m. About a dozen local Communists, who had collected on the platform, were initially disallowed by the authorities but they were allowed on the assurance from them to remain peaceful.

[2] The Simla Conference was convened by the Viceroy, Lord Wavell, and was attended by leaders of the various parties, prominent among whom were Abul Kalam Azad, Bhulabhai Desai, M. A. Jinnah, Dr. Khan Saheb, Liaquat Ali Khan, Sir Henry Richardson, Rao Bahadur Shiv Raj and Master Tara Singh. Gandhiji did not attend the Conference but he remained in Simla so as to be available for consultation. The Conference, started on June 25, was adjourned on June 29 to enable the parties to send the lists of the names for the proposed Executive Council. However, when it met again on July 14 Lord Wavell announced its failure.

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2. *INTERVIEW TO "PEOPLE'S WAR"*[1]

[July 17, 1945][2]

M. N. TANDON : Failure at Simla has disappointed the people who looked to a change in the regime.

GANDHIJI : They should not be disappointed. The Congress took a correct attitude and has vindicated its national character.

M. N. T. Mutual apportionment of blame has begun between the Congress and the League leaders and the papers. Would this not embitter relations and dash hopes of any future settlement, thus drifting to a position of civil war and riots?

G. Mutual recriminations should not be indulged in though truth will have to be spoken. There is a danger of the situation drifting into a civil war. The clash at Delhi station before Maulana Azad's compartment is a pointer. But the police should not be allowed to maintain order amongst us. But if riots take place what can we do? Riots have always been taking place. Even in the reign of . . .[3] riots and disturbances took place. This country is inhabited by a very large population of various conflicting ideas.

M. N. T. Civil disturbances of the older days were no comparison to those of today with their political and economic implications. Patriots of the Congress and the League would fight instead of uniting for people's service, with the result that the people would lose faith in the honesty and patriotism of both. Their miseries would increase tenfold and the national movement would go to pieces.

G. Yes. We should make efforts not to let such a situation develop.

M. N. T. Do you hope that the Congress and the League will be able to settle in the near future?

G. We should all hope so.

[1] & [2] Gandhiji gave the interview to M. N. Tandon, the Agra correspondent of the Communist weekly, at the Agra Cantt. station on July 17.

[3] The correspondent here explains that Gandhiji had "mentioned the name of some benevolent old Indian king, which I could not catch because of the noise on the platform".

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M. N. T. The belief of the common man is that the Conference broke over the question of a single seat due to dissensions among the leaders.

G. It is wrong to say that the Conference broke over the question of one seat. The Congress fought for a principle.

M. N. T. Even if the Congress had to nominate only Hindu Congressmen, they could very well have represented the Nationalist Muslims and safeguarded their interests. There is no difference between Congressman and Congressman.

G. But we were seeking able men of all parties and communities. We did not bother which party got what number of seats.

M. N. T. You had accepted the Bhulabhai Formula[1] of Congress-League parity and gave a public statement[2] to that effect. But the Congress Working Committee agreed to Hindu-Muslim parity, proposed by Wavell,[3] thus raising the rock of breakdown, since Congress and League could not agree to the nomination of one by the other. Is it a fact that the Working Committee disagreed with you and rejected the Congress-League parity formula?

G. Now you are dragging me into deep water. Yes. The truth is something like this. I shall write about it in the near future.

M. N. T. You perhaps know that the Communists' main slogan all through the Conference has been "transform Hindu-Muslim parity into Congress-League parity" and they are making efforts in the direction.

G. They should continue their efforts.

M. N. T. On what grounds did your correspondence with P. C. Joshi[4] break?

G. Who says it has broken down?

M. N. T. Has the Working Committee taken any decision regarding the Communists?

G. No. It has not taken any decision.

M. N. T. You know the ban of the U. P. Government continues on the three Communist weeklies[5] in U. P.

G. Have they not yet lifted the ban? It is very wrong for the Government to do so.

[1] *Vide* Vol. LXXX, Appendix V.

[2] *Vide* Vol. LXXX, pp. 331-3.

[3] For the Viceroy's broadcast of June 14, *vide* Vol. LXXX, Appendix III.

[4] General Secretary, Communist Party of India. For Gandhiji's correspondence with P. C. Joshi, *vide* Vols. LXXVII, pp. 434-7, LXXVIII, p. 105, and LXXIX, p. 95.

[5] *Lok Yuddha*, *People's War* and *Quomi Jung*

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M. N. T. Sjt. J. C. Gupta[1] and others met you at Simla in connection with the release of pre-reform political prisoners who have already served 14 to 20 years of imprisonment. You have the power to get them released.

G. Efforts should certainly be made to secure their release.[2] It is wrong to say that I alone have the power to get them out.

The Bombay Chronicle, 7-8-1945

3. STATEMENT TO THE PRESS

SEVAGRAM,
July 18, 1945

The public will not like to know, as I have not liked, the fact that I had to travel from Kalka to Wardha like a thief. I could do so only by the courtesy of the authorities. Why should I have to escape the embarrassing affection of the public? When I travelled by the Frontier Mail from Bombay to Kalka[3], at every stopping station it was a wild demonstration. Accidents, even fatal, were escaped by miracle. Those who were with me in the compartment had a rough time and two wakeful nights.

Singly I might not have been able to cope with the din, noise and hustle of the crowd. Of course this was not the first time that I had to face such wild demonstrations, nor am I unaware that other leaders have to go through such ordeals, but the fact is that each year makes me less fit for them. My ears cannot stand the noise. I can do no work among demonstrators and cannot make Harijan collections in such circumstances. What is most painful is the fact that this wildness is no prelude to swaraj, it is no sign of non-violence.

Crowds there should be to greet the leaders, but they should be peaceful, dignified and completely disciplined. I have seen ordinary soldiers in thousands observing perfect silence whether on the march or at rest. Our crowds, if they are non-violent soldiers of swaraj, should be more disciplined than ordinary soldiers. Will leaders of volunteers learn a lesson from my train journey from Kalka to Wardha and ensure perfectly peaceful demonstrations at stations and elsewhere in all circumstances and not only or especially for me?

The Hindu, 20-7-1945

[1] Chairman, All Parties Political Prisoners' Release Campaign Committee

[2] For the Congress President's letter to the Viceroy regarding this, *vide* Appendix I.

[3] On June 22 and 23

4. LETTER TO RAFI AHMED KIDWAI

July 18, 1945

BHAI RAFI[1],

I learnt of your release at Kalka. I arrived in Sevagram this evening. It is good you were freed. Do you get fever? Do you have weakness? Write to me fully.

Blessings from
BAPU

RAFI AHMED KIDWAI
ANAND BHAWAN
ALLAHABAD

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

5. LETTER TO AMRIT KAUR

SEVAGRAM,
July 19, 1945

CHI. AMRIT,[2]

We reached yesterday at 2.30 Wardha and 4 p. m. Sevagram. We walked most of the way. This I am writing before the morning prayer.

You—all—surrounded us with lavish affection. May God bless you for it. I hope there is no more grief over Tofa's[3] departure from you. There should be none.

Though there is rain there is no cold. I dread your having to come to this level from cool Simla. But you will see when it is time for you to come.

I shall think of your things.

Love to you all.

BAPU

From the original : C.W. 3696. Courtesy : Amrit Kaur. Also G.N. 6505

[1] Rafi Ahmed Kidwai (1894-1954); chief whip of the Swaraj Party in the Central Assembly after the 1926 election; Minister for Revenue, Home and Jails in U. P. in 1937-39 and 1946-47; Central Minister for Communication and Food from 1947 till his death

[2] The superscription in this and the other letters to the addressee is in the Devanagari script.

[3] Addressee's pet dog which died during Gandhiji's stay at Simla.

6. LETTER TO MADHAVDAS G. KAPADIA

July 19, 1945

CHI. MADHAVDAS[1],

It is not good that you still don't feel comfortable there. You should resolve that you are to get well and not to budge from the place. Follow Dr. Krishnavarma's instructions scrupulously and cheerfully. I am writing this before the morning prayer, soon after rising. It is now time for prayer. I had got up at 4 o'clock. I arrived here yesterday at 4.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 2724

7. LETTER TO PREMA KANTAK

July 19, 1945

CHI. PREMA,

I read your letter of the 11th today. With it is Rajkumari's too. The post seems to have been received at Kalka. It is 4.30 just now. I am writing this after brushing my teeth. I am sitting inside a mosquito-net and the light is outside. The prayer bell is about to ring.

Today is your birthday. You will get this after two days. You have to live many more years still. Spend them happily and in service. Serving is in our own hands, and happiness, too, if we but learn to be equiminded in happiness and sorrow. Isn't forgetting Vishnu the only real suffering? Why should we forget Him?

I do not remember to have been annoyed with you. If I did get annoyed, there must have been a reason. But is my annoyance really annoyance? Shouldn't you understand this?

[1] Kasturba Gandhi's brother

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If you start your camp independently of us and ask for no money, where would be the difficulty? Others will learn from you, including myself.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 10436. Also C.W. 6875. Courtesy : Prema Kantak

8. LETTER TO DINSHAW K. MEHTA

July 19, 1945

CHI. DINSHAW,

You have two girls[1] already under your care. May you completely succeed with them. I am now thinking of sending Balkrishna[2] to you. If he can go he will go in August. I gave him *suvarnaparpati*[3], he gained weight but now he has lost whatever he had gained. I am therefore inclined to send him to you. I wrote to him from Simla. His reply is enclosed.

Sardar Patel might also go there. I have of course suggested it. Maybe, if he goes I too may have to go. Do you wish him to come?

There is a third girl in addition to the two. I am thinking of sending her also. She too is learning nursing. She keeps indifferent health. She gets fever frequently. Can she come? I hope that all the three will get well and learn nursing there. I expect you to train them in that way.

Have you sent Gulbehn[4] to Panchgani?

Blessings to all three of you from
BAPU

CLINIC
POONA

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Manu Gandhi, daughter of Jaisukhlal Gandhi, and Vanamala Parikh, daughter of Narahari Parikh; *vide* pp. 9-10.
[2] Balkrishna Bhave, younger brother of Vinoba Bhave
[3] An Ayurvedic medicine
[4] Addressee's wife

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9. LETTER TO KRISHNAVARMA

July 19, 1945

BHAI KRISHNAVARMA,

I have your letters. You are doing everything you can for Mama[1] and Sailen[2] and it seems with Sailen you are getting results. But it is not so in the case of Mama. It seems it is the most difficult case you have ever taken up. Do whatever you can. If in the end he must go, what can you do? I consider this as the last effort. The journal you used to bring out will have been discontinued. Now do not bring out a new one. If you do well whatever you are doing you will have done a lot.

Blessings from
BAPU

NATURE CURE HOSPITAL
MALAD (BOMBAY)

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

10. NOTE TO PARACHURE SHASTRI

July 19, 1945

I reject taboos associated with menstruation deliberately. But that does not mean that a lustful person may touch a woman in menses to gratify his desire. It is the superstition that I strongly oppose.

M. K. GANDHI

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

11. ADDRESS TO ASHRAM WORKERS

July 19, 1945

There is no cause for frustration or disappointment as a result of the failure of the Simla Conference. We should carry on more vigorously our constructive work and other national activities for strengthening our position and serving the masses.

The Hindu, 21-7-1945

[1] Madhavdas G. Kapadia
[2] Sailendra, son of Amrita Lal Chatterjee

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12. MESSAGE TO STUDENT CONGRESS WORKERS[1]

WARDHAGANJ,
July 20, 1945

Do and do as much as you can. Collect each one pice.[2]

The Hindu, 22-7-1945

13. LETTER TO J. C. KUMARAPPA

July 20, 1945

MY DEAR KU.,

Keep well.

Fix the date some time during the first week in September.

I have Bharatan[3] on the brain.

I have distributed two copies of your book[4] on Jesus to non-Indian Xians. Supply me with more copies.

Love.

BAPU

MAGANWADI, WARDHA

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

14. LETTER TO MANU GANDHI

July 20, 1945

CHI. MANUDI,

You are suffering a good deal. I have great faith in Dr. Dinshaw, and therefore I am not worrying about you. You could not be in a better place. I can see from your letters themselves that both of you girls will learn something there. You must

[1] Who met Gandhiji in connection with raising Begum Azad pice fund

[2] *Vide* also "Letter to Abul Kalam Azad", 2-8-1945.

[3] Addressee's brother, Assistant Secretary of the All-India Village Industries Association and Editor of its organ *Gram Udyog Patrika*

[4] *Practice and Precepts of Jesus*

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return only after you have built up radiant health. Trust the doctor implicitly and do whatever he tells you to do. Do not feel shy to write about anything that happens. If you feel shy, I shall worry more.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a microfilm of the Gujarati : M.M.U./XXIV

15. LETTER TO VANAMALA N. PARIKH

July 20, 1945

CHI. VANU,

If you become Vanu-di[1], wouldn't that be your undoing? Are you going to remain silly all your life? Then remain Vanudi. If you have any silliness in you, leave it there. As for the extra fat, you have gone there to shed it, and also to improve the ear. Isn't that so? You have planned the prayers, etc., fairly well there. I have built high hopes on the result of your stay there. My two notes are for both you sisters.

The rest from the other letters.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 5794. Also C.W. 3017. Courtesy : Vanamala M. Desai

16. LETTER TO NARANDAS GANDHI

July 20, 1945

CHI. NARANDAS,

I have not written to you for a long time. I felt inclined to write today after hearing the account given by Kanaiyo[2]. I had left him in Bombay with high hopes. But they have not been fulfilled. Maybe, that also is to the good. On top of that, he got boils on the hand. How he got them one cannot tell. It is hoped they will subside in about eight days' time.

[1] 'Di' is suffixed to Gujarati names to form diminutives or to express endearment.

[2] Kanu, addressee's son

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After that he intends to go there. It is necessary to think now how he should be fixed up. He has considerable ability. We have to consider which of his gifts to employ and on what tasks. Personally I feel that it would be the most natural thing for him to remain with me and get trained. But I would attach more importance to your view, for at present my mind is occupied with the work lying before me and, therefore, I am not able to concentrate it on problems of individuals. If something occurs to me on the spur of the moment, well and good. After that, the attention wanders off to the original problem. I will, therefore, do what you desire. In any case Kanaiyo himself can decide.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a microfilm of the Gujarati : M.M.U./II. Also C.W. 8626. Courtesy : Narandas Gandhi

17. LETTER TO AMRITA LAL CHATTERJEE

July 20, 1945

BHAI AMRITLAL,

I have your letter in Hindi. It is good that you wrote it in Hindi. It will not be proper for you to come here right now. The Ashram is very unsteady. If you have blood-pressure go to the Khadi Pratishthan[1]. There is work to be done there. Maybe, Ranu[2] and Shanti[3] can also stay there. Consult Dhiren[4].

Sailen has recovered.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : C.W. 10405. Courtesy : Amrita Lal Chatterjee

[1] At Sodepur, run by Satis Chandra Das Gupta
[2] Romen, addressee's son
[3] Addressee's daughter
[4] Dhirendra, addressee's son

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18. LETTER TO ROMEN CHATTERJEE

July 20, 1945

CHI. ROMEN,

I am sure you acted after careful thought.[1] College education has no value for me. Almost all the boys that come out take up jobs—and jobs that bring no benefit to the country, only cause it harm. What can you do? You are a child. All the elders want you to go to college. How can you disobey them?

Be good.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : C.W. 10397. Courtesy : Amrita Lal Chatterjee

19. LETTER TO ABDUL HUQ

July 20, 1945

BHAI SAHEB,

Zohra[2] has come to me about Shaukatullah Ansari's[3] house which is in your possession and which you refuse to give up. I should like to hear what you have to say in the matter. You were a friend of the late Dr. Ansari[4]. How can there be any litigation with you? I shall hope to hear from you.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

DR. ABDUL HUQ
DELHI

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] The addressee had joined the Intermediate course of the Calcutta University.

[2] Zohra Ansari, wife of Shaukatullah Shah Ansari

[3] Honorary General Secretary, All-India Muslim Majlis, 1944-47; Counsellor, Indian Embassy in Turkey, 1947-48

[4] M. A. Ansari (1880-1936); leading physician of Delhi; President, Indian National Congress, 1927

20. LETTER TO MANU GANDHI

SEVAGRAM,
July 21, 1945

CHI. MANUDI,

I have torn up your letter. It was silly. If there was anything private in it, it was your silliness. You had promised to stay there for a year if required. And now you wish to go back on your word! Who will trust you then? There is no harm in accepting money from Bhai. He is your father. If you ask me, I would say that you should stop all other thought and get well there. If the doctor is put to any expense, it is for him and me to worry about. You may ask him for whatever money you need. Your whole letter was silly. I was pained to read it. Try and see if you can become firm in your mind. Ultimately you are your own sovereign.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a microfilm of the Gujarati : M.M.U./III

21. LETTER TO SARALA MEHTA

July 21, 1945

CHI. SARALA[1],

I have your long letter. What can I do in the family affairs[2]? Time will do its own work. But bear in mind that the one who has truth on his side will not be harmed. Bhai Nanalal[3] is there — all of you should see him. I am very busy these days.

Blessings from
BAPU

CHANDRAKUNJ
JAGNATH PLOT, RAJKOT

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal. Also C.W. 1627. Courtesy : Champa Mehta

[1] Daughter of Champa and Ratilal Mehta, eldest son of Dr. Pranjivandas Mehta
[2] Of Dr. Pranjivandas Mehta
[3] Nanalal K. Jasani

22. LETTER TO KRISHNACHANDRA

July 21, 1945

CHI. KRISHNACHANDRA,

(1) There is some confusion. What is and what is not my responsibility and to what extent is a matter of argument. In faith there is no room for argument.

(2) One can try to be dustlike. Understand the suffix 'like'.

(3) How can a person make his full contribution if he has not become dustlike to the extent required by the Ashram?

(4) One can make oneself fit for the Ashram even while one is away from it. People have done so and are doing so. This needs to be understood. And those who have qualified themselves for the Ashram will always regard themselves as being in the Ashram, no matter where they go.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 4518

23. LETTER TO M. R. JAYAKAR

SEVAGRAM,
July 22, 1945

DEAR DR. JAYAKAR,

I thank you for your letter[1] which I am forwarding to the Maulana. I know he will appreciate it.

[1] Dated July 19, it read : ". . . it does not suit Mr. Jinnah to accept any arrangement, however shortlived, which brings Hindus and Muslims together . . . he called the Wavell arrangement a snare . . . if he accepted the interim arrangement (suggested at the Simla Conference in June '45) Pakistan would be shelved. . . . May I congratulate you and the other Congress leaders, especially the President Maulana Abul Kalam Azad on the straight, dignified and urbane manner in which he conducted himself ?"

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You may depend upon my doing whatever is possible for me to do.

I hope you are keeping well and fit.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

DR. M. R. JAYAKAR
WINTER ROAD
MALABAR HILL
BOMBAY[1]

Gandhi-Jayakar Papers, File No. 826. Courtesy : National Archives of India

24. LETTER TO BHARATAN KUMARAPPA

July 22, 1945

MY DEAR BHARATAN,

I could not send you the enclosed earlier. If you did not want some such answer you should revise it yourself or rewrite it and let me see it. We do not want to fill the columns of the *Gram Udyog Patrika*. Whilst I was away, what was done was inevitable. Now that I am here we must publish something final.

You and your informants are late in the day. Have you read my writings ?

Love.

BAPU

From a photostat : G.N. 10174

25. LETTER TO MANU GANDHI

July 22, 1945

CHI. MANUDI,

Do you believe that Jaisukhlal refused to send you money because he distrusts you? If you think so, you are doing a great injustice to your father. I have told Jaisukhlal that he should not send money directly to you, and that is why he mentioned

[1] The address is from Pyarelal Papers.

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my name. If you want money, write to me. But where is the need? I can write to Dr. Mehta. If you do not stay there in peace and keep on saying that you wish to run away, it will pain me. How do you know that Rs. 10,000 are to be set [apart] for you?

Blessings from
BAPU

From a microfilm of the Gujarati : M.M.U./III

26. LETTER TO VALLABHBHAI PATEL

July 22, 1945

BHAI VALLABHBHAI,

Chi. Sushila (Nayyar) is leaving today. If an operation becomes absolutely necessary, get it done. If it is decided to keep you under observation for two or three months, I am in favour of your staying at Dinshaw's. If you decide to go, I also will be ready to go there. You may write, or dictate, whatever else you wish to.

Blessings from
BAPU

SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL
68 MARINE DRIVE
BOMBAY

[From Gujarati]
Bapuna Patro–2 : Sardar Vallabhbhaine, p. 280

27. LETTER TO PURUSHOTTAM K. JERAJANI

July 22, 1945

BHAI KAKUBHAI,

I have received all your letters. They have all been duly answered. Bear in mind that anyone who spins will have to see to all the previous processes connected with cotton. Without it the work will be incomplete. Among these the process of carding works wonders. Let them ply the *takli* instead of the spinning-wheel.

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I have not quite understood what took place with Kanu Gandhi. Narandas's suggestion appears to be quite acceptable.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : C.W. 10855. Courtesy : Purushottam K. Jerajani

28. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM,
July 22, 1945

CHI. SUSHILA,

I did let you go but afterwards I kept thinking about your health[1]. I have therefore asked[2] Sardar to inform me about it by wire. Get well completely. Have yourself examined by Dr. Gilder[3], if you want to. Write to me in detail. Was there a crowd? If Dr. Gilder is not using Prabhavati's[4] spinning-wheel, bring it back. Buy him a new one if he is using it, or we can send one from here. Prabhavati's spinning-wheel is specially meant for me and so I want it back if possible. I am sure you will see Mathuradas[5].

Today I span for one hour and seven minutes. Recitation of the *Gita* was over by that time.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] The addressee had an attack of dysentery.

[2] This letter is not available.

[3] Dr. M. D. D. Gilder, Minister in the first Congress Ministry of Bombay, 1937-39

[4] Wife of Jayaprakash Narayan

[5] Mathuradas Trikumji, ex-Mayor of Bombay, who was suffering from tuberculosis

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29. TELEGRAM TO MRIDULA SARABHAI

Express SEVAGRAM,
July 23, 1945

MRIDULA[1]
CARE SARALA
BOMBAY

I WANT WHOEVER ENTERTAINS CAMP TO PROVIDE BUILDINGS UTENSILS FREE. ONE PLACE WAS REJECTED TRYING OTHER TWO. YOU CAN GO AND RETURN AS SUGGESTED.

BAPU

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

30. TELEGRAM TO RAJENDRA PRASAD

Express SEVAGRAM,
July 23, 1945

DOCTOR RAJENDRAPRASAD
BIRLA HOUSE
NEW DELHI

SORRY MAHENDRA[2] TO DIE.

BAPU

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Daughter of Ambalal Sarabhai, Trustee and Joint Secretary of the Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust

[2] Mahendra Chowdhury; *vide* the following item.

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31. LETTER TO LORD WAVELL

SEVAGRAM,
July 23, 1945

DEAR FRIEND,

I have your letter[1] of 18th instant about Mahendra Chowdhury for which I thank you.

Apart from the merits about which I should have much to say if there was room for argument, I question the prudence of one person, however eminent, deciding to take the life of a person even proved guilty, without having an impartial tribunal to advise him. Moreover, this case had, rightly or wrongly, assumed a political character. How I wish you had been wisely guided!

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

H. E. THE VICEROY
THE VICEROY'S HOUSE
NEW DELHI

Gandhiji's Correspondence with the Government, 1944-47, p. 39

32. LETTER TO AMRIT KAUR

July 23, 1945

CHI. AMRIT,[2]

I have your two letters received by the same post.

The cuttings you have sent are interesting. I have read them all.

I hope you no longer grieve over Tofa's death. Don't have another pet animal if you can restrain yourself.

Though you must miss us all, I am glad you have a little leisure now. You were overworking yourself.

[1] In which the Viceroy had informed Gandhiji that the case was one of dacoity and murder, that the Privy Council had rejected the application and that the law must take its course. *Vide* Vol. LXXX, pp. 426-7.

[2] The superscription and the subscription in this letter are in Hindi.

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I look forward to your account of the visit you have referred to in your letter.

Sushila had an attack of dysentery. She had lost 4 lb. up to yesterday. She went to Bombay yesterday for the Sardar. There was a phone that she was still suffering. I do feel strongly that medical people should [not] suffer from avoidable complaints. Something wrong in a system that tolerates such evils.

Well, I hear today from the Viceroy that the Bihar young man[1] is to hang. It is a bad augury. I had forebodings as you know but had hoped otherwise. Let us see.

My love to you all.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the original : C.W. 3697. Courtesy : Amrit Kaur. Also G.N. 6506

33. LETTER TO MADALASA

July 23, 1945

CHI. MADALASA,

The name "Jivan Kutir"[2] will be justified only if you, who were half dead when going to live there, regain sweet life there. I was very pleased to know that you were well. And now you have Vinoba[3] and Ram[4]. What more can you wish for? See that you never sink into the slough of despair again.

Blessings from
BAPU

[From Gujarati]

Panchven Putrako Bapuke Ashirvad, p. 325

[1] Mahendra Chowdhury
[2] The name of the addressee's house; literally, 'cottage of life'
[3] Vinoba Bhave
[4] Ramakrishna, addressee's younger brother

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34. LETTER TO ANNAPURNA C. MEHTA

July 23, 1945

CHI. ANNAPURNA,

I got your loving gift of the loin-cloth. But if all the girls should send things like this, wouldn't that spoil me? I would get into the habit of wearing new and nice loin-cloths. The really good and proper thing to do would be to give the best thing you make or get made to your best student. That would be truly as good as giving the thing to me.

Now you should learn hand-weaving also.

I hope your health is good and your work is going on well.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : S.N. 9438

35. LETTER TO MANCHERSHA AVARI

July 23, 1945

BHAI MANCHERSHA AVARI,

I have your letter. I am very happy to know that you are immersed in constructive work and your wife is also with you. It is difficult to attend to everyone—and then there are so many things to see to. It will be so much the better if you could carry further what has since been accomplished. Let us see what happens about the death-sentence convicts[1]. I am doing all that I can.

Blessings to both of you from
BAPU

GENERAL MANCHERSHA AVARI
SIRAS PETH
NAGPUR CITY

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Several freedom fighters who had retaliated against British repression in Chimur and Ashti had been sentenced to death. *Vide* also Vol. LXXIX, p. 335.

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36. LETTER TO AMTUSSALAAM

July 23, 1945

CHI. DAUGHTER,

Your letter, redirected from Simla, was received here yesterday.

You deliberately spoil your health and then complain. Come whenever you can make yourself free. You went of your own accord. Was it I who sent you? Anyway come when Prafulla Babu[1] permits you to do so. Shanti[2] told me at Simla that she needed you for a lot of work. She does not want to let you leave Bengal. But I want to leave everything to you.

See Niamat's letter. I argued with her a great deal, telling her it would be no use calling Islam[3] just for a few days. But would she ever listen to me?

Prabhavati will write the rest.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 499

37. LETTER TO KRISHNACHANDRA

July 23, 1945

CHI. KRISHNACHANDRA,

Your catching malaria is a matter of concern. Maybe, you would have been spared if you had properly used the mosquito-net. In my opinion the principle of not taking any treatment cannot hold good for everybody.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 4519

[1] Prafulla Chandra Ghosh, Chief Minister of West Bengal, 1947-48; Member, State Assembly, 1947-62, 1967-68

[2] Wife of Humayun Kabir

[3] A Muslim woman from Sevagram who was later accommodated in Kasturba Vidyalaya, Madhan

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38. LETTER TO A. KALESWARA RAO

July 23, 1945

BHAI KALESWARRAO,

I have your telegram. I showed it to Vinoba. He is so much involved in the work here that he needs some free time. He will therefore not be able to do any work for the exhibition[1].

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

39. LETTER TO RAJENDRA PRASAD

July 23, 1945

BHAI RAJENDRA BABU,

I have sent a telegram[2] about Mahendra. I am enclosing herewith the Viceroy's letter and my reply[3] to him. Mahendra will have gone, but what now? The full details of the case should come out.[4]

I hope the fever has gone.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Village Industries Exhibition
[2] & [3] *Vide* pp. 18-9.
[4] *Vide* also "Telegram to Rajendra Prasad", 30-7-1945, and "Letter to Rajendra Prasad", 15-8-1945.

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40. LETTER TO MAHESH CHARAN

July 23, 1945

BHAI MAHESH CHARAN,

Sjt. Jajuji[1] has talked to me about the matter you mention in your letter. I am satisfied with what is being done.

Blessings from
BAPU

GANDHI ASHRAM
KHADI BHANDAR
32 LATOUCHE ROAD
LUCKNOW

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

41. LETTER TO SHYAMLAL

July 23, 1945

BHAI SHYAMLAL[2],

There are two ways of serving the Harijans. First, by raising them through education, etc., and secondly by rooting out untouchability from among the caste Hindus. The first course always bears fruit and it is desirable to pursue it however little one can. Simple 'Eradication of Untouchability' does not serve our purpose. Therefore, 'Harijan Sevak Sangh' is a more appropriate expression. It is true that so far very little work has been done among the *savarnas*. The reasons are obvious. We lack self-sacrifice. Everyone, to some extent, can do the work of spreading education. But everyone cannot work among the *savarnas* for the removal of untouchability. Untouchability cannot be removed by delivering speeches. It will be removed only by the power of our self-sacrifice. In such self-sacrifice, fasting has an important place. The fasts should be backed by discretion.

[1] Shrikrishnadas Jaju, Secretary, All-India Spinners' Association
[2] Secretary, Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust

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Something could be done if competent Shastris issue public statements. What Barveji[1] says is not right. There can be no separate village for Harijans because they are an integral part of society and yet outside it.

They need wells, schools, etc., and if they are properly built and if *savarnas* are allowed access to them, it would be one step towards eradication of untouchability. Abolition of untouchability has political implications but it must be pursued with a purely religious motive. It is a need of Hinduism. The answers to your more important questions are as follows :

1. Castes must go if we want to root out untouchability. Read my preface to *Varnavyavastha*[2].
2. I feel that if it becomes necessary we should continue special schools, wells, and so on.
3. Propaganda among the *savarna* Hindus is necessary. I have mentioned its limitations above.
4. If there is a conflict with the *savarnas* for securing the rights of Harijans, we must put up with it but secure them the rights.
5. The suggestion is good, but discretion will be necessary in [implementing] it.
6. I consider the movement for temple-entry as necessary.
7. I do not know how far it is possible to have a meeting of Hindu leaders. But there should be such a meeting.
8. The question of separate wells has already been dealt with.

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

42. LETTER TO ISHKUMAR

July 23, 1945

BHAI ISHKUMAR,

What will you do by coming to me? It is difficult to be with me. It is also uncertain where I shall be when you come. Here it is only physical labour the whole day. I advise you to resist the temptation of coming here for the present. The weather too is not good.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

SHRI AUROBINDO ASHRAM
PONDICHERRY

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] V. N. Barve, President, Harijan Sevak Sangh, Dhulia
[2] *Vide* Vol. LIX, pp. 61-7.

43. LETTER TO SHYAMLAL

July 23, 1945

BHAI SHYAMLAL,

Prof. Jagadisan[1] may employ a male doctor for the time being. I have no objection.

Blessings from
BAPU

SECRETARY, K. G. N. M. TRUST
BAJAJWADI
WARDHA

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

44. LETTER TO BENDRE

SEVAGRAM,
July 24, 1945

BHAI BENDRE,

I have your letter. How shall I console you? Your bond was with your Bachi's[2] soul. What does it matter whether the body is buried or cremated? You of course know that the soul does not perish. Why, then, should you grieve? But this is mere philosophy. Experience of the world tells us that no one goes mad over the death of his children. You should, therefore, feel ashamed of yourself over your excessive grieving and shower love on Nalini. Please calm yourself.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : C.W. 10246

[1] T. N. Jagadisan was supervising the leprosy relief work of the Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust since May 1945.

[2] Addressee's daughter

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45. LETTER TO RAMDAS GANDHI

July 24, 1945

CHI. RAMDAS,

You may consider this first for Usha[1]. If you are still ill, then why don't you go to Dr. Dinshaw and get cured? Why should you be lethargic in this matter? Kanam[2] had also become weak.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

46. LETTER TO S. A. BRELVI[3]

July 24, 1945

BHAISHRI BRELVI[4],

The whole of India knows that as far as politics goes I have the greatest esteem for Sir Pherozeshah[5].

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

From a facsimile of the Hindi : *Mahatma*, Vol. VII, between pp. 16 and 17

47. LETTER TO SHRIMAN NARAYAN

July 24, 1945

CHI. SHRIMAN,

It seems you have sent the letter already. I had thought you would show me the draft. Anyway in my view you should have given only one reason for resigning[6]. Use of the term 'Hindustani'

[1] Addressee's daughter

[2] Kanu, addressee's son

[3] The letter has been reproduced in the Urdu script as well.

[4] (1891-1949); Leading Congressman of Bombay; Chairman of the Bombay branch of the All-India Nationalist Muslim Party formed in 1929; Editor of *The Bombay Chronicle*

[5] Pherozeshah Mehta (1845-1915); one of the founders of the Indian National Congress and its President in 1890 and 1909

[6] From the Secretaryship of the Rashtrabhasha Prachar Samiti, Wardha

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is of secondary importance. Implications of the term 'Rashtra-bhasha' are far-reaching. It would be better also to send the resignation after revising it. If you want to do this you should show me the draft before sending it.

Blessings from
BAPU

[From Hindi]
Panchven Putrako Bapuke Ashirvad, p. 307

48. LETTER TO SHYAMLAL

July 24, 1945

BHAI SHYAMLAL,

I congratulate you on your accepting a cut of Rs. 100 voluntarily. If you can conveniently give up something more please do so. Only good can come of it but nothing should be done on my bidding. All sacrifice must be voluntary.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

49. LETTER TO AMRIT KAUR

SEVAGRAM,
July 25, 1945

CHI. AMRIT,

Don't apologize for writing to me daily. You should continue without straining yourself and without expecting a reply daily.

You are silent about your visit.

You did well in writing to J. The criticism is unfriendly. But restraint is always good.

I hope you are well. Ask Beryl to write to me. Is Shummy[1] better ?

Sushila still with Sardar.

Love to you all.

BAPU

From the original : C.W. 4161. Courtesy : Amrit Kaur. Also G.N. 7797

[1] Shumshere Singh, addressee's brother

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50. LETTER TO MIRABEHN

July 25, 1945

CHI. MIRA,

If I am to write I must be brief. If you do not feel well you must run up to a cool place. I took the journey well. Balvantsinha must be with you when this reaches you. Keep him if you want him. Tell him on his letter I sent Hoshiari[1] to her father. She will return with or without her boy. It is fair here. It rains off and on. But the insects are more numerous than before. Sushila got dysentery and lost 4 lb. She is now in Bombay with Sardar.

Love.

BAPU

SHRI MIRABEHN
KISAN ASHRAM
P. O. BAHADRABAD, *via* JWALAPUR
NEAR HARDWAR, U. P.

From the original : C.W. 6509. Courtesy : Mirabehn. Also G.N. 9904

51. LETTER TO SITA GANDHI

July 25, 1945

CHI. SITA,

I read your letter. Your curriculum is good. You are working hard. Do not worry about whether you will pass or not. Don't do anything at the cost of your health. Do not write in a small hand. Examine carefully what is written in this postcard.

Blessings from
BAPU

KUMARI SITA GANDHI
MASHRUWALA BUNGALOW
AKOLA, BERAR

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 4954

[1] Niece of Balvantsinha

52. LETTER TO PUSHPA K. DESAI

July 25, 1945

CHI. PUSHPA[1],

I have your letter. If you have really realized God, you will see Him everywhere, even in your father. Still, if you must come here you may. But you will have to find solitude in multitude. You will have to do everything right from cleaning the latrines and you will have to find God in that. One cannot serve God by singing *bhajans*. You may therefore be escaping from one difficulty to land into another. I advise you to see Manibehn[2] and then arrive at a decision. Consider it a sin to write in pencil.

Blessings from
BAPU

CHI. PUSHPABEHN
C/O SHRI MANILAL POPATLAL DOSHI
SHARDA'S CHAWL
SECOND FLOOR, ROOM NO. 12
BOMBAY

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

53. LETTER TO MANIBEHN PATEL

July 25, 1945

CHI. MANI,

Why need you write to me now? And I should not hope that you will.

I write this in connection with Pushpa. She is suffering very much. She has written to me that she wants to see me. But it will be better if you go and visit her. You will certainly find her at her place. The address is C/o Manilal Popatlal Doshi,

[1] Daughter of Kanji Jethabhai Desai of Bombay
[2] Daughter of Vallabhbhai Patel

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New Hanuman Lane, Sharda's Chawl, Second Floor, Room No. 12.

I hope you are well.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI MANIBEHN PATEL
C/o SHRI DAHYABHAI PATEL
68 MARINE DRIVE
BOMBAY

[From Gujarati]

Bapuna Patro–4: Manibehn Patelne, pp. 136-7

54. LETTER TO VALLABHBHAI PATEL

July 25, 1945

BHAI VALLABHBHAI,

I have your letter. If you have to take treatment now, I would strongly advise you to go to Dinshaw at Poona for it. I will be ready to go there, and so you will have the benefit of my quackery, too. In any case you cannot get worse than you are and it is likely Dinshaw will win glory.

I had a talk with Pardiwala[1]. I will write[2] today itself. That mail goes by the morning post. A copy cannot be sent with this. Such things will go on happening. You are not the man to worry about them.

I have no time to write more.

Blessings from
BAPU

[From Gujarati]

Bapuna Patro–2 : Sardar Vallabhbhaine, p. 281

[1] An advocate of Bombay
[2] To Lord Wavell; *vide* pp. 34-5.

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55. LETTER TO APTE

July 25, 1945

BHAI APTE,

He who had given you Shambhu has taken him back. We must also meet the same fate. Why should you then grieve? Why should Sharaja lament? All the children belong to you both. All this is implied in the khadi spirit. Cultivate that spirit and go on doing your duty. Everything will be all right if you exercise self-control. Moreover, you have already rendered whatever service you could.

Blessings from
BAPU

APTE
279-2 SADASHIV PETH
POONA CITY

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

56. LETTER TO JAMSHEDJI N. MEHTA

July 25, 1945

BHAI JAMSHED,

I got your letter along with the typed matter. It is surprising that the *Gita* is full of those things and yet you could find no consolation from it. Because you were used to English that appealed to you immediately. Be that as it may, it is good that the depression has left you. For the rest take it that whatever happened at Simla was for the best.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHETH NUSSERVANJI
KARACHI

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

57. LETTER TO KRISHNAVARMA

July 25, 1945

BHAI (DR.) KRISHNAVARMA,

I have your letter. Chi. Sailen has come here. He is well. More about him later. Do whatever you can for Mama. The result is in God's hands. Please tell Mama that it will be good if he observes the rules of the place where he stays.

Blessings from
BAPU

MALAD

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

58. LETTER TO PURUSHOTTAMDAS TANDON

SEVAGRAM,
July 25, 1945

BHAI TANDONJI[1],

I have your letter of July 11. I read it twice. I then gave it to Kishorelalbhai. You probably know that he is an independent thinker. I also send you what he has written. I would only say that I have always been as far as possible a slave of your love. The time has now come when the same love will separate me from you. I have not been able to explain myself. Kindly place this letter before the Standing Committee of the Sammelan[2]. I feel that the Sammelan has not accepted my definition of Hindi. And now my ideas are moving further still in that direction. My definition of *Rashtrabhasha* includes a knowledge of Hindi and Urdu and both the Nagari and Persian scripts. Only thus can a fusion of Hindi and Urdu come about, if it will. I am afraid this suggestion of mine may not be welcome to the Sammelan. I therefore request that my

[1] (1882-1962); Speaker, U. P. Legislative Assembly, 1937-39 and 1946-50; elected President of Indian National Congress, 1950, but resigned soon after; Vice-President, Akhil Bharatiya Hindi Sahitya Sammelan

[2] Akhil Bharatiya Hindi Sahitya Sammelan

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resignation be accepted. By pursuing the difficult task of propagating Hindustani I shall be serving both Hindi and Urdu.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

[From Hindi]

Rashtrabhashake Prashnapar Gandhiji aur Tandonjika Mahattvapurna Patravyavahar, p. 10

59. LETTER TO SUKHDEV

July 25, 1945

BHAI SUKHDEVJI,

What is the use of my sending for you? Send me all the papers. Send also a brief statement along with them. I will do what I can after studying everything. Stay on there till you have my reply.

SJT. SUKHDEV
DAILY "TEJ"
DELHI

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

60. LETTER TO LORD WAVELL

SEVAGRAM,
July 25, 1945

DEAR FRIEND,

I have just heard from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel that several thousand Indian soldiers who had joined Subhas Babu[1] in Burma or elsewhere and who were captured during the recent anti-Japanese operations have been locked up in the Delhi Fort and the ring leaders (so called) have been shot under the decree of a court martial. I am inclined to think that this is a bazaar rumour. Nevertheless, I suggest that the public may be taken into confidence

[1] Subhas Chandra Bose (1897-1945); General Secretary of the Congress, 1927; President of the Congress, 1938 and 1939; resigned Presidentship and founded the All-India Forward Bloc; placed under house arrest but escaped to Germany in 1941; one of the organizers of Indian Independence League in South East Asia; organized and led the Indian National Army

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as to the true situation and that, if there is any truth about the lock-up and trial, legal assistance of their choice may be given to those who may be tried.

This is being posted after post office hours. Hence a copy under a certificate of posting will follow when the post office opens tomorrow.[1]

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

H. E. THE VICEROY
VICEROY'S HOUSE
NEW DELHI

Gandhiji's Correspondence with the Government, 1944-47, pp. 39-40

61. LETTER TO J. C. KUMARAPPA

SEVAGRAM,
July 26, 1945

MY DEAR KU.,

This is to introduce Shri Shyamlal to you. He is the Secretary of the K. G. Memorial Trust. He will plead with you for accommodating the prospective women's camp for four months from after the rains are over, i. e., not later than 2nd October. I support the pleading, if it is feasible. More from the bearer.

Love.

BAPU

From a photostat : G.N. 10175

62. LETTER TO PATTABHI SITARAMAYYA

July 26, 1945

DEAR PATTABHI[2],

Pyarelal has asked you about the accuracy of your reported speech[3]. Now comes the enclosed from the angry worker who

[1] Acknowledging this on July 29, the Viceroy's Private Secretary E. M. Jenkins replied that it was receiving the Viceroy's consideration.

[2] (1880-1959); Member, Congress Working Committee, President, All-India States People's Conference, 1936; President of the Congress, 1948; Governor of Madhya Pradesh, 1952-57

[3] *Vide* pp. 40-1.

takes me to task about palmyra trees. Did I ever say about palmyra trees [anything] of the kind reported to have been said by me? I have much to say about the other parts. But I forbear pending your reply. Hope you are well.

Yours,
BAPU

MACHHALIPATTAM

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

63. NOTE TO MUNNALAL G. SHAH

July 26, 1945

When I fixed the amount of milk, there were no other institutions in the neighbourhood. Now that there are, it becomes our duty to sink or swim with them. We here cannot have the freedom that they enjoy. But we must apply the controls that they do. The doctors are engaged in formulating a standard. It will be published shortly. Just now you should reduce the quantity of milk as much as you conveniently can. The final decision should be postponed till after Sushilabehn's arrival. I should like to do without ghee altogether, but that does not seem desirable for vegetarians. Experience will be a better guide in this matter. Pulses cannot replace milk, but doctors believe that they are necessary in themselves. I am the only one to assert emphatically that they are not necessary. We may, however, introduce them. The same about spices. Those who are under the Ashram vows cannot consume them for the pleasure of the palate, but if they are necessary for aiding digestion they may be used. It should be remembered that there are very few in the Ashram who have taken the vows. I see no great trouble in having two separate cuisines—one with spices, the other without. We cannot compel anybody to observe the vow of controlling the palate, or any vow.

While considering this matter, we should remember that though milk, ghee and fruit are consumed in greater quantity in the Ashram, illness persists. We must investigate the cause of this.

If this does not give you the guidance that you need, ask me again. The problem of those who are ill is a different one.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : C.W. 5908. Courtesy : Munnalal G. Shah

64. LETTER TO KRISHNAVARMA

July 26, 1945

BHAI KRISHNAVARMA,

I enclose herewith Sailen's letter. He has also given me a leaflet. It contains something shocking. I send you the relevant portion along with Sailen's letter. If what is said in it is true we must correct it. It is our duty not to get angry with the critic but to accept the substance of what he says. In many things nature cure should be superior to the methods of ordinary doctors and ordinary men. More after I hear from you.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

65. LETTER TO GOSIBEHN CAPTAIN

July 27, 1945

CHI. GOSIBEHN[1],

I am so glad you can upset inkstands and that in the wrong place.

You may not give up the ghost so easily. See Balasaheb Kher[2] and put all the facts before him. We must do things correctly even if they take a little time. Time given won't be time wasted. That would be part of teaching new work. See the others also. Take my help whenever necessary. P.[3] can attend to her teeth. She need not wait for the meeting. I am doing all I can. You must be well.

Love.

BAPU

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Grand-daughter of Dadabhai Naoroji
[2] B. G. Kher, ex-Premier of Bombay
[3] Perin, addressee's sister

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66. LETTER TO BALVANTSINHA

SEVAGRAM,
July 27, 1945

CHI. BALVANTSINHA,

I have your letters. It will be good if your presence can help to settle the dispute there.

Hoshiari is brave. She will succeed. It is good that you are also there.

I am keeping well. Mirabehn is anxiously awaiting you.

It will be good if you have a look at Dr. Sharma's handiwork[1]. See what he is doing.

Things are going on well here. By the route which you have taken you cannot go to Balkrishna.

BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 1965

67. LETTER TO GHANSHYAM SINGH GUPTA

July 27, 1945

BHAI GHANSHYAM SINGH,

There is no discourtesy in publishing the letter from the Governor of Sind. I have made emendations in both the drafts. You will understand them.

I finished it today but it could not be registered in the post today. It will go tomorrow.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] The addressee in his book *Bapuki Chhayamen* explains that the reference is to the nature-cure clinic opened by H. L. Sharma at Khurja.

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68. LETTER TO HOSHIARI

July 27, 1945

CHI. HOSHIARI,

I have your letter. You will not cease to be respectful towards your father, at the same time you will remain firm. It does not matter if it takes a few days to persuade Father. If your firmness makes Father angry, there is nothing you can do about it. Look after your health. If possible go and see Dr. Sharma.

Blessings from
BAPU

C/O LACHHMAN SINGHJI
SAMASPUR
KHURJA, U. P.

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

69. LETTER TO RAJENDRA PRASAD

SEVAGRAM,
July 27, 1945

BHAI RAJENDRA BABU,

I have already written to you about Mahendra.[1] Probably by now he will have been hanged. It seems our effort has been in vain. If there is any further news we shall get it. Write to me fully about what you think. It is surprising that you fell ill in Delhi. It will be better to go to Pilani only after you get well.

I shall see about the other Mahendra[2] after I receive the papers. It would be good if I get papers concerning the first Mahendra also.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] *Vide* p. 23.

[2] Raja Mahendra Pratap (1886-1979); President, Provisional Government of Hind in Kabul, 1915. He was in the Yokohama prison and Government's assistance was required for his return to India.

70. LETTER TO SUCHETA KRIPALANI

July 27, 1945

CHI. SUCHETA[1],

I have gone through your Urdu letter. I like it; you should not understand it to mean that you are to give up writing in Hindi. You should write in both according to the occasion. Why did you fall ill? It will be good if you go to Gulmarg first and get well. The only condition is that you should go while Jawaharlal is there and should see that his privacy is protected. I do not write to the Professor[2]. This for him : He should write to me in Hindi or Urdu or Sindhi. Why does he write in English? Is it because he is a 'professor'?

Blessings from
BAPU

SWARAJ BHAVAN
ALLAHABAD

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

71. INTERVIEW TO "THE HINDU"

WARDHAGANJ,
July 28, 1945

QUESTION : According to Dr. Pattabhi, the Desai-Liaqat Formula contemplated formation of a new government first, to be followed by the release of the members of the Congress Working Committee. This aspect of the Formula had been interpreted by some people as "bypassing the Congress" and by some others as "stabbing the Congress in the back".

You have stated in your statement issued from Panchgani that you blessed the Formula as you thought it provided a basis for communal settlement. It is generally believed that you were consulted at every stage of the

[1] (1908-74); In-charge, Women's Department, A.I.C.C.; member, Congress Working Committee, 1950-52; member, Lok Sabha, 1952-62; Chief Minister, U. P., October 1963 to March 1967

[2] Addressee's husband J. B. Kripalani, (b. 1888); General Secretary of the Indian National Congress, 1934-46; its President in 1946. One of the founders of the Congress Democratic Front and later of the Praja Socialist Party

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agreement. Is the interpretation put on the agreement that it bypassed the Congress correct?

ANSWER : I consider the question has been addressed to a wrong person. Parties to the Formula are the best persons to say what it meant. Then what you put into Dr. Pattabhi's mouth, he may repudiate. I, therefore, suggest to all reporters at all times, but most specially at this time, to be precise and accurate in what they say. There never was the slightest intention on the part of Advocate Bhulabhai Desai, on whose behalf alone I can speak, "of stabbing the Congress in the back" or making an attempt to "bypass" the Congress. He, himself made politically by the Congress, could never be guilty of any such intention, and, for me, I should be committing suicide if I could be a party to any such attempt. I can say this much for Advocate Bhulabhai Desai that the only intention he had was that of honourably resolving the deadlock and thereby serving the Congress. It would be wrong to say that I was consulted "at every stage" but it would be strictly correct to say that Advocate Bhulabhai Desai saw me more than once about the 'Pact'.

Asked whether the release of the members of the Working Committee formed part of the agreement, whether it was agreed between the parties that the Muslim League alone should nominate the Muslim members of the new government and whether in view of so many statements and counter-statements on the subject it would not be desirable to release the Formula for publication, Gandhiji said :

I think, in the foregoing, I have said as much as I could, consistently with the fact that the 'Pact' has not seen the light of day. I wish that the parties had agreed to release it for publication.

The Hindu, 30-7-1945

72. LETTER TO SUDHIR GHOSH

July 28, 1945

MY DEAR SUDHIR,

I have your good letter[1].

A man is sincere in the sense that he is not knowingly dishonest. But if he makes up his mind hastily and will not deign to take the trouble to study accurately facts of each case, he is in fact untruthful without knowing that he is so. Such is the case with perhaps millions of Hindus. They sincerely believe that untouchability is a part of the divine plan. But they hug a provable untruth.

Of course I will see Mr. Casey[2] first, if I succeed in coming to Bengal which I want to do as early as the rains permit. I have the pamphlets.

My blessings to you both[3].

BAPU

Sudhir Ghosh Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

73. LETTER TO B. S. MURTHY

July 28, 1945

DEAR MURTHY[4],

Your letter. Can you conveniently see me on 7th August at 3.30 p. m. for half an hour?

Yours,
BAPU

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] In *Gandhi's Emissary*, the addressee explains : "While I explained to Gandhiji the opposition of Lord Wavell to his visit to Bengal I pleaded in a letter to him that the Viceroy, although rigid, was a sincere man."

[2] R. G. Casey, Governor of Bengal

[3] The addressee and his wife Shanti

[4] Member of the Madras Legislative Assembly

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74. LETTER TO C. C. GANGULI

SEVAGRAM,
July 28, 1945

DEAR FRIEND,

I was much touched by your letter. My congratulations to your wife on her bravery and presence of mind. But such acts do not need advertisement. They produce their silent effect and lose by being advertised. In any case why should the news be suppressed pending the finish of the war? You and your wife have certainly my blessings. May your spiritual progress grow from day to day.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

SHRI C. C. GANGULI
ASST. SESSIONS JUDGE
KHULNA

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

75. LETTER TO DINSHAW K. MEHTA

July 28, 1945

CHI. DINSHAW,

I have your letter. We shall think about the treatment I should have after I come there. I will send Balkrishna when he is ready. I had only to see the land pertaining to the Muslim school and to Tata. As I understood it there was nothing for me to do in that connection. And what can I do? I believe that the land is not of any use to the village. The sanatorium can be built there; that is to say we can use that land instead of the one at Simhagad. But that apart, write to me your views. Preston might perhaps prove expensive. We are going ahead with the village trust. I have suggested that it should be translated into Gujarati. When is

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Gulbai's confinement due? Take whatever work you can from Vanu and Manu.

Blessings from
BAPU

NATURE CURE CLINIC
TODDYWALA ROAD
OPPOSITE STATION, POONA CITY

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

76. LETTER TO SAMPURNANAND

July 28, 1945

BHAI SAMPURNANAND[1],

I know Bhai Maithili Sharan[2] very well. But I shall not be able to participate in the jubilee celebrations.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

From a copy of the Hindi : C.W. 10409. Courtesy : Bharat Kala Bhavan

77. LETTER TO ABDUL GHAFFAR KHAN

July 28, 1945

BHAI BADSHAH KHAN[3],

I read about the drama that was enacted in your case. Write to me what really happened. I hope you are well. The Doctor will have given you my message.

BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] (1889-1969); Member, A. I. C. C.; Chief Minister of U. P., 1955-60; Governor of Rajasthan, 1962-67

[2] Maithilisharan Gupta; Hindi poet of renown; author of *Bharat-Bharati*, *Saket*, *Yashodhara*, *Jayadrath Vadh*, *Siddharaj* and other works

[3] (b. 1890); Popularly known as Frontier Gandhi; founded the Red Shirt (Khudai Khidmatgar) organization in 1929; a close associate of Gandhiji; detained by the Pakistan Government for demanding Pakhtoonistan, 1947-55

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78. LETTER TO H. L. SHARMA

July 28, 1945

CHI. SHARMA,

I have your letter. Vichitra[1] had written to me. I cannot open a clinic for you. I have explained everything to you. I know your ability. I know your shortcomings too. Do whatever you can on your own strength. I did what I could. I shall be happy if your work gets going, that is to say, if the poor are served. I do not feel like writing more.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. HIRALAL SHARMA
NAGLA NAWABAD
KHURJA, U. P.

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

79. LETTER TO SHYAMLAL

July 28, 1945

BHAI SHYAMLAL,

I have your letter concerning Dharmadev Shastri. It is all right. For the eight committees of C. P. and Berar you have asked for the sanction of Rs. 200 at the rate of Rs. 25 for each committee. Earlier you had asked for Rs. 50 for each committee. For the present you may send Rs. 200. Later we shall see what to do.

M. K. GANDHI

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Vichitra Narayan Sharma, Manager, Gandhi Ashram, Meerut, and one of the trustees of the addressee's nature-cure clinic

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80. LETTER TO SARALA DEVI

July 29, 1945

DEAR SARALA[1],

I was delighted to have your letter. Of course you will write whenever you like and come to me as soon as you are able to. Meanwhile, love.

BAPU
(M. K. GANDHI)

SHRI SARALA DEVI
POLITICAL PRISONER
DISTRICT JAIL
ALMORA

From a photostat : G.N. 9089

81. LETTER TO NAWAB OF CHHATARI

SEVAGRAM,
July 29, 1945

DEAR NAWAB SAHEB[2],

Your kind letter of 24th June was received at Bombay just after I had left for Simla. It was kept back with other correspondence in order not to overload me with work at Simla. It was given to me after my return.

I have read and re-read your letter. I am sorry to say it gives me little satisfaction. I used to have long correspondence with the late Sir Akbar Hydari on similar matters. He used to struggle to give satisfaction but in my opinion failed. Though fresh in the field, I am afraid, you would do likewise, unless you deal with the situation in a detached manner. I do not wish to argue the matter. I have not sufficient material with

[1] Catherine Heileman; came to India in 1932; moved to Wardha in 1936; worked in Hindustani Talimi Sangh and later for the uplift of hill people in Almora; established an ashram for girls at Kausani.

[2] Capt. Mohammed Ahmed Said Khan, President of the Executive Council of the Nizam of Hyderabad from 1941

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me. But I give you, as a friend, my opinion for what it may be worth.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

H. H. NAWAB SAHEB OF CHHATARI
HYDERABAD (Dn.)

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

82. LETTER TO VALLABHBHAI PATEL

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
July 29, 1945

BHAI VALLABHBHAI,

If you have decided against the operation, go to Dinshaw's clinic. I will accompany you. I have already consulted him. He is hopeful, and so am I. In any case going to his clinic cannot do you harm. If you must go to Ahmedabad, stay there as planned and only for a few days.

Blessings from
BAPU

[From Gujarati]

Bapuna Patro–2: Sardar Vallabhbhaine, p. 282

83. LETTER TO NAIDU

July 29, 1945

BHAI NAIDU,

Who can stop it if conversion takes place in the manner you describe? Read what I have written on the subject. If we want purification every Hindu will have to become an *Atishudra*. I hope you will be able to read my Hindustani.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 94

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84. FRAGMENT OF LETTER TO ABUL KALAM AZAD

[After *July 29, 1945*][1]

I have written to Wavell and his reply has been received. I have also raised the question of defence and have said that all should be allowed to engage defence counsel. I had read Pt. Jawaharlal's statement and today Sardar read out yours[2]. It is sufficient.

From a copy : Police Commissioner's Office, Bombay : File No. 3001/ H/P. 341

85. TELEGRAM TO RAJENDRA PRASAD

Express

SEVAGRAM,
July 30, 1945

DR. RAJENDRAPRASAD
BIRLAHOUSE
NEW DELHI

YOUR WIRE. BETTER SEE VICEREGAL SECRETARY ABOUT MAHENDRA.[3]

GANDHI

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] From the reference to reply to the letter to Lord Wavell regarding the defence of I. N. A. prisoners; *vide* footnote 1, p. 35.

[2] The addressee had suggested that the Congress should undertake the defence of the I. N. A. officers.

[3] *Vide* also "Letter to Rajendra Prasad" 15-8-1945.

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86. LETTER TO RAJENDRA PRASAD

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
July 30, 1945

BROTHER RAJEN BABU,

I had given a wire about Mahendra : "Your wire. Better see Viceregal Secretary about Mahendra." The new Government[1] cannot interfere with the Viceroy's decision all of a sudden but there is some hope from Jenkins. Did our people not send any appeal to London? Is the person not yet hanged? If he is alive whatever you have to do in that respect do it here. To send deputation to London is futile.

You must be feeling better.

From a copy : C.W. 10591

87. LETTER TO AMRIT KAUR

July 30, 1945

CHI. AMRIT,

I have just got your letter.

I am glad you saw the Vicereine. I shall send you by book post what I can lay hands upon.

Sardar is none too well. Probably he will have first to have nature cure and then, if necessary, operation. If he goes to Poona, I shall have to go there. This may be the first week of August.

Harijans have every right to curse us and abuse us. How can they isolate the few penitents from the die-hards? Only we must go on.

Sushila is with Sardar. She has lost all she gained there, I think.

You have to keep well. The secret is with you. No nibbling between meals. No fruit-chewing or anything else while walking. Take what you must at stated meals as so much for sustenance.

[1] The Labour Government which assumed office on July 27, 1945, with Clement Attlee as Prime Minister

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Sushila is likely to return by the middle of the week.

I am keeping well. I walk longer than usual. Today it was exactly two miles. Usually it is 1½ miles.

Love.

BAPU

From the original : C.W. 4162. Courtesy : Amrit Kaur. Also G.N. 7798

88. LETTER TO NARAHARI D. PARIKH

July 30, 1945

CHI. NARAHARI,

I have your letter. Here one might say things are going on well. You have done good work in Poona. One could only wish that you would not fall ill. I understand what you say about Vanu and Manu. If both of them make further progress, they can certainly make some contribution to the Arogyabhavan. Let us see what happens.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : S.N. 9135

89. LETTER TO MRIDULA SARABHAI

SEVAGRAM,
July 30, 1945

CHI. MRIDULA,

I received your letter just now. You are so hardworking that to tell you to improve your handwriting is like telling me to do so. Only if I improve my handwriting will I have the right to tell you to do so. Isn't that so? Even so I must say that I am writing this without reading your letter word by word as deciphering every single word will take time. About Ahmedabad it seems all right. I will write to Kanjibhai[1]. The rule that people should work only in their own locality is very harsh. Does it show our poverty? We shall think about the draft when you have to resign. I believe that we shall not have to decide about Anasuyabai before your return.

[1] Kanaiyalal Desai

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It would be better if you do not ask for any official letter to be sent there. We shall see when you return. Get well. I shall see about the syllabus.

Blessings from
BAPU

MRIDULABEHN SARABHAI
HUT NO. 46
GULMARG, KASHMIR

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

90. LETTER TO AMRITLAL T. NANAVATI

July 30, 1945

CHI. AMRITLAL,

I have gone through your report. I found that the prices of books were very high. Anyone seeking admission will find it very difficult and expensive. It can be done that way if we do not have the necessary provision. Discuss this with Kakasaheb.

Blessings from
BAPU

AMRITLAL NANAVATI

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

91. LETTER TO DHARMDEV SHASTRI

July 30, 1945

BHAI DHARMDEV SHASTRI,

I have your letter. I have told Shyamlalji[1] that Rs. 200 may be sent to you. That is the amount he had asked for. Your letter mentions a larger amount. The rest will depend on Bapa's letter.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI DHARMDEV SHASTRI
ASHOK ASHRAM
KALSI, DEHRADUN

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] *Vide* p. 45.

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92. LETTER TO DEVRAJ

July 30, 1945

BHAI DEVRAJ,

I can do something for your brother only after he puts in an application. To do anything before that is impossible. My stay here is uncertain. Write to me about your coming after I settle down.

Blessings from
BAPU

LAJPAT BHAVAN
LAHORE

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

93. LETTER TO DEVRAJ VORA

July 30, 1945

BHAI DEVRAJJI,

I have your letter. Why is it in English? I can understand Hindustani. The experience I had of you was bitter. I did not find in you devotion to truth, but I did find vanity in a large measure. You will therefore gain nothing here nor will the people here gain anything from you. I therefore feel that your coming here is not proper.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

SHRI DEVRAJ VORA
C/O SETH N. L. SEHGAL
INDIAN TIMBER WORKS
P. O. GULZAR BAG
PATNA, BIHAR

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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94. LETTER TO GHALIB

July 30, 1945

BHAI SAHEB,

I got your letter by return post. I am obliged. Zohra will be coming in a day or two. I will then show her the letter and write to you if it is necessary.

GHALIB SAHEB

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

95. LETTER TO RAMNARAYAN CHOWDHARY

July 30, 1945

BHAI RAMNARAYAN,

Doing only writing work and neglecting the cow does not appeal to me. But whether it appeals to me or not is irrelevant.

Your staying here is a difficult problem. There are people living here who cook their food separately and so on. I do not want to increase their number. If you cannot lead an ashram life then what is the use of living in the Ashram? You may stay in the Khadi Vidyalaya if Jajuji will have you. If you want to do the work of propagating Hindustani you should speak to Kaka, or to Shyamlal if you want to work in the Kasturba Memorial Trust. You have a great deal of ability. You can earn Rs. 150 from anywhere. I can think of engaging you for only one work. Nor will Jamnalalji's spirit allow me to think of any other. Think of what you want to do. Talk to me or write to me.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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96. LETTER TO JYOTILAL MEHTA

SEVAGRAM,
July 31, 1945

CHI. JYOTI,

I understood your letter. Champa has written a long letter but has not given her address. I do not know whether she is there or somewhere else. You yourself can convey the message that she may come here any time she likes. She should not waste my time and should not set up a separate kitchen. Everything has changed here.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

97. LETTER TO CHANDRAKALA AND KRISHNAKUMAR

July 31, 1945

CHI. CHANDRAKALA AND CHI. KRISHNAKUMAR,

It is only natural that you both, brother and sister, should grieve over the passing of Mother. When I was as young as you are, I too used to grieve when a relative died. But now I realize that it is vain to grieve over a death. Death goes with birth. Some die today; others will die tomorrow. What is there to grieve about it? You must become wise.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

Give my blessings to Father.

SHRI SITARAMJI KHEMKA
J. C. MILLS
GWALIOR

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

98. WHY KHADI FOR YARN AND NOT FOR MONEY?

July 1945

Sjt. Bharatan Kumarappa writes to me from his tours :

> People are asking what has Gandhiji done. He will kill khadi by insisting on yarn being given in exchange for it. What are we, who because of his teachings have vowed to put on only khadi, to do? We do not know how to spin neither do we want to learn it. Are we to go without khadi? This rule regarding yarn only shows Gandhiji's obduracy.

Sjt. Bharatan Kumarappa's letter is in English. I have given its substance here.

People will not find any obduracy in my demand if only they understood that non-violent swaraj depends on every drawing out of the yarn. On the contrary they will then find absorbing interest in it. Those who see only obduracy in it do not know how non-violence works. Since my return to India I have been crying myself hoarse that if we want to attain independence through non-violence spinning should be an essential part of our activity. The late Maulana Mohamed Ali used to say that the charkha was our rifle and the spindles of yarn our bullets; we shall attain swaraj only through these bullets. This is as true today as when it was said.

My experience tells me that if khadi is to become universal, both in cities and in villages, it should be made available only in exchange of yarn. Today one anna's worth of yarn in the rupee is demanded. But this is only the beginning. When people have understood and learnt how to spin, then khadi will be given only in full exchange for yarn spun. I hope that as days go by everyone will himself insist on buying khadi only in exchange of yarn. If this does not happen and if they give yarn grudgingly swaraj through non-violence is impossible. Surely some effort has to be made for swaraj. It cannot be had by mere begging. A certain kind of freedom can of course be obtained on the strength of the rifle, but it will not be real swaraj and I for one am not interested in it.

The very idea of obtaining swaraj through the rifle makes my head reel and a mountain of difficulties appears before my

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eyes. This article is not meant for those who would obtain swaraj through the rifle. Why should they wear khadi at all? From their point of view khadi can be proved to be quite a useless thing. Readers of this article should realize that if khadi is to be produced by villagers, not for their own use but for sale in cities, and if crores of villagers themselves are to use only mill cloth, then khadi will be of very little avail. How can we rest content if khadi merely puts a few coppers into the pockets of the poor?

A doubt is raised that this new rule will kill the khadi which is now being produced by the poor and will make the wearing of khadi spun by themselves a matter of fashion only for a few select city-dwellers. This idea, however, displays ignorance.

The masses do not eat for fashion but in order that they may live. Similarly they do not wear clothes for fashion, but for protection. Therefore the charkha, like the oven, should find a place in every house and every able-bodied person should spin. Then all can wear khadi and obtain swaraj. Able-bodied persons should spin also for the crippled and the weak. If games clubs demanding both energy and money can be run, as they are, why cannot swaraj clubs or charkha clubs be run where people can make slivers, spin and get khadi in exchange of yarn? The truth is that where there is no will, unfavourable arguments present themselves and where there is a will, the will itself discovers favourable arguments. If the will is strong nobody will give up the charkha even as nobody leaves games. If the will can be found for games, can it not be found also for swaraj?

A powerful argument advanced against the system of exchanging khadi for yarn is that if city people produce their own yarn the khadi produced by the poor will vanish and the little relief that has till now been given to them through khadi will stop, and the hope of seeing villagers clad in khadi produced by themselves will remain only a dream. Supposing city people give up wearing khadi out of laziness or anger and villagers give up spinning and weaving for want of demand, what great loss is it to the country? The poor people will take to other occupations in the place of khadi and will somehow make their living. Such people will not be found in crores but only in lakhs as at present. Those who are engaged in *bidi*-making earn four times what is possible through spinning, or even more. Many of the mill labourers have become rich. This means that those who are starving today will starve still further till they die, and the few of them who can earn well will ride roughshod over the rest. If more mills are increased and the number of cities is increased it will

not make India prosperous. On the other hand it will make crores die of starvation and of the many diseases produced by starvation. If city people are pleased with such a spectacle I have nothing to say. Then it will be the reign of violence, not of non-violence and truth, and I will admit that in that case khadi will have no place, it can have no place. Then military training will be compulsory whether we like it or not. But what I am talking about relates to the crores of the starving people. If they are to live, and live well, the charkha will have to be central and spinning undertaken voluntarily also by those who do not need to spin. The weapons of non-violence must not be adopted by people because they have no other alternative. Therefore to my mind the rule of yarn for khadi which has been introduced has to exist and increase in its application. Exactly for the same reason, if all the khadi bhandars have to be closed down and khadi-wearers give up khadi I will regard it as a triumph of truth, because then I shall understand that people had no belief in non-violence and that if they wore khadi they did it out of ignorance and thereby merely deceived themselves into thinking that by wearing khadi they would somehow get swaraj. Why should I thus allow people to deceive themselves when I know that such khadi will not bring swaraj and that it will be discarded after swaraj is obtained? In that case the prophecy of the late Chintamani[1] will come true that on Gandhi's death people will laugh at khadi and also at him and will burn his body with the charkhas they may have in their houses. If hand-spun yarn cannot represent non-violence, why should I not retrieve my error while I am still alive and save the wood used in the charkhas? But I do not regard that prophecy as true. People have understood that the crores of India cannot obtain freedom through violence. India occupies or will soon occupy a great place in the world. That will be possible only through non-violence. If the crores of our people want to demonstrate the workability of non-violence they can do it only by making the charkha central. As the desire for freedom is strong amongst city-folks it is their duty to understand this and to take to spinning and khadi-wearing in order to obtain non-violent swaraj.

Gram Udyog Patrika, Vol. I, pp. 352-4

[1] C. Y. Chintamani; President of the National Liberal Federation, 1920 and 1931; Editor of *The Leader*, 1909-20 and Chief Editor, 1926-41; Minister of Education in U. P., 1921-23

99. LETTER TO DINSHAW K. MEHTA

SEVAGRAM,
August 1, 1945

CHI. DINSHAW,

There are still [two] other girls whom I would like to send there. Is there room for them? Neither of the two is an invalid but both need treatment. One of them is Manilal's[1] wife Sushila. She has two children. She would not like to leave them anywhere else. Do not hesitate to say no if there is no room or if you feel that the case is not worth taking.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

100. LETTER TO KRISHNAVARMA

August 1, 1945

BHAI KRISHNAVARMA,

I shall reply to your letter fully later. Show this to Mama. For the time being he must stay on there. Manilal is thinking over the matter. I am clear that it is Mama's duty to do whatever you tell him to do.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. KRI[SHNA]VARMA
NATURE CURE HOME
MALAD, B.B. & C.I.

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Manilal Gandhi

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101. LETTER TO PURUSHOTTAM K. JERAJANI

SEVAGRAM,
August 1, 1945

BHAI KAKUBHAI,

I have your letter. Chi. Kanu has given me the details in writing, but I shall not go into them. All this misunderstanding arose because I could not explain myself fully.

"God has tied me with a cotton thread. Whichever way he pulls me I am His. I am pierced by the dagger of love." This is from a famous *bhajan* of Mirabai. Swaraj hangs by that thread; it does not snap because the weight is that of love. The languages of India are full of allegories featuring yarn. Narandas has conceived of a yarn bank. If such a bank is organized well, it will ultimately beat the money banks. Narandas is a supreme devotee of khadi. None among us can beat him in his *tapascharya*. He has no other work. I am a witness to the work he has done for the charkha. I am a lover of his work. He has added immensely to the importance of *Rentia Baras*[1]. It is not a work of Kathiawaris alone and this time Kathiawaris alone are not to do it. In this scheme the Charkha Sangh was to play a major role and its benefit would have been also quite large. Chi. Kanu after finishing his work in Bombay was to proceed further. Collection of funds was of secondary importance. Yarn was the main thing. The Charkha Sangh had to collect only the yarn delivered at its door and send the acknowledgement to Narandas's bank. The ownership of the yarn would have certainly remained with the Charkha Sangh. Suppose yarn worth crores of rupees was produced, the Charkha Sangh would have got it without striving. Chi. Kanu is a child, an errand boy. He is not a leader. He could not explain what he wanted to say. From what he says he did not absent himself so as to humiliate you. This thing was such that there was no need for explanation. Goddess Lakshmi was to come to your door to bless you. However, what has happened has happened. I do not think it can be rectified. Do whatever you can. I had reckoned that Kanu

[1] *Bhadrapad Vad* 12, Gandhiji's birthday according to the Vikram calendar, was observed as spinning day.

would go from house to house, revive spinning, repair charkhas, enrol volunteers, collect yarn, and that well-tied bales of yarn would be heaped at your place.

If I have succeeded in explaining to you the scheme, then I can say that I have compensated for the long letter you wrote to me.

I understand about the processes of cotton. Dawn is when one wakes up.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : C.W. 10856. Courtesy : Purushottam K. Jerajani

102. LETTER TO BRIJKRISHNA CHANDIWALA

August 1, 1945

CHI. BRAJKRISHNA,

I have your letter. It will be better if you do not come at present. You can ask me when I go to Poona. There are so many people eager to serve me that I do not think you will get a chance. I cannot write more now.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 2490

103. LETTER TO JAIRAMDAS DOULATRAM

SEVAGRAM,
August 2, 1945

CHI. JAIRAMDAS,

I never write to you. Where is the time? Your having to go to Lucknow startled me and I am writing this in the morning after the prayer. May Premi[1] get well. Inscrutable are the ways

[1] Addressee's daughter

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of God. Let us trust in Him and find happiness amidst sorrow. Let us do our duty with detachment.

Blessings to you three from
BAPU

[PS.]

Give this[1] to Premi if you think it proper to do so.

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

104. LETTER TO PREMI JAIRAMDAS

August 2, 1945

CHI. PREMI,

Get well. See God in any work of service and regard Rama-nama as the panacea for all ills. Sushila has gone to Bombay for the Sardar. She may be returning now.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

105. LETTER TO GOVERNOR OF BENGAL

SEVAGRAM,
August 2, 1945

DEAR FRIEND,

Shri Sudhir Ghosh kindly gave me copies of your two speeches, one of which I finished yesterday during moments snatched from my daily work.

I write this to draw attention to two things for the moment. Cloth shortage you can deal with without delay by following the policy laid down by the All-India Spinners' Association which is represented in Bengal too. In one sentence the scheme is to ask every home practically to spin its cotton and every village to weave its own cloth. It is the largest co-operative effort that can be conceived in the world.

The second is the cattle question. For that you should meet Shri Satis Chandra Das Gupta of Khadi Pratishthan. He is ailing

[1] *Vide* the following item.

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and may not be available just now. He has just published a monumental work[1] on the question.

Shri Sudhir Ghosh has given me your message about my visiting Bengal. I thank you for it. I am anxious to come as early as the rains of Bengal will permit. When I come my first business will be to give myself the privilege of meeting you.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF BENGAL
CALCUTTA

Gandhiji's Correspondence with the Government, 1944-47, p. 103

106. LETTER TO SUSHILA GANDHI

August 2, 1945

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have sent you a wire. You should stay there till the child has been operated upon. Your health has been completely ruined. Would a strong drug rid you of the hook-worms? Would even that not be effective? So many questions arise in my mind. I understand about Zohra. Pyarelal has gone there. He will listen to everything. Stay there till I come. Take possession of the bungalow that Sardar suggests. We shall then do whatever has to be done. If you reach there on the 7th, you should go to Poona on the 10th. Shall I start out on the 8th?

Blessings from
BAPU

C/O DAHYABHAI PATEL
MARINE DRIVE
BOMBAY

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] *The Cow in India*

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107. LETTER TO ABUL KALAM AZAD

August 2, 1945

I have your letter. I had asked Dr. Pattabhi.[1] I did not feel it was right to say anything when I had only seen the newspaper. Now that I have received the letter I shall be writing something. I have seen the telegram Rajaji has sent you. I agree with it. I [saw] something in the Press by way of a directive from you about providing for the relatives of those who died [during the struggle] in 1942 and afterwards. The financial help we are at present giving to such relatives for their maintenance and education is something different. In my opinion if we go by truth and non-violence we cannot give such assistance. How can we say that all of them died for the country, that they sacrificed themselves for the cause of swaraj ? I feel that under no circumstances can you do that. If I may advise you, I would ask you to withdraw the statement. I do not know whether there is still time for that. I am sending you a wire today.

The other thing concerns Begum Azad. Dr. Khan Saheb mentioned the matter to me at Lahore. It pricked me. I am not aware of any public service rendered by Begum Azad. If what I believe is true, there should not be any public memorial in her name. Some persons came to me. I told them to do whatever they wanted.[2] I did not have the courage to say anything more to them. But I can speak to you. I would advise you to issue a nice Press statement saying that since Begum Azad had not rendered any public service you would not like any public memorial in her name. If my advice does not appeal to you, you will please reject it. The love we hold for each other demands no less.

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] *Vide* pp. 35-6.
[2] *Vide* "Message to Student Congress Workers", p. 9.

108. LETTER TO ANAND T. HINGORANI

SEVAGRAM,
August 2, 1945

CHI. ANAND,

I have your letters. Since Jairamdas is out I see no need to write to you. Abha[1] has kept one skein of yarn for you.

Vidya[2] was good but cannot take the place of God. I am an iconoclast. So I wanted you to forget Vidya. But we see God in numerous images. You have chosen to see God in the image of Vidya. So long as the delusion persists who can make you understand? If you can forget her easily do so. Then Vidya will rise and also you.

Nowadays my movements are very uncertain. So please do not come. Stay there and recover and do what service you can.

Jairamdas has gone to Lucknow taking Premi with him.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

Gokhaleji died at Bhimavaram.

From a microfilm of the Hindi : Courtesy : National Archives of India and Anand T. Hingorani

109. LETTER TO ABDUL HUQ

August 2, 1945

MAULANA (ABDUL HUQ) SAHEB,

Ghalib Saheb returned from Hyderabad yesterday. I showed him your letter. He said: "The fact is that both mentioned that Zohrabehn's heart was not there. We now want Zohrabehn to go to Darussalaam. Ever since her son was gone she has been unhappy and she finds the house on Rajpur Road dreary. We appreciate the difficulties of Abdul Huq Saheb. He may therefore occupy

[1] Wife of Kanu Gandhi
[2] Addressee's deceased wife

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the house on Rajpur Road. The rent is not much. It is a little less commodious and therefore till he can make some other arrangement he can keep the store of Urdu Anjuman[1] on the ground floor of Darussalaam. Abdul Huq Saheb himself may fix the rent." In my opinion the proposal is fair. You are all like a family. Everything will be all right if you can agree to this. Ghalib Saheb is leaving tomorrow. Zohra is still in Hyderabad. I shall await your reply.

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

110. LETTER TO PATTABHI SITARAMAYYA

SEVAGRAM,
August 2, 1945

MY DEAR PATTABHI,

Your performance[2] was ill thought. You are a most responsible man. Whatever the goading by Gopal Reddy you should have been silent or said just one word. And what an occasion! Gopal Reddy was out of order, though Chairman, in using Khadi Exhibition for the purpose. And [about] the warning at the W. C.[3] the Maulana has written a strong letter to me. Now I am issuing a brief statement[4] which you will see. Now don't grieve but do your work without speaking.

Love.

BAPU

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Anjuman-e-Taraqqui-e-Urdu

[2] The addressee was reported to have said on July 20, 1945 that "he was the sole author" of the Andhra Circular issued in 1942 and that "he got the instructions contained in the Circular from Mahatma Gandhi after full discussion with him". However, on July 22, 1945, in the light of Gandhiji's reply dated July 15, 1943 (*vide* Vol. LXXVII, pp. 105-99), to the Government on the Andhra Circular, he modified his earlier statement and said that Gandhiji "had no knowledge of any such Circular. The Circular was not prepared with his knowledge or at his instance".

[3] Congress Working Committee

[4] *Vide* the following item.

111. STATEMENT TO THE PRESS

WARDHA,
August 3, 1945

I have now read the report of Dr. Pattabhi's Telugu speech at Masulipatam and the correct version given by him later.[1] I have also corresponded with him and am now able to answer the reporters who taxed me about it the other day.

I have re-read the relevant portion[2] of my reply to the Government publication called *Congress Responsibility for the Disturbances, 1942-43*. I have nothing to amend or correct in my references to the Andhra Circular. Dr. Pattabhi and others as friends and fellow-workers did have conversations with me on the topic of the day. I have naturally no record of those talks nor did I authorize publication of the talks. I have however contemporaneous evidence of what I had in mind on 7th of August, 1942.

My draft instructions[3] were circulated among Members of the Working Committee on 8th August. They were to be considered on 9th August, but before they could be considered, Members of the Working Committee and I were arrested. Hence no authorized instructions were or could be issued.

I had no opportunity to function in terms of the A. I. C. C. Resolution of 8th August[4]. The Andhra Circular was therefore neither authorized by the Congress nor by me.

The Hindu, 5-8-1945

[1] *Vide* footnote 2, p. 65.

[2] Which read : "Then comes the Andhra Circular. I must regard it as forbidden ground for me inasmuch as I knew nothing about it before my arrest. Therefore I can only comment on it with reserve. Subject to that caution I consider the document to be harmless on the whole." *Vide* Vol. LXXVII, p. 151.

[3] *Vide* Vol. LXXVI, pp. 364-7.

[4] *Vide* Vol. LXXVI, Appendix X.

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112. LETTER TO E. M. JENKINS

SEVAGRAM,
August 3, 1945

DEAR SIR EVAN,

I have to acknowledge with thanks your letter of 29th July acknowledging my letter to His Excellency of the 25th July and I shall await your further letter in the matter.

Mrs. Anasuyabai Kale of the C. P. Assembly has been to me to tell me [that] the Privy Council has dismissed the petition of the Ashti and Chimur prisoners to be heard in appeal against the judgement of the Nagpur High Court. Unless, therefore, His Excellency uses his prerogative of mercy the prisoners will be sent to the gallows. His Excellency was good enough to tell me that he would consider these cases and the like when the time came. Now is the time. May I hope that the death sentences will be commuted?[1]

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

SIR E. M. JENKINS
P. S. TO H. E. THE VICEROY
VICEROY'S CAMP

Gandhiji's Correspondence with the Government, 1944-47, pp. 36-7

113. LETTER TO NARANDAS GANDHI

August 3, 1945

CHI. NARANDAS,

I could read your letter only today. What you say has a point if I adopt the prevailing view but none from the right point of view. Your argument is about khadi for the sake of the poor, mine is for khadi for the sake of swaraj. The khadi work in Kathiawar is impressive, but it is an obstacle to swaraj and will come to a stop sooner or later. Those who wear khadi do so not from the khadi spirit but from political necessity. Why need you spend

[1] The death sentences of the Ashti and Chimur prisoners were commuted to life imprisonment on August 16.

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your indefatigable and boundless energy for that? If you can sell khadi on the Charkha Sangh's condition[1], you may do so. Give it to those who observe it. Do not mind if, in that case, the khadi has to be sent outside. If you do not have such implicit faith, you may go on doing khadi work from outside the Charkha Sangh. Those who are willing will learn from it. But do strive to understand my point of view. Improve your health.

I have had a talk with Kanaiyo. He will tell you everything when he arrives there. You may then guide him and me as to what we should do.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a microfilm of the Gujarati : M.M.U./II. Also C.W. 8627. Courtesy : Narandas Gandhi

114. MESSAGE TO BHAGWANJI P. PANDYA[2]

August 3, 1945

I cannot guide you about your work from here. Do whatever you think proper.

From Gujarati : C.W. 401. Courtesy : Chhaganlal Gandhi

115. LETTER TO VALLABHBHAI PATEL

August 3, 1945

BHAI VALLABHBHAI,

I have your letter. I had been thinking of leaving here on the 8th and taking you to Poona on the 10th. But I see now that I am tied up with meetings up to the 19th. I can, therefore, start on the 19th at the earliest. I am not happy about it. I had intended to start as soon as you were free. Please wait for another ten days now. You may, if you wish, stay on in Ahmedabad for some time longer. The best thing would be for you to come and stay at the Ashram for the remaining days and we could then go to Poona together. Arrange for a house in Poona.

[1] In exchange for hand-spun yarn

[2] This was conveyed in a letter by Chhaganlal Gandhi in reply to the addressee's letter of July 31, 1945.

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We ourselves will stay at the clinic, and put the others up in the bungalow, if necessary.

And now about Mahadev[1]. It does not seem proper for me to issue any public appeal. I could write to a few individuals. It does not matter if Bombay does not give its share. See my plan which I have outlined. More in the next letter or when we meet.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

Mani is not doing right in neglecting her health. I have sent a wire to . . .'s[2] father.

[From Gujarati]

Bapuna Patro–2 : Sardar Vallabhbhaine, pp. 282-3

116. LETTER TO LORD PETHICK-LAWRENCE

SEVAGRAM,
August 4, 1945

DEAR FRIEND,

May I send you my congratulations on your appointment[3]? If the India Office is to receive a decent burial and a nobler monument is to rise from its ashes, who can be a fitter person than you for the work?

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

THE RT. HON'BLE LORD PETHICK-LAWRENCE

Gandhiji's Correspondence with the Government, 1944-47, p. 173

[1] For the Mahadev Memorial Fund
[2] Omission as in the source
[3] As Secretary of State for India in the new Labour Government

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117. LETTER TO AMRIT KAUR

August 4, 1945

CHI. AMRIT,

Your letter was answered yesterday. You need not bring your bedding. Bring only such things as you consider necessary. Regard mosquito-net among them. My rubbing-stone among them please. It was left there by mistake! Where did you get the powder for cleaning the septic tank commode?

Love to you all.

BAPU

From the original : C.W. 4163. Courtesy : Amrit Kaur. Also G.N. 7799

118. LETTER TO SHARDA G. CHOKHAWALA

August 4, 1945

CHI. BABUDI,

How naughty of you! You keep falling ill and causing worry to everybody.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : C.W. 10058. Courtesy : Sharda G. Chokhawala

119. LETTER TO MADHAVDAS G. KAPADIA

August 4, 1945

CHI. MADHAVDAS,

Dr. Krishnavarma has sent all the reports about you. Kunvarji[1] has also written a postcard. Dr. Krishnavarma has no interest in keeping you. He has kept you only for my sake. He kept Sailen also in the same way. Your good lies

[1] Kunvarji Parekh, son-in-law of Harilal Gandhi

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in remaining under Dr. Krishnavarma's treatment and following his instructions. I think I know Dr. Krishnavarma's virtues and failings. For his failings he will be answerable to God. I see and cling to his virtues. Many allegations are made against him. Who is immune to them? I do not care for such allegations. I have seen with my own eyes how he looked after Ba. I think he had seen Ba's virtues and became a great admirer of hers. The knowledge that you are Ba's brother prompts him to keep you and look after you. You need not worry about how much you will have to pay him. The doctor has told me that he does not want a single pie, but I have decided that, if you agree, I shall pay him what I think proper from out of your own possessions. I have discussed this with Manilal too. But if you are not willing to pay a single pie, well, a lot of money has already been spent over you and this will be some more. It will be to the good if you get well and can live a normal life. However, Ba's last words to me about you were : "You have done what you could for Madhavdas, I did what I could as his sister, and made you do what you could for him. Now you need not do anything for him." This is what she said about you and Harilal. I know that these words proceeded from her anger, but also from her love. I have not, therefore, obeyed those words literally. Now do what you wish, with God, whom you believe you worship every day, as witness. Of one thing you may be sure, that I will not be able to keep you in the Ashram, nor can I cure you. And remember also that no relation will be able to accommodate you. Society is so constituted that even though a person may wish to do something he is not able to do it, cannot do it. Ultimately, everyone has to turn to God, and only what He does or permits is possible. If you can think, then after reading this letter stay where you are. If you cannot think, then also, do not do anything in a hurry but stay there. May God bless you.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 2727

120. LETTER TO KRISHNAVARMA

August 4, 1945

BHAI KRISHNAVARMA,

Please read the enclosed letter and then pass it on to Mama. I read your whole letter yesterday, till then I was not able fully to go through it. I agree with what you say. I have given Mama some idea of you in my letter to him. I had observed even when you were here that you had no control over your tongue. You do not observe the rules of cleanliness—maybe, you do not even know them. I had noticed that also when you were here. I presume you are doing the same there. Kanti Mashruwala is an admirer of yours. Manilal had been there. He is not an admirer of you but he is wise. He has seen something of the world. He recognizes your qualities. He believes that you are no doubt good at heart but he also believes that you do not observe the rules of cleanliness nor make others do so. I only know your goodness and therefore wish that your shortcomings may disappear. I know that I have served my own interest in sending Mama to you and I still want to keep him there. He will be in a very bad plight if he goes away from there. I cannot keep him in the Ashram, as it will be against the spirit of the Ashram. I do not think he can stay anywhere else. Whatever has to be done, you alone can do. As you have started a hospital it certainly is your duty. Follow nature-cure methods at the hospital. You must know the rules of cleanliness and observe them meticulously. There are too many mosquitoes there. Just because you are taking work from the poor women you should not put up with their indifferent performance. As a doctor and a householder it is your duty to teach them cleanliness. It should be your job to eradicate mosquitoes from the neighbourhood. You should know how to do that. How can you call yourself a nature-cure doctor if you do not do all these things? I can write much along these lines but I am sure you are one of those to whom a word is enough. For this reason and also because I do not have the time I am not prolonging the letter.

I understand about Sailen. Encash the cheque he has sent to you. I won't think it is your fee by any means. I know you

did not keep Sailen for the sake of fee. But I thought he should on his own put into the charity box whatever he could afford and therefore asked him to send the cheque. Get the cheque cashed and utilize the money for charity. I do not advise you to come here. The main reason of course is that I do not have the time. Otherwise I would be happy if I could keep you here and give you training in cleanliness. But that is not possible at the moment. I shall call you when such an occasion arises. However, if you want to come on your own, want to be reassured and if you do come, it will be a different matter.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

121. LETTER TO KUNVARJI K. PAREKH

August 4, 1945

CHI. KUNVARJI,

I have your postcard. You write that Mama should be allowed to go where he wants. I do not understand this, nor does Manilal. Where will he go? Where will he stay? Are you going to keep him? If you think he can stay in the Ashram, that is not possible. Have you considered what would happen if he were to go and stay in his own house? Mama has gone to Malad of his own free will. When he asked me to send him to Malad I was not willing to do so. I requested Dr. Krishnavarma when Manilal pleaded on his behalf. It requires but one moment to remove him from there, but I believe that it would harm him. However, I will do whatever all of you tell me. But remember that afterwards I shall not be able to do anything. I am convinced that in doing so I am acting in an objective spirit and in accordance with dharma. At present Manilal is at Akola. He writes to say that he will be coming here on Monday with his wife and children. I will discuss the matter with him, too.

I hope all of you are well.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : S.N. 9753

122. STATEMENT TO THE PRESS

WARDHA,
August 4, 1945

Several Congressmen have asked me questions relating to the Congress programme. Cablegrams too have been received from London and other places. I am sorry I have not been able to acknowledge them. The reason, however, is and should be obvious. In the absence of the Maulana Saheb and other members of the Working Committee, it is true I took upon myself the responsibility to give such advice as I was capable of giving in regard to Congress matters.

Now that the Working Committee is out, I can only give advice through the Maulana Saheb and the Working Committee. My advice, independently given, may be in conflict with their opinion and it may embarrass them and even put them or me in a wrong position and, what is more, may confuse the public mind. Therefore, I should warn all here and outside India against making any reference to me on such questions as are properly for the President and the Working Committee to advise upon.

The Hindu, 6-8-1945

123. INTERVIEW TO "THE HINDU"

August 4, 1945

I said then and I repeat now that my offer to Mr. Jinnah was not in the nature of a bargain.[1] It was my settled conviction though originally derived from Rajaji[2]. I am not in the habit of deriving anything from anybody, however great he is, unless I can appropriate and assimilate it for myself. Therefore even if Rajaji went back on that Formula, I shall stick to it so long as I retain my sanity. I hold it to be substantial and also directly derivable from the Congress Resolutions and immediately from the Resolution of August 8, 1942. Only I have given it concrete shape.

The Hindu, 6-8-1945

[1] The correspondent had asked whether Gandhiji's offer to M. A. Jinnah made in September 1944 still stood; for details, *vide* Vol. LXXVIII, pp. 126-7.

[2] For the Rajaji Formula, *vide* Vol. LXXVI, Appendix VIII.

124. LETTER TO MAURICE FRYDMAN

August 5, 1945

MY DEAR BHARATANAND,

Your good letter. I am glad you have dropped vegetarianism. It must be natural, if it ever comes back. Do take what your system needs and be well. The assumed name may be dropped. You will be just as lovable as Frydman.

Be well.

Love.

BAPU

From a photostat : G.N. 45

125. LETTER TO GOSIBEHN CAPTAIN

SEVAGRAM,
August 5, 1945

VAHALAN BEHN,

Your hurried note. Are you well? Peppery sister came, saw, conquered and went. I have discussed your scheme with Shyamlal. But you must do your part. *Dordi*[1] never leaves its rigid shape even when it is burnt.

Love.

BAPU

GOSIBEHN CAPTAIN
GANDHI SEVA SANGH
CHOWPATTY

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Gujarati word meaning rope

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126. LETTER TO HASUMATI D. DESAI

August 5, 1945

CHI. HASUMATI,

I could see your collection of poems only today. I got it only two days ago. I advise you not to get it published. It will be wrong to make money out of it. Poetry cannot be appreciated by associating names of two persons with it. I have always been against such a risk. Your handwriting should be as beautiful as pearls. I know that my handwriting is bad. That I cannot improve it at this age should be a warning to people such as you.

Blessings from
M. K. GANDHI

SHRIMATI HASUMATI DHIRAJLAL DESAI
BALVAIDYA KHANCHO
SANDHADIAWAD
GOPIPURA
SURAT

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

127. LETTER TO KANTILAL GANDHI

August 5, 1945

CHI. KANTI[1],

Both of you should learn non-attachment from the service of Harilal. Through non-attachment devotion to someone can be transformed into devotion to God. If such devotion is not linked with devotion to God, it becomes infatuation and assumes a dangerous form. You two have spared no effort in the service of Harilal. I had felt all along that Harilal would ultimately act as he had always done. But let not this worry you in the least. You should be thankful if even the last rites fell to your lot to perform. You have shown devotion in many ways. All that devotion will have achieved fulfilment if now you turn it into devotion to God. And true devotion to God as I see it now is

[1] Son of Harilal Gandhi

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devotion to *Sutranarayana*[1]. The word *Daridranarayana*[2] was first used by Vivekananda (if my memory serves me right, for I am not quite sure whether it was he or some other holy man who used it first). The word *Satyanarayana*[3] is well known. But as God of action it is *Sutranarayana* who reveals Himself to me. You have started worship of that God. Understand His nature properly. Rise above the intrigues there or anywhere else. If you do not show the slightest softness to Harilal, he will leave Mysore. Try to find out, if you can, how he managed to obtain Rs. 200 from the Maharaja of Mysore.

You may tell me, when we meet, the other things which you have on your mind. But do not worry if you cannot. If you wish to write about them, have no hesitation in doing so. See that Saraswati[4] and you devote yourselves to your studies and complete them.

Blessings to both of you from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : C.W. 7376. Courtesy : Kantilal Gandhi

128. LETTER TO RAMDAS GANDHI

August 5, 1945

CHI. RAMDAS,

You have used reasoning in your letter which, however, does not appeal to me. You have a right to go to Dinshaw's because he has made you his own. Dinshaw is imbued with the spirit of altruism, even towards the poorest. His is not an organization for the poor. Similarly it is not for the rich. However, both can go there as also those belonging to the middle class; that is possible because of Dinshaw's good nature. Moreover, you had no right to use reasoning the way you have, for you had given me to understand that you were about to take long leave, or had taken it, and would be devoting a year to improving your health. Of course you will have yourself treated there and think of going to Dinshaw only after you have completely ruined your health. As you will yourself admit you could not perceive Dinshaw's love for you. I therefore even now advise you to take one year's

[1] God in the form of yarn
[2] God in the form of the poor
[3] God in the form of Truth
[4] Addressee's wife

leave and go to Dinshaw's. As I have already told you, I shall manage to find your one year's expenses from somewhere. I shall not pay from the Ashram funds but seek money for you from somewhere. I have forgotten what arrangement was made about the expenditure. However, explain that to me again and I will act accordingly. You have something that attracts older persons to you. I myself do not know what it is but I have first-hand knowledge of it. Dinshaw knows many of my people but he is not drawn to them. But he is attracted to you. Most probably you yourself do not know why that is so. This is one of the instances. I have many others in my mind. It would therefore be better if you did not argue over the matter and went to Dinshaw's. If you both want to go you may. It will be enough for you to wind up the establishment from there for one year. There are numerous teaching institutions in Poona. Kanam and Usha won't have any difficulty in learning Marathi if they have to.

Manilal and Sushila will be arriving tomorrow. Sita will stay on in Akola. She is engrossed in her studies.

I am still of the opinion that Nimu[1] did well in not going either to Delhi or to Simla. There is no point in making Sumi[2] dependent on you. I can understand parents' attachment. However, this time I have seen that neither Nimu nor you could have done anything more for Sumi than what Devdas and Lakshmi did for her. I noticed that they looked after Sumi in the same way as they look after their own children. Sumi gave me the impression that she also held the same view. She is quite at home with the children there. Ultimately, isn't God the Protector of all? Gopaldas's and Nalini's son was gone in a moment while they helplessly looked on.[3] Nalini could not save him. There are so many such instances.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI RAMDAS GANDHI
KHALASI LINES
KINGSWAY, NAGPUR

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Nirmala, addressee's wife
[2] Sumitra, addressee's daughter
[3] Gopalrao Kulkarni's son had died of scorpion bite.

129. LETTER TO SUMITRA GANDHI

SEVAGRAM,
August 5, 1945

CHI. SUMI,

I notice that even now you do not worship pure truth. You do not even fulfil the promises you gave me. What is the meaning of your pining for Nimu when you have accepted Devdas and Lakshmi as your parents? They of course treat you accordingly. We should be content with the situation in which we place ourselves or are placed. For the sake of the love Devdas and Lakshmi cherish for you, you must protect your health, your eyes. Why should you put yourself through the strain of an examination? Why should you force yourself to finish a specified course within a specified time? You have to preserve your eyes, your intellect and your body in order to continue with your studies. This is such an obvious truth that it does not need any explanation. It is self-evident. Hence the Gujarati saying : the health of the body is the first happiness. So allay Ramdas's and Nimu's fears by studying without becoming restless and improving your health. Bring credit to the love Devdas and Lakshmi have for you and be worthy of it. I absolve you from your pledge of writing to me. Write to me only when you feel enthused and when it is convenient. Do not write to me by straining your eyes and neglecting your studies. I only desire that you should become ever more pure in body and mind. It is for this reason alone that I expect letters from you.

Blessings from
BAPU

SUMITRA R. GANDHI
BIRLA GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL
PILANI

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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130. LETTER TO C. C. GANGULI

August 5, 1945

BHAI GANGULI,

I have your letter. My blessings to Chi. Malavika and Chi. Ruplekha. I have no zest for writing the preface.

Blessings from
M. K. GANDHI

C. C. GANGULI
ASST. SESSIONS JUDGE
KHULNA (BENGAL)

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

131. LETTER TO KRISHNACHANDRA

August 5, 1945

CHI. KRISHNACHANDRA,

It is the same to an inmate of the Ashram whether he works as a manager or as a sweeper. Being a sweeper probably entails a greater responsibility. In being a manager there is no authority, only service. One should be prepared for both. If one finds being a sweeper pleasant and being a manager unpleasant, it is a sign of ignorance. And, if being a manager smacks of authority it means one is conceited. Keep yourself ready for managership. Do not bother about whether or not you get it. I myself do not know when you may get it.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : C.W. 5901. Courtesy : Krishnachandra

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132. LETTER TO M. S. KELKAR

August 5, 1945

BHAI KELKAR,

I was under the impression that I had answered you. Stop taking the bicycle from here.

By all means stay in Nalwadi. Go to Dattapur from there on foot. You will have to come here only occasionally.

How much per month should I give you? Ask for as little as possible.

I am certainly here till the 19th.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

133. LETTER TO RAMESHWARDAS BIRLA

SEVAGRAM,
August 5, 1945

BHAI RAMESHWARDAS,

I have your letter. Chi. Vasant has suffered much. I hope his fever is now completely gone. In the case of typhoid one has to be even more careful during convalescence because the disease weakens the stomach. The diet therefore has to be watched. If the doctors permit hip-bath can be of much help.

I hope Chi. Asha is perfectly well and so also is Jugal Kishore. . . .[1] Will Rajendra Babu be able to put up with the dust of Pilani? . . .[2] I understand about Ghanshyamdas.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] & [2] Omissions as in the source

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134. LETTER TO D. B. KALELKAR

August 6, 1945

CHI. KAKA,

What I require is this. I want the rites[1] to be the simplest and in Hindustani, omitting Sanskrit *slokas* and *mantras*. For conducting it anybody will do. What we do in this case will apply to all future occasions. I think this covers all points.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 10964

135. LETTER TO MUNNALAL G. SHAH

August 6, 1945

CHI. MUNNALAL,

1. Write in brief. Number the paragraphs on the different subjects, so that no point may be left out in the reply.

I am sure you will have realized by now that one has to reply to points which strike one's eye.

2. Since you are the Manager, you should treat nothing as private.

3. This reply is meant for all. If you wish, you may treat your letter as private.

4. Instead of compelling the women to attend the prayer, you should explain to them their dharma and then leave the matter to them. You cannot claim greater right or control over Kanchan than over the other women. If you look upon Kanchan as your wife and wish to have children by her or gratify physical or mental craving through her, you should resign as Manager, notwithstanding your many other virtues and endowments. That is to say, you should treat Kanchan as completely independent.

5. Utilize Pushpa's services to the full. She must learn to recite the *Gita* with correct pronunciation. She can sing too.

[1] For the marriage of Indumati Gunaji and A. G. Tendulkar; *vide* Appendix II.

In that case let her sing *bhajans* at prayer time. She knows cooking and can do all domestic chores. She will do whatever work she can. If you take her help, she will find salvation. She will become a devotee.

6. Hoshiari is illiterate, but she is firm, brave and does not shirk work.

7. Kambale may have faults, but he certainly has some virtues. He is a Harijan. It is our duty to serve him. This does not mean that we should spoil him. It will be a great thing if you are able to understand the secret that we can raise him without spoiling him.

8. Omprakash is capable of great progress. He seems to be a good man. It is necessary to understand him. I have been training him. If you do not think he may be a lustful man, you may let him teach the women, not where he would be alone with them but in a big room, or on my verandah or, if Sushila Gandhi permits, in Ba's room. Even if a man is a perfect *brahmachari*, he should never be alone with a woman.

9. Ramnarayan[1] will have to pay all the expenses. Since the girls are to be given modern education outside, he will not be considered an Ashram inmate. If he himself, however, wishes to stay here till he gets a house outside, he may pay nominal rent and stay. But he should not have a separate kitchen. Lanterns too should be shared as far as possible. Even if he is ready to pay for them, we cannot give any just now. It is desirable that we should make some arrangement for light on the paths. Discuss this with Kanaiyo and Mohansinh. All those who wish to read should do so silently round one or two lamps. And the same for writing. We must economize on kerosene. Issue a ticket for Ramnarayan. He should not be made to carry too heavy a financial burden. All the expenses must be managed within Rs. 150. Everyone should be given local fruit and Bombay fruit should be reserved for the sick. I intend to make some arrangements. Estimate the cost of fruit from Bombay. You should exercise discretion, moderation and gentleness in this matter.

10. In order to know a man's nature we must learn to tolerate his weaknesses as we expect the world to tolerate ours. If the world did not tolerate our weaknesses it would kill us. This applies to all, but it applies especially to the Manager who has embraced ahimsa.

[1] Ramnarayan Chowdhary

11. After you have finalized the set-up to your satisfaction, hand it over to somebody else to administer according to plan. Let the person you have in view get trained from now on, not for exercising authority but for service. I believe that such an administrator can be, ought to be, a woman. Any upright and hard-working man or woman can run a well-planned organization. Take it that those who cannot do so have some shortcomings.

12. About the trees Parnerkar[1] says that there has been no negligence. There has been some miscalculation, of course. That is, the heat has harmed four or five trees more than was expected. The rest are coming up. Exposing the trees to heat was deliberate, so that they might bear finer and sweeter fruit. You should patiently understand this point from him. He says he has consulted someone. Learn more about manure. If I get time, I will try to learn something.

13. I am trying to arrange about Dr. Kelkar. About the others, as time may permit.

Write if anything is left out. I have not revised the letter.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : C.W. 5910. Courtesy : Munnalal G. Shah

136. LETTER TO MUNNALAL G. SHAH

August 6, 1945

CHI. MUNNALAL,

1. If proper arrangements have been made, only then effect the change. Discuss the matter with both of them and do what has to be done.

2. Ascertain Kanchan's wishes. Does she crave for physical pleasure ?

3. Discuss and decide with S.behn the arrangements about milk, jaggery, etc.

4. Do by and by what is possible about a common room.

5. Introduce weaving.

6. I am quite clear in my mind regarding English. I think it may be taught to those women who desire to learn it. But they should first have knowledge of the mother tongue and Hindi

[1] Yashwant M. Parnerkar, a dairy expert

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and Urdu. Menfolk should certainly not be encouraged. As regards Harijans, English may be taught to those who have learnt the other languages and then wish to learn it. Of course there can be no question of persuading anybody to learn English. Is this enough?

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : C.W. 5912. Courtesy : Munnalal G. Shah

137. LETTER TO BALVANTSINHA

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
August 6, 1945

CHI. BALVANTSINHA,

I have your letter. It was good that you went to Dr. Sharma's centre. My relations (financial) with him are terminated. Chi. Hoshiari arrived here last night along with the child. Both are well. Go to Mirabehn.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 1966

138. LETTER TO ALFRED FRENSCH

SEVAGRAM,
August 7, 1945

DEAR FRIEND,

I have your letter. I am no master. I am unable to take charge of your children. My place is designed otherwise than you seem to think. You should keep your children in France.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

MON. ALFRED FRENSCH
CRENSPRE. LIEPVRE (HANT RHIN) FRANCE
C. P. POSTAL STRASBURG 191-31
FRANCE

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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139. LETTER TO ATULANAND CHAKRAVARTY

August 7, 1945

MY DEAR ATULANAND,

R[aj] K[umari] has sent me your letter to her. You are right about me. Your way is different from mine. But I have countenanced you as you have appealed to me as an earnest man. In spite of the testimonials you have quoted often, you have not made progress not because Congressmen have not appreciated your labours but because your unity plan has made no appeal to the general mind. But this is a long story. I suggest to you to look inward for your failure and not outward. Why not do some concrete work, be it ever so little? And then there will be no failure. For concrete work is its own success. I have not written this for argument but, if possible, to enable you to see the light.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

From a photostat : C.W. 1484. Courtesy : Atulanand Chakravarty

140. LETTER TO DALJIT SINGH

August 7, 1945

BHAI DALJIT SINGHJI,

I have read both your books. I thank you for sending them. Rajkumari passed them on to me.

In both you have talked of miracles. I give no importance to miracles. Our religious literature is full of miracles. I think it is necessary that you should give the Hindi or Gurmukhi original which you have translated into English. How can one study them without their originals?

M. K. GANDHI

STRAWBERRY HILLS
SIMLA[1]

From a copy of the Hindi : G.N. 7905. Also C.W. 4273. Courtesy : Amrit Kaur

[1] The address is from Pyarelal Papers.

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141. LETTER TO KRISHNACHANDRA

August 7, 1945

CHI. KRISHNACHANDRA,

Do go to Vinoba if you can be free from here. You must get his permission too. The letter is returned herewith.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 4521

142. LETTER TO AMRIT KAUR

[On or after *August 7, 1945*][1]

CHI. A.

You must get well quick and if you can get well more quickly living with me, you should follow me to Poona. I do not know how long I shall be there. I have written to Atulanand and that at length. Probably you will have a copy of my letter to him.

Love.

BAPU

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI
SIMLA

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

143. THE MISSING LINK

[Before *August 8, 1945*][2]

This is what the Editor of the *Gram Udyog Patrika* tells me :

[1] From the reference to the letter to Atulanand Chakravarty dated August 7, 1945; *vide* p. 86.

[2] The article appeared in *The Hindu*, 11-8-1945, under the date-line "Bombay, August 8".

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I am afraid your last article[1] in regard to why people should give yarn for khadi is not convincing. Your whole argument rests on the view, which is repeated several times in the course of your article, that non-violent swaraj is impossible unless everybody spins. This crucial point, however, is never explained, but taken for granted and asserted repeatedly. Unless you can show what connection there is between non-violent swaraj and the people of all kinds—even those who have more profitable occupation—taking to the charkha for their cloth requirements, your argument cannot convince those who honestly feel that your asking them to spin, if they want to use khadi, even when their time can be spent more profitably, is to expect a little too much from them. So can you perhaps provide this missing link in your argument for the next issue, and show how through spinning we can obtain non-violent swaraj?

The better course this time is to answer in English. Few, if any, readers who do not know English would ask for the "missing link", for the very simple reason that, they know my argument showing the connection between hand-spinning and swaraj obtained through non-violence. Swaraj can only be obtained by work, either violent or non-violent. Violent work we know. It necessarily includes training in the use of the most modern weapons of destruction and all it means. By common consent this has been ruled out. Mere constitutional means, though non-violent, went out of date long ago. It is a superstition to think that liberty can be gained by such means in the teeth of armed opposition. Non-violent work is then the only means for winning freedom. What is the training or work that Indians should undertake for adapting themselves for non-violent efforts? It has been shown that Indian freedom was lost when India's chief trade in cotton fabric, which was prepared in her cottages, was destroyed and together with it many other occupations which Indians carried on to sustain that trade. It is obvious that that trade and the allied occupations should be revived or some others consistent with non-violence should be taken up. Revival was the only thing thought of. It was being attempted by way of copying the English or, say, the modern method of replacing human labour by means of power-driven machinery. Instinctively I rejected it [as] being a way of violence and sought to replace it by human labour [as] being a way of non-violence. The struggle between the two is going on. In my opinion, the war that is ending has demonstrated the bankruptcy of violence. Solvency

[1] *Vide* pp. 55-7.

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of non-violence remains to be proved. Revival of the central trade of India by means of power-driven machinery is possible only by a superior exhibition of the resourcefulness of the West. And, if it becomes possible, it will find the masses of India no better off than now. I advance no argument in proof of this proposition. For, it can be studied through a perusal of my writings already published in book form[1].

Then the only form of non-violent work to be done by the largest number of men, women and children of the land, in order to regain the lost trade with its attendant activities, is the spinning-wheel. Thus conceived, it easily becomes the symbol *par excellence* of non-violence. To be an instrument of swaraj, naturally it must not flourish under Government or any other patronage. It must flourish, if need be, even in spite of the resistance from Government or the capitalist who is interested in his spinning and weaving mills. The spinning-wheel represents the millions in the villages as against the classes represented by the mill-owners and the like.

"Assuming," the Editor asks, "that the wheel is designed to bring in swaraj non-violently, why should a person who is more usefully occupied or even disinclined spin?" The reason is more psychological than utilitarian. The villagers have become used to imitating the city-dwellers so much so that the movement is towards migration to the city slums instead of remaining in and improving their own lot in the villages. If every person sets apart, for the sake of winning swaraj non-violently, a certain time for hand-spinning, an atmosphere for spinning will be created and if khadi became an article for personal use instead of being an article of commerce, which it now largely is, the question of competition with mill-cloth or any other cloth will disappear and the poorest as well as the richest will be able to wear and use khadi without the slightest difficulty. No wonder Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has called it "the livery of our freedom".[2]

Gram Udyog Patrika, Vol. I

[1] *Economics of Khadi*, a collection of Gandhiji's articles, published in 1942
[2] *Vide* Vol. LXV, pp. 446 and 473.

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144. TELEGRAM TO V. S. SRINIVASA SASTRI[1]

WARDHAGANJ,
August 8, 1945

RIGHT HON'BLE SHASTRIAR
SWAGATAM
MADRAS

HOPE YOUR ILLNESS TEMPORARY AND YOU ARE NOT NEEDLESSLY WORRYING OVER COUNTRY'S SITUATION.[2]

GANDHI

From the original : V. S. Srinivasa Sastri Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

145. TELEGRAM TO PURUSHOTTAM DAS TANDON

WARDHA,
August 8, 1945

BABU PURUSHOTTAMDAS TANDON
CROSTHWAITE ROAD
ALLAHABAD

I THINK OUR CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE RELEASED. PLEASE WIRE CONSENT.

BAPU

From the original : P. D. Tandon Collection. Courtesy : National Archives of India

[1] Expressing his misgivings about the Rajaji Formula the addressee, in his letter dated August 4, 1945, had written : "You may, by one chance out of ten, bring it off. The country may acclaim the result. I shall not. The price is too big, the purchase will be a bogus article."

[2] The addressee's reply read : "Thanks. Am improving. Wise heads planning country's welfare. My worry really useless but best part one's life."

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146. TRIBUTE TO ZAGHLUL PASHA[1]

WARDHA,
August 8, 1945

I never had the pleasure of meeting Zaghlul Pasha, but I have always entertained high regard for his patriotism and bravery.

The Hindu, 9-8-1945

147. LETTER TO AMRIT KAUR

SEVAGRAM,
August 8, 1945

CHI. RAJKUMARI,

Your letter. Your illness does disturb me. But what is the use of my disturbing myself over the inevitable, whatever the reason may be?

There was nothing wrong in your sending the wires and mentioning the proposed hanging[2].

I am glad Shummy is better.

The cutting is no doubt vicious and untrue. But you are right. It should be ignored. It cannot be answered even by producing facts. It can only be answered by right action.

I wrote to Raja Daljit Singh yesterday.[3] A copy will go with this.

Love.

BAPU

From the original : C.W. 4274. Courtesy : Amrit Kaur. Also G.N. 7906

[1] A well-known Egyptian leader (1860-1927). This was sent on his death anniversary.

[2] Of Mahendra Chowdhary, who was hanged on August 7. *Vide* pp. 105-6.

[3] *Vide* p. 86.

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148. LETTER TO RICHARD SYMONDS

[*August 8, 1945*][1]

DEAR SYMONDS,

You are unnecessarily agitated. I did not know that you had anything to do with the thing. I understand the whole thing from Sudhir. I think I told you that we were living in artificial and unnatural atmosphere and therefore we had to have thick skins if we were to do our duty.

I expect to see you in Bengal, if I succeed in coming there.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

RICHARD SYMONDS, ESQ.
FRIENDS AMBULANCE UNIT
1 UPPER WOOD ST.
CALCUTTA

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

149. LETTER TO V. K. KRISHNA MENON

SEVAGRAM *via* WARDHA (C. P.),
INDIA,
August 8, 1945

DEAR MENON[2],

Panditji[3] has sent me your letter to him.

I am not frightened of the word 'machine'. Therefore, if a life-giving machine can be made in India and will do the work of the spinning-wheel more quickly and better, I would have it and pay a tempting prize to the inventor.

You should be informed that a fat prize was issued to the inventor of such a machine.[4] The terms were advertised here and in foreign countries. There was only one Indian inventor.

[1] This letter is placed among those of August 8, 1945.
[2] Secretary, India League, London
[3] Jawaharlal Nehru
[4] *Vide* Vol. XX, p. 261.

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I sat at his machine and found it wanting, but I let the board of judges who were previously appointed give their judgment which, I was sorry, was hostile to the inventor.

I may also inform you that a well-known Manchester engineer as also an American told me that the machine of the type I have conceived was not a possibility and that the wheel we have was the best possible for home use. One spindle could not do more work than our wheel gives.

I may add by way of information that we have increased the speed from one to five. And we are able to spin up to 80 counts largely and in exceptional cases we have gone up to 150 counts.

Your experts do not seem to know their work or they will not want from here the things they do. Count of the cotton need not be more than 20. Exceedingly complicated machinery is required for very fine counts. Your experts may ignore them. All varieties of cotton can be had from Manchester. But the use of Surti cotton is favoured for counts higher than 10, *rozio*[1] for inferior counts.

Now I give you my opinion. I fear that the labours of your experts will be fruitless. Let them go to Manchester and study the spinning machines in Manchester. They will soon discover that what they can give will be an indifferent copy of the old type spinning-jenny which may be used in villages but to no purpose. We do not want to go from the town factory to the village factory.

You will be wrong if you suspect that I wish to discourage you. I simply share with you my opinion based on extensive experience. For, if anybody can produce a machine analogous to the Singer sewing machine I should dance with joy. It is said that his love for his wife was so great that he would spare her the drudgery of working her needle with the hands. He presented her with his humane machine. I would like to welcome another such Singer, only not for one woman but for the starving millions of India.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

SHRI V. K. KRISHNA MENON
165 THE STRAND
LONDON, W. C. 2

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] A variety of cotton

150. LETTER TO JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

SEVAGRAM,
August 8, 1945

CHI. JAWAHARLAL,

Your letter is beautiful. Come back fully recovered. Indu has done a bold thing. I have written to Menon[1]. I enclose a copy. That is all the time I can spare.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

151. LETTER TO D. B. KALELKAR

August 8, 1945

CHI. KAKA,

I have your letter. I am in two minds about whether you should or should not go to the Tilak Vidyapith. And therefore it is best that I should express no definite opinion. If your mind inclines this time towards going, by all means do. But in that case my view will be that you should stay mostly in Poona. I very much doubt if you will be able to do full justice to the job while staying in Wardha. If you feel that you would like to discuss this further, do so. Otherwise let this suffice for you.

I have been thinking a great deal about the marriage rite.[2] My views are becoming firmer. People will no doubt criticize us. But if we cling to an outdated tradition simply from fear of criticism or out of respect for public opinion, we shall never be able to do anything. I have said in some article of mine that the true Vedas are still unrevealed; they are an ocean. We do not wish to enter into controversy over the Vedas. The compositions that are today accepted as the Vedas are full of unresolved doubts. Not all the writings have come down to us. Even from among those which have, no one knows what is genuine and what is

[1] *Vide* the preceding item.
[2] *Vide* also p. 82.

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not. As regards their interpretation, sheer confusion prevails. Hence the judgment about goodness or badness can come only from a purified conscience. I have, therefore, taken as my guide the *sloka* cited by Anandshankarbhai[1] in his book :

विद्वद्भिः सेवितः सद्भिर्नित्यमद्वेषरागिभिः।
हृदयेनाभ्यनुज्ञातो यो धर्मस्तं निबोधत ॥[2]

I do not even know from where he has quoted the *sloka*. It appealed to me instantly and sank into my heart, and I, therefore, got it included in the women's prayer. Also please remember that we got the marriage of the Harijan girl Lakshmi and Harijan Velayudhan performed according to the rite that we had accepted. I do not remember the names of other Harijans. But all this I consider irrelevant. If I am right in my statement that the regeneration of Hinduism lies in our becoming Harijans, then it is very clear that a change must be made in the marriage rite in all weddings taking place in the Ashram or the ones with my blessings. Since I have already agreed, Indu and Tendulkar should be married in the Ashram. I am not bound as regards the rite, and, therefore, the new rite should be introduced from this wedding. I am giving all this additional information here simply by way of background. Yesterday Parachure Shastri[3] discussed the matter with me and argued with me at length, but as I could not give him much time the discussion was inconclusive. You may, if you wish, discuss this matter with him. You may discuss it with Vinobaji also, and then prepare as short a text of the ceremony as possible. Remember that this must be finalized before I leave. I assume that you also will be accompanying me. I saw the other photograph of Bal[4], and recognized him. Now let us see where we land.

I gave your letter to Ki. to read. I am told that he is strongly opposed to it. If you wish, you may discuss the matter with him also.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 10965

[1] Anandshankar Bapubhai Dhruva

[2] "Understand that to be true religion which the wise, the good, who are free from likes and dislikes, follow and which is felt in the heart."

[3] A Sanskrit scholar at the Ashram, who was suffering from leprosy

[4] Addressee's son

152. LETTER TO GOPE GURBUXANI

August 8, 1945

CHI. GURBUXANI,

You are mistaken. It is not right that the world has an eye only for the wealth of people. It looks more for the heart than for wealth.

You must have received the money. Your intention to give all the money is commendable.

Blessings to you both from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 1318

153. LETTER TO KUSUM NAIR

August 8, 1945

CHI. KUSUM,

I have your letter. Asking questions also requires an art, which you do not have. Now that you have risen high, why should you care for my answers? As it is I have hardly any desire and less time. You should find my answers from my life.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI KUSUM NAIR
2 REVIERA
MARINE DRIVE, BOMBAY

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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154. STATEMENT ON APPEAL FOR FUNDS[1]

August 8, 1945

I have gone through the appeal[2] of the trustees. I like it. I hope that the entire amount they have asked for in it will be available through contributions. I feel that much has been done for the propagation of Hindustani in the southern provinces and hope that even more will be done in the future. People should contribute on the understanding that the money thus raised will be used for furthering the cause of the national language as I have defined it. The national language as explained in the appeal is a language written in the Urdu or Hindi style and in the Nagari or Urdu script. This means that the Hindi written solely in the Devanagari script cannot be called national language, nor can the language written solely in the Persian script. The true Hindustani will be evolved only when we, who know the national language, are able to write it in both the scripts and speak in both the dictions. There can be no doubt that even today millions of Hindus and Muslims in the North speak such a language, such Hindustani. However, we cannot say that educated people of the North speak such Hindustani. If it has to be our misfortune that such a state of affairs should continue, then it will continue, but it should be our hope that it will come to an end soon. This can be the only meaning of propagating Hindustani. Therefore the work of propagating Hindustani which is going on in South India will emphasize both the styles. And that is the meaning of the resolution which the Congress passed in 1925[3]. The resolution was :

> This Congress resolves that the proceedings of the Congress, A.I.C.C. and the Congress Working Committee shall ordinarily be conducted in Hindustani. The English language or any other provincial language may be used if the speaker is unable to speak in Hindustani or whenever necessary. Proceedings of the Provincial Congress Committee

[1] This was communicated to M. Satyanarayana, General Secretary, Dakshin Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha.

[2] Of the Dakshin Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha, for a fund of Rs. 5 lakhs

[3] In December at Kanpur

shall ordinarily be conducted in the language of the province concerned. Hindustani may also be used.

M. K. GANDHI

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

155. LETTER TO M. S. KELKAR

August 8, 1945

BHAI KELKAR,

I have your letter. Would not your having to take quinine indicate that there was something lacking in your treatment?

Do take Rs. 25 per month and improve your health. My only point is that if you spend the entire sum of Rs. 25 on food and improve your health, but then have a relapse and are again obliged to take quinine, what would one have to say of your treatment? I do not doubt your goodness but I have the gravest doubts concerning your treatment. That I may be wrong is a different thing.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI KELKAR (NALWADI)

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

156. LETTER TO RAMNARAYAN CHOWDHARY

SEVAGRAM,
August 8, 1945

CHI. RAMNARAYAN,

I have your letter. What would be the good of my sending for all three of you here? It is unnecessary. I must admit I have not understood your point. I had understood that Anjana Devi[1] was keen on providing modern education to Sita[2] and Subhadra[3]. I do not consider it improper in any way. While going in for Nayee Talim, she is free to send the girls elsewhere whenever she feels like it. If they want to be educated there at present, you must stay somewhere nearby. You will go to the Goshala when the building is ready in four to six months' time.

[1], [2] & [3] Addressee's wife and daughters

Since no other accommodation is available it would be better if it can be found in the Ashram as was done in the case of Prabhakar. I have written to Munnalal to that effect.[1] Prabhakar used to cook his own food. I did not make this applicable to you because I thought that except for the education of Sita and Subhadra you and Anjana Devi had a preference for the Ashram life. Therefore I felt you would not need to cook separately. But now I understand from your letter that you do not like the system at the Ashram. If that is so the Ashram life must be something different. But I don't think it is so. Understand that if the life and routine in the Ashram cause you discomfort you both, or at least Anjana Devi, will not be able to stay here in peace. Your cooking separately will hurt me and irritate the managers. It should not be necessary to convince you on this point. Hence, consider the matter well and do whatever you think best. It is your duty to understand the limitations of those running the Ashram.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : C.W. 5902. Courtesy : Munnalal G. Shah

157. TELEGRAM TO PRIVATE SECRETARY TO VICEROY

Express

SEVAGRAM,
August 9, 1945

P. S. V.
VICEROY'S CAMP

POSTED LETTER[2] ABOUT CHIMUR PRISONERS ON 4TH. RECEIPT WAS DUE YESTERDAY. ANXIOUS KNOW WHETHER IT WAS DULY RECEIVED.

GANDHI

Gandhiji's Correspondence with the Government, 1944-47, p. 37

[1] *Vide* pp. 82-84.
[2] *Vide* p. 67.

158. LETTER TO SHIVABHAI G. PATEL

August 9, 1945

CHI. SHIVABHAI,

Do you also hanker after blessings? Of what avail are they, if you do your work well? If you do not, they will never make up for the deficiency. You should know that.

Blessings to all from
BAPU

SHIVABHAI PATEL
VALLABH VIDYALAYA
BOCHASAN, KHEDA

From a photostat of the Gujarati : S.N. 9520. Also C.W. 439. Courtesy : Shivabhai G. Patel

159. LETTER TO VALLABHBHAI PATEL

SEVAGRAM,
August 9, 1945

BHAI VALLABHBHAI,

It is a pity that you cannot sleep while travelling. We shall be reaching Poona in time, and shall see what happens there. I leave on the 19th and arrive there[1] on the 20th. I shall spend the day there and then we shall leave for Poona on the 21st by the first train, assuming that, as before, they will offer us a third-class compartment. Meanwhile take some rest if you can. If you rest, Mani also will get some rest. I feel that she will not be able to endure the present strain for long. Even now she is sustained only by her inexhaustible devotion to you. But even devotion proves helpless in the face of what is but natural. There was a vivid account in the newspapers of the Ahmedabad events.

Blessings from
BAPU

[From Gujarati]

Bapuna Patro–2 : Sardar Vallabhbhaine, p. 283

[1] At Bombay

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160. LETTER TO PREMLILA THACKERSEY

August 9, 1945

DEAR SISTER,

I have your letter.

I should certainly like to stay with you. But you know I am not going there for a change. I want to take Sardar to Dinshaw's clinic for treatment. You should, however, assume that I am staying with you. I will assume so myself. I hope to start from here on the 19th. I am waiting for Sardar's letter.

You got a fine *samadhi*[1] constructed. That was good. Arrangements have also been made for people to visit it.

I hope all of you are well.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : C.W. 4836. Courtesy : Premlila Thackersey

161. LETTER TO SAILENDRA NATH CHATTERJEE

August 9, 1945

BHAI SAILEN,

I have your letter. I do not think it is any good answering your question. For the moment the less I say the better. Asking a question calls for art, for thought. So if a question is not of a kind deserving a reply I will not reply to it. I would like to give you something, but what can be done? You yourself should make the effort.

Blessings from
BAPU

UNITED PRESS
BOMBAY

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Kasturba Gandhi's *samadhi* in the Aga Khan Palace in Poona

162. LETTER TO VENKATAKRISHNAIYYA

SEVAGRAM,
August 9, 1945

BHAI VENKATAKRISHNAIYYA,

I have gone through your letter. The argument given in it does not appeal to me. Your thoughts are confused. Maybe, I am too old to appreciate your point. I personally feel that my mind is able to grasp new things. However, you may go ahead according to your ideas.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

SHRI U. VENKATAKRISHNAIYYA
KHADDAR SANSTHANAM
BEZWADA

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 9244. Also Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

163. LETTER TO Y. M. PARNERKAR

August 9, 1945

CHI. PARNERKAR,

I found your letter irrelevant. I enclose Munnalal's reply. I did not know that manure was improved by being kept for so many months. The complaint about the trees is still there. Please consider both these matters if you think they call for consideration.

I have not fully understood what Bhai Patil wants to know. If you can explain to me I will let you know.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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164. LETTER TO INDUMATI GUNAJI

August 10, 1945

CHI. INDU,

This letter is for both of you.

I propose to solemnize your wedding on the 19th. The ceremony is likely to be performed by Prabhakar. He is from a Harijan family. His parents had become Christians.

The rite is being drafted by Kakasaheb.[1]

I assume that you approve of all this. I think you ought to write to your elders and seek their permission.

I assume also that this marriage will not be for indulgence but for service. I assume further that until real independence is achieved you will not consummate your marriage. And of course I take it for granted that you will not take to contraceptive methods.

I need not say that if you find all this hard you should not feel obliged to have the marriage solemnized here.

If you approve of a marriage of this type, do regular spinning, study the 12th Chapter of the *Gita* with interest and understanding, and think only of public good while working in the Ashram.

Remember that in drafting this rite I have not taken the law into consideration.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : C.W. 10946. Courtesy : Indumati G. Tendulkar

[1] *Vide* Appendix II.

165. LETTER TO K. N. KATJU

SEVAGRAM,
August 10, 1945

BHAI KAILASHNATH[1],

Read this letter[2] and write to me what it is about. Return the letter.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

166. LETTER TO MAHESH DUTTA MISHRA

August 10, 1945

CHI. MAHESH,

So you have got to go to Prayag. When will you go? It is temporary no doubt. But how long will you be required to stay there? Will it be a regular job?

Do come here for the holidays. Do not eat everything even though you may be well. Whatever you take should be taken as medicine. You have to eat to live, not live to eat.

Write to me all your experiences in brief.

I hope you are properly fixed up in regard to your food and accommodation here.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 6712. Also C.W. 4456. Courtesy : Mahesh Dutta Mishra

[1] (1887-1968) Minister in U. P., 1937-39 and 1946-47; Governor of Orissa, 1947; Governor of West Bengal, 1948-51; Minister for Home Affairs and Law, Government of India; retired as Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh

[2] From Bholanath of Alwar Rajya Prajamandal

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167. NOTE TO INDUMATI GUNAJI

[After *August 10, 1945*][1]

If both of you want to have protection of the law you may have [the marriage] registered. Devdas has done it. So has Kanu. I never wanted it, but the girls' fathers were keen on it.

I have only expressed an opinion. I never pay any attention to the law in whatever I do. We may regard Prabhakar as more than a Brahmin, but what can we do if society and the law would not recognize him?

From a photostat of the Hindi : C.W. 10951. Courtesy : Indumati G. Tendulkar

168. STATEMENT TO THE PRESS

SEVAGRAM,
August 11, 1945

Those like me, who were interested in saving Mahendra Chowdhary from the gallows, are, I know, shocked that he was hanged at the Central Jail in Bhagalpur on August 7. Those who remain behind will have to know that many more such tragedies will take place. Only, we must learn the lesson of each. Let us, then, now dispassionately learn the lesson of this accomplished death sentence.

First, the Government. They do not call it a political dacoity. Every dacoity is not a political act. Many professionals used the political ferment for their own ends. Government, whether truly national or foreign, would not let such crimes go unpunished. The authorities, in this case, held Mahendra Chowdhary to be implicated in such a dacoity and, therefore, they allowed the sentence to take the extreme course.

Now, for the popular side. They say that Mahendra Chowdhary was a young man of twenty-five. He had no idea of taking part in a dacoity whether professional or political, so-called. He was in hiding. He was tried after the event and sentenced

[1] The contents of the letter indicate that this was written after the letter to the addressee dated August 10, 1945; *vide* p. 103.

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on doubtful evidence. Acceptance of the evidence and the verdict depended on the whim of the judge or judges and at the time judges were, as often as not, biased.

If the popular belief is founded on fact, the death was a murder, worse, reprehensible because judicial. Who can find the truth, except a body of utterly impartial lawyers? They have to do so from the recorded evidence and the judgements of the original and appellate courts. Let us neither be carried away by sentiment nor lazily forget the incident, now that Mahendra Chowdhary is no more. If Government at all care for public opinion and would not rest on the overwhelming force they have at their disposal, they will be equally interested, and will associate themselves with the public.

The Hindu, 13-8-1945

169. LETTER TO AMRIT KAUR

August 11, 1945

CHI. AMRIT,

I expected your answer to K. and asked her to do something herself.

I wanted the name. Do not bring *Saf Karo* with you. Yes, you can join me in Poona, if I am not here by the time you come. No grumbling about your pains. *Nanak* is a good book but for the miracles.[1] I wish you could induce the Raja to give a better thing in Hindustani, i. e., in Nagari and Urdu characters. He has taken much pains over it.

Love.

BAPU

From the original : C.W. 4275. Courtesy : Amrit Kaur. Also G.N. 7907

[1] *Vide* p. 86.

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170. LETTER TO J. C. KUMARAPPA

August 11, 1945

MY DEAR KU.,

You can come tomorrow at 11 a.m. and dine here at 12. You will talk while I am eating.

I am running away to Poona on [the] 19th. I do not know whether I shall return on the appointed date. Can the meeting take place in Poona? If not, I must return for the meeting and go back. But that tomorrow.

I have not finished the manuscript[1] yet but may by tomorrow.

About the article also when we meet.

Love.

BAPU

From a photostat : G.N. 10176

171. LETTER TO MUNNALAL G. SHAH

August 11, 1945

CHI. MUNNALAL,

Read the accompanying letter. I like it. Kanchan writes what she feels. I think it is necessary that she should be satisfied. How can she be forced against her will? But I doubt very much if you two can stay together in the Ashram. It seems to me impossible that you may stay in a house of your own in the Ashram and still refrain from sexual gratification. Kanchan at any rate will not be able to do so. And, knowing you as I do, I can say that you also will not be able to do so. Ramprasad is not an Ashram inmate. He is a paid worker and runs a separate kitchen of his own. Even so, I am not reconciled to their gratification of physical desire. But having engaged him I am helpless. His case, like Niyamat's, should not be cited as a precedent. Think calmly over all this and write to me. I understand about Hiramani.

Blessings from

BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 8443. Also C.W. 5589. Courtesy : Munnalal G. Shah

[1] Of *The Economy of Permanence*, written by the addressee

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172. MESSAGE TO ALL-INDIA SPINNERS' ASSOCIATION, LAHORE

[On or Before *August 12, 1945*][1]

I say 'spin'. Swaraj lies in every thread of yarn. If all Indians spin and come to me I will give them swaraj. Forty crores of people live in India. Leaving children aside, if all the rest spin it will be a great achievement. I have been, therefore, laying stress on spinning. Spinning is not a small thing. This is my message for "Liberty Week". I am not joking. Great power lies latent in spinning.

The Bombay Chronicle, 13-8-1945

173. LETTER TO ARUNA ASAF ALI

SEVAGRAM,
August 12, 1945

DEAR ARUNA[2],

The distress is of your own imagination.[3] I fear that the Maulana's letter was of my doing. There was no question of isolating you from the rest or of expecting you to suppress anything. You were represented as being very ill and so there was a mention of your illness and special urgency of your release. Asaf[4] had no hand in it. So far as I know he came to know of the letter after it was dispatched. Will you not give him and to everyone else the liberty of free thought that you claim for yourself ? I hope you are well.

Love.

BAPU

From the original : Aruna Asaf Ali Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

[1] The report is date-lined "Lahore, August 12".

[2] Member, All-India Congress Socialist Party; was imprisoned during the Quit India movement.

[3] The addressee, in her letter dated August 8, had expressed her deep distress over the special representation made by Abul Kalam Azad to the Viceroy for her release.

[4] Asaf Ali, addressee's husband

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174. LETTER TO PRABHAVATI[1]

August 12, 1945

CHI. PRABHA,

I do not remember whether or not I have dictated a letter to you. If I have not, then four days have gone by [since I received your letter].

You have to come to me when you are free from there. I think that if your services are urgently required just now, you should offer them. Personally I approve of your voluntarily confining your sphere of service to villages.

Even while you are there, you should pick up carding and ginning. Practise them regularly. Read whatever you can get.

I am writing this without your letter in front of me. If, therefore, I have left out any point, let me know.

I will leave here on the 19th, spend a day in Bombay and then take Sardar to Poona on the 21st.

Take care of your health.

I am all right.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 3578

175. LETTER TO VALLABHBHAI PATEL

SEVAGRAM,
August 12, 1945

BHAI VALLABHBHAI,

I got your letter. If God enables us to meet, we shall discuss the matter further in Poona.

I have even written to Maulana Saheb, though not in your fashion. It is a difficult job. There can be no two opinions that before taking any particular step he should consult you all.

What I had written to Jinnah Saheb was final, and, therefore, I cannot do anything different. But you and others have a

[1] The letter is in the Devanagari script.

right to disagree with what I wrote. If you cannot endorse it from your heart, you should declare that openly. I did not speak on anybody's behalf, but merely expressed my own opinion. If I see any error in what I did, I would immediately admit it. You know well enough that he likes nothing that I suggest. But don't worry about it.

New elections must be held. But it is not certain that they will be. If they are held, we shall see. More in Poona.

I can fully understand your inability to come here. Railway travelling is no longer possible for you. Will it be less painful if you fly from Bombay to Poona?

Your last speech[1] was liked by everybody. But I feel that you went too far. But don't mind about that. You just cannot suppress what is on your mind.

I hope Mani will not exert herself too much and fall ill.

Blessings from
BAPU

[From Gujarati]

Bapuna Patro–2 : Sardar Vallabhbhaine, pp. 284-5

176. LETTER TO MUNNALAL G. SHAH

August 12, 1945

CHI. MUNNALAL,

Plan a programme of study for Gajraj[2] and let me know. His studies should be properly attended to. If you wish to ask me anything about this matter, you may do so.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 8439. Also C.W. 5590. Courtesy : Munnalal G. Shah

[1] At Bombay on August 9. The addressee had been earlier released from the Ahmednagar Fort on June 15, 1945.

[2] Son of Hoshiari

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177. LETTER TO SHRIKRISHNADAS JAJU

August 12, 1945

BHAI JAJUJI,

Give a reply after going through this[1]. Send me a copy of it and also the letter.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

178. LETTER TO HAREKRUSHNA MAHTAB

August 12, 1945

BHAI MAHTAB[2],

How are you? You did not even mention in your letter where you were writing from. It is not that the khadi produced in Orissa cannot go out of the province. However, it is true that only a small quantity will be sent out. Be assured that true well-being of Orissa lies only in that. It should not be necessary to write down everything that I have written to you. Understand the new scheme and carry it out.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI H. MAHTAB, M.L.A.
CUTTACK (ORISSA)

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] From Harekrushna Mahtab; *vide* the following item; also p. 124.
[2] President, Utkal P. C. C., 1930 and 1937; member, Congress Working Committee, 1938-46; Chief Minister of Orissa, 1946-50 and 1957-60; Minister, Central Government, 1950-52

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179. LETTER TO NISHITH NATH

August 12, 1945

BHAI NISHITH NATH,

I have your letter. I do not know what I shall be able to do. I shall certainly keep your letter in mind.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 8022

180. LETTER TO PARACHURE SHASTRI

August 12, 1945

BHAI PARACHURE SHASTRI,

I have your letter. Give the song to Prabhakar. It is a well known fact that the word *chakra* is to be found in the Vedas and other texts; also that the word charkha is derived from *chakra*. I have understood the second point.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

181. LETTER TO RATNAMAYI DEVI

August 12, 1945

CHI. RATNAMAYI,

When I received your letter, a doubt arose in my mind. I had believed that you were self-sacrificing and brave and were not scared of living in villages. You should not have waited for my orders. That does not mean that I have ceased to be your well-wisher. But now that you have settled down there, of what help can I be?

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI RATNAMAYI DEVI
MAHILA ASHRAM

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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182. LETTER TO SECRETARY, SUMMERFORD ORCHARD

August 12, 1945

THE MANAGER,

I have received the apples you have sent on behalf of Shri Padampatji. They are good. Thanks.

M. K. GANDHI

SECRETARY, SUMMERFORD ORCHARD
RAMGARH P. O.
DIST. NAINITAL, U. P.

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

183. LETTER TO V. A. SUNDARAM

August 13, 1945

MY DEAR SUNDARAM[1],

You have sent me a beautiful extract. You did mention your visit to Assisi's place. Don't come to me in Poona. Come to Sevagram when I am here.

Love.

BAPU

From a photostat : G.N. 3191

[1] Secretary to Madan Mohan Malaviya. The superscription is in Tamil.

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184. LETTER TO V. LAKSHMI

August 13, 1945

DEAR LAKSHMI,

The sample of yarn is good. I hope you will continue your good work.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

SHRI V. LAKSHMI
43 KARNESWARKOIL
SANTHOME, MYLAPORE, MADRAS

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

185. LETTER TO HARJIVAN KOTAK

August 13, 1945

CHI. HARJIVAN,

I have your letter. You have the zeal, so you will certainly get the work. My mind is working in a different way these days; so I shall not be able to suggest anything. It is very difficult to accommodate you in Poona. So meet me only when I return to Sevagram.

Blessings from
BAPU

HARJIVAN KOTAK
GRAMODYOG GANDHI HAT
AHMEDABAD

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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186. LETTER TO RAMPRASAD

SEVAGRAM,
August 13, 1945

CHI. RAMPRASAD,

I have not given thought to what you should do in my absence. You are not to come to Poona. I wish the child to get well. I understand about Pushpa.

Blessings from
BAPU

C/O SULOCHANA BHATT
145 A, VIGAS SHERI
KALBA DEVI ROAD

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

187. LETTER TO INDUMATI GUNAJI

August 13, 1945

CHI. INDU,

Doctor[1] says you want to say something to me. If it is something confidential you can come at 4 today, if it is not confidential then come at 11.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

You will not invite any outsiders except your brother.

From a photostat of the Hindi : C.W. 10947. Courtesy : Indumati G. Tendulkar

[1] A. G. Tendulkar

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188. LETTER TO JASWANT SINGH

August 13, 1945

SARDARJI,

I have your letter. Your article is interesting.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

SARDAR JASWANT SINGH
VASANT PRESS
DEHRADUN, U. P.

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

189. LETTER TO KRISHNACHANDRA

August 13, 1945

CHI. KRISHNACHANDRA,

What is there so confidential about your letter? You have not understood my point. It is as well. I suggest that you show your letter to Munnalal. If that is the case he should withdraw himself. Anything done just for my sake is to be regarded as futile. Anything that is done has to be right. Only then can it do good.

That was my view about the management. Since I am not aware of everything, the final decision should be taken by those who know all the facts.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 4522

190. LETTER TO Y. M. PARNERKAR

August 13, 1945

CHI. PARNERKAR,

If the manure was lying there because of paucity of labour you should have taken help from the Ashram inmates. You will remember you have asked for such help before. There was no

point in shifting it from one place to another. It can be used for vegetables; but the question is whether it is more useful for the fruit trees or for the vegetables. I felt that your reply was not straight. If we have been negligent it is our duty to own it.

(2) I will myself see about the trees.

(3) I shall be pleased if Shri Patil and his sister-in-law live in the Ashram and work in the Goshala. But have a talk with Munnalalji and write to Patil what he says.

(4) I will certainly like it if Ramnarayan can stay in the Goshala. Ask him whether be wishes to stay or not. I was under the impression that at the moment it is not possible to accommodate him under any circumstances.

(5) Does the Hindustani Talimi Sangh want developed land? I thought it was otherwise. We must give the land. Put down everything in writing and let me know. Let them have it on a nominal rent, for a specific period. Give them the right to return the land.

I think I have replied to all your questions.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI PARNERKAR
GOSHALA
SEVAGRAM

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

191. NOTE TO INDUMATI GUNAJI

[After *August 13, 1945*][1]

Now you can talk. I shall talk if I have to reply. The question is not about . . .[2] at Wardha. The question is what is proper for you. I have not laid down any condition. If you say it is something new, then you may leave it.

You are not a little girl, nor are you an ordinary woman. You are a worker of some standing. Tendulkar is an experienced man. I might join you two in wedlock only to see you lost in family life. Read my letter[3] again; you will not find in it any

[1] From the contents it is evident that this note was written after the letter to the addressee dated August 13, 1945. *Vide* p. 115.

[2] One word is illegible here.

[3] Dated August 10; *vide* p. 103.

condition, only a keen desire on my part. If you have already decided to lead family life, what is the use of going through an Ashram wedding? You do not know the amount of pains I am taking and how much I am thinking about it. In my opinion this is no small matter. Know that I had expressed the same desire in the case of every other wedding. But they were all young girls with the exception of Saundaram. You on the other hand ought to raise more important questions. How will it look if you desired progeny before the coming of independence?

I shall not forbid you from inviting those people if you wish. Will they have to be served a meal here? Tell me after thinking over it.

Show me my letter. Does my language imply a condition?

* * *

This is a different matter. When you say that I laid down a condition which was not there earlier, I maintain that I have stipulated no such condition. This is why I made the inquiry. I can do something only on the assumption that neither of you will be a hypocrite. In the event of hypocrisy I shall not be losing anything; only you two will stand to lose. This has been my experience to date. Those who betrayed me have ultimately fallen.

From a photostat of the Hindi : C.W. 10950. Courtesy : Indumati G. Tendulkar

192. LETTER TO HAMIDULLAH

August 13/14, 1945

HAMIDULLAH SAHEB,

I have your letter. I do not answer every letter. I have understood what you say.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

HAMIDULLAH
59 NAYAGAON
LUCKNOW

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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193. DISCUSSION WITH B. S. MURTHY[1]

[Before *August 14, 1945*][2]

I can give you advice only as from one individual to another. I am not giving any advice to the Harijan Sevak Sangh which is an institution. After all the Harijan Sevak Sangh is only as good as the best men in it and I know how few they are. The Sangh has done substantial work, though not in the estimation of the Harijans or in the estimation of the orthodox Hindus. The Harijans may want to smash the caste Hindus and the caste Hindus may want to cling to the old way. The Sangh has to face both these.

You have asked me how the Sangh can be revitalized. I know the royal way is a fast by me. I might fast again and that more readily for Harijans than for anything else. But I must wait till God asks me to do it. There is no such thing as a forced fast. It has to come and I cannot say now when it will come. I must also tell you that there are others who want to fast for the Harijans. But I have told them that they are not to fast while I am alive. I have also the idea of a chain of fasts. In such a chain I will fast first and then when my body has perished, the next fast will begin and it will go on till untouchability is no more. Such a fast is conceived, but it cannot be taken up at once as I said it has to come. But before even such a thing happens a lot of spade work has to be done. That is why Harijan Sevak Sangh workers are meeting here soon. They are meeting for the very purpose of revitalizing the Sangh's work.

The present feeling among the Harijan Sevak Sangh workers is that practically nothing has been done among caste Hindus. Education of Harijans is one thing; education of *savarnas* is another and as I know more difficult. You can educate Harijans by giving them scholarships, hostels, etc., but no such way is possible among the caste Hindus. The task, therefore, is to educate the *savarnas*. But this can be done only by those who are fired by a living faith in the Hinduism which I understand. Only those who fully

[1] Who had sought Gandhiji's advice on the various problems of Harijans

[2] From the reference to the Harijan Sevak Sangh workers' meeting which was held on August 14, 1945. *Vide* also p. 42.

know the meaning of Hinduism as I know it can perform the miracle. Let us not forget that untouchability is a most difficult thing to remove and that our task is a heavy one. But I have no doubt that God will remove untouchability or remove Hinduism.

Now in regard to your question on the political future of Harijans, I certainly see that those Harijans who have become politically conscious should straightaway have a full opportunity to figure in politics. You have asked me what I mean by saying that I want such Harijans to be more than a match for all other political competitors. Many people weigh the Harijans in some special Harijan balance. But I want to weigh the Harijans in the same balance in which I weigh the best. You have to outweigh others because you have to cover so much lost distance. That is why I expect from the Harijans greater effort than from others.

You have asked me whether Dr. Ambedkar has in my opinion thus proved himself to be more than a match. My answer is 'Yes' and 'No'. Dr. Ambedkar is a fierce and fearless man. He does not scruple to beat the Hindu dog with any stick he can get. He wants to destroy Hinduism. It is open to him to do it. If the Harijans want to do it they can do it. Then the Harijans must become the destroyers of Hinduism. I want Harijans to become as able and earnest as Dr. Ambedkar but in a different way. I want you to do even better. I want you to produce sterling men who will reshape the whole of our society. It is not enough to be educated. It is necessary to be cultured and fearless. Such men who will reshape society will have to work among the people and not cut themselves away from the people. They will have to be stern, incorruptible and self-reliant. There is nothing to prevent such people from taking any assistance from clean quarters. But my point is the more you lean on such assistance, the more difficult becomes the task of uplifting the Harijans.

The Hindu, 21-8-1945 and 31-8-1945

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194. TELEGRAM TO HANUMAN PRASAD PODDAR

SEVAGRAM,
August 14, 1945

HANUMANPRASAD PODDAR
"KALYAN"
GORAKHPUR

INDIANS' PROSPERITY BOUND WITH THAT OF COW AND HER PROGENY.

GANDHI

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

195. LETTER TO GOVERNOR OF BENGAL

SEVAGRAM,
August 14, 1945

DEAR FRIEND,

Many thanks for your letter of 8th instant received yesterday afternoon.

I shall gladly avail myself of your kind offer of assistance, if I need it. Of course I know Mr. Symonds[1] very well.

I am,
Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF BENGAL
CALCUTTA

Gandhiji's Correspondence with the Government, 1944-47, p. 104

[1] Of the Friends Ambulance Unit

196. LETTER TO LALLA MEGHRAJ

SEVAGRAM,
August 14, 1945

DEAR LALLA MEGHRAJ,

Your letter. You should refer the matter to the Maulana Saheb.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

LALLA MEGHRAJ, M.L.A.
ROHRI, SINDH

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

197. LETTER TO J. POPPLETON

August 14, 1945

DEAR FRIEND,

I have your letter. You can see me in Poona after 22nd instant.

Yours truly,
M. K. GANDHI

J. POPPLETON, ESQ.
C/O S.S. "RANCHI"
P. & O. STEAM NAVIGATION COY.
BOMBAY

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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198. LETTER TO KANU GANDHI

[*August 14, 1945*][1]

CHI. KANAM,

I have your letter. Why do you fall ill? Should not the art of not falling ill and, having fallen ill, of getting well again be a part of everybody's study?

Blessings from
BAPU

CHI. KANU GANDHI
C/O SHRI RAMDAS GANDHI
KHALASI LINE, NAGPUR

From a photostat of the Gujarati : C.W. 9519. Courtesy : Kanu Gandhi

199. LETTER TO KRISHNAVARMA

August 14, 1945

BHAI KRISHNAVARMA,

I have your letter. You (and Mama, if you think he is fit and can be brought) should come to Bombay on Monday. I will be observing silence but do not worry about it. I shall spare a few minutes somehow.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

200. LETTER TO VASUMATI PANDIT

August 14, 1945

CHI. VASUMATI,

I have your letter. I shall be leaving on the 19th. After that my programme will be uncertain. As Sardar desires I could spend three months with him and then go to Bengal, then to the Frontier Province and then to Madras. That means I shall have to be away till December. Under these circumstances you

[1] From the postal cancellation mark

can stay with me if you come at the end of December. But that is the time when you are required to stay there.

My blessings to Akbar[1]. I am all right.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

201. LETTER TO DEVRAJ

August 14, 1945

BHAI DEVRAJ,

I have your letter. I am sorry you felt hurt. But I am sorrier that you cannot see what is so obvious.

Blessings from
M. K. GANDHI

SHRI DEVRAJJI
YOGIC PHYSICAL CULTURE INSTITUTE
PLEADER STREET
LYALLPUR, PUNJAB

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

202. LETTER TO HAREKRUSHNA MAHTAB

SEVAGRAM,
August 14, 1945

BHAI MAHTAB,

I had sent your letter to Shri Jajuji. He has written to you. From it you will see that the new [scheme][2] is good from all points of view.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI HAREKRUSHNA MAHTAB
CONGRESS HOUSE
CUTTACK, ORISSA

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Akbar Chavda
[2] Illegible in the source

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203. LETTER TO SHARAD KUMARI

August 14, 1945

CHI. SHARAD KUMARI,

I have your letter. Why should you feel nervous now that you have gone there? Whatever the other girls do, you must maintain simplicity. Spin and learn other crafts. Do not indulge in luxuries but at the same time do not be jealous of others. Love everyone. In the end you will make an impression.

Blessings from
BAPU

C/O THE HEADMISTRESS
CENTRAL HINDU GIRLS SCHOOL
KASHI, U. P.

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

204. LETTER TO V. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR[1]

August 14, 1945

BHAISHRI,

I have your letter. I will try to lay the foundation[2]; but no decision can be taken before I come.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

From a photostat of the Hindi : C.W. 9761. Courtesy : B. Jagannath Das

[1] Ex-Judge of Madras High Court
[2] Of the Harijan Industrial School, Kodambakkam, Madras

205. LETTER TO AMRIT KAUR

August 14, 1945

CHI. AMRIT,

Your two covers. Of course you will come to Poona when you are easily free from all work there.

Can Vaidya Nanak Chand work in Sevagram? What will he need? Has he a family? There may be very little Ayurvedic work for him unless he is really well up in his work.

Sushila is in Nagpur.

Harijan meeting[1] just on. Rameshwari[2] is here.

Love.

BAPU

From the original : C.W. 4164. Courtesy : Amrit Kaur. Also G.N. 7800

206. SPEECH AT CENTRAL BOARD, HARIJAN SEVAK SANGH

WARDHA,
August 14, 1945

Gandhiji said that only caste Hindus and no Harijan should be taken on the Executive of the Sangh, as it was the caste Hindus who had to atone for their sin of prolonging untouchability. Harijans could be members of the supervision committee that might be set up for carrying on the work properly.

Replying to a question, Gandhiji said that he would appreciate the principle of satyagraha for enforcing the civic rights of Harijans in public places like tanks, wells, temples, etc. He, however, emphasized that the Harijan Sevak Sangh as an organization should not be involved in such a satyagraha. Individual Harijan workers might try that remedy with the help of others.

Gandhiji explained to the members how Harijan work was to be carried on. Persistent propaganda for changing the hearts of the orthodox

[1] Of the Central Board of Harijan Sevak Sangh; *vide* the following item.
[2] Rameshwari Nehru, President, Central Board of the Harijan Sevak Sangh

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and caste Hindus, he said, would greatly help to solve the problem of untouchability which was a stigma on Hinduism.

To create confidence among Harijans, Mahatma Gandhi went on, Harijan workers had to live amidst Harijans, mix with them, study their local and other problems and try to solve them to their satisfaction. The workers should live like the Harijans "so that they can feel that you are one of them".

Gandhiji emphasized the need for more intensive work for the uplift of Harijans and called for more workers. It was a very vast work and needed great patience, energy, time and money, he said.

The Hindu, 16-8-1945

207. LETTER TO ABUL KALAM AZAD

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
August 15, 1945[1]

On receipt of your letter today, I sent you the following wire : "Your letter. I think it should not be published. Writing fully."

I do not infer from your letter that you are writing about my 'Hindus'. Whatever you have in your heart has not come in your writing. But do not worry about it. When we meet next we will talk over it if you so desire. Whatever you want to say about the communal problem should not be said without consulting the Working Committee. I am also of the opinion that it would be better to be quiet. The party can give its opinion after consultation with you. They have a right to do so. Besides it is their duty. I differ from your opinion. I cannot say if I attach importance to the words 'Hindu' and 'Mussalman'. Whatever the Congress does is a different thing. At one time I do not like 'Hindu' and at another time I do not like 'Mussalman'. It means there cannot be either. All this needs pondering over. I do not feel the urge for doing anything early[2].

From a copy : C.W. 10551. Courtesy : Government of Madhya Pradesh

[1] This appears in *The Transfer of Power*, Vol. VI, under the date August 16, 1945 with some verbal variations.

[2] *The Transfer of Power* has : "I cannot say if I attach any importance to the Hindu and Muslim (convention). What the Congress may do is another matter. I don't like the idea of a Hindu and a Muslim alternately acting as Head of the State). It means that members of other communities will be barred. All this needs careful pondering over. I do not feel the urge to do anything hastily." The letter was intercepted by the Government.

208. LETTER TO MUNNALAL G. SHAH

August 15, 1945

CHI. MUNNALAL,

I got both your letters. I had sent you Ramnarayan's letter for your information and to know what you might have to say in the matter. What you say is perfectly correct. I certainly do not like to leave the newly arrived girls and go away, but I am helpless. You should know how to make them work. I will try to discuss the matter with Deo.

Ramnarayan will leave on the 18th. You should ponder over Krishnachandra's letter. Why does he and others form such an impression? One should hear what one's co-workers say. One may even sacrifice much for their sake.

It is not that you do not know this.

In hurry,

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 8438. Also C.W. 5591. Courtesy : Munnalal G. Shah

209. LETTER TO VINOBA BHAVE

August 15, 1945

CHI. VINOBA,

I do not believe that agriculture alone will bring self-reliance. We should become self-reliant through the handicrafts we take up. I grant that in the very first year we cannot become self-reliant. However, when we complete the entire process the expenditure and the income should balance. I would not call agriculture a handicraft. But it is an occupation of crores of people. It does not encourage skill but it does give a lot of physical exercise. It has been accorded its rightful place after seven years. It is a sad thing that we have been divided into two groups but that is inevitable. We regard constructive work as a symbol of ahimsa while others look upon it as a means of furthering their work. And that only to the extent that if they can do without it they

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will do so. Even if the intention is good I find lack of wisdom in such an attitude.

Your health causes me worry. You must get rid of your leg trouble. Steam treatment is one of the treatments. Massage is worth trying. I believe that one who neglects the body betrays the soul. Is not the body an abode of the *atman*? And therefore it requires the utmost care.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : Vinoba Bhave Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

210. LETTER TO RAJENDRA PRASAD

WARDHA,
August 15, 1945

BHAI RAJENDRA BABU,

I have your letter. I am sending your letters to Agatha Harrison and Krishna Menon, by air mail. I see from these that all those sentenced to death are classed as political prisoners. Can this view sustain? During the upheaval a few criminals indulged in foul deeds. Can they be described as political? Then what the Huns did in Sind should similarly be described as political. All these things are weighing on my mind. Even so I do not hold back your letter, because I have not been given any choice and it is addressed to Agatha Harrison. The second letter you have forgotten to sign. However, I am forwarding it to Krishna Menon. The truth is that capital punishment is bad in itself and it should be abolished.

I have no hope of anything good coming out of it. We must understand the system. The Viceroy wields supreme power. So if we are not able to achieve anything here we might as well wash our hands of the whole thing. They cannot run the administration in any other way. We should therefore do whatever is possible only here. Our last resort is public opinion. Public opinion, in this matter, is evidently not able to do much and when it does achieve something it is not as effective as it should be. I have stated what can be done about Mahendra Chowdhary after the execution.[1] I hope you have gone through my statement

[1] *Vide* pp. 105-6.

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and will have it implemented in whatever way you can. Something will come of it if competent lawyers take the matter up. Maybe, we shall not be able to save those whom we want to, but we shall have the benefit of it in time to come.

I am very happy to know that your health is good. Do not be in a hurry to get back from there. Do whatever you can from there.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

211. LETTER TO MOHAMMED SALIM

August 15/16, 1945

MOHAMMED SALIM SAHEB,

I have your letter. I had seen what was written to you before. You must know that I have no private money of my own. Therefore please excuse me.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

MOHAMMED SALIM, SHOPKEEPER
BELBAGH, JABALPUR

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

212. ADVICE TO ENGINEERS[1]

[On or before *August 16, 1945*][2]

How useful it would be if the engineers in India were to apply their ability to the perfecting of village tools and machines. This must not be beneath their dignity.

The Hindu, 25-8-1945

[1] & [2] This was given during a talk with Labanya Kumar Chowdhary, an engineer from Sylhet, when he visited Sevagram. He had resigned from the Government service during the 1942 movement. Gandhiji refers to his visit in the letter to P. C. Ghosh dated August 16, 1945; *vide* p. 134.

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213. LETTER TO J. C. KUMARAPPA

SEVAGRAM,
August 16, 1945

MY DEAR KU.,

Your two letters.

The damage to the still is a sorry affair, but I must be held wholly responsible. The still was brought for the sake of Dr. 'Ice'[1]. But it became nobody's business, though the distilled water was produced for Dr. 'Ice's' patients. I was away and the still was mishandled. The slight reparation I can make is to pay in full Rs. 100 or such sum as you may have to pay for a new still, if it is available. You have to make the choice.

For the talk you can come on Saturday at 8.30 p. m. after the prayer or tonight if you get this in time.

Love.

BAPU

PROF. J. C. KUMARAPPA
MAGANWADI
WARDHA

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

214. LETTER TO NARANDAS GANDHI

August 16, 1945

CHI. NARANDAS,

I sent you today a wire as follows : "All agree cotton condition beneficial end. Writing—Bapu."[2] If I could have written to you on the very day that I received your letter, this letter would have reached you at the same time as the wire. But I did not wish to reply to your letter without showing it to others. For, though I had written a long letter to you, you remained convinced in your mind regarding your demand. I did not, therefore, think it proper to write to you

[1] M. S. Kelkar
[2] The wire is quoted in English.

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on my own. Your letter has now been read by Jajuji, Chhaganlal[1], Krishnadas[2] and Kanaiyo. They all agree with me. Jajuji has even written down his view. I send it with this. He has described his own experience. I am confident that a person like you is bound to have the same experience. "Swaraj will be gained through yarn," I said, relying on intuition. But I realize now that intuition is one thing and its confirmation by experience another. And what I have been putting forward now is something different still. Others are having more convincing experience of the same. It is not going to impress me at all even if in Kathiawar khadi worth Rs. 4 lakhs instead of Rs. 2 lakhs is produced and sold. For it could be proved that such production and sale of khadi would only promote the welfare of the poor, and an all-India institution like the Charkha Sangh need not be established merely for that purpose. A co-operative of the poor for producing khadi could be established and more khadi at still lower cost could be produced. But even then that khadi would be of value only as khadi for the poor. It would, one may say, make no contribution to the cause of swaraj. I, therefore, desire that you should have perfect self-confidence and adopt this new method—policy—for khadi and discover from experience that it is khadi for swaraj. It is quite possible that Kathiawar may not accept such khadi. If so, don't mind if no khadi work is done there, for you must be aware that no such work is done in many Indian States. In the same way if no work is done in Kathiawar, either, the cause of khadi for swaraj would not suffer. I go even further and say that in carrying on khadi activity for swaraj, if it ceases to be khadi for the poor, the latter are not going to lose anything for they will be able to earn their bread in some other way. But if khadi supports the poor even while remaining khadi for the swaraj, it would be a credit both to the poor and the cause of swaraj. The poor thereby would have contributed to the winning of swaraj. If I have left any point unexplained, Kanaiyo will explain it when he arrives there.

I hope your health is perfect. If you can leave that place, it might be better for you to come and see me once.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a microfilm of the Gujarati : M.M.U./II. Also C.W. 8628. Courtesy : Narandas Gandhi

[1] Chhaganlal Joshi
[2] Krishnadas Gandhi, son of Chhaganlal Gandhi

215. LETTER TO LAKSHMI NARAYAN AGRAWAL

August 16, 1945

BHAI LAKSHMI BABU,

We cannot accept even one of the three conditions.[1] Even though we believe that it is an inflammatory speech, constructive activity has no relation at all with movements such as that of 1942. Even if we denounce the violent activities of Shri Jayaprakash Narayan, we cannot accept any of these three conditions, that is to say, we cannot compel the workers to respect them. If the independence of India is common cause between us and the Government then what is the meaning of all these differences?

The truth is that the Bihar Government has made a mistake in making the arrests but instead of acknowledging the mistake it wants to put the responsibility on us. We will not accept the responsibility even if they should wipe us out. Let them stop our peaceful activities. We shall still go forward.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] The addressee had written that the Governor of Bihar in his talk with Anugraha Narayan Sinha had said that :

(i) The Government would not allow the constructive workers to make any inflammatory speeches. (ii) The Government would not give any opportunity to the constructive workers to launch a mass movement as that of 1942. (iii) The Government would keep a close watch on the activities of the Congress as none of its members, including Gandhiji, denounced the violent activities of Jayaprakash Narayan.

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216. LETTER TO P. C. GHOSH

August 16, 1945

BHAI PROFULLA BABU,

I have your two letters : one about Labanya Kumar and the other about my going there.

I have met Labanya Kumar and have written about the engineers. He has also seen things here.

Now about my visit. I have said I will go. I have also been told by the Governor that the way is open for my visit. The question now is when I should go. I cannot go before October under any circumstances and as regards October you frighten me. I personally am not frightened but if I am not to go in October it will be very late. So write to me after considering everything. As you must be aware, I have stayed in Calcutta in October and have moved about. Besides, I ask myself why I cannot stay in a place where you all can. I will advise you to see Satis Babu also in this connection. I know it is a tricky matter, but we should be able to do something.

In Calcutta I shall stay in Sodepur. I know Sarat Babu[1] would insist that I should stay with him. You should jointly decide and let me know. I am not going there for a fixed period. I want to lose myself in the misery of Bengal. I want to go to Midnapore and also to Chittagong. I do not know how far the body will carry. Also I shall not be able to put up with undisciplined crowds and constant noise.

Do not go on saying 'yes' to everybody. Meet the persons whom you have to meet and let me know. Meet Sudhir Ghosh also. I have come to know him quite well and he has something to do with my going there. He works with the Tatas.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Sarat Chandra Bose

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217. LETTER TO SUSHILA GANDHI

[Before *August 18, 1945*][1]

It certainly is.[2] But I learnt the fact only today. I did know about his marriage in Germany. But, though married, he had become as good as one not married. That he is going to marry for the third time, I learnt only now and from you. You told Abha and she told me. Nevertheless I attach great value to a promise and, therefore, for the sake of the promise, this knowledge notwithstanding, I will get them married. However, I do realize from this case that one should make no promises. But this is like inquiring about a man's caste after drinking water at his place. But do we not have the other saying, too, that it is morning whenever one wakes up?

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G. N. 4955

218. LETTER TO DR. A. G. TENDULKAR

August 18, 1945

MY DEAR TENDULKAR,

Many are protesting to me that I am officiating at your marriage tomorrow. Among them are Manilal and now his wife. She tells me that this will be your third marriage, though I believe in one man one wife and *vice versa* for all time. I know about your new German wife but nothing about your previous wife. My son says none of my ideals will be realized in this union and that neither you nor Indu will carry out my wish that you may not procreate during the country's dependence. I have told them that I cannot go back on my promise which is not in itself

[1] From the contents it is evident that this letter was written before the letter to Dr. A. G. Tendulkar dated August 18, 1945; *vide* the following item.

[2] The addressee had asked Gandhiji whether it was not against his ideal to contemplate giving Indumati in marriage to a person who had been married twice before.

immoral or not for a manifestly immoral purpose. Therefore the promise shall be fulfilled (D. V.). But you will please give me such answer as you can.

Now for your preparation for tomorrow :

(1) Both should fast till the marriage tie is formed, fruits may be taken.
(2) You will both read 12th Chapter of *Gita* and contemplate its meaning.
(3) Each will clean up separate plots of ground with measure.
(4) Each will tend cows in the Goshala.
(5) Each will clean up the well side.
(6) Each will clean a closet well.
(7) Each will spin daily and do all these with the intention so far as possible of carrying out these *yajnas* daily.

BAPU

From a photostat : C.W. 10954. Courtesy : Indumati N. Tendulkar

219. YARN DONATION

We all know that Shri Narandas Gandhi is a dedicated votary of khadi. He has such great faith in khadi that he sees *Daridranarayana* in it. He therefore spins for many hours a day. He has also given a prominent place to spinning in the national school conducted by him at Rajkot. For the last many years he has been collecting both yarn and money for the "Charkha Dwadashi"[1]. This time he has carried the *sutra yajna* a long way and he has expressed his wish to the country that not only spinning but donating of yarn should catch on. Everyone can participate in it. It should be borne in mind that he does not insist that the yarn should be donated to him only. It can be given to All-India Spinners' Association as well. What he wants is that people should now give yarn donations freely and that he should be supplied with figures as to the quantity of yarn spun all over India and the quantity of yarn donated. To provide information to the public it is enough if these figures are sent to the All-India Spinners' Association office. However, the activity will gain impetus if figures are sent to the person who has conceived the idea, has struggled for it and has fostered the activity. If the figures are sent to him, he will have a clear picture of the

[1] Gandhiji's birthday according to the Vikram calendar

work done and his planning and knowledge will prove very useful to all for further progress of work.

Every year he seeks my consent for whatever work he does. This year I thought it proper to accept only yarn donations and suggested it to him accordingly. I have visualized yarn currency and have called Chi. Narandas its banker. I believe that he has the right ability and purity for that kind of work. It is possible that at present the yarn will not fulfil all the requirements of the currency. But our aim today is to increase the number of spinners from the standpoint of non-violent swaraj.

An experiment to make yarn a currency was made locally at Nalwadi. Another experiment is going on in Bezwada. However the ideas behind the two experiments were different. The experiment can be extended to cover the whole of India. Only one year will be required for such currency to come into force. Every home will then become a mint. But it is only an idea today. For the time being all the spinners will produce currency in the form of yarn and will give that away in donation. Every branch of the All-India Spinners' Association will collect such donations. The yarn will belong to the All-India Spinners' Association. Only the account will be sent to Chi. Narandas. The ownership will be that of the All-India Spinners' Association. Narandas will be the custodian of the yarn sent to him directly or collected by himself. It will be utilized and distributed with my permission. The money and the yarn collected by Chi. Narandas every year is distributed with my permission. It will be the same this year also.

This year the idea of cash collection has been given up. However, cash will be received from those who want to give it but the All-India Spinner's Association will not make any arrangement for its collection. The same rule applies to Chi. Narandas. The aim will be to collect only yarn donations.

Whatever yarn the All-India Spinners' Association collects will be its capital. From now on it will not collect cash for carrying on its activities but will manage with yarn only.

The yarn thus collected will not be sold. But the khadi made from it will be sold. Yarn will be taken but not given. Only the things made from it will be given and sold.

The rule already exists of taking a certain amount of yarn when selling khadi but at some places the practice has been started of giving khadi in exchange for the full quantity of yarn. In spite of that the effort will be to have only yarn donations on the occasion of Charkha Jayanti. However, I want that besides khadi

other articles of village industries should be made available in exchange for yarn. But that can be realized only when we take the final step. At the moment I have presented the idea of yarn currency only in its initial form. It is easy for accounting and the capital of yarn increases not by interest but by the labour of the spinner. If the people understand this scheme then yarn will become an instrument for the production of goods worth crores of rupees. Physical labour will become the capital and will easily be able to compete with capitalists.

SEVAGRAM, August 18, 1945
[From Hindi]
Khadi Jagat, September 1945

220. LETTER TO VINOBA BHAVE[1]

SEVAGRAM,
August 18, 1945

CHI. VINOBA,

. . . I shall look into the Nayee Talim matter. Ashadevi is not here at present.

I have not a full copy of the *Ramayana* as abridged by me but I send you a marked copy of the *Ramayana* from which you will be able to know the principles on which I had worked. As far as possible I have tried to retain the historical or narrative portion unbroken. Some of the interpolations are useful by themselves, but still I have dropped them altogether. I have also dropped any matter which had been over-lengthened as also such portions as appeared to me unnecessary for the narrative. I have also generally removed portions where woman is referred to in derogatory terms. But I have kept some portions of it just to indicate the mind of Tulsidas. So far as I can remember at the moment, these are the principles I worked upon. But you are intelligent enough to discover any other principle not mentioned here from the marks in the book.

Failure has compelled me to do what I was not prepared to do by persuasion. I mean that I have commenced from yesterday

[1] K. G. Mashruwala, while publishing the letter in *Harijan*, withheld the first portion of it as not being "absolutely relevant to the present discussion". The original letter in Gujarati is not available.

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the recitation of *Gitai*[1] in place of the Sanskrit *Gita*. I realized that nobody learnt Sanskrit. The same old members are there, but even they do not or are unable to study Sanskrit even to the extent of understanding the *Gita*. Moreover, they were unable to recite it in chorus, and what pained me more was the fact that though the recitation of the whole of the *Gita* was confined to the morning prayer, still some members walked out as soon as the recitation began. On making an enquiry into the cause of this, I found that it was very trivial. I did not know it before. I found it out only the day before yesterday, and I immediately came to the conclusion that perhaps interest in the *Gita* might be created more quickly if it was recited in Hindi, Marathi or Gujarati since the people would understand its meaning more easily. I have commenced with *Gitai* because Marathi holds the place of prominence in this part. So far as the members attending the morning prayer are concerned, they are so few that it would not matter much which language I chose. But the music of *Gitai* has been felt by me to be very sweet. Maybe, the reason for this is that I have heard it several times recited by Shivaji[2] and I have liked it. Kishorelal's (Gujarati) translation is there but I have not yet been able to assimilate its music. I have not heard anyone reciting it in a sweet tone. I got an opportunity of hearing it at Bardoli but it was insufficient, and my ear could not adapt itself to it. Haribhau[3] has published the Hindi *Gita* recently. But I have not yet been able even to examine it and so did not like to touch it. Therefore, I have commenced with *Gitai*.

The immediate cause for writing this is that I happened to see Shivaji yesterday. If he is going to stay here for some time, it would please me if he can be induced to give at least a week to the Ashram just now during the period of the commencement of this recitation. He can train those who desire in reciting it in the same manner as he does, and pick up his music.

Blessings from
BAPU

Harijan, 16-5-1948

[1] Metrical rendering of the *Gita* in Marathi by the addressee; literally, '*Gita* the Mother'.

[2] Addressee's younger brother

[3] Haribhau Upadhyaya

221. LETTER TO SHRIMAN NARAYAN

August 18, 1945

CHI. SHRIMAN,

I did take up your book[1] to read but could not complete it. You are leaving tomorrow morning. I shall not be able to send it before that. I shall send it from either Poona or Bombay. It will be good if you can come to Poona at an early date.

Blessings from
BAPU

[From Hindi]

Panchven Putrako Bapuke Ashirvad, p. 307

222. NOTE TO KRISHNANATH SHARMA

August 19, 1945

You need not come with me or to me anywhere else. I have understood your position[2]. It must be placed before the Working Committee.

M. K. GANDHI

From a photostat : G.N. 8235

223. LETTER TO SARALA DEVI CHOWDHARANI

August 19, 1945

MY DEAR SARLA,

Dipak[3] gives me a sorrowful account of you. Disease like birth and death is part of us. May you have the strength to suffer what comes as your lot.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] *Gandhian Constitution*

[2] Concerning the situation in Assam about which the addressee had sought Gandhiji's advice

[3] Dipak Dutt, addressee's son. *Vide* also p. 143.

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224. LETTER TO KANJI J. DESAI

August 19, 1945

BHAI KANJI,

I liked your letter to Pushpa. She is getting on well. I have been telling her that if at all she is inclined she should go ahead and marry Vrajlal, and bring you peace. But she is firm. She certainly has respect for you. I am sure she will not tarnish your name. She will bring credit to you if she remains firm in her resolve and at the same time merges herself in God. I would advise you to encourage her to stick to her decision. I want you not to be unhappy.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

225. LETTER TO MUNNALAL G. SHAH

August 19, 1945

CHI. MUNNALAL,

1. Kanchan does desire sexual pleasure. You also have the desire. It would not be anything strange if you lived together and satisfied your desire. Self-suppression is not going to help. Hence do what you feel is natural for you. Thwarting Kanchan's desire will harm her. She is good and has the spirit of service. She will lose both these things in the end.
2. Let Hiramani go on as she is doing till Ashadevi arrives.
3. Read Parnerkar's letter and have a talk with him. About the farm, too, do what is necessary. Take Kishorelal's help.
4. About Krishnachandra you will have to think. Talk with him frankly and with love regarding his habit of eating and about other matters, too. You should think about your temperamental differences.
5. Let the yarn spun by me be handed over to the Ashram. Get that much quantity spun by me when I arrive there. If the other people spin from the Ashram cotton, the yarn should be credited to the Ashram. What we spin is of course for the Ashram.

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6. Whenever you wish to ask me anything about the women, you may do so.

7. You will be able to improve your singing with effort. If you have no time for that, you need not join in the singing at all.

8. Run classes for the *Gitai* and nothing else.

9. About the expenses here, it is all right that you have bought the ticket. I will not be able to judge better in this matter.

10. Sankaranji may, if he wishes, cook his own meals if he cannot keep good health otherwise.

11. Ramachandran is there only for a short period.

12. The library books can be kept together. Those who want books may ask for them and afterwards return them in good condition.

13. About Ramanbhai, as Kishorelalbhai advises.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : C.W. 5914. Courtesy : Munnalal G. Shah

226. LETTER TO MUNNALAL G. SHAH

August 19, 1945

CHI. MU[NNALAL],

I do not insist that you should conduct classes for the *Gitai* if you do not wish, but I think you are making a mistake.

[2.] I send with this . . .'s[1] letter. The problem about manure in the garden remains.

3. If what I have been saying regarding Kanchan is not correct, do what you think is right, but don't put off the decision.

4. About Ramanbhai as you wish.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : C.W. 5916. Courtesy : Munnalal G. Shah

[1] Omission as in the source

227. LETTER TO DIPAK DUTT CHOWDHARY

August 19, 1945

CHI. DIPAK,

I have your letter. It is good you let me know. You will have arranged whatever treatment was possible. What else can we do? The result is in God's hands, is it not? What are you doing?

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

228. LETTER TO JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

ON WAY TO BOMBAY,
August 19, 1945

CHI. JAWAHARLAL,

I have received your letter. I know a little bit about the Kashmir branch of the Charkha Sangh. I do not know why the dispensary has been closed down. It is just as well that you wrote to me. I have sent a copy of the letter to Jaju. I am on my way to Bombay. From there I shall go to Poona taking Sardar with me. I cannot say how long I shall be staying there. I shall write again when I hear from Jajuji.

The Kashmir trip was bound to do you good.

What was the attack on Maulana Saheb?

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original : Gandhi-Nehru Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

229. HOW TO DO IT?

The A. I. V. I. A. has not shown the results it might have. I have often asked myself that question. I try now and here to think aloud and confer with the workers to see what can be done.

We lazily copy the Congress and set up committees and think that we shall thereby popularize and advance the craft of the

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villages. We forget that the Congress, being a democratic body, must work democratically and through committees set up by the people from [among] themselves. On the other hand, the A.I.V.I.A. and like bodies are self-formed to work out particular purposes often requiring high technical skill. They collect money from those who appreciate the particular purpose and become trustees for the money to be used therefor. We collect and study the literature on the subject. We look about for and employ experts and if there are none become experts ourselves. The work will make progress in exact proportion to our knowledge, earnestness and industry. The work itself may be unpopular or unknown. We have then to make it popular or known. Such associations all over the world must work whether in countries democratically or autocratically governed. In either case they must work under patronage or in the teeth of opposition. The system of work will be identical under either autocracy or democracy. With us the A. I. S. A., the A. I. V. I. A., the Hindustani Talimi Sangh, etc., though autonomous, are creations of the Congress and, therefore requiring enthusiastic support of all Congressmen and, to the extent that Congressmen represent all India, of Indians throughout the land. But before this can happen we must dot India with experts of the type wanted. Therefore, the first thing is to have a central body of honest experts. There is no other royal road to success. Committees or even agents can show no results unless they are experts who know their work. Can an M.A., however brilliant he may be, introduce, say, the charkha among the villagers, or *gur*-making from palm trees or manure-making from village refuse including human excreta and cattle dung? We must have experts in these and such other branches. If we had our own government, however inefficient, we would have technical institutes where every one of the useful activities now going on or which were going on even yesterday in the 7,00,000 villages could be studied. Unfortunately, we have not. Hence our associations have also to be such institutes in addition to becoming propagandists. But before we can become the latter, we have to become the former. If I have drawn a correct picture, let us mend even though the mending may be difficult and even hurtful to our pride.

ON THE TRAIN TO BOMBAY, August 20, 1945

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal. Also *Gram Udyog Patrika*, Vol. I, pp. 368-9

230. FOREWORD TO "THE ECONOMY OF PERMANENCE"

Like his brochure on the *Practice and Precepts of Jesus*, Dr. Kumarappa's on *The Economy of Permanence* is a jail production. It is not as easy to understand as the first. It needs careful reading twice or thrice if it is to be fully appreciated. When I took up the manuscript I was curious to know what it could contain. The opening chapter satisfied my curiosity and led me on to the end without fatigue and yet with profit. This doctor of our village industries shows that only through them we shall arrive at the economy of permanence in the place of that of the fleeting nature we see around us at present. He tackles the question—shall the body triumph over and stifle the soul or shall the latter triumph over and express itself through a perishable body which, with its few wants healthily satisfied, will be free to subserve the end of the imperishable soul? This is "Plain living and high thinking".

M. K. GANDHI

ON THE TRAIN TO BOMBAY, August 20, 1945

The Economy of Permanence

231. TELEGRAM TO DIPAK DUTT CHOWDHARY

BOMBAY,
August 20, 1945

DIPAK CHOWDHARY
8/1 NEW ROAD
ALIPORE, CALCUTTA

GLAD MOTHER PASSED AWAY FROM PAIN TO PEACE LEAVING YOU FREE TO SHOULDER RESPONSIBILITY TO COUNTRY. WROTE YOU YESTERDAY.[1] LOVE.

BAPU

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] *Vide* p. 143.

232. LETTER TO J. C. KUMARAPPA

BIRLA HOUSE,
BOMBAY,
August 20, 1945

MY DEAR KU.,

Here is your manuscript, my foreword[1] and my article[2]. If possible all will go by registered post. The article and the foreword have been carefully written. You may go without anything from me if you disapprove of the article. You have to master at least one craft and acquire a workable knowledge of Hindustani. You can easily make time for both; have your letter-head in Nagari and Urdu scripts adding the Roman if you like. On the existing ones have rubber stamps for Urdu and Nagari.

Love.

In haste,

BAPU

From a photostat : G.N. 10178

233. LETTER TO CHIMANLAL N. SHAH

BOMBAY,
August 20, 1945

CHI. CHIMANLAL,

You were in my thoughts on the journey. Do not force yourself to do anything. Work done willingly gives satisfaction and peace. It is enough if we perform our dharma whether Sharda[3] stays or leaves. Remain cheerful and look after your health.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] *Vide* p. 145.
[2] *Vide* pp. 143-4.
[3] Sharda G. Chokhawala, addressee's daughter, married to Gordhandas Chokhawala

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234. LETTER TO KISHORELAL G. MASHRUWALA

August 20, 1945

CHI. KISHORELAL,

I slept for a long time, and liked it. There were no crowds to pester us on the way. Everyone managed to have some sleep.

It is of course drizzling here. It was good you did not come. If the Poona weather is dry I will send you word to come over. For the present render what help you can there. There are so many problems, small but very delicate. There is the question of the Ashram farm. Munnalal believes that Parnerkar is not able to manage it. Please look into it.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

235. LETTER TO MUNNALAL G. SHAH

August 20, 1945

CHI. MUNNALAL,

We arrived here safely. You should not worry. Have a heart-to-heart talk with Krishnachandra. See Parnerkar about the Ashram farm. Have a talk with Kishorelalbhai. Who is to look after the orchard? It must be kept in good condition. Settle the question of manure. If Parnerkar is short of labour, the Ashram inmates should fill the gap as they did once before. Take care of Hoshiari's son and also Hoshiari. Both of them should bloom there.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 8432. Also C.W. 5592. Courtesy : Munnalal G. Shah

236. LETTER TO PUSHPA K. DESAI

August 20, 1945

CHI. PUSHPA,

Get fully engrossed in your work there. Take care of your body. If you look upon it as God's abode, you will see Him in the true sense.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 9261

237. LETTER TO SHARDA AND GORDHANDAS CHOKHAWALA

August 20, 1945

CHI. BABUDI,

You fall ill and cause everyone anxiety. Keep on repeating Ramanama, get well and sing in praise of Ramanama. Chimanlal longs to go to you, but his duty to the Ashram prevents him. You can dictate a letter for him if you can sincerely tell him that you are calm and do not wish for his presence. Shakaribehn's[1] presence there should be enough for you. I hope she is well and happy.

CHI. GORDHANDAS,

Write to me at Poona.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : C.W. 10059. Courtesy : Sharda G. Chokhawala

[1] Sharda Chokhawala's mother

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238. LETTER TO HOSHIARI

August 20, 1945

CHI. HOSHIARI,

You will have recovered by now. Both of you should drink plenty of pure water. Read a lot. Write neatly in ink every day. Show it to me when I come. Preserve all that you write. The boy should also write. He should also work and spin.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

239. LETTER TO Y. M. PARNERKAR

August 20, 1945

CHI. PARNERKAR,

Have a talk with Kishorelalbhai about the Ashram farm. I do not understand why the inmates of the Ashram now refuse to work for you. You must consider the Goshala as your own. Is there any difficulty in your looking after the Ashram farm? Is there a wolf at large? A search should be made for it. Someone should be on the watch. Now I consider it our dharma to destroy such animals. It will be a different thing if we discover an alternative.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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240. LETTER TO P. C. JOSHI

BIRLA HOUSE,
MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD,
BOMBAY,
August 21, 1945

DEAR JOSHI,

Advocate Bhulabhai Desai handed me the enclosed opinion yesterday. It is, as you will see, based on the papers I gave him at your instance some time ago.[1]

Having had the opinion, you have the right to publish it for what it may be worth. The news, almost daily poured into my ears by Congressmen to the effect that the Party is unscrupulous in its methods and that it even resorts to violence, makes it difficult for me to accept the opinion which is after all based on the papers that were in my possession on the date they were handed to the Advocate. But I cannot judge the Party on one-sided evidence. Nor have I the leisure to shoulder the burden of studying the evidence in a manner that would enable me to form an opinion.

The bitterness between the Party and Congressmen, so far as I am aware, is growing. The best course perhaps is for you to consider the position in the light of Congressmen's opinion about the Party and then do what may appear best to you.

If you propose to publish the enclosed you will please publish this too together with it.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

Encl. 1

SHRI P. C. JOSHI
RAJ BHUWAN
SANDHURST ROAD, BOMBAY 4

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] *Vide* footnote 4, p. 3.

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241. LETTER TO CHANDRANI

August 21, 1945

CHI. CHAND,

I have your letter. How can I go on writing to you? I do want to write but there is so much work.

Keep yourself fit; only then will you be able to do everything.

Only Sushilabehn or your own heart can tell whether you should do the full course of nursing. The main thing is your own inclination. Do not take the decision in a hurry, but once you take a decision you must stick to it.

We are going to Poona today.

Blessings from
BAPU

CHAND
NAGPUR

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

242. LETTER TO RAMACHANDRA RAO

August 21, 1945

BHAI RAMACHANDRA RAO,

I have your letter. It is not proper to order a charkha from outside. You must get one made there. In the mean time use a *takli*. Understand the full meaning of spinning.

Blessings from
BAPU

RAMACHANDRA RAO
MADURA

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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243. LETTER TO PRAYAG DUTT SHUKLA

August 21, 1945

BHAI PRAYAG DUTT,

Pandit Hrishikeshji did not come or see me. His wife saw me. Please write to me. I am going to Poona today. I shall be staying in Dr. Dinshaw Mehta's Arogya Bhavan.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

PRAYAG DUTT SHUKLA
SITABURDI
NAGPUR

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

244. LETTER TO AMRITLAL V. THAKKAR

August 21/22, 1945

BAPA,

It seems your letter has got lost in my papers. All of a sudden I remembered what it contained, though I cannot recall the whole letter. You are not to work as a clerk at all. That is why I sent the message that I would send Valjibhai's son. However, that is an old story. Do employ a clerk of your choice and devote the time you save to more important work. I very much like the idea of introducing Hindustani in the office and in the books. Let those who want English go on demanding it. If we cannot or do not introduce such reforms, we shall be betraying the country as well as the Harijans.

There was one thing in my mind which I forgot. Shyamlal on his own has reduced his salary by Rs. 100. I like the decision but what is surprising about it? I have thanked him for it.[1] But I wanted to inform the general body and thank him at the meeting. However, I could not do that, but you may, as Secretary of the organization, inform the members and add that the President had thanked him as soon as he got the news; that he

[1] *Vide* p. 28.

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wanted to announce it at the meeting but forgot; and that he had therefore written to you to inform everyone. Write something on these lines.

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

245. LETTER TO AMRITLAL T. NANAVATI

MEHTA AROGYA BHAVAN, POONA,
August 22, 1945

CHI. AMRITLAL,

Chi. Abha is going to appear for the examination. If she has to go to Bombay she can appear for it there. However, if you appoint Dr. Sushila Nayyar as the examiner she can appear from here and expense can be avoided. You will have to send the question paper, as also the necessary instructions. I hope you are well.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI AMRITLAL NANAVATI
GUJARAT VIDYAPITH
AHMEDABAD

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

246. LETTER TO NARAHARI D. PARIKH

POONA,
August 22, 1945

CHI. NARAHARI,

I read that article in Bombay itself. I did not wish to suggest any changes and so I did not write.

Vanamala is quite cheerful. Manu also, I would say, is all right. The news has reached her. Let us see how it affects her. I met Mathuradas. He was happy.

I hope you are getting good help from Manibhai.

Write to me about Vina.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : S.N. 9136

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247. LETTER TO TRIBHUVANDAS SHAH

August 22, 1945

BHAI TRIBHUVANDAS[1],

I have received your books. I have gone through your instructions. The big question is when I shall be able to read those books. I very much wish to but a man can never fulfil all his wishes. Isn't it baffling?

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

DR. TRIBHUVANDAS SHAH
BARODA

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

248. LETTER TO Y. M. PARNERKAR

August 22, 1945

CHI. PARNERKAR,

I believe that you understand Gujarati and can read it with ease. Let me know if it is not so. Have this read out to you. Do something about the wolf. The manure heap should go. The Goshala should become an ideal goshala. Keep the place perfectly clean. Our water should be drinkable. Mosquitoes and flies should easily go. The roads should be in good condition. The hill is in our possession. Those who go for walks there should bring stones from there. Do you know that in this way I had made a mountain of stones in the Mahila Ashram? All of it came in useful there.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Author of *Prachin Hindustan*

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249. LETTER TO KISHORELAL G. MASHRUWALA

August 22, 1945

CHI. KISHORELAL,

It was really good that I did not bring you along or you did not come. It was drizzling when we arrived here. It is cold and also humid here. The weather is cloudy. The place is crowded too. Sardar has of course taken rooms for you in the mill area nearly. But of what use are they ? I will write to you if the weather becomes dry. Do not worry about my work. Sushila, Manilal, Narayan and others help me. They will to some extent make up for your absence.

A letter to Ramnarayan is enclosed. Please send it to his address. He must have given it to someone in the Ashram.

Hope you and Gomati[1] are well.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

250. LETTER TO RAMNARAYAN CHOWDHARY

August 22, 1945

CHI. RAMNARAYAN,

I have gone through the English part of what you have sent. Why did you have to write in English? Hindustani would have been sufficient. The English needs improvement. You must leave that to others. I shall try to read the Hindustani also. I shall read the scheme of Goseva Sangh also before getting it published. Show it to Parnerkar and Satis Babu and, if possible, to a veterinarian. I had a few pages read out to me by Sushilabehn. She has pointed out some technical mistakes. The treatment of the subject matter is good. You have said in brief all that you could say. If I want to return it shall I send it to Ahmedabad? I understand that you have not kept a copy.

You suggest boycotting the buffalo. This you will not have got from my writings. My view is that our preference should be

[1] Addressee's wife

for the cow. Doing this will save both. At present there is shortage of milk, so we need both. Preferring the cow saves both, preferring the buffalo destroys both.

I hope all of you are well.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI RAMNARAYANJI
AHMEDABAD

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

251. LETTER TO VINA CHATTERJEE

August 22, 1945

CHI. VINA,

I often think of you. I hope you are well there. Now it is obligatory for you to get well and remain well. I hope you are cheerful. Sailen will be well. Abha is with me.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

252. TELEGRAM TO DIPAK DUTT CHOWDHARY

August 23, 1945

DIPAK CHOWDHARY
8/1 NEW ROAD
ALIPORE, CALCUTTA

MY PRESENCE IMPOSSIBLE. DO BEST YOU CAN.

BAPU

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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253. LETTER TO ANNE MARIE PETERSEN

POONA,
August 23, 1945

MY DEAR MARIA[1],

Your half angry and half loving letter. Why are you so foolish as to take in what a third party says? Kasturba[2] is a wholly non-sectarian organization. Who was the third party who gave you to understand that only Hindus could apply? The thing has to come before me. It has not yet. If you have applied send me a copy of the application too. You know that Aryanayakum is a Christian? Raihana Tyabji is a trustee. So much for the Trust.

When there is independence, why should you fear the majority? If you have God with you and the majority have not, should you still fear? And if both have God between them who should fear whom? Is there then any question of majority and minority?

Let us pray.

Love.

BAPU

MISS MARIA PETERSEN
SEVA MANDIR
PORTO NOVO (S. I.)

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] The addressee, a former member of the Danish Mission, had founded an ashram—a school for girls—at Porto Novo.

[2] Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust

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254. LETTER TO SHYAMLAL

August 23, 1945

BHAI SHYAMLAL,

Herewith the correspondence with Miss Petersen. Let me know if you have some papers of hers.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI SHYAMLAL
BAJAJWADI
WARDHA

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

255. LETTER TO RADHA GANDHI

August 23, 1945

CHI. RADHIKA[1],

I have your letter. It is all right that you sent a telegram. I am sorry to know that Santok[2] is not well. I was expecting you all.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI RADHA GANDHI
PLOT 601 E, VINCENT ROAD
MATUNGA, BOMBAY

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Daughter of Maganlal Gandhi, who was married to Dipak Dutt Chowdhary

[2] Addressee's mother

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256. LETTER TO ANAND T. HINGORANI

August 23, 1945

CHI. ANAND,

I have your letter. You have to go inward to the heart and find peace there. What is the use of the peace you may find with me and which may then be lost? Stay on there, doing what you can and be at peace.

Sushilabehn is in Bombay at present. She will be coming today or tomorrow.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a microfilm of the Hindi : Courtesy : National Archives of India and Anand T. Hingorani

257. LETTER TO GHANSHYAM SINGH GUPTA

August 23, 1945

BHAI GHANSHYAM SINGH,

I received your letter here. I have gone through it. How long can I go on pointing out the mistakes? I am of the opinion that you should do whatever you can. Now Deshbandhu and Brijlal have gone there. Let us see what they do. After that you can come to me if you want to. I would advise you to do on your own what you feel is proper.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

After writing the above I got your letter. I have made some corrections. You may make them if you think they are proper and send it.

BAPU

SHRI GHANSHYAM SINGH GUPTA
SPEAKER, DRUG (C. P.)

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

258. LETTER TO DR. GOPICHAND BHARGAVA

August 23, 1945

BHAI GOPICHAND,

Read this and tell me what is the truth.
I have not given any reply to Lalchandji.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. GOPICHAND BHARGAVA
LAHORE

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

259. LETTER TO MADHAVI KUTTI AMMA NAYANAR

August 23, 1945

DEAR SISTER,

Nanavati spoke to me about you. If you must come, do so after I return to Sevagram but please write to me first.

Blessings from
M. K. GANDHI

SMT. MADHAVI KUTTI AMMA NAYANAR
MEENAKSHI VILAS
OTTAPALAM, MALABAR

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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260. LETTER TO SUSHILA PURI

August 23, 1945

CHI. SUSHILA PURI,

I have your letter. Study well, serve the people and do whatever Mother tells you to do.

Blessings from
M. K. GANDHI

SHRI SUSHILA PURI
DEEP NIVAS
40 NISBAT ROAD
LAHORE

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

261. LETTER TO AMRIT KAUR

POONA,
August 24, 1945

CHI. AMRIT,

Your two letters at the same time.

What a tragedy you have related !!!

Subhas Bose has died well.[1] He was undoubtedly a patriot though misguided.

Your gum has caused much trouble. I blame the dentist. Do let me know the train you will come by.

P[yarelal] is in Bombay. S[ushila] will tell you all about him.

Love.

BAPU

From the original : C.W. 3698. Courtesy : Amrit Kaur. Also G.N. 6507

[1] Subhas Chandra Bose had been reported dead in an air crash on August 23, 1945.

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262. LETTER TO C. P. RAMASWAMI AIYAR

August 24, 1945

DEAR FRIEND,

I thank you for your letter. The "Selection" has not yet been received. I suppose, it will be in due course.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

SIR C. P. RAMASWAMI AIYAR
DIWAN SAHEB
SHAKHIVILAS
TRIVANDRUM

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

263. LETTER TO LAWRENCE MCKENNER

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA (INDIA),
August 24, 1945

DEAR FRIEND,

"The Kingdom of God is Within You" is all-sufficient. Follow it out in action and you need nothing else. But if you will read anything of Hinduism, read Swami Vivekanand's works to be had there.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

LAWRENCE MCKENNER JR.
2132 HIGH ST.
OAKLAND 1, CALIFORNIA

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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264. LETTER TO GROVER

August 24, 1945

DEAR GROVER,

You will pardon me for keeping your wire unanswered so long. You should blame my hesitation and preoccupation for the delay.

I know the answer but I cannot give it just now at least. The world is not in a hurry to know my views. I therefore return your prepaid slip to enable you to collect the unused deposit.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

265. LETTER TO AMRITLAL T. NANAVATI

August 24, 1945

CHI. AMRITLAL,

I received your letter yesterday. I showed it to Kaka and he will write to you. Vanamala is here and she says she is also an examiner. This time there are a good number of candidates.

My going to Bengal is uncertain. My stay here will be for about three months. I have written to the widow of Nayar that she can come to Sevagram when I go there. I shall have to go to Madras in December.

Blessings to you and Maganlal from
BAPU

SHRI AMRITLAL NANAVATI
GUJARAT VIDYAPITH
AHMEDABAD
B. B. & C. I. RLY.

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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266. LETTER TO MESSRS BACHHARAJ & CO., LTD.

NATURE CURE CLINIC,
6 TODIWALA ROAD,
POONA,
August 24, 1945

DEAR SIRS,

Please find enclosed herein the following two cheques:

(1) No. KC 72666 for Rs. 500 (Rs. five hundred) on the Bank of India, Ltd., Kalbadevi Branch.
(2) No HO 783627 on the Central Bank of India, Ltd., for Rs. 101 (Rs. one hundred one).

The above two cheques are to be credited to Sevagram account. Please acknowledge receipt of same.

Yours truly,

Encls. 2 cheques
MESSRS BACHHRAJ & CO., LTD.
51 MAHATMA GANDHI ROAD, BOMBAY

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

267. LETTER TO CHIMANLAL N. SHAH

August 24, 1945

CHI. CHIMANLAL,

Sharda is in the hands of God, and He will do what He pleases. It seems she has both typhoid and malaria. If she is destined to live, she will survive.

Kelkar's[1] letter is enclosed. Provide for the expenses on account of the two patients, as he says, in excess of the amount already sanctioned for him. Can pay. . .[2] is for three months.

The doctor may go to Akola.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 10640

[1] M. S. Kelkar
[2] Some words are illegible here.

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268. LETTER TO M. S. KELKAR

August 24, 1945

BHAI KELKAR,

Yours of the 22nd arrived today. About the bicycle it is difficult. If some friend sends you one you may take it. You can charge to the Ashram the expense you have mentioned on the two patients. The decision you have taken to go to Akola now is right.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. KELKAR
C/O SHRI VINOBA
NALWADI, WARDHA

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

269. LETTER TO KRISHNAVARMA

August 24, 1945

BHAI KRISHNAVARMA,

I have your letter. Give Mama full liberty. Tell him : "Bapu will worry about you but will not restrain you. You may leave at your own risk. Do not expect to come back. May God help you." You did much for Mama. Now I do not want you to carry that burden.

I have not seen the prohibitory order concerning Kamrej but if it is what you say, I would certainly not like it.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. KRISHNAVARMA
NATURE CURE HOSPITAL
MALAD

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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270. LETTER TO LAKSHMI

August 24, 1945

CHI. LAKSHMI[1],

Balasundarambehn writes to say that you have given birth to a son. May you both live long and serve the country. Only yesterday you were a little girl who used to cheat me. Now you have become a mother. What a miracle!

Blessings from
BAPU

MRS. SATYAMURTHI
CAMP HARIPAD MATOM
KOTTAYAM (S.I.)

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

271. LETTER TO RANGANAYAKI DEVI

August 24, 1945

CHI. RANGANAYAKI,

I have your letter. God willing I shall be going to Madras in December. We shall meet then.

Amtul Salaam is doing work of service in Bengal. I am at present here with the Sardar.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI RANGANAYAKI DEVI
FIRST HOUSE
SHRIRANGAM (DIST. TRICHI)

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Daughter of S. Satyamurthi

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272. LETTER TO NAWAB SAHEB

POONA,
August 25, 1945

DEAR NAWAB SAHEB,

I am sorry we could not meet early. How nice it would have been if we could have discussed things of common interest! Let me hope it would be still possible.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

(BY HAND) SHUAIB QURESHI
POONA

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

273. LETTER TO DR. B. N. SARDESAI

August 25, 1945

BHAI SARDESAI,

I thank you for the books you have sent.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

DR. B. N. SARDESAI
ORIENTAL BOOK AGENCY
POONA-2

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

274. LETTER TO RAMNARAYAN CHOWDHARY

August 25, 1945

CHI. RAMNARAYAN,

I hope you have received my letter. I sent it to the Ashram as we did not have your address here. I am sending this with Kakasaheb's son Chi. Bal. He is also bringing your essay.

I have gone through everything. The scheme about Goseva Sangh did not appeal to me. Even if we do something on those

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lines, it will remain only on paper. We want to have a perfect Goshala. The tannery should function with it. Today we do not have a single worker of calibre. There is a very big Goshala near Ahmedabad. At one time it was to be handed over to us. There is one in the city. It is known as *Pinjrapole*. Go and see it. Learn tanning also when you are well. There are lots of *neem* trees there. I have sent an article[1] for the *Gram Udyog Patrika*. Read it.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

275. LETTER TO DR. SYED MAHMUD

August 25, 1945

BHAI MAHMUD,

I have received your letter. You are doing good work. Mahboob is rendering service silently. Why is Syed not improving? Habib can work only for his party. He is an honest man. Hence, wherever he is, he will always do good work.

Ramzan[2] is not for you. As I understand it, fasting is forbidden during illness. I do not know what Kripalani has written. I guess it may be something about resignation. Send in the resignation, or, after seeing the letter, do what you think proper.

Begum Saheba must be well. Your Nagari handwriting is very good.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SYED MAHMUD
CHHAPRA (BIHAR)[3]

From a photostat of the Urdu : G.N. 5094. Also Pyarelal Papers

[1] *Vide* pp. 143-4.

[2] The ninth month of the Hijri year in which Muslims observe fast during daytime

[3] The address is from Pyarelal Papers.

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276. LETTER TO C. RAJAGOPALACHARI

POONA,
August 26, 1945

MY DEAR C. R.,

There is no other person as well-informed and able as you are to answer Dr. Ambedkar's indictment of the Congress on the question.[1] Please therefore make time and send your answer to Bapa as early as you can.

Love.

BAPU

From a photostat : G.N. 2109

277. LETTER TO J. C. KUMARAPPA

August 26, 1945

MY DEAR KU.,

Your letter. Of course you can have 'D. D. D. V. I.' And you have proved your title to the two degrees far more than those who receive university equivalents. Why should they have the monopoly?

You are getting on. My article should considerably lighten your administrative work which sends up b.p. The other will put it in its place.

Yours,
BAPU

DR. J. C. KUMARAPPA
"D. D. D. V. I"
MAGANWADI
WARDHA

From a photostat : G.N. 10179

[1] In his book *What Congress and Gandhi Have Done to the Untouchables*, B. R. Ambedkar had refuted the Congress claim to represent the untouchables and asserted that the Harijan Sevak Sangh was a political charity which planned "to kill the untouchables by kindness".

278. LETTER TO RAMDAS GANDHI

August 26, 1945

CHI. RAMDAS,

I have your letter. I am happy to know that you are well. Write to me in Hindustani and learn the Nagari and the Urdu scripts equally well.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

279. TELEGRAM TO AMIYANATH BOSE[1]

August 27, 1945

I HAVE APPROACHED REPORT[2] WITH SUSPICION. IF YOU SHARE SUSPICION ANNOUNCE AND AVOID CEREMONY.

GANDHI

From the original : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

280. LETTER TO BHATNAGAR

POONA,
August 27, 1945

DEAR BHATNAGAR,

As you see I am in Poona and shall be for some time. You can go to Sevagram and meet Shri Ramachandran of Talimi Sangh and show him this. If the work there pleases you and if you suit him, he will take you. Show him this.

You must not hate the world.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

SHRI BHATNAGAR
C/O POST MASTER, LAHORE

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] This was in reply to the addressee's telegram dated August 26 which read : "Kindly advise us about uncle's *shraddha* ceremony and observance of period of mourning."

[2] Presumably about the death of Subhas Chandra Bose. *Vide* also p. 161.

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281. LETTER TO BHAGWANJI A. MEHTA

August 27, 1945

BHAI BHAGWANJI,

I went through your 20 points today. You have apologized thrice. But you were pardoned even without your asking. Remember the lawyer's maxim : Do not give judgment till you have examined all the evidence. Your words have no effect on me as you have formed a habit of jumping to conclusions without examining things. The same is true of your last letter. This postcard needs no reply.

I am sure, God is.

Remembrance of God from
M. K. GANDHI

SHRI BHAGWANJI ANUPCHAND, VAKIL
RAJKOT

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

282. LETTER TO ADAM ALI

August 27, 1945

BHAI ADAM ALI,

I have your letter as also the pictures. Thanks. The picture of the charkha is an advertisement, but that of the Buddha is good.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

HASAN ALI DAUDBHAI
21 PERIYA MISTRI STREET
MADRAS, G.T.

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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283. LETTER TO KANJI J. DESAI

August 27, 1945

BHAI KANJI,

I have your letter. Come on any day except Monday. I will find some time. If it is not very inconvenient you may come alone first and see me and if it is necessary bring Pushpa later.

M. K. GANDHI

KANJI JETHABHAI,
RAJDA'S CHAWL, SECOND FLOOR
OLD HANUMAN GALI
CROSS LANE ROAD 2
BOMBAY

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

284. LETTER TO KISHORELAL G. MASHRUWALA

August 27, 1945

CHI. KISHORELAL,

I have your letter. The weather is still moist. The house is near the mill and it is possible to find something there. But I do not have the courage to call you here till the weather completely clears. We do not want to fall out of the frying pan into the fire. Still I will call you when it completely stops raining here and that too in the hope that the change of air will do good to both of you. I do not want to take work from you here. Valji comes daily. His competent son is also prepared to render some service but I have not entrusted him with any work. There is no work which can be given to him.

I understand about Parnerkar.

You have done what you could. It seems that your recommendations cannot be implemented now. Everyone has land and a house, how can they be removed? Moreover, can those who are true workers stay at a distance? Why should they be servants? It is a matter of shame and sorrow that they are

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retained as servants. The number of those who are retained as servants will not be reduced by their staying in different places. Only the attitude of everyone should be changed. If that happens the question of staying separately or in different places should not arise. Yes, one thing is certain. It will be a long time before people's nature changes. In the mean time there will be a scramble for servants and that will do good to no one. However, if I have understood your recommendations they may be applied in future but not to the organizations which are functioning today. There was and is a purpose in merging all the organizations, although whatever has happened was only a drifting of the current. Do let me know if there is a flaw in the argument. If the present situation cannot be changed I want to understand the whole position.

I hope both of you are keeping good health.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

Sushila has arrived. Manu has run away. She is with her sister in Bombay. Let us see what happens. There is no change in Sardar's condition.

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

285. LETTER TO BRIJ BIHARI AVASTHI

August 27, 1945

BHAI AVASTHI,

Forget me so far as giving of messages, etc., is concerned.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

BRIJBIHARI AVASTHI
GANDHI SEVA SAMITI
GENERAL GANJ
KANPUR

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

286. NOTE TO DEVPRAKASH NAYYAR

August 27, 1945

I have read the entire report[1]. As a report it is excellent. It is impossible to correct it as I do not know what took place. If we must give the report it ought to contain nothing but the truth. What I said during my talk does not apply to the report.

You should have given the report in Hindustani and in the Urdu script if not in the Nagari script. You should use English only where it is necessary. It was unnecessary to have the report in English. We have to do this if all the members are to learn Hindustani.

M. K. GANDHI

From a microfilm of the Hindi : Documents relating to Gandhiji. Courtesy : National Archives of India

287. LETTER TO HOSHIARI

August 27, 1945

CHI. HOSHIARI,

I am happy to know that you and Gajraj are keeping good health. You will certainly get rid of constipation if you drink plenty of water.

Everything is all right here.

Blessings to you both from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Of the Adult Education Committee

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288. LETTER TO SHRIKRISHNADAS JAJU

August 27, 1945

BHAI JAJUJI,

What you have written about the Punjab branch is correct. Appoint Sohanlalji.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

289. LETTER TO LAVANYAPRABHA DUTT

August 27, 1945

DEAR SISTER,

I have your letter about my visit to Bengal. I am considering what I should do.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

SHRI LAVANYAPRABHA DUTT
B. P. C. C.
10 SUBURBAN SCHOOL ROAD
BHAWANIPUR POST
CALCUTTA

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

290. LETTER TO P. C. GHOSH

August 27, 1945

BHAI PROFULLA,

(1) Read this. Is it all right? What has to be done?

(2) Should I visit Calcutta only in November and not before?

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(3) How is your health?
(4) What about Amtul Salaam?

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

I have your letter. I must go to Madras on December 11. So if I am to go to Calcutta only after November 15, then it can be only in January. Let us see what happens. I will not go in October.

BAPU

DR. PROFULLA CHANDRA GHOSH
14/8 GARIAHAT ROAD
BALLYGUNJE, CALCUTTA

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

291. LETTER TO PARASRAM TAHILRAMANI

August 27, 1945

BHAI PARASRAM,

I have your letter[1]. I will try to do all that I can. Hope your health is good.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI PARASRAM TAHILRAMANI
S. P. C. C.
KARACHI

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Seeking Gandhiji's help in getting the satyagraha in connection with the ban on *Satyartha Prakash* postponed during the period of elections; *vide* the following item.

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292. LETTER TO GHANSHYAM SINGH GUPTA

August 27, 1945

BHAI GHANSHYAM SINGH,

Read this.[1] If it is to be removed in six months, then it would be better to postpone the satyagraha.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI GHANSHYAM SINGH GUPTA
SPEAKER
DRUG

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

293. LETTER TO T. PRAKASAM

August 27, 1945

BHAI PRAKASAM,

I have your letter. The students performed a good play. Let us hope that they will display in real life what they have depicted in the play. Let us see how much Sardar benefits.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

19 RAJABAHADUR MUDALIAR STREET
T. NAGAR, MADRAS

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] *Vide* the preceding item.

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294. LETTER TO VINAYAK RAO

August 27, 1945

BHAI VINAYAK RAO,

I have your letter. Whatever I do or have done has been impelled by a feeling of dharma. There is no room for gratitude in it. Please let me know whatever may be the outcome.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

SHRI VINAYAK RAOJI
BAR-AT-LAW
JAMBAGH, HYDERABAD (DN.)

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

295. LETTER TO CHIMANLAL N. SHAH

August 28, 1945

CHI. CHIMANLAL,

I have given you quite a lot of work. Take care of your health in whatever you do. See that Shakaribehn also does not lose her health through overwork. See about Anna[1] and Kamala[2]. If the two work sincerely, they can do very good work.

Tell Govinda Reddi that I had no time for talk with him. I cannot tell you definitely when I shall return.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 10641

[1] & [2] Harihar Sharma and his wife

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296. LETTER TO A. PARTHASARATHY

POONA,
August 28, 1945

BHAI PARTHASARATHY,

I have your letter. Now you should put all your questions before the Working Committee.

M. K. GANDHI

SHRI A. PARTHASARATHY
KODURU, (CUDAPPAH DIST.)

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

297. LETTER TO GORDHANDAS CHOKHAWALA

August 28/29, 1945

CHI. GORDHANDAS,

I have your letter. It made me very happy. Now Babudi has to be very careful about her diet. She will gain strength speedily if she does not make a mistake. Since the poison has passed out of the body all the other diseases should go. Shakaribehn's joy will be limitless.

Blessings from
BAPU

GORDHANDAS CHOKHAWALA
SURAT

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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298. MESSAGE TO AMERICA[1]

[On or before *August 29, 1945*][2]

In spite of my disinclination to answer the question like the one put to me by Mr. Emanuel Celler, I feel that I shall be wanting in courtesy, if I do not meet Mr. Celler's wishes. The best way for America to assist India's struggle for independence is to study the question, so as not to be misled by the untruth that is being spread by British Agency at a great cost about India. Americans have to get out of the way of her struggle. For the rest, India has to fight her own battle of independence which she is trying to secure by a non-violent technique.

The Bombay Chronicle, 30-8-1945

299. LETTER TO J. C. KUMARAPPA

POONA,
August 29, 1945

MY DEAR KUMARAPPA,

I have signed both and passed on as suggested by you.
Love.

BAPU

DR. J. C. KUMARAPPA
MAGANWADI
WARDHA, C. P.

From a photostat : G.N. 10180

[1] This was conveyed to Emanuel Celler, member of the United States House of Representatives, through D. F. Karaka, special correspondent of *The Bombay Chronicle* in New York. Emanuel Celler had asked how "we in the United States can aid in hastening the attainment of India's independence".

[2] The report appeared under the date-line "Wednesday" which was August 29.

300. LETTER TO MAURICE FRYDMAN[1]

CAMP POONA,
[*August 29, 1945*][2]

What is to be said to you! You are a law unto yourself, ever changing. Promises are as easily made as broken. This is all bad.

Love.

BAPU

From a photostat : G.N. 46

301. LETTER TO CHANDRAKANT KOTAI

August 29, 1945

BHAI CHANDRAKANT,

I have your letter. Science is certainly necessary. The Congress is giving support to all its branches. The Charkha Sangh is making much use of it. Science is a wide term. What is one to do if scientists ignore the science of the charkha?

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KOTAI
TULSI BHUWAN
ROOM 43, 3rd FLOOR
CHITTARANJAN AVENUE
CALCUTTA

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] & [2] This is a postscript to Sushila Nayyar's letter to the addressee dated August 29.

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302. LETTER TO JAYANT SANGHAVI

August 29, 1945

BHAI JAYANT SANGHAVI,

I have the letter signed by you and others. I would suggest you all read my writings and you will easily get the reply.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI HIRALAL M. PARIKH
C/O BHARAT LIGHT HOUSE
PAYDHUNI
BOMBAY-3

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

303. LETTER TO MUNNALAL G. SHAH

August 29, 1945

CHI. MUNNALAL,

I got your letter. Yes, let Krishnachandra be the manager. Everybody, however, should know that the set-up remains unchanged. Viceroys and other officers change but the set-up remains the same. One can understand it. Though they have demoniacal characteristics they can still remain united. What would be our characteristics?

I hope Kanchan is well.

Think over and decide these points before the taking over of the farm.

From which place will you buy the bullocks?

Who will be the farm-supervisor?

Do we pay the labourers more than the market-rate?

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 8440. Also C.W. 5593. Courtesy : Munnalal G. Shah

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304. LETTER TO V. L. MEHTA

POONA,
August 29, 1945

BHAI VAIKUNTH,

Is Bharat Bank good? I am scared of a new bank. However, if you have trust in it you should obtain other signatures. I am signing this because of my faith in you.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

305. LETTER TO KANCHAN M. SHAH

August 29, 1945

CHI. KANCHAN,

How are you getting along? Do not lose heart. Make your body strong.

Your work is different from that of the other women and, therefore, requires a different approach.

Do you give any time to study?

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 8264. Also C.W. 6988. Courtesy : Munnalal G. Shah

306. LETTER TO GANGARAM

August 29, 1945

BHAI GANGARAM,

I have your letter.

You have written at great length. Find out everything from my articles.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 231

307. LETTER TO KRISHNACHANDRA

August 29, 1945

CHI. KRISHNACHANDRA,

You are going to be the manager from the 1st. It is good. Remember that whether the manager lives or dies, changes or continues, the management remains the same.

Is your manner of eating different in any way? If it is, think over it. Even the manner of eating affects one's digestion and also culture. One man swallows food like birds, another gobbles like animals. We are neither animals nor birds. Human beings chew and eat. In fact, it looks bad if one eats in a careless manner or makes a sound while others are eating. Think about it.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 4523

308. LETTER TO GHALIB

August 29, 1945

BHAI GHALIB,

I am sorry to know about Zohra. Please give her the enclosed letter. I had received Dr. Abdul Huq's reply immediately. I had kept it with me thinking that Zohra would come here. I saw Shuaib Qureshi the day before yesterday and talked to him. He said it might be possible to persuade Dr. Huq if all of you could accommodate yourselves in the women's wing of Dar-us-salaam, Can this be done? A copy of Dr. Huq's letter is enclosed.

Blessings from
BAPU

JANAB GHALIB SAHEB
14 RAJPUR ROAD, DELHI

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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309. LETTER TO ZOHRA ANSARI

August 29, 1945

DAUGHTER ZOHRA,

You fell ill and went away without seeing me. Did you receive my letter? You did not inform me about it. Why are you so scared? You must be brave.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

310. LETTER TO KISHANDAS BEGRAJ

August 29, 1945

BHAI KISHANDAS,

I have your letter. You do not understand a joke. I have often said that the journalists deserve to be shot. The beauty of it is that no one was shot nor did anyone imagine he would be shot. They took my remarks in good humour. The camera-man handed [the camera] to an old man like me and then took it back. I took it from him deliberately. I did well in doing so. Both gestures were non-violent.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI KISHANDAS BEGRAJ
C/O NEW ASIATIC INSURANCE
18 HENAM MANSION
MAHATMA GANDHI ROAD
KARACHI

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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311. LETTER TO PARACHURE SHASTRI

August 29, 1945

SHASTRIJI,

I have your letter. Do not go anywhere. Stay in Dattapur and end your life there. You are rendering service there.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI PARACHURE SHASTRI
DATTAPUR

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

312. LETTER TO S. NIJALINGAPPA

August 29, 1945

BHAI NIJALINGAPPA,

I have your letter. Now the Working Committee and the States People's Conference are functioning. Do you think I should say something? This question deserves consideration. Write to both.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

313. LETTER TO Y. M. PARNERKAR

August 29, 1945

CHI. PARNERKAR,

I do not think that your letter is long. The subject matter required that much.

What can be done if you can't sit together and make up your minds? What will you do if I die? Will you all be separated from each other? The Goshala, the Talimi Sangh, the Charkha Sangh and the Ashram are together because they were all conceived by one man—other two exist separately merely by

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chance. They could both have been located at one place. As far as the site is concerned the Ashram and the Goshala should co-exist. This has to be thought over. I have liked your letter and so sent it to the Ashram. Do think over the matter if you can. But if it is not possible leave it. It can't be solved by devoting more time to it. We must know the subject is beyond our ken if we have to devote too much time to it. We have first hand experience of this in arithmetic.

Blessings from
BAPU

SEVAGRAM ASHRAM
WARDHA

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

314. LETTER TO PUSHPA K. DESAI

August 29, 1945

CHI. PUSHPA,

I have your letter. You should definitely not write to Rajani just now. Your father and his relatives have just left me, and I am now writing to you. It is nine o'clock at night. If you wish, I will write to Rajani. If you want me to write, send me his address. I showed your letter to your father. He does not trust Rajani. He would like you to marry Vrajlal. He says the latter is ready to observe *brahmacharya* till you desire otherwise. He will not act against your will. Nor will he interfere with your prayers and worship. Manibehn has also seen a letter from Vrajlal to this effect. If this is true, such a marriage will not prove an obstacle to you in your striving for a vision of Krishna. Vrajlal will be happy and so will be your parents and other well-wishers. I tell you on the basis of my own experience that there will be no harm in agreeing to the proposed marriage. Only, you should have genuine *bhakti*[1]. Reply to me immediately.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 9262

[1] Devotion

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315. NOTE TO SHRIKRISHNA NATH SHARMA[1]

[On or after *August 29, 1945*][2]

I know the situation in Assam. I am extremely busy these days. How can I give you any time? Discuss everything with Kakasaheb.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 8236

316. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

POONA,
August 30, 1945

CHI. LILI,

I do not remember having answered your letter. Just now, after the prayer, I have taken out the old letters. This is just to tell you that I think of you. Continue your studies and pass. Do not lose courage. Do not spoil your health. There is no time to write more. Sardar's treatment is going on. I am well.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : C.W. 10206. Courtesy : Lilavati Asar

[1] The addressee, in order to acquaint Gandhiji with the situation in Assam, had requested him to spare fifteen to twenty minutes of his time.

[2] This note is written on the addressee's letter dated August 29, 1945.

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317. LETTER TO PRABHAVATI[1]

POONA,
August 30, 1945

CHI. PRABHA,

I do not at all remember whether I have written to you. Your letter of the 1st is lying in front of me. I am writing this after the morning prayer. I hope you keep good health. You may come when you can. Just now I shall have to stay with Sardar in Poona. I may have to be here for three months. After that I shall be touring. You should stay in the Ashram. If there is suitable work for you there and you enjoy peace of mind and keep good health, settle down there. Do as you please. How is Father?

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 3579

318. LETTER TO PRABHAVATI[2]

August 30, 1945

CHI. PRABHA,

A letter from Priyamvada is enclosed. I think you should join it[3]. Get yourself enrolled. About the work, we shall see after you have rested in the Ashram.

I discovered after writing the postcard this morning that I had in fact dictated a letter to you. However, I write the postcard lest I should forget it.

I hope you are keeping good health.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 3580

[1] & [2] The letters are in the Devanagari script.
[3] Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Committee

319. LETTER TO PRIYAMVADA NANDKEOLYAR

August 30, 1945

CHI. PRIYAMVADA[1],

I have your letter. I have written to Prabha that she should be on your Committee but she should not work till she gets well.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI PRIYAMVADABEHN
NAND VILAS
GAYA (BIHAR)

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

320. LETTER TO LAKSHMI GANDHI

August 30, 1945

CHI. LAKSHMI,

Give the enclosed letters[2] to the children. Hope you and the child[3] are well. You are continuing your studies, aren't you? Is the house crowded?

Blessings from
BAPU

Enclosures: 5
MRS. DEVDAS GANDHI
NEW DELHI

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Agent in Bihar for the Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust
[2] *Vide* the following five letters.
[3] Gopalkrishna

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321. LETTER TO TARA GANDHI

POONA,
August 30, 1945

CHI. TARA[1],

I have your letter. The letter cannot be considered good. You could have written in a beautiful hand. When will you be playing about again?

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

322. LETTER TO RAJMOHAN GANDHI

POONA,
August 30, 1945

CHI. MOHAN[2],

I have your letter. It is good. Keep writing in the same way. Grow strong and sturdy.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Daughter of Devdas Gandhi
[2] Son of Devdas Gandhi

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323. LETTER TO RAMCHANDRA GANDHI

August 30, 1945

CHI. RAMU[1],

You have written in pencil. That is not good. Always write in ink. Your friend[2] too has written in pencil.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

324. LETTER TO ARUN Y. PANDYA

August 30, 1945

CHI. ARUN,

Now I have two Aruns. If both of you are together, how will I know who has written? Can you solve the problem?

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

325. LETTER TO PRAVINA Y. PANDYA

August 30, 1945

CHI. PRAVINA,

I have your letter. Keep on spinning and wear khadi. Study well.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Son of Devdas Gandhi
[2] Arun Y. Pandya; *vide* the following item.

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326. LETTER TO P. H. GADRE

POONA,
August 31, 1945

DEAR GADRE,

Why should you feel sore if you have done your duty? Duty is its own reward! If the Committee do not want your services, you will serve where you are wanted. The field of service is as wide as the earth. The donors should not mind the removal of the [status][1]. The question is whether you have become yourself a Harijan? If you have, all is well.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

SHRI P. H. GADRE
PLEADER
HINDU COLONY, NASIK[2]

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

327. LETTER TO D. PARIMALA

POONA,
August 31, 194[*5*][3]

DEAR SISTER,

The *Gita* does answer your doubts, if you will search diligently. If you do not doubt the fleeting present, how can you doubt the future? Let the old lady suffer. We may not judge what is good for her.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

SMT. D. PARIMALA
2681 V. V. MINALLA
MYSORE

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] The word is illegible.
[2] The address is in Hindi.
[3] The source has "1941", but the letter is placed among those of the year 1945; besides, on August 31, 1941, Gandhiji was in Sevagram.

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328. LETTER TO J. P. BHANSALI

August 31, 1945

CHI. BHANSALI,

I have your letter. Accept the invitation and go there for three to four days if it is necessary.

Hope you remember about your diet.

Blessings from
BAPU

SEVAGRAM ASHRAM

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

329. LETTER TO KANTILAL GANDHI

August 31, 1945

CHI. KANTI,

I have your letter. It is interesting. If I tried to write in reply a letter which would be interesting to read, it would be delayed.

All of you are doing fine work. May you succeed in it and may the work progress. Everyone should learn the processes which precede spinning. Keep both the yarn and the money there. An account of the yarn spun should be sent to Narandas.[1]

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

I hope both of you and the child are well. I have received two silly letters from Harilal.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati and Hindi : C.W. 7377. Courtesy : Kantilal Gandhi

[1] This paragraph is in Hindi.

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330. LETTER TO A. K. CHANDA

August 31, 1945

BHAI CHANDA,

For the time being please do not take any decision about my visit to Silchar. Let us see what God bids me do, and where He takes me.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

SHRI A. K. CHANDA
SILCHAR (ASSAM)

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

331. LETTER TO A. RAHIM

August 31, 1945

BHAI SAHEB,

If the true remain true, others will also do so.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

A. RAHIM SAHEB
C/O POST MASTER
MADRAS

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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332. LETTER TO DHIRENDRANATH MUKHERJEE

August 31, 1945

BHAI DHIRENDRANATHJI,

I have your letter. There are some things men achieve by talking, some by observing silence and some by working.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

SHRI DHIRENDRA N. MUKHERJEE
SENHATI P. O., KHULNA DIST.
BENGAL

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

333. LETTER TO PRITHVI SINGH AZAD

August 31, 1945

BHAI PRITHVI SINGH,

I have your letter. About your quoting me I have often told you to have me put down in writing what I say. Be it as it may, I know this much that caste Hindus do not abide by their dharma. In this connection please read the discussion I had with Murthy[1] as also about what Harijans should do.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI PRITHVI SINGH AZAD
HARIJAN SEVAK SANGH
LAJPATRAI BHAVAN, LAHORE

From a copy of the Hindi: Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy: Pyarelal

[1] *Vide* pp. 119-20.

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334. LETTER TO PANNALAL

August 31, 1945

BHAI PANNALALJI,

I have gone through your letter carefully. I will see the pamphlets when they arrive. Keep up your interest in the propagation of Hindustani.

The pamphlets have come.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

DR. PANNALAL
19 THORNHILL ROAD
ALLAHABAD

From a copy of the Hindi: Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy: Pyarelal

335. LETTER TO RAMBHAI MAMTANI

August 31, 1945

BHAI RAMBHAI MAMTANI,

I have your letter. Now you can see me only when I return to Sevagram. You should ask for the answer to your first question only there.

For the rest, have patience and see what happens.

Blessings from
BAPU

TALIMI SANGH

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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336. LETTER TO RAJENDRA PRASAD

POONA,
August 31, 1945

BHAI RAJENDRA BABU,

Time is running out and nothing is being done about Mahendra Chowdhary. I do not like it. There are some very good lawyers in Patna. It is easy to cite case-law. You have to base it on the papers you have. Alladi[1], Venkataraman Sastri, Motilal Setalvad and others may see it and give their opinion. How long will it take? If the record[2] is sent here, Sardar can do the rest. I do not feel that there is any need for you to go to Bihar.

I am happy to know that you are keeping good health.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

337. LETTER TO VAMAN KRISHNA PARANJPE

August 31, 1945

BHAI VAMAN KRISHNA PARANJPE,

I have your letter. I very well remember your grandfather[3]. He was a great orator and a man of courage.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

SHRI VAMAN KRISHNA PARANJPE
VAKIL, SHUKRAVAR PETH
POONA

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Sir Alladi Krishnaswami Aiyar
[2] This is in English.
[3] Shivaram Mahadev Paranjpe

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338. LETTER TO VINA CHATTERJEE

August 31, 1945

CHI. VINA,

I have your letter after a long time. I think you should notify the court. I have written to Naraharibhai. It is better to get married soon. Be satisfied with the registration in the court. Show this also to Naraharibhai.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

Be very good and render plenty of service.

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

339. LETTER TO S. N. CHATTERJEE

August 31, 1945

CHI. SAILEN,

I have your letter. It is good you decided to have a separate kitchen. Naraharibhai has written to Father. That is sufficient.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : C.W. 10393. Courtesy : Amrita Lal Chatterjee

340. LETTER TO DHANNO GIDWANI

POONA,
September 1, 1945

MY DEAR DHANNO[1],

I wonder whether you know Gujarati, Hindustani or Sindhi, seeing that you write to me in bad English? Your mother

[1] Son of A. T. Gidwani

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knows Hindustani and Sindhi. Your father knew all the above three well. But this I write in the language you evidently know best.

You see now is the time for every patriot to be tested. You wear khadi not for family tradition which may or may not be good, not for my sake (that would be of no use), not for the poor (there are other ways of serving them perhaps), but for swaraj to be gained non-violently. Then you have to wear and use khadi at all cost. Then to strengthen your conviction you may add all the other causes. Use of khadi is the least you should do and brave the little difficulty you mention. Supposing you slave for a showy maintenance for 10 hours, why won't you lighten your slavery by doing recreative spinning for half an hour daily? While you are doing it, you will have the glow of spinning swaraj daily for half an hour. Very little if you were the only one. But one can multiply oneself into forty crores and then there is swaraj without perhaps more. But if you can say to yourself honestly that you have no time for non-violent swaraj, you must leave khadi alone and use the cloth you like best and forget family traditions, the poor and me.

What are you earning? Are you married?

Love.

BAPU

CHI. DHANNO GIDWANI
C/O AMBICA MILL NO. 1
AHMEDABAD

From a photostat : G.N. 6759. Also Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

341. LETTER TO UTTIMCHAND GANGARAM

September 1, 1945

DEAR UTTIMCHAND,

Yours with cheque with thanks. It will be used as you have directed, i.e., to pay for defect in interest and for a purpose in khadi that would have pleased Mahadev if he was in our midst in his body. If I do not remember rightly please correct me.

I have your magic square and puzzle. I must tax myself and friends.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

[PS.]

It is yet too early to say anything definite about Sardar.

SHRI UTTIMCHAND GANGARAM
BOMBAY BAKERY
HYDERABAD (SINDH)

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

342. LETTER TO NARAHARI D. PARIKH

September 1, 1945

CHI. NARAHARI,

Khimji[1] had brought your letter. I replied at once. You must have got the reply by now.

I would not know if there was any defect in Khimji's eye. Generally I do not observe people too closely. And if the parties choose each other despite one of them having an obvious defect, why need a third person object? What right does even a father have? I have seen the blind and the crippled also getting married. I would be very much surprised if Munnalal has raised any objection. When you all who are quite independent have made a selection, what objection can be raised ?

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : S.N. 9137

343. LETTER TO MUNNALAL G. SHAH

September 1, 1945

CHI. MUNNALAL,

Naraharibhai writes to tell me that as Khimji has a defect in his eye you have raised an objection to his marrying Vina and are even ready to write to her father. This surprises me. I, therefore, used an "if" in my reply[2] to Narahari.

When K. and N. have made the selection, what objection can we have? Besides, how can you write to Vina's father? Vina is not marrying the man in defiance of anybody's advice.

[1] Khimjibhai Patel
[2] *Vide* the preceding item.

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I personally do not see what right a father can have to interfere if the two have selected each other despite an obvious defect in one of them. And do all the blind remain unmarried?

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 8437. Also C.W. 5594. Courtesy : Munnalal G. Shah

344. LETTER TO CHIMANLAL N. SHAH

September 1, 1945

CHI. CHIMANLAL,

It is a sad matter about Shastriji[1]. If he does go mad, there will be no option but to put him in the mental hospital as suggested by Manahar[2]. I suggest that Vinoba should go and see him and make an attempt. I wrote a letter[3] to him two days ago.

It is all right that you wrote to Sharma[4].

I know about the cholera. Our people seem to be doing very good work.

I hope you are well.

I get news about Sharda.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati: G.N. 10642

[1] Parachure Shastri
[2] Manahar Diwan; *vide* also p. 235.
[3] *Vide* p. 186.
[4] Hiralal Sharma

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345. LETTER TO LILAVATI MUNSHI

September 1, 1945

CHI. LILAVATI,

I have your letter. I think that in schools and institutions where there is no objection to the teaching of religion, arrangements should be made for teaching it if the parents so wish.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI LILAVATIBEHN MUNSHI
26 RIDGE ROAD
BOMBAY

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

346. LETTER TO MANGALDAS HARKISHANDAS

September 1, 1945

BHAI MANGALDAS,

As usual I have your cheque for Rs. 100.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI MANGALDAS HARKISHANDAS
MANGALDAS & SONS
PUBLISHERS AND BOOKSELLERS
BHAGATALAO
SURAT

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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347. LETTER TO KISHORELAL G. MASHRUWALA

September 1, 1945

CHI. KISHORELAL,

Manilal is impetuous and does not think twice before writing. According to me, as yet the weather is not suitable for you. It is cloudy all the time. It rains intermittently and is not yet dry. So I dare not send for you. If we go over to Bombay on the 22nd and if the weather there is good you may come over there. I understand what you say about the institutions. I have sent your letter to Chimanlal. The two of you may discuss the matter with others. I find obstacles everywhere but you have thought over this and I have not. So it is possible that I do not see certain things that you do.

You must have fully recovered by now. One cannot say the same about Sardar.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

348. LETTER TO JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

September 1, 1945

CHI. JAWAHARLAL,

I have your letter. Menon's[1] information is correct. Sardar has read that letter. Let us see what happens. You have done a lot of work in the Frontier and other places.

Sardar cannot leave Poona on the 12th. He cannot leave Poona for another four weeks if he is to give a fair trial to Dinshaw and his treatment. The climate here also suits him but he has not shown much improvement. His court is always full.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original : Gandhi-Nehru Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

[1] V. K. Krishna Menon

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349. LETTER TO SANTRAM AGRAWAL

September 1, 1945

BHAI SANTRAM,

You have mixed up the two things. In working out the marriage rite[1] in Prakrit[2] I have only followed Tulsidas, Surdas and others. Sanskrit has survived because Prakrit developed. What I have done has only promoted dharma. The Hindu-Muslim question does not arise here. It is a different question altogether. I do not wish to go into it. You are running a divine life institution. Think a little.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

SHRI SANTRAM AGRAWAL
DIVINE LIFE SOCIETY
JARAULI, AMRITSAR

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 775

350. LETTER TO ANAND T. HINGORANI

September 1, 1945

CHI. ANAND,

You cannot get peace from my letters or my presence. If you get any it will be transient. Peace cannot come from without. Peace is that which comes from within. Neither Vidya nor I can give that peace; God alone can.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a microfilm of the Hindi : Courtesy : National Archives of India and Anand T. Hingorani

[1] *Vide* Appendix II.
[2] By this term Gandhiji means the spoken language.

351. LETTER TO VIDYA DEVI

September 1, 1945

CHI. VIDYA,

You are doing good work. Try to know well the women who have accepted spinning. Explain to them why they should spin. Learn well the processes preceding and following spinning and teach them these. Make your whole life worthy of swaraj—Ramarajya. Now I have told you everything. If *rakhi*[1] is a sign of purity, it is a proper use of yarn; otherwise it should be considered a waste.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRIMATI VIDYA DEVI
SHANTI NIVAS
SIALKOT (PUNJAB)

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

352. LETTER TO UPENDRA CHOWDHARY

September 1, 1945

BHAI UPENDRA[2],

I have your letter. What I have suggested should be implemented. Of course your sister-in-law has my blessings. Let her render much service. That alone is real mourning and *shraddha.*

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI UPENDRA CHOWDHARY
PIPRA
P. O. KESHAVNAGAR
MONGHYR (BIHAR)

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] A thread tied on *Shravana Shukla* 15 by a sister to the wrist of her brother, or a person regarded as such, as a symbol of her good wishes and his promise of protection

[2] Brother of Mahendra Chowdhary; *vide* pp. 105-6.

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353. LETTER TO MRS. GEORGE JOSEPH

September 1, 1945

DEAR SISTER[1],

I saw Chi. Babu's wedding card. May Babu and her husband live long and serve the country.

Why is the invitation card in English? Why not in Malayalam or Hindustani? Why so much infatuation for English?

Blessings from
BAPU

MRS. GEORGE JOSEPH
KALLOZHAM
CHENGANNUR
(TRAVANCORE)

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

354. LETTER TO SHRIKRISHNADAS JAJU

September 1, 1945

BHAI JAJUJI,

I have your letter. Whether or no I beg for money, the question is altogether different. It is our duty to eradicate malaria around all our institutions. It is irrelevant who is able to do how much. The question is, would it or would it not be worth while to try and eradicate malaria from nearby places. I can understand that all the institutions will keep a check over the expenses incurred on it. But I feel that the contribution should be the same from all. It is the duty of all of us to convince the Goseva Sangh. What does Narahari, who is the Joint Secretary, say? I should like to understand the other viewpoint.

Blessings from
BAPU

[1] Widow of George Joseph who took a leading part in the Vykom Satyagraha in 1924

[PS.]

I am writing[1] to Amritlal Batra that it is his duty to make a trust or work under us.

SHRIKRISHNADAS JAJU
SEVAGRAM

From a copy of the Hindi: Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy: Pyarelal

355. LETTER TO SANKARAN

September 1, 1945

CHI. SANKARAN,

Why did you write to Prabhakar in English? You can't express yourself well in English and why shouldn't Prabhakar write to Sushilabehn? They have not made you the supervisor. Your ignorance and vanity is eating you up. Remember that the only true right is what is acquired by doing one's duty. And now that all of you are fighting against cholera, where is the question of possessing any right? Never mind if people do not want to get inoculated. Let them die, if they are prepared to. They will have to be kept isolated if they contract cholera. There are bound to be such people in the Ashram.

While expanding bhangi work, remember that the Bhangi though regarded the lowest of all, by dint of doing the noblest work (of cleaning), has the highest place in the eyes of God.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI SANKARAN
SEVAGRAM

From a copy of the Hindi: Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy: Pyarelal

[1] *Vide* pp. 213-4.

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356. LETTER TO ABDUL GHAFFAR KHAN

September 1, 1945

BHAI SAHEB,

You must attend the Working Committee meeting[1].

Blessings from
BAPU

BADSHAH KHAN
CHARSADDA POST
FRONTIER PROVINCE

From a copy of the Hindi: Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy: Pyarelal

357. DISCUSSION WITH NARENDRA DEV[2] AND SURAJ PRASAD AWASTHI

POONA,
[Before *September 2, 1945*][3]

In the course of their interview, the two leaders asked Mahatma Gandhi as to whether the Hindustan Mazdoor Sevak Sangh like the Indian National Congress and the All-India Trade Union Congress could adopt the words "peaceful and legitimate" instead of "truth and non-violence" in its constitution. Mahatma Gandhi is understood to have replied that he disagreed with those who held that "truth and non-violence" were not political terms. In the political context, the words "peaceful and legitimate" were considered to be more appropriate. Even this expression, Mahatma Gandhi said, had been introduced by him in the Congress constitution[4]. Since they had to deal with the working class, the objection on grounds of political terminology did not matter. The workers must be told in a straight and direct way as to what they should or should not do.

[1] Which was to be held in Poona from September 12 to 18

[2] (1889-1956); President, All-India Kisan Sabha, 1939 and 1942; member, All-India Congress Socialist Party and later Praja Socialist Party; Vice-Chancellor, Lucknow University and later Banaras Hindu University

[3] This report appeared under the date-line "Cawnpore, September 5" with an introductory note that "Acharya Narendra Dev and Suraj Prasad Awasthi, M.L.As., met Mahatma Gandhi at Poona last week". The discussion, therefore, must have taken place before Sunday, September 2.

[4] *Vide* Vol. XIX, p. 159.

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On the question of trusteeship, which was absent from the constitution of the Sangh, Mahatma Gandhi is said to have pointed out that since the theory of trusteeship was stressed by him and had a permanent association with his name, it was legitimate to make it a matter of dispute. He said that he did not want to accentuate class-struggle. The owners should become trustees. They might insist that they should become trustees and yet they might choose to remain owners.

We shall then have to oppose and fight them. Satyagraha will then be our weapon. Even if we want a classless society we should not engage in a civil war. Non-violence should be depended upon to bring a classless society.

The Hindu, 7-9-1945

358. TELEGRAM TO JATINDAS M. AMIN

Express POONA,
September 2, 1945

AMINBHAI
ASHRAM SEVAGRAM
WARDHA

FAST MUST BE ABANDONED ANY CASE. LETTER[1] FOLLOWS. FASTING IN THE MIDST OF CHOLERA WORK IS CRIMINAL.

BAPU

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] *Vide* p. 212.

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359. LETTER TO AGATHA HARRISON

NATURE CURE CLINIC,
6 TODIWALA ROAD, POONA,
September 2, 1945

DEAR AGATHA,

I have your two letters. Pyarelal is not here.

Yes, times are such as to require breadth of vision and statesmanship of the truest type, if the victory so called is not to lead to a third war worse than the last. I expect to see you in India soon.

I am not writing separately to Dorothy in reply to her long letter. Please send her my love and tell her we are on our trial. Let God be our "Rock of Ages"[1].

Love.

BAPU

From a photostat : G.N. 1526

360. LETTER TO ANASUYA SARABHAI

September 2, 1945

CHI. ANASUYA[2],

I like your letter and notes. Copies of the latter are being sent to the Central Office, Bapa and Lakshmi Babu[3].

I appreciate your down-heartedness and devotion to Mridula[4]. No one can help being devoted to her. Such is her work, sacrifice and bravery. But you are mistaken if you feel that she will be lost to the cause. The result should be quite the contrary.

[1] From a hymn by A. M. Toplady
[2] Sister of Ambalal Sarabhai
[3] Lakshminarayan Gadodia
[4] Mridula Sarabhai had resigned from the post of Joint Secretary, Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust, owing to differences with Amritlal V. Thakkar; *vide* "Letter to Mridula Sarabhai", 15-10-1945.

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I shall hold you to your promise to write to me in good Hindustani in two months' time. You will also tell me what you have ultimately decided to do.

Love.

CHI. ANASUYA DEVI
C/O SHRI MRIDULA SARABHAI
KASHMIR HOUSE, NAPEAN SEA ROAD
BOMBAY

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

361. LETTER TO JATINDAS M. AMIN

September 2, 1945

CHI. AMIN,

Today I am sending a wire[1] regarding your fast. There is a rule that no one should go on a fast without my permission. It is possible that you are not aware of it but Prabhakar knows this.

Both of you are at fault in going on a fast. When all of you should render service in treating [cholera] patients, why enfeeble yourselves by fasting?

I would say that those who are not willing to be inoculated against cholera should not be persuaded to do so by fasting. Those who cannot abide by the rules of an institution should leave it. We do not have such rules [in our Ashram]. I am primarily responsible for this because I do not believe in inoculation, etc. Right from South Africa I have been holding these views. We should make arrangements for those who wish to be inoculated but we should not force those who are unwilling by resorting to a fast. If you want to know when one can go on a fast, come to me when I have some leisure.

Who were the persons involved in beating Kotwal? What happened to him? Give me the details when you have time. Show this letter to Prabhakar and others after translating it into Hindi.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] *Vide* p. 210.

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362. LETTER TO AMTUSSALAAM

September 2, 1945

DAUGHTER AMTUL SALAAM,

I have your letter. What should I say? I am stuck here in Poona. I have no idea when I shall be able to leave. I have no idea whether I shall have to go to Bombay or not. The date for Bengal is not fixed either. I only know that I shall not be going before October. I have written to Profulla Babu.[1] Sudhir Babu says one thing, Satis Babu another, and Profulla Babu a third. I should like to go over to Borkamta[2]. I do not know for how long. It cannot be for a month as you suggest. That can happen only if I settle down in Bengal. I cannot possibly settle down there.

I shall only say that you should stay on there till I arrive. Render whatever service you can. Have faith in God. He will do what pleases Him. I realize more and more every day that save God all else is naught. I like nothing but work. Why should you seek a message from me?

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 500

363. LETTER TO AMRITLAL BATRA

September 2, 1945

BHAI AMRITLAL,

I have your letter. Either make a trust, or have the approval of the Charkha Sangh or leave khadi work. Leave it if you do not wish to work even under the Punjab branch. Forget about making money out of khadi. Khadi is not meant for that. What will you gain by coming to me? You can come over only after I go to Sevagram. I do not know when that will be. I have hardly any time for talking. So if you wish to ask anything,

[1] *Vide* pp. 134 and 176.
[2] Where the addressee was doing khadi work

you had better write to me. It would be better that you write about everything to Jajuji. He will consult me if he wants to.

Blessings from
BAPU

AMRITLAL BATRA
SHUDDH KHADI VIDYALAYA
JHANG MAGHIANA (PUNJAB)

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

364. LETTER TO S. AMBUJAMMAL

September 2, 1945

CHI. AMBUJAM,

I have your letter. I am sorry to learn that you are not keeping well. Come over any time after you are all right. Let me add that my staying anywhere has become a little indefinite. It is very crowded here and I can't say where I will be. There is some talk about my going to Bengal. Keep writing to me at Poona how you are and when you want to come.

I hope Mother is all right. It is sad about Padma. It is as God wills.

Blessings from
BAPU

S. AMBUJAMMAL
96 MOWBRAYS ROAD
TEYNAMPET, MADRAS

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

365. LETTER TO SATYAVATI

September 2, 1945

CHI. SATYAVATI[1],

Rajkumari has given me your letter. Whether the body perishes or not, your noble resolve will forever remain. Resolve does not die even after the body perishes. I know that physical

[1] Grand-daughter of Swami Shraddhanand; member of National Executive of All-India Congress Socialist Party. She was interned during the Quit India movement but was released on grounds of health as she had developed tuberculosis.

pain cannot cause you distress. Do not worry about me. All my activities are for independence and will continue to be so.

Blessings from
BAPU

SMT. SATYAVATIJI
TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITAL
KINGSWAY, DELHI

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

366. LETTER TO PREMKANT BHARGAVA

September 2, 1945

BHAI PREMKANT,

I have your letter. I am unable to advise you. Consult Pandit Sunderlalji. I can say this much that you should not forsake Mother; forget about the Talimi Sangh. Do whatever you can while keeping Mother with you.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI PREMKANT
242 CHAK
ALLAHABAD[1]

From a photostat of the Hindi: C.W. 10412. Courtesy: Premkant Bhargava. Also Pyarelal Papers

367. LETTER TO MITHUBEHN PETIT

POONA,
September 2/3, 1945

CHI. MITHUBEHN,

I was glad to have your letter. Today Kalyanji[2], Kunvarji[3] and others came and saw me. I have the bottle of oil that you have sent. I shall use it if I can.

I have had a talk about Mama. I shall be happy if he goes there. I very much wish that he gets well while he is

[1] The address is from Pyarelal Papers.
[2] Kalyanji Mehta
[3] Kunvarji Parekh

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with you. Keep well. You must have expanded your work a lot.

Blessings from
BAPU

MITHUBEHN PETIT
KASTURBA SEVASHRAM
MAROLI

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

368. LETTER TO MIRABEHN

POONA,
September 3, 1945

CHI. MIRA,

Your letter and postcard. Since you are coming to Bombay we shall meet either there or here. My going is uncertain. Sardar will have to go. I am glad Balvantsinha is of real use and that K. is sending you a man. Cholera is raging near Sevagram. Please tell Balvantsinha I wrote to him some time ago. Hoshiari and her child seem to be doing well. She writes to me and I to her.

Love.

BAPU

From the original : C.W. 6510. Courtesy : Mirabehn. Also G.N. 9905

369. LETTER TO MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM

September 3, 1945

DEAR MOHAN[1],

Your letter. I shall see you on the 6th at 6 p. m.

Yours,
BAPU

SHRI M. KUMARAMANGALAM
RAJ BHAWAN, SANDHURST ROAD
BOMBAY

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Son of P. Subbaroyan; Minister for Steel and Mines, Government of India

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370. LETTER TO A. VARADARAJULU NAIDU

September 3, 1945

DEAR DOCTOR,

I have your letter. It is for your province to insist on Rajaji rejoining the Congress.[1]

Yours,
BAPU

DR. A. VARADARAJULU
756 ATTUMANDAI STREET
KEELAVASAL
(SOUTH INDIA)

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

371. LETTER TO S. B. SARDESAI

September 3, 1945

DEAR FRIEND,

Your letter. I purposely write to you in English.

I mentioned not 14 letters in the Urdu script but 14 scripts collected on the chart shown to you.

I see that you can listen to hearsay even though it is contrary to the evidence of your senses. You should know that Kakasaheb is himself a Maharashtrian and so are my many associates.

I was referring to a well-known verse of the *Gita*[2]. It asks us not to leave what may appear to be a lesser duty for what may happen to be a higher. And I paid a compliment to Maharashtrians who stick to their jobs no matter how difficult they are.

Urdu is not so difficult as your friend has made it out. I know many who have learnt the Urdu script in less than a week. My offer to teach you Urdu script within a week still stands. I shall put before you a deputy to teach you, if you care.

[1] C. Rajagopalachari had resigned from the Congress on July 15, 1942.
[2] *Bhagavad Gita*, III. 35

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The connection between learning Hindustani and exhibiting your skill in massage is obvious. I see such exhibitions against a fee, the fee in your case being that you should learn Hindustani against an exhibition of your skill.

You won't now give me a long letter to answer?

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

SHRI S. B. SARDESAI
304 SADASHIV PETH
POONA

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

372. LETTER TO AMRITLAL V. THAKKAR

September 3, 1945

BAPA,

Can Bombay not collect 15 lakhs for a memorial for Mahadev? If it is very difficult, we should not try it. It would not matter if we failed. I would suggest that the amount raised in Bombay should be added to the collection from Gujarat. The Bombay committee should be incorporated with the Gujarat committee and the whole amount should be spent for the Memorial. This would be befitting and would bring credit to Mahadev's name. I think the permanent place for the Memorial should be in Ahmedabad. If a branch is necessary a place can be rented in Bombay. Let me know if there is any defect in my reasoning.

BAPU

[C/O] SHANTIKUMAR MORARJEE
SCINDIA HOUSE
BOMBAY

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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373. LETTER TO SHANTIKUMAR MORARJEE

September 3, 1945

CHI. SHANTIKUMAR,

The letter[1] to Bapa could not be written earlier. I wrote it this morning and enclose it herewith. You will pass it on to him, if you approve of the contents. I showed it to Sardar. He has approved of it.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : C.W. 4805. Courtesy : Shantikumar Morarjee

374. LETTER TO MUNNALAL G. SHAH

September 3, 1945

CHI. MUNNALAL,

I got your letter. I am not sending Sushilabehn just now. She has a meeting[2] on the 9th. I will see after that. I hope the kitchen there is running smoothly. Durgabehn[3] must be helping and Pushpa must be giving her full co-operation. I think Mohansingh can make bread, etc., with great speed. Show this letter to Krishnachandra and the others, too.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 8436. Also C.W. 5595. Courtesy : Munnalal G. Shah

[1] *Vide* the preceding item.
[2] Of the Medical Board
[3] Widow of Mahadev Desai

375. LETTER TO PUSHPA K. DESAI

September 3, 1945

CHI. PUSHPA,

I have your letter. I see your firmness in the letter. Keep it up. I will not write to Rajanibhai just now. If you cannot please your parents in the first matter, at least do so in the other matter. I am sending your letter to your father. And if he is willing, that is, if he approves of my writing, I will do so. You need not write to your friend, either, just now. If you must write, send the letter through your father. If you write to anyone besides me, do so through your father. Who can make you change your mind? But don't you think you would be practising *bhakti* by following the path of action ? Not only is disinterested action not an obstacle to *bhakti* but on the contrary I think it alone is true *bhakti.*

Nobody has paid me the Rs. 25. It will be paid to me if they let it be paid.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 9263

376. LETTER TO SITA GANDHI

September 3, 1945

CHI. SITA,

I wanted to reply to you immediately but so many days have gone by.

Student life is a kind of strenuous and perhaps a difficult sannyasa. During that time one should not think of one's parents or be unhappy or cry because of separation from anyone. At the moment concentrate solely on your studies. Taking care of yourself is included in it. You must be carrying on well. Do not get disheartened if there are difficulties in the way. To learn to overcome difficulties is an integral part of education.

Blessings from
BAPU

MASHRUWALA'S BUNGALOW
AKOLA

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

377. LETTER TO MANEKLAL GANDHI

September 3, 1945

CHI. MANEKLAL,

I have your letter as well as the papers about Darbarshri[1]. I have shown them to Dr. Dinshaw. His opinion is enclosed herewith. Just now how can I say what will be Dr. Dinshaw's charges? But I am enclosing his typed rates so that you can have some idea. It is full here at present. So even if Darbarshri wants to come, no room will be vacant before October. Just now the Doctor cannot go there at all. He cannot leave his work.

Blessings from
BAPU

MANEKLAL AMRITLAL GANDHI
THANA DEVLI
KATHIAWAR

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

378. LETTER TO V. L. MEHTA

September 3, 1945

BHAI VAIKUNTH,

I have your letter. I am happy about your joining the subcommittee. You are bound to be useful in some ways.

I think it is good that you left Bharat Bank.[2] Why should you join a new concern?

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI V. L. MEHTA
91 BACK HOUSE LANE, BOMBAY

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Darbarshri Amrabapa
[2] *Vide* p. 183.

379. LETTER TO DR. JIVRAJ MEHTA

September 3, 1945

BHAI JIVRAJ,

Nowadays the villages around Sevagram are in the grip of cholera. The hospital doctors are working very hard. They are giving the medicine prescribed by the Civil Hospital. Is giving enema the only remedy? How to cope with thousands of patients? Isn't there anything in Homoeopathy or Ayurveda?

What funeral rites can be performed for thousands of villagers? How to find wood for burning so many? Who can burn a hundred or two hundred daily and how much time will it take? If they are buried, how much space will be required? How to cope with the situation? Think over this when you all meet on September 9 and also discuss Kasturba Memorial.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. JIVRAJ MEHTA
16 ALTAMONT ROAD
BOMBAY 26

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

380. LETTER TO HARISHCHANDRA B. BHATT

September 3, 1945

BHAI HARISHCHANDRA,

I got your letter yesterday and the book today. It is to be seen when I can find time to read it. I very much wish to but how can I spare that much time?

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA B. BHATT
ABOVE KIKABHAI TYPE FOUNDRY
PRINCESS STREET
BOMBAY 2

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

381. LETTER TO KRISHNACHANDRA

September 3, 1945

CHI. KRISHNACHANDRA

You have taken charge[1]. Let us see what happens. Everything will be clear if you have patience. Read what I have written[2] in my letter to Munnalal.

I hope Hoshiari is well and also others.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 4524

382. LETTER TO PRABHAKAR

September 3, 1945

CHI. PRABHAKAR,

You will read what I have written to Aminbhai.[3] I can understand your refusing to be inoculated. You should not have resorted to a fast even against Aminbhai. Your duty was and is to continue doing service. You could have told Aminbhai to consult me.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 9032. Also C.W. 9156. Courtesy : Prabhakar

[1] As manager of the Ashram
[2] *Vide* p. 219.
[3] *Vide* p. 212.

383. LETTER TO PRABHAVATI

September 3, 1945

CHI. PRABHA,

I have your letter. I shall decide when we meet. Come whenever you can. I shall be here after 20th of September. Even if I have to go to Bombay it will be for a couple of days for the meeting. I do not really wish to go.

I had a letter from Priyamvada. I have written to you about it.[1] Give your name. You do not have to do any work right now.

As for Father[2], I wish he would be freed from it. If I had my way I would stop all medicines. Don't you even get lemons there? Mix water and honey in lime juice. It is enough to mix two tea-spoonfuls of honey in 16 ounces of water. Let him sip as much of it as he can.

Rajkumari came yesterday.[3]

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 3581

384. LETTER TO GANESHSHASTRI JOSHI

To be delivered by hand *September 3, 1945*

BHAI GANESH SHASTRI,

There is too much of cholera around Sevagram. What does Ayurveda have to say? People are succumbing to the disease every day; how can we then promptly cremate the bodies? Where to find all the firewood? How quickly and in what manner should the body be removed? If they are to be buried, how should it be done and by whom? Please think over the problem. Send a reply or meet Dr. Sushila and discuss the matter with her. Be prompt.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : C.W. 933. Courtesy : Ganeshshastri Joshi

[1] *Vide* p. 189.
[2] Brajkishore Prasad
[3] Amrit Kaur, however, reached Poona on September 1.

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385. LETTER TO SHYAMLAL

September 3, 1945

BHAI SHYAMLAL,

I have your two letters. One regarding resolution No. 209 and the other about Krishna District. Both suggestions are accepted.

M. K. GANDHI

SHRI SHYAMLALJI
KASTURBA SMARAK
BAJAJWADI, WARDHA

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

386. LETTER TO POONAMCHAND RANKA

September 3, 1945

BHAI POONAMCHAND,

Your letter is interesting. Get well. Engross yourself in constructive work. Learn and also teach all the processes of [making] yarn.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHETH POONAMCHAND RANKA
RANKA KUTI
SHANKER COLONY, NAGPUR

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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387. LETTER TO ALI REZA DABEER

September 3, 1945

BHAI SAHEB,

I have your letter. There are hundreds of thousands of Muslims who do not speak or write Urdu. It is wrong to say that Urdu is the language of Muslims. There are Hindus in the Punjab, Kashmir and the U. P., etc., who speak Urdu. The Muslim prayer is recited not for anybody's sake but because of my personal wish. It is a different thing if you refuse to overlook the mistakes that may occur while writing Urdu or reciting the prayer. God does not notice slips of the tongue. He sees only the purity of heart.

Yours,
BAPU

JANAB ALI REZA DABEER
2405 EAST STREET
CAMP, POONA

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

388. LETTER TO SANKARAN

September 3, 1945

CHI. SANKARAN,

I am glad that the cholera has subsided to some extent. Try to find its root. Do you cremate or bury the dead? From what I hear, it seems people are running away.

All of you should be engaged in serving the patients. Do you get any help from the Ashram? Have you asked for it or have no need for it?

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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389. LETTER TO GOKULCHAND NARANG

September 3, 1945

BHAI GOKULCHAND NARANG[1],

I have read your letter. I am helpless. I reply only when I am asked. Hardly ever about elections. I have very little interest in them.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

DR. GOKULCHAND NARANG
SAVOY HOTEL
MUSSOORIE

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

390. LETTER TO PRABODH RANJAN GHOSH

September 3, 1945

BHAI PRABODH RANJAN,

I feel sorry for you. If you don't have money, ask Dr. Roy. Only he can help.

Vandemataram from
M. K. GANDHI

SHRI PRABODH RANJAN GHOSH
P. O. MADANIPUR
DISTRICT FARIDPUR (BENGAL)

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Barrister from Lahore; Minister, Local Self-Government in the Punjab

391. LETTER TO DEVDAS GANDHI

POONA,
September 4, 1945

CHI. DEVDAS,

I have your postcard. Do come over. Rajkumari had a talk with me. She wrote to you only yesterday. I hope you are all right.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI DEVDAS GANDHI
BOMBAY

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

392. LETTER TO G. N. KANITKAR

September 4, 1945

BHAI BALUKAKA,

How can anyone feel insulted if I do not see him? How can you feel insulted?

I know my duty with regard to Satara[1]. I am following it. What I am doing is not for the satisfaction of anyone.

Vandemataram from
M. K. GANDHI

BHAI BALUKAKA KANITKAR
341 SADASHIV
POONA

From a photostat of the Hindi : C.W. 974. Courtesy : Gajanan Kanitkar

[1] Where, as in several other places, British administration had been put out of action during the Quit India movement and a parallel administration known as *Patri Sarkar* had been set up. According to Bombay Secret Abstracts, instances of gangster activity by underground agitators had been reported in a Government Press note and Gandhiji had discussions with Maharashtra Congress leaders on September 1 on the situation in Satara.

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393. TELEGRAM TO BASANTI DEVI DAS

POONA,
September 5, 1945

BASANTIDEVI DAS[1]
RUSSAROAD
CALCUTTA

ATTENDING HARIDAS[2] CASE. HOPE YOU WELL.

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

394. LETTER TO BHUPENDRA NATH SENGUPTA

POONA,
September 5, 1945

MY DEAR BHUPEN,

I have your letter. I must not tax myself to give you a detailed answer. You must revert to it when we meet or remind me later, if time fails to solve the puzzles. When I go to Bengal I won't have a large party with me. Who will be there, I do not know.

Love.

BAPU

SHRI B. N. SENGUPTA
99/2 BALLYGUNJE PLACE
CALCUTTA

From a photostat : G.N. 10066

[1] Widow of C. R. Das
[2] Haridas Mitra, who was under a sentence of death; *vide* pp. 253-4.

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395. LETTER TO ANNE MARIE PETERSEN

September 5, 1945

MY DEAR MARIA,

I have got all your papers now. I see that it is nobody's fault at the Centre. Anyway I am on the track now.

Love.

SMT. MISS MARIA PETERSEN
SEVA MANDIR, PORTO NOVO
SOUTH INDIA

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

396. LETTER TO SHYAMLAL

September 5, 1945

BHAI SHYAMLAL,

I have your letter about Assam. Pass the budget for Rs. 810. As for the rest, wait till you get the Committee's report.[1]

See if Gopalaswami has replied about Miss Petersen.

Blessings from
M. K. GANDHI

SHRI SHYAMLALJI
SECRETARY, KASTURBA MEMORIAL
BAJAJWADI
WARDHA

From the Hindi original : Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

[1] *Vide* pp. 246-7.

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397. CABLE TO PULINSEAL

POONA,
September 6, 1945

PULINSEAL
93 REGENT STREET
LONDON

REFERRING YOUR CABLE NEHRU.

GANDHI

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

398. LETTER TO INAYATULLAH KHAN[1]

POONA,
September 6, 1945

I am exceedingly sorry that I misplaced your letter and have been the cause of troubling you to send me a copy. I have now read the same and I had your telegram also about it. My personal opinion is that there should be no distribution of seats but that elections should be on a basis of adult suffrage and only one electorate. But mine is a voice in the wilderness. Therefore, I am afraid, it will not count among divided counsellors. You claim to represent 300 million. Congress is also a representative organization; so is the Muslim League and many other organizations. You have, therefore, to secure their co-operation.

I have been much misunderstood when I have asserted that I claim no representative capacity. That I have influence over some persons does not make me a representative. I would therefore urge you to secure the co-operation, if you can, of the Congress and the Muslim League.

I am sending this, as desired by you, to Dastagir Sahib[2] and posting you a copy.

M. K. GANDHI

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] The Khaksar leader popularly known as Allama Mashriqui. An Urdu translation of the letter was sent to the addressee.

[2] Ahmed Dastagir; *vide* the following item.

399. LETTER TO AHMED DASTAGIR

September 6, 1945

AHMED DASTAGIR SAHEB,

As promised I am sending a letter to you for Allama Saheb.[1] I had your letter. You can come over whenever you wish to.[2]

Today I have Allama Saheb's letter and a copy of his earlier letter. As desired by him, I have written to him also.

MOHAN K. GANDHI

From a copy of the Urdu : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

400. LETTER TO HEMENDRA K. SHAH

September 6, 1945

BHAI HEMENDRA SHAH,

I have gone through your letter. I am no longer interested in that subject. I have expressed my views in the introduction to *Varnavyavastha*[3]. Only those who are well versed in the subject can give their opinion.

Vandemataram from
M. K. GANDHI

SHRI HEMENDRA KISHOREDAS SHAH
ACHRATBAI SANATORIUM
OPPOSITE STATION
KANDIVALI, B.B. & C.I.RLY.

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] *Vide* the preceding item.

[2] According to the Bombay Secret Abstracts the addressee, deputed by Allama Mashriqui, discussed with Gandhiji in the week beginning September 8 the draft constitution framed by the former.

[3] *Vide* Vol. LIX, pp. 61-7.

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401. LETTER TO G. N. KANITKAR

September 6, 1945

BHAI BALUKAKA,

I have your letter. What can I do? You possess a long pen. I have nothing.

Vandemataram from
M. K. GANDHI

From a photostat of the Hindi : C.W. 975

402. TELEGRAM TO KISHORELAL G. MASHRUWALA

Express

POONA,
September 7, 1945

MASHRUWALA
ASHRAM SEVAGRAM
WARDHA

YOUR LETTER. SORRY. TELL SANKARAN AMIN SHOULD WILLINGLY OBEY YOUR INSTRUCTIONS.[1] THEY OUGHT TO WORK WHOLEHEARTEDLY DURING CHOLERA. SUSHILA WILL GO THERE AFTER SUNDAY MEDICAL BOARD MEETING WHICH SHE MUST ATTEND.

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

403. LETTER TO R. C. HAUFFMANN

POONA,
September 7, 1945

DEAR MR. HAUFFMANN,

Your letter. My further substantiation for my position comes from my own life and that of others, Hindus and non-Hindus who have tried to live the truth that is in us. I wholly accept your statement that just as faith without work is dead so is work without faith and you admit that you have begun to doubt

[1] *Vide* also p. 234.

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yourself, i. e., your work. Doubt and you are lost. Is it possible to go further and doubt the sacrifice behind your work? My extensive experience tells me that work speaks more effectively than speech which is often deceptive.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

R. C. HAUFFMANN, ESQ.
SECRETARY & TREASURER
BENGAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL RELIEF FUND
13 WELLINGTON SQUARE
C/O LEE MEMORIAL MISSION
CALCUTTA

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

404. LETTER TO SANKARAN

September 7, 1945

CHI. SANKARAN,

I am pained as well as surprised by what I hear about you. If you have to be told at every step, there is no point in telling you anything. Scolding Prabhakar, not listening to Kishorelalbhai and lastly refusing to work when cholera is widespread, all this is unworthy of you. I have sent a telegram[1] today. If you can quietly serve at the Ashram, do so, otherwise leave it and go wherever you wish to. Realize that everyone is our master and we are servants.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI SANKARAN
SEVAGRAM

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] *Vide* p. 233.

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405. LETTER TO MANAHAR DIWAN

September 7, 1945

BHAI MANAHAR,

I have your telegram regarding Shastriji's [death]. I am very happy that he has been released. My faith grows stronger that it cannot be dharma to live or to keep someone alive somehow or other.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

406. LETTER TO P. C. JOSHI

NATURE CURE CLINIC,
6 TODIWALA ROAD,
POONA,
September 8, 1945

DEAR JOSHI,

Your letter of 5th instant. And I had a chat with Kumaramangalam.

I do not wish to prolong our correspondence. Your letter seems to me like an invitation to say, 'I am sorry I took as much interest as I did in your party's doings.' The invitation notwithstanding, I must go my way under the self-imposed limitations.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

SHRI P. C. JOSHI
COMMUNIST PARTY
BOMBAY

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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407. LETTER TO BIBHAWATI BOSE

September 8, 1945

DEAR SISTER,

I have your warm invitation. But my work this time would take me to Sodepur. Of course I shall hope to come to your house some time during my stay.

Hope you are well.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

MRS. BIBHAWATI BOSE
1 WOODBURN PARK
CALCUTTA

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

408. LETTER TO KANU GANDHI

September 8, 1945

CHI. KANU,

I got a letter from you after many days. I will merely say that Ramdas must get well soon. You cannot afford to fall ill.

Blessings to you all from
BAPU

SHRI KANU GANDHI
C/O RAMDAS GANDHI
KHALASI LINE
NAGPUR

From a photostat of the Gujarati : C.W. 9520. Courtesy : Kanu Gandhi

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409. LETTER TO KAILAS D. MASTER

September 8, 1945

CHI. KAILAS,

I have not been able to write to you. Since you have settled down I am no longer worried. As I have a lot of work, I write only to those to whom I must. Why are you still so restless? Do good service and earn merit. Teach others such as Hoshiari-behn. Keep writing to me.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

410. LETTER TO MUNNALAL G. SHAH

September 8, 1945

CHI. MUNNALAL,

I got your letter. There is no need for you to write anything to Ramnarayanji.

I advise you to go on serving silently, speaking only when you must.

Kanchan's problem is a difficult one. It can be made easy if you come to a firm decision and act upon it.

I understand about Hiramani. You should write nothing to Ambegaonkar. Let him go to court. If he comes to me, I will see.

Forget about Vina.

Sushilabehn is going there and will do what is necessary about the hospital.

I am very hard pressed for time and, therefore, content myself with this short letter.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 8435. Also C.W. 5596. Courtesy : Munnalal G. Shah

411. LETTER TO SANKARAN

September 8, 1945

CHI. SANKARAN,

I have read your letter. From the very beginning you have not been behaving well. I have also told you about it, but I have not been able to understand you. You had better do some independent work if you can [not] live there and work peacefully in a spirit of service. I shall not be satisfied simply because at present everything is going on smoothly. Now Sushilabehn is going over there. She will tell you more.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

Your duty is to do what Prabhakar tells you. You may be more knowledgeable, but he is richer in human qualities.

SHRI SANKARAN
SEVAGRAM ASHRAM

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

412. LETTER TO HOSHIARI

September 8, 1945

CHI. HOSHIARI,

You are doing a lot of work. If Krishnachandra cannot teach you, take lessons from anyone else, man or woman. May you and Gajraj make progress.

Blessings from
BAPU

HOSHIARI
ASHRAM, SEVAGRAM

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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413. LETTER TO PRABHAKAR

September 8, 1945

CHI. PRABHAKAR,

Aminbhai may go to Karachi or do hospital work at Sevagram itself. I think it is worth giving him the necessary help for our work.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI PRABHAKAR
ASHRAM, SEVAGRAM

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

414. LETTER TO KISHORELAL G. MASHRUWALA

POONA,
September 9, 1945

CHI. KISHORELAL,

I have your letter and also the telegram. Sushila left in the morning and I think she will leave for [Sevagram] today itself. I can't stop her from going even if I want to. Moreover, I want her to go and look you up. Your letter suggests that quarrels are still going on there. Your blood-pressure is lower than it should be. I should not worry but I am not happy about it. That is why it is good that Sushila is going there. I have faith in her competence.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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415. TELEGRAM TO G. D. BIRLA

POONA,
September 10, 1945

GHANSHYAMDAS BIRLA
CARE LUCKY
CALCUTTA

WILL KNOW WHEN GHOSH[1] COMES HERE. HOPE YOU WELL[2].

BAPU

From the original : C.W. 7872. Courtesy : G. D. Birla

416. LETTER TO CHIEF SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT OF C. P.

NATURE CURE CLINIC,
6 TODIWALA ROAD, POONA,
September 10, 1945

THE CHIEF SECRETARY
CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR GOVERNMENT
NAGPUR

DEAR SIR,

I enclose herewith a statement of the claim[3] by the Gram Seva Mandal, Nalwadi, Wardha. You will notice that it has been very carefully prepared and contains only an account of what with ordinary care could have been avoided by Government men. In my opinion, such losses cannot be covered by any extraordinary measure.

Yours truly,

Enclosure: 1

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Sudhir Ghosh

[2] The source has "will", obviously a slip.

[3] The reference is to the property of the Nalwadi and Paunar Ashrams which had been confiscated by the Government and presumably returned in response to Gandhiji's letters to the addressee. *Vide* Vol. LXXVIII, p. 323.

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417. LETTER TO V. A. SUNDARAM

POONA,
September 10, 1945

CHI. SUNDARAM,[1]

The thought for Monday is good.
Love to you all.

BAPU

From a photostat : G.N. 3196

418. NOTE TO AMRIT KAUR

September 10, 1945

Did you sleep well? Have your food as well here as in Manorville[2]. Therefore, if you had fruit there in the morning or whatever it was, you should have here.

From a photostat : C.W. 4207. Courtesy : Amrit Kaur. Also G.N. 7843

419. NOTE TO AMRIT KAUR

September 10, 1945

I have gone through it in a hurry. You should read it carefully, suggest corrections, and when I have seen them, dispatch.

From the original : C.W. 4206. Courtesy : Amrit Kaur. Also G.N. 7842

420. LETTER TO MUNNALAL G. SHAH

September 10, 1945

CHI. MUNNALAL,

Your admission of your mistake[3] is quite frank. Forget about it now. There is no point in dwelling upon it. Tell the

[1] The superscription is in Tamil.
[2] Addressee's house in Simla
[3] *Vide* pp. 201-2.

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persons concerned. That is, write to Vina and Khimji. I will show the letter to Abha. The main thing with regard to Babla[1] is that our stand should be clarified. I will not harass you about the Ashram.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 8434. Also C.W. 5597. Courtesy : Munnalal G. Shah

421. LETTER TO RAMANLAL SHAH

September 10, 1945

BHAI RAMANLAL,

I have your letter. Do as Gomatibehn tells you. Stay where she decides for you to. I believe that it is for your own good. There is a lot of truth in the saying that faith can move mountains. Faith cannot be induced. It is real only if it comes from within.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Ramanlal Shah Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

422. LETTER TO KANTA

September 10, 1945

CHI. KANTA,

I have your letter. I am very happy that the child has fully recovered. It is good that you did not come. What could you have gained by meeting me? If you are there, we shall meet when I come over. I shall be happy if you are engrossed in service but that as your dharma, not in order to please me or anyone else.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Narayan Desai, son of Mahadev Desai

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423. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

September 10, 1945

CHI. SUSHILA,

I hope you reached there comfortably. Just now there is a telegram from Kishorelal saying that you need not go. But it is good that you are there. Enclosed is a letter from Krishnavarma. It is about cholera. Go through it. He has sent some medicine. I am not forwarding the newspaper [cutting] he has sent.[1]

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

424. LETTER TO KRISHNAVARMA

September 10, 1945

BHAI KRISHNAVARMA,

I am returning your cutting. It is good. You did well in sending the medicine to the Ashram. Sushila has gone to Sevagram for the same reason. I am sending your letter there. Come after the 15th after confirming it. Mama has gone to Panchgani.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

What do you suggest as regards cremating the dead in the villages?

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] *Vide* also the following item.

425. LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI

September 10, 1945

This is just to tell you that I hope you are well and that you are not worrying about anything.

[From Gujarati]

Bapuni Prasadi, p. 206

426. LETTER TO SURENDRA

September 10, 1945

SURENDRA,

Repeat Ramanama when faith wavers. That will show you the right path. And if you wish to understand all this go to Kishorelal. He is at Sevagram. Just now I shall not send for you. Nothing is certain. I may have to go to Bombay on the 21st. I am trying to avoid it. In October I may have to go to Calcutta. While on my way I will certainly go to the Ashram. You can come then. Nevertheless, if you must, come over here. Faith is not a question of reason. It comes from within. Reason refuses to believe that there is Shankar in every *kankar*.[1]

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

427. LETTER TO AMRITLAL V. THAKKAR

September 10, 1945

BAPA,

I have two letters before me. Do get Rajkumari's pamphlet[2] published in other languages. The Santiniketan people are doing

[1] "There is God in every pebble."
[2] *To Women*

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it in Bengali. Most probably Sucheta will not go there. I am thinking about it. We shall get someone. More when we meet.

BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

428. LETTER TO CHIMANLAL M. TRIVEDI

September 10, 1945

BHAI CHIMANLAL,

Your letter. I will not have any time till the 22nd. After that God alone knows.

I know nothing about insurance. You can see Acharya Kumarappa at Maganwadi, Wardha [about this].

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI CHIMANLAL MANEKLAL TRIVEDI
ANAND BHUVAN
AMRAVATI ROAD
NAGPUR, C. P.

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

429. LETTER TO CHHAGANLAL JOSHI

September 10, 1945

CHI. CHHAGANLAL,

There is nothing strange in what you have said. I would like to take you somewhere if I have to travel any time. It will be only a question of convenience. Write to me when the time comes.

Blessings to you all from
BAPU

CHI. CHHAGANLAL JOSHI
HARIJAN SEVAK SANGH
RAJKOT
KATHIAWAR

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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430. LETTER TO KRISHNACHANDRA

September 10, 1945

CHI. KRISHNACHANDRA,

I have your letter. I do not wish to write anything now that Sushilabehn is going there.

If you can trust Parnerkar and he is willing, let him take care of the work on the farm. I can say nothing definite from such a distance. Do as Kishorelalbhai says.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 4525

431. LETTER TO AMALPRABHA DAS

September 10, 1945

CHI. AMALPRABHA[1],

I have your letter. I have passed the budget for Rs. 810. I shall pass the other one also but I have had a committee set up for the camp[2]. I want to pass it after making any changes that may be necessary after the committee submits its report. The committee has given me the authority about Assam, so if there is any delay I shall be to blame. But I shall not let that happen.

The purchase of *muga*[3] should be taken in hand. With regard to the method it will be enough if the following things are kept in mind:

1. Let the work of the camp be based on the principle of self-sufficiency. This means that the camp should become self-sufficient by the time it is wound up. There would thus be no harm if the camp is kept going for a longer period. Maybe, prolonging it will lead to knowledge becoming richer and deeper.
2. Spinning and the entire processing of cotton should be done with full knowledge.

[1] Daughter of Dr. Das of Gauhati

[2] Which was subsequently set up at Saraina near Gauhati for Gandhiji's proposed visit in January 1946

[3] A variety of silk yarn

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3. Some good craft should also be taught. That too should be done with full knowledge. There should be perfect cleanliness in the camp as also among individuals.

4. The basis of self-sufficiency should be silk.

5. The work of the camp should be done so far as possible by the inmates. Let there be as few servants as possible.

6. The workers, as far as possible, should be women.

7. The camp should be located in or near a village and the life in the camp should resemble the life of the villagers.

I have written this much by way of giving guidelines. The rules that may be received from the central authority must be followed.

What I have written should be sufficient. If not, let me know.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI AMALPRABHA
TALIMI SANGH, SEVAGRAM

From a photostat of the Hindi : C.W. 10389

432. LETTER TO INDUMATI TENDULKAR

September 10, 1945

CHI. INDU,

I got your letter. It is good. I saw the reports of your marriage in the newspapers. I also get some letters. You are right when you say that you and your husband do not wish to answer them. That responsibility lies with me and when the opportunity comes I shall even reply publicly.

You will recover. Don't take too many drugs. Gunaji is acquainted with nature cure and also believes in it.

I understand about Doctor. It will be good if he devotes himself to work of service. You will both prove that marriage can also further the cause of service.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI INDUMATI TENDULKAR
THALAKWADI, BELGAUM[1]

From a photostat of the Hindi : C.W. 10948. Courtesy : Indumati Tendulkar. Also Pyarelal Papers

[1] The address is from a copy in Pyarelal Papers.

433. LETTER TO MANAHAR DIWAN

September 10, 1945

BHAI MANAHAR,

I have your second letter. All has ended well with Shastriji. I sent a telegram and also a letter.[1] God alone can reward you for your services. But you don't want any, do you?

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI MANAHAR DIWAN
DUTTAPUR

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

434. LETTER TO YASHODHARA DASAPPA

September 10, 1945

CHI. YASHODHARA,

I have your letter. Of course you have my blessings for your work. Let us see if your work draws me to Mysore or not. Now Ramdas moves around with Nanavati. I hope you are all right.

Are both of you learning the Nagari and the Urdu scripts?

Blessings to you both from
BAPU

SHRI YASHODHARA DASAPPA
KASTURBA TRUST
V. V. MOHALLA, MYSORE

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] *Vide* p. 235.

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435. LETTER TO JATINDAS M. AMIN

September 10/11, 1945

CHI. AMIN,

Only today I got your letter.

Sushila has been in the Ashram for a day already because she had left Bombay [for Sevagram] yesterday. She did not stop even for a minute after the meeting.

I have no doubt that you are doing solid work. You have yourself admitted that you get excited too soon. Those who get excited in this way cannot render much service. You had better get rid of anger. Of course Bhansali appreciates your work but your work should be its own reward. Don't let there be any shortcoming for want of appreciation from others. I know that you have a great capacity for work. Rest assured that it will increase a lot if you give up your vanity. You belong to the Ashram and I wish that you should not leave it. The Ashram should be like a mother to you. How long, therefore, can you stay away from it?

Keep writing to me. Show this letter to Sushilabehn, for I am not writing at length to her.

Tell Sankaran that I have his letter. It does not call for a reply.

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

436. LETTER TO M. VISVESVARAYYA

NATURE CURE CLINIC,
6 TODIWALA ROAD, POONA,
September 11, 1945

DEAR SIR VISVESVARAYYA[1],

I have your letter of the 7th July. I know I am very late in replying to it but it was inevitable. As it is I am sending even this late line under pressure. I appreciate your zeal in the

[1] Mokshagundam Visvesvarayya(1861-1962); engineer and statesman; ex-Dewan of Mysore

cause you have at heart and marvel at the fact that at your time of life you throw into your work so much energy and thought. There, however, my appreciation, I fear, stands.

Of course, verbally our objectives appear the same but when I look at our means, the difference seems to me to be unbridgeable. It may be that both of us being old and hardened are unable to see eye to eye. If you regard South Africa as an elongated part of the West, I have passed the best part of my life in the West. I have seen people, high and low, working with amazing speed and with the most modern machinery, the income of the commonest European labourer being higher than that of the American. Yet it was there that I learnt to recoil from their method and manner. They preyed upon the misery of the Negro, holding him and his wife as beasts of burden. Things, therefore, that attract you do not attract me but rather repel me. Much as I would love to work as a humble co-worker side by side with you, I cannot.

Your detailed, patient replies[1] carefully prepared, fail to convince me. What is the use of taxing you further with my questions? Let me tell you that I claim to have been working schemes fairly successfully among the village population with well-knit organizations. Nearly four crores (as I can recall) have been distributed among the villagers, not as doles, but for solid work done—and this in the face of heavy odds. Had it not been for the opposition of the Government and their unreasoned wrath after the August of 1942, the said organizations would have shown greater results. But I cannot expect you with your Krishnasagar marvels to your credit even to look at my scheme. I can, therefore, only conclude by expressing my eagerness to follow not your scheme but your solid work and learn from it, if I see anything to learn.

I hope you are keeping perfectly well and fit.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

SIR M. VISVESVARAYYA, K.C.I.E.
UPLANDS, HIGH GROUND
BANGALORE

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] For Gandhiji's questions, *vide* Vol. LXXX, pp. 301-2.

437. LETTER TO CHIMANLAL N. SHAH

September 11, 1945

CHI. CHIMANLAL,

I got your letter. Sushila must have arrived there. If Jajuji engages Ramprasad in place of Motilal Rathi and Ramprasad takes up the work, I will welcome it. I do not understand Ramprasad asking for still higher pay, but if Jajuji decides to increase it I will not object. I myself will not be able to decide in the matter. If Ramprasad undertakes to look after the construction of the building, will the couple stay there or continue to stay in the Ashram? This also will have to be decided by you.

I don't need further particulars about the sum of Rs. 5,000 received through Rasiklal. Permit it to be used for the Harijan work planned by Bapa. I have an impression that he suggested its being used in Kathiawar.

Now about Sharma. I have gone through the correspondence sent by you. Continue the correspondence and let me know the result. Chi. Kanaiyo has arrived. He broke his journey at Surat to see Sharda. He says that again she is having low temperature.

I think I have answered all the points.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 10643

438. LETTER TO KRISHNACHANDRA

POONA,
September 11, 1945

CHI. KRISHNACHANDRA,

I have your letter. Now that Sushilabehn is there, nothing is left for me to write.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 4526

439. LETTER TO NARANDAS GANDHI

POONA,
September 12, 1945

CHI. NARANDAS,

I got your letter and the statement. You will see that I have made many changes in the statement. I do hope that you will understand the reasons behind them. They do not violate the existing rules of the Charkha Sangh. Just now my advice to you is that you may follow the practice of offering 1½ per cent discount to any member buying khadi worth Rs. 100 from the store which you are running or the stores which are being run under your supervision in Kathiawar. If the Charkha Sangh accepts this rule, it should decide to buy khadi only from the stores under the control of the respective branches. If, instead, a member from Kanyakumari wants to buy khadi from a store under the Punjab branch, there will be a danger of extensive malpractices.

Your scheme does have my blessings, of course. I will, moreover, definitely send something with anybody from here going there.

Balasaheb Kher is engaged on the 2nd and the 3rd. He, therefore, cannot come. He has suggested the following names in his place. Narahari Parikh, Morarji Desai, Kaka Kalelkar, Dada Mavalankar. From among them Kaka Kalelkar is here. I met him. I think he will be able to give the maximum work. Narahari cannot be spared at all just now. He has taken upon himself a lot of work. Kaka can arrive there on the 1st and must return on the 4th. He will not, therefore, be able to undertake a long tour there. He has agreed to attend an important meeting in Bombay on the 6th.

You are entering your 60th year today, but according to me you should aspire to live for another 60 years still. You may, therefore, be said to have completed half the journey. Only today I read in a book that a man should aspire to live 150 years. Even if the millions could entertain such an aspiration, it would be meaningless, for the condition affixed is that the person concerned should spend all these years in service in the spirit of *yajna*, that is, without attachment. It is an extremely

difficult job to practise non-attachment. But anybody who can cultivate it is sure to live up to 125, and you have the ability to cultivate it.[1]

Blessings from
BAPU

From a microfilm of the Gujarati : M.M.U./II. Also C.W. 8629. Courtesy : Narandas Gandhi

440. LETTER TO SHRIKRISHNADAS JAJU

September 12, 1945

BHAI JAJUJI,

I am sending Narandas's statement and his letter along with this. Go through it and if you think that what he has stated is right, we should try to have such members from all over the country. I think it is almost impossible to implement what he has suggested regarding the Congress as we do not have the required atmosphere. If we succeed in getting [enough] members we may be able to create the atmosphere. That is to say the Charkha Sangh has to impress the Congress by its own work. We have to devise the ways of gaining the strength to do so.

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

441. LETTER TO LORD WAVELL

NATURE CURE CLINIC,
6 TODIWALA ROAD, POONA,
September 14, 1945

DEAR FRIEND,

I am sorry that I have to worry you almost immediately on your return from London. My only excuse is that my mission is purely humanitarian.

Shri Haridas Mitra, an M.A. of the Calcutta University and the husband of Shri Subhas Chandra Bose's young niece[2], aged 22 years, is under sentence of death over what appears to be an untenable ground. I have perused the petition for mercy by the

[1] *Vide* also the following item.
[2] Bela Mitra

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uncle of the condemned as also of Advocate Carden Noad. I suggest that they furnish cogent grounds for the exercise of mercy. In any event the case for mercy becomes irresistible in that the war with Japan is over. It will be a political error of the first magnitude if this sentence of death is carried into effect. I rejoiced to learn that you had ordered postponement of execution till after consideration of the case by you on your return.

My attention was drawn to the case by the prisoner's wife as she has often sung at my prayer meetings when I had the honour of being a guest of Advocate Sarat Chandra Bose whom I am happy to learn the Government of India has ordered to be released.[1]

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

H. E. THE VICEROY
THE VICEROY'S HOUSE
NEW DELHI

Gandhiji's Correspondence with the Government, 1944-47, pp. 46-7

442. LETTER TO RANJITSINH HARBHAMJI

POONA,
September 14, 1945

BHAI RANJITSINHJI,

I have your letter. It is rather strange that often one cannot distinguish between a friend and a foe. Another strange thing is that you make yourself a foreigner by not writing in your mother tongue. Why are you deliberately ruining yourself ?

Vandemataram from
M. K. GANDHI

SHRI RANJITSINHJI HARBHAMJI
RAVA VILAS
RAJKOT
KATHIAWAR

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Replying to this on September 18, E. M. Jenkins, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, said that the case was "still being considered" by the Governor of Bengal and would "shortly" be submitted to the Viceroy.

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443. LETTER TO SARASWATI GADODIA

POONA,
September 14, 1945

CHI. SARASWATI,

I have your long letter. Bhai Hiralal has written to me fully and so I know what he has to say. But he is extremely hot-tempered and I run away from hot-tempered people. That is why I do not interfere in his affairs. Lakshminarayanji[1] has sent the copies of the letters he has written to him. Why should I get involved? And so I shall only say that if you two follow what seems to you pure truth I shall be satisfied.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 5629

444. LETTER TO KRISHNACHANDRA

POONA,
September 14, 1945

CHI. KRISHNACHANDRA,

I have your letter. It is well that Munnalal and Prabhakar have gone 12 miles away. I hope they have not gone walking!

It is good that you are giving lessons to Hoshiaribehn. Babaji must be well. It is too bad about Mahars. If the condition worsens let me know.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

We have to meet Pushpa's expenses. Whatever money is spent by her on that account should be paid back into her account.

We shall see about Kamle. Balkrishna had fever. He is better now.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 4527

[1] Lakshminarayan Gadodia, addressee's husband, was the Trustee and Treasurer of the nature-cure clinic run by Hiralal Sharma at Khurja.

445. LETTER TO LAKSHMAN SINGH GELAKOTI

POONA,
September 14, 1945

BHAI LAKSHMAN SINGHJI,

The cloth you sent has reached Sevagram. It will come here later. It is good you have started spinning and weaving activity. You have my blessings.

Blessings from
BAPU

LAKSHMAN SINGH GELAKOTI
TEACHER, MIDDLE SCHOOL
WADEDDINA
ALMORA

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

446. LETTER TO DR. B. S. MOONJE

POONA,
September 14, 1945

BHAI MOONJE,

I have your long letter. What is the point of my replying to it? Your views and mine are oceans apart. It is well that we can continue to be friends in spite of the differences. Why is your letter in English? Why not in Marathi or Hindustani?

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

DR. MOONJE
BHONSLE MILITARY SCHOOL
NASIK
G. I. P. RAILWAY

From the Hindi original : C.W. 9763. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

447. SPEECH AT PRAYER MEETING

POONA,
September 14, 1945

This is a place for prayers and not for public meetings. By their foolish and improper behaviour, those who disturbed me and other occupants in the clinic have demonstrated that they did not come for prayer.[1] I know there are people who do not believe in the existence of God. I met them in England and there may be some here. They ask, 'Where is God?' and 'If there is God, why is there so much distress in this world ?' But those who believe in God and prayers cannot show God. We expect that these prayers will have some effect on the minds of those who join us in the prayers.

I know you love your leaders and want to see and hear them. But it is wrong to force them to come out here after the hard work they have been doing or when they have left this place. You will have opportunity to see and hear them at other public meetings. I, therefore, request you to observe discipline during and after prayers. How could we train ourselves for swaraj if we do not keep peace and behave in a disciplined manner?

The Hindu, 16-9-1945

448. LETTER TO NAWAB OF BHOPAL

(*By hand through Chandu Shah*)

POONA,
September 16, 1945

DEAR NAWAB SAHEB,

Chandu has just given me your kind note. My sympathies with you in your loss.

I shall expect to hear from you whenever you think the time is opportune.

I am,
Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

H. H. NAWAB OF BHOPAL

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Some people had created a scene the previous night for seeing Jawaharlal Nehru.

449. LETTER TO JAIRAMDAS DOULATRAM

September 16, 1945

MY DEAR JAIRAMDASBHAI,

Bapu got your letter today. The telegram of course reached here the day before yesterday. He understands your inability to come here. Bapu says things will go well in regard to the marriage. About the election you may write to Sardar and decide.

You must have received my letter requesting you to compile a selection of Bapu's articles on the Hindu-Muslim [question]. It would please Bapu too if you could undertake this task. He says that Anand Hingorani will surely be willing to give you every possible help in this work.

Yours,
AMRIT KAUR

From the Hindi original : C.W. 11059. Courtesy : Arjun Jairamdas

450. LETTER TO HARSHADA DIWANJI

September 16, 1945

CHI. HARSHADA,

You have not mentioned how many years you have completed. Whatever the number don't you have now so many years less to live? From this point of view, we should mourn on our birthday. And if one gives blessings, one should do so to express the hope that, if the person has not fully known God in the years that have passed, he will spend the rest of his life in an endeavour to know Him.

Have you started learning the Urdu script? If not, why? I do not remember at all to have ever suffered, let alone suffered much.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI HARSHADABEHN DIWANJI
15TH ROAD
KHAR, BOMBAY

From a photostat of the Gujarati : C.W. 10225. Courtesy : Harshada Diwanji

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451. LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI

September 16, 1945

I got your note. I remember the *bhajan* about 'Jadabharat'[1] because I used to hum it to myself in South Africa. But I cannot say whether it means the same thing to me as it does to you. Please, therefore, write and let me know.

According to the theory of nature cure, all diseases have one single original cause. If that is true, the statement that "my health is good in other ways" is meaningless. This letter is just to amuse you and myself and also to show you that I think of you every day.

[From Gujarati]

Bapuni Prasadi, p. 207

452. LETTER TO CHAMPA R. MEHTA

September 16, 1945

CHI. CHAMPA,

I have your letter. I understand what you say about the Red Bungalow[2]. It does not create a good impression on me. Doctor[3] had it built at his own expense, but since he has not left a deed, all of you are entitled to claim it as your property. What shall I say about Maganlalbhai[4]? I hope Sarala will fully recover.

CHANDRAKUNJ
JAGNATH PLOT
RAJKOT

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] A yogi, described in the *Bhagavata*, feigning stupidity so as to escape involvement in mundane matters

[2] Near Sabarmati Ashram

[3] & [4] Dr. Pranjivandas Mehta and his youngest son

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453. LETTER TO KRISHNAVARMA

September 16, 1945

BHAI KRISHNAVARMA,

I am sending your letter[1] to Sushilabehn. You have rightly understood the problem of cremating the dead but yours is an old method. Somebody has to devise a new method. This should not be beyond the sphere of nature cure. How to dispose of dead bodies at a place where water comes up after a little digging and wood is not available? We have to go deep into the matter. Come after the A. I. C. C. meeting.

KRISHNAVARMA
NATURE CURE HOSPITAL
MALAD

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

454. LETTER TO JAMSHEDJI N. MEHTA

September 16, 1945

BHAI JAMSHEDJI,

I have your wire. What you say is right but the question is not so easy as you think.

JAMSHEDJI NASSERWANJI MEHTA
KARACHI

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] This was presumably in reply to Gandhiji's letter dated September 10 to the addressee; *vide* p. 243.

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455. LETTER TO KANU GANDHI

September 16, 1945

CHI. KANAM,

I have your letter. I am glad to know that you are going to Vinoba. Learn Sanskrit well and of course Urdu also. Don't spoil your health by trying to go too fast.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI KANU GANDHI
C/O SHRI RAMDAS GANDHI
KHALASI LINES
NAGPUR

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

456. LETTER TO BENARSIDAS CHATURVEDI

September 16, 1945

BHAI BENARSIDAS[1],

Your letter has pained me. But it is not proper to resign on that account. Merely giving up sugar, etc., will not do. Acquiring control over the mind is quite another matter.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 2517

[1] Editor of *Vishal Bharat* and writer; worked with Totaram Sanadhya and C. F. Andrews for the welfare of Indians settled abroad

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457. LETTER TO KHWAJA SAHEB

POONA,
September 16, 1945

JANAB KHWAJA SAHEB,

I have your letter of the 7th instant. Maulana Saheb told me that you had written a similar one to him also. Maulana Saheb will do the needful in the matter but all the same I am thankful to you for writing to me in such detail.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI[1]

From the Urdu original : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

458. NOTE TO AMRIT KAUR

September 17, 1945

How are you today? Your obstinacy is harmful. This is the place where it is likely that your throat trouble might go. Anyway Dinshaw should be tried. He won't do any injury. No medicine will have to be swallowed. "Pride goeth before destruction and haughtiness before a fall", whatever that may mean.

From the original : C.W. 4165. Courtesy : Amrit Kaur. Also G.N. 7801

459. LETTER TO MUNNALAL G. SHAH

POONA,
September 17, 1945

CHI. MUNNALAL,

I got your letter. You raise ridiculous objections. You yourself have admitted that you write long letters. I drew your attention to it merely to correct you.

There is no question of my being offended. I had read the portion regarding Parnerkar. I had no comment to make on it.

[1] The subscription is from a copy in Hindi available in Pyarelal Papers.

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Something can be done only after I return there. I have in any case written to Parnerkar.[1] I myself feel confused.

You yourself told me that you speak too much. You lose patience and get angry. If you forget this fact, how will you be able to reform yourself ? You work hard enough, but spoil everything by speaking too much. Won't you admit this? What matters in the prayer is the tune. It is a matter of common sense as to what should be done when your voice is not in tune with that of others or the voices of others are not in tune with yours. Praying therefore is not the remedy. The question is of knowing the tune.

Go on serving. I learnt much from the cholera. Let others also do the same.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 8433. Also C.W. 5598. Courtesy : Munnalal G. Shah

460. LETTER TO RAMNARAYAN CHOWDHARY

September 17, 1945

CHI. RAMNARAYAN,

I have your letter and also the one to Rajkumari. I see that from all quarters and in every way you got only injustice. Have you ever paused to think that when we seem to suffer injustice from all quarters, the weakness may really be our own, viz., of seeing wrong in others? Did you take up *goseva* only because of Jamnalalji or me and not for your own sake? Your faith seems superficial. May you all stay well. It is good that you are yourself teaching the girls.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI RAMNARAYAN CHOWDHARY
SHRI ANAND COTTON MILL
NEAR SARASPUR DARWAJA
AHMEDABAD

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] *Vide* pp. 186-7.

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461. LETTER TO KRISHNACHANDRA

September 17, 1945

CHI. KRISHNACHANDRA,

I have your letter. Rajkumari and Shantabehn have come.

Let the committee decide about chillies. It seems right to give chillies to those who stay in the Ashram without being its members or to those for whom the doctor may recommend it. Chi. Kailas[1] has come to observe all the rules of the Ashram. She should not desire to break them. It is another matter if the doctor recommends it on grounds of health.

There should be no compulsion at all.

There is no letter from Parnerkarji so far.

Balkrishna cannot be said to be out of the wood yet.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 4528

462. LETTER TO PRITHVI SINGH AZAD

September 17, 1945

BHAI PRITHVI SINGH,

I have read your letter[2] from beginning to end. Even though the signature is yours the language is not yours. Nor is the handwriting yours. I have already written to Joshiji[3]. I cannot go into the facts. I shall do as God prompts me.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

[PS.]

You say you have showed the letter to Nathji[4]. Let him write to Kishorelalbhai if he can testify to the facts. He would

[1] Kailas D. Master
[2] Defending the policy of the Communist Party of India
[3] P. C. Joshi; *vide* p. 235.
[4] Kedarnath Kulkarni

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probably investigate and if Nathji wants it, I feel he would certainly do it.

M. K. GANDHI

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 5655. Also C.W. 2966. Courtesy : Prithvi Singh Azad

463. LETTER TO VINA CHATTERJEE

September 17, 1945

CHI. VINA,

I have your letter. You will have to wait for your mother's sake. I remember to have already written to you. If not, it may be due to oversight. I feel your going to Calcutta is a waste but your heart is there and, if Sailen bears the expense, you can go. Maybe, it would be better if you went after your marriage. I won't be able to help you in this. I hope you are all right.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

464. LETTER TO HOSHIARI

September 17, 1945

CHI. HOSHIARI,

I hope you and Gajraj are well. I am glad you are doing good work. Does Gajraj know how to write? He should do every day some writing, reading and spinning. And whatever he does, he should do well.

Blessings from
BAPU

ASHRAM SEVAGRAM

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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465. LETTER TO ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINGH

September 17, 1945

BHAI ANUGRAHBABU,

I have your letter. I will use the medicine when it comes. If the medicine is so effective you must say how it is made. It is dharma not to make a business out of it.

Blessings from
BAPU

ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINGH
KADAM KUAN
PATNA, BIHAR

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

466. LETTER TO BALVANTSINHA

September 17, 1945

CHI. BALVANTSINHA,

I have your letter. I have time only to acknowledge it. I continue to get letters from Hoshiari. She is fine. You must be well.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI BALVANTSINHA
KISAN ASHRAM
P. O. BAHADARABAD, *via* JWALAPUR
U. P.

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 1967

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467. LETTER TO MIRABEHN[1]

September 17, 1945

CHI. MIRA,

Just to say I have your letter.
Love.

BAPU

From a photostat : G.N. 1967. Also Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

468. LETTER TO P. RAMAMOORTHY

September 19, 1945

DEAR RAMAMURTHY,

I have your letter. I must not argue with you. If the Congress exploits Harijans instead of serving them, the Congress will have to pay dearly for it. I believe in the universal law that the exploiter digs his own grave.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

SHRI PAMU RAMAMOORTHY
CHEDILAPORE
RAMARAOPETA, COCANADA

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

469. LETTER TO NARANDAS GANDHI

September 19, 1945

CHI. NARANDAS,

I like the above statement. I feel that swaraj lies in its complete observance.

[1] This is a postscript to the letter to Balvantsinha; *vide* the preceding item.

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This is in reply to your postcard, for publication with the statement or below it.

I will of course send something[1] with Kakasaheb.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

Kanaiyo is in Bombay. I hope you have recovered.

From a microfilm of the Gujarati : M.M.U./II. Also C.W. 8630. Courtesy : Narandas Gandhi

470. LETTER TO GAJANAN NAIK

September 19, 1945

CHI. GAJANAN,

I have your letter.

I cannot take Kamath with me. I will not be able to help him.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI GAJANAN
MAGANWADI
WARDHA, C. P.

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

471. LETTER TO PRABHAVATI[2]

September 19, 1945

CHI. PRABHA,

You are silly. What was so private in your letter? My plans are a little uncertain. For the present stay on there and read what you can. Let me know what you read. I intend to go to Bengal in October. Meet me then. In the mean time I am sure you will continue to write to me. See that you keep in good health. You must serve on the Kasturba Committee.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 3582

[1] For the Charkha Jayanti
[2] The letter is in the Devanagari script.

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472. A NOTE

September 19, 1945

Following the saying that "Where there are no trees the castor-oil-plant is held supreme", I welcome this scheme.

M. K. GANDHI

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 4089

473. A NOTE[1]

September 19, 1945

I hope people will respond to this appeal.

M. K. GANDHI

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

474. LETTER TO SHYAMLAL

POONA,
September 19, 1945

BHAI SHYAMLAL,

I got your letter of the 7th instant a few days ago. In one of the circulars I see that people have been asked to send their replies by the 21st or 22nd September at the time of the Committee's meeting. If the pamphlet was to be sent only after you got my reply, then the time is over. Till today I have not been able to read the pamphlet. And even if I had sent my reply, I think it would have been impossible to send the circulars to all the Provinces and get their replies in time. How can we work in such haste? And it is almost impossible for me to send my reply by return of post. At times I could reply to brief letters but not always. What shall we do in such a situation? It would be better not to wait for my permission for what is to be done urgently and in case it is imperative to have my permission I should be informed telegraphically. Then perhaps it would be possible for me to keep the reply ready.

[1] Gandhiji wrote this under an appeal for the Harijan Industrial School fund after revising it.

I have gone through all the circulars. I think there is no need for any amendment. If the circulars are not sent as yet, change the dates and send them out and they should be placed before the Committee's next meeting or a copy should be sent to all after getting the reply.

Yesterday I got Suchetabehn's letter. I am enclosing it. It should be kept in the office and a copy should be sent to Bapa. It would be better that she gives us a trial and we give her a trial for three months. And later on she can stay permanently if she is prepared to. She can keep travelling between Allahabad and Wardha. I don't find any objection to that. Just now there is no need to fix any salary for her. She has gone to Bombay today. She will meet Bapa there.

I am sending back all the circulars. They may be of some use there.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI SHYAMLAL
KASTURBA SMARAK
WARDHA

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

475. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

September 19, 1945

CHI. SUSHILA,

It is 9 p.m. just now. But let me write a few lines. I am busy the whole day, except for massage and so on. I am going to Bombay tomorrow night. Shall be back here after staying there for three days.

Your letter is good. The description is vivid. Never mind if we get no help from the Government. Hire a car if it is necessary. We shall see later about buying a car or a lorry.

Pyarelal is the same. What can I add to what you already know?

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
WARDHA

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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476. CABLE TO "THE TIMES"[1]

September 21, 1945

NEVER MADE ANY PUBLIC STATEMENT ABOUT ATOMIC BOMB.

GANDHI

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

477. LETTER TO AMRABAPA[2]

BIRLA HOUSE, BOMBAY,
September 21, 1945

DARBARSHRI,

I got your letter. I also received the sum of Rs. 51 (Rupees fifty-one only). I will give it to Dr. Dinshaw to use it for a charitable purpose.

I have a faint recollection of having met your father. I wish you complete recovery.

Blessings from
M. K. GANDHI

From the Gujarati original : C.W. 10228. Courtesy : Gajanan Joshi

478. LETTER TO KAILAS D. MASTER

BIRLA HOUSE,
MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD,
BOMBAY,
September 21, 1945

CHI. KAILAS,

I got your letter just as I reached Bombay. Your handwriting is good but not clear enough to be read easily. If you

[1] In a cable dated September 19, 1945, from London *The Times* had sought confirmation of the following report : "Mahatma Gandhi gave message endorsing use of atomic bomb in view fiendish attitude Japanese towards helpless Chinese, Indian prisoners."

[2] Ruler of Thana Devli, a State in Kathiawar

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write slightly bigger letters and do not mix them up, it will be easier to decipher.

You cannot ride on two horses. A family cannot run properly if all the children stay with the parents all the time. When children grow older, they have to go out for earning, studying or serving. And when they go out, they have to forget their old and ailing parents. So why do you feel unhappy for what is inevitable? When your parents sent you out, they and you yourself must have thought not only that your duty was to serve your parents, but that it was time that you started earning and lessened their burden. That is exactly what you are doing. It is good that you are doing all your work and slowly learning everything. You will bring credit to yourself, your parents and the Ashram if you settle down there, stop worrying and take care of your health.

I am very happy to know that you wanted to have chillies but gave them up on your own. I know that some people are so much used to chillies that they would rather die than give them up. This shows that taking chillies is not a good habit. In India it so happens that the poor cannot afford anything else and they add a few chillies and salt to the *rotla*[1] to somehow make it digestible. To conclude from this that all must take chillies is sheer ignorance. When a person takes all kinds of food including *rotlas* as well, the latter cannot be regarded as part of his diet. On the contrary they may be superfluous and might even prove to be harmful.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

479. LETTER TO KRISHNACHANDRA

September 21, 1945

CHI. KRISHNACHANDRA,

I arrived here at 4 o'clock today. I have your letter.

When a person takes beer with two per cent alcohol content and is forbidden to take whisky with 75 per cent alcohol content, can I ask why beer and why not whisky? You must see also that when we drink lemonade or eat things with some alcohol content in them nobody says that we are taking alcohol.

[1] Chapati made from *bajra* or *jowar* flour

Equate chillies with whisky and then consider if chillies can go with turmeric or coriander. Taking spices does not mean consuming all kinds of spices. There is said to be a lot of difference between green chillies and red chillies. It is surprising that all these simple things have escaped your attention. Whatever spices we give, like turmeric, black pepper, coriander, etc., are given on doctor's recommendation and on grounds of health. Even so, who can prevent anyone from eating for taste, and how can it be done? Have you not heard that a Vaghari[1] woman used to relish greatly a two-day stale *bajra* chapati without ghee, but when she was given *kheer*[2] and wheat *halwa*[3] to eat every day she started shrinking and fell ill in the end. Shall we then say that this Vaghari woman had conquered her palate and subsisted on dry bread, chillies and salt? What else should I write?

Why did you not ask me till today about taking chillies on grounds of health? Of course we do let Shakaribehn have chillies willingly. But how can we give it to others? The reason is not that chillies have no good qualities at all. They certainly have some medicinal value. But chillies have no place in a hospital except as a "pain-killer" which is an extract of chillies. In the Ashram we neither take nor give anything merely for taste. But we do not ask everybody whether they relish what they eat and if they do so they should leave the Ashram. If we take this view, none but animals and birds will be left in the Ashram.

Kamle should somehow calm down and improve his health.

I have already written about Purnachandraji. While living in the Ashram everyone has to observe *brahmacharya.* I did not know about Ramprasadji. But I was under the impression that Ramprasad's house was a little away from the other houses of the Ashram. Niamat's room was also there but she was never asked whether she wanted to observe *brahmacharya.* But I had thought that Ramprasad had not come to live in the Ashram like Niamat. However, when I came to know that the manner in which they lived they could even produce children I was perturbed. Besides others this is the strongest reason for one to leave the Ashram. His having a separate kitchen also used to irk me. But since this had been allowed in the case of others I could not be too insistent in dissuading him.

[1] Name of a backward community
[2] & [3] Sweet preparations

It is not enough to assume that Purnachandraji must be observing *brahmacharya* while staying in the Ashram. It is necessary to ask him clearly.

I hope to go to Poona from here on the 24th.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 4529

480. SPEECH AT PRAYER MEETING

BOMBAY,
September 21, 1945

Addressing a few words to the gathering which had waited patiently for prayer time, Gandhiji said that he had taken permission from his doctors to offer prayer under a shelter.[1]

Asking for contributions to the Harijan Fund, Gandhiji said that it would please him more if people came forward with hand-spun yarn instead of cash. He would prepare cloth out of this yarn and sell it to them as that would bring more money. He said Bombay was the first city to contribute yarn. He hoped the citizens would continue this practice.

The Bombay Chronicle, 22-9-1945

481. LETTER TO AMRIT KAUR

BIRLA HOUSE, BOMBAY,
September 23, 1945

CHI. AMRIT,

I have been worrying myself the whole day long over your illness, all the more because I cannot come to you. And now I see that you cannot come to Poona tomorrow. Tell me unreservedly what you will have me to do.

Your obstinacy is remarkable and it is responsible for your suffering. But of that nothing just now. I dare mention this just now so that you might remember this when you are well enough and shed it without ado as you have done in everything else. If you cannot write just pass your answer.

Love.

BAPU

From the original : C.W. 4166. Courtesy : Amrit Kaur. Also G.N. 7802

[1] Gandhiji had been advised complete rest on account of a mild attack of influenza. He had not been able to attend the A. I. C. C. meeting.

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482. LETTER TO SANATKUMAR K. JOSHI

[Before *September 24, 1945*][1]

BHAI SANATKUMAR,

I have your letter. What you say is like a bad workman quarrelling with his tools. If it is true that we can attain swaraj through khadi you should, by taking some trouble, prepare fine slivers. But if you find it difficult to do even that much, we cannot achieve swaraj through ahimsa. It would be no loss either to the country or to the cause of khadi if those who lacked this zeal left khadi alone.

As regards your education, you should do what your elder brother says.

SANATKUMAR K. JOSHI
JAMIATRAMNI KHADKI
BROACH

From a copy of the Gujarati: Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy: Pyarelal

483. FOREWORD[2]

Dr. Bharatan Kumarappa has, in his pages on "Villagism", a new word coined by him, furnished the lay reader and the village worker, not conversant with books on economics, a comparative and historical study of the modern movements known as Capitalism and Socialism, not excluding Marxism and Communism, and has earnestly, and I think convincingly, shown, amongst other reasons advanced by him, that the past two wars of our generation have proved the utter bankruptcy of such economic orders. Incidentally, the wars seem to me to have proved the bankruptcy of war, meaning in forcible and naked language violence, which is not less because it is organized by States reputed to be civilized. Whether non-violence will effectively replace violence for keeping the peace of the world remains to be seen. Certain it is that mankind, if it

[1] According to the source this was written after September 19 and before September 24.

[2] To *Capitalism, Socialism or Villagism?*

continues along its mad career of exploitation of the weak by the strong, must rush to annihilation foretold in all religions. Dr. Bharatan Kumarappa shows that "Villagism" as it is being attempted in India, based as it is on truth and non-violence, is well calculated to avert the doom. If the reader is interested in the life-saving process, he must turn to the instructive pages written by Dr. Bharatan Kumarappa during his recent imprisonment[1].

M. K. GANDHI

POONA, September 24, 1945

Capitalism, Socialism or Villagism?

484. LETTER TO E. M. JENKINS

BIRLA HOUSE,
MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD, BOMBAY,
September 24, 1945

DEAR SIR EVAN,

I have to thank you for your letter of 18th instant in reply to my letter[2] about the prisoner Shri Haridas Mitra. I shall await further reply about the case.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

SIR EVAN M. JENKINS, K.C.S.I.
THE VICEROY'S HOUSE
NEW DELHI

Gandhiji's Correspondence with the Government, 1944-47, p. 48

[1] He was arrested in 1942 and released in January 1945.
[2] *Vide* pp. 253-4.

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485. LETTER TO KANCHAN M. SHAH

September 24, 1945

CHI. KANCHAN,

You seem to have again fallen seriously ill. Get well fully. It is good that Dr. Lilavati is there.

If you feel better, write to me. Get well soon.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 8263. Also C.W. 6987. Courtesy : Munnalal G. Shah

486. LETTER TO MUNNALAL G. SHAH

September 24, 1945

CHI. MUNNALAL,

What you have reported is a very serious matter. We cannot steal an idol, nor can we hide the fact. Chi. Barin must understand this. We should humbly admit the fact before the village people. This is my [opinion. . . . Do][1] as Chi. Kishorelal advises. From here I can only express my opinion.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 8429. Also C.W. 5599. Courtesy : Munnalal G. Shah

487. LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI

September 24, 1945

It hurts me that I shall be leaving this time without seeing you. But in my present weak condition it is best not to go anywhere. I was very happy to learn that your health is better now. I think I will soon regain strength.

[From Gujarati]

Bapuni Prasadi, p. 207

[1] A portion is illegible in the source.

488. LETTER TO KRISHNACHANDRA

BOMBAY,
September 24, 1945

CHI. KRISHNACHANDRA,

I have your letter. You should act in the case of Shastriji along the lines you have indicated regarding Vinoba.

It is sad about Kanchanbehn. Also about Dr. Mahodaya. I am getting ready to catch the train.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 4530

489. LETTER TO AMTUSSALAAM[1]

ON WAY TO POONA,
September 24, 1945

CHI. A. SALAAM,

I got your letter, as also the khadi. What will it matter if you are not with me on the 2nd October. All those who do my work are with me even though they are physically away. Aren't you doing my work there? You will, moreover, be awaiting my return. Isn't that enough? Get well soon.

I am fully recovered now. Do not worry about me. Rajkumari has fallen ill. Just now she is better. She is with me in the train. Zohra is in Poona.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 501

[1] The letter is in the Devanagari script.

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490. LETTER TO SATIS CHANDRA DAS GUPTA

ON WAY TO POONA,
September 24, 1945

CHI. SATIS BABU,

I hope you are all right. I have had talks with Prafulla. I may reach there on 2nd November. I shall be having a talk with Sarat Babu. He is coming to Poona. I hope all of you are well.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

491. LETTER TO DHIRENDRA N. CHATTERJEE

ON WAY TO POONA,
September 24, 1945

CHI. DHIREN,

Yesterday I got your letter. I only wish that everything is all right with you. Give up your forgetfulness. Sodepur[1] is a big educational centre for you. I hope to reach there around November 2. Abba, Kanu and others will be with me.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

492. LETTER TO SHARDA G. CHOKHAWALA

POONA,
September 25, 1945

CHI. BABUDI,

On reading about the rains there, my thoughts flew to you as if I did not care for the others. Despite every effort to cultivate non-attachment, such things do happen sometimes. I hope

[1] Khadi Pratishthan at Sodepur, founded by Satis Chandra Das Gupta

you are well. You need not write. It will suffice if Chi. Gordhandas drops a postcard. The poor must have been rendered homeless.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : 10060. Courtesy : Sharda G. Chokhawala

493. LETTER TO SITARAM PURUSHOTTAM PATWARDHAN

September 25, 1945

BHAI APPA,

I have your letter. I read the description of the Ganga flowing near Rajapur. Keep me informed about what is going on. If the *pandas*[1] can be influenced by public opinion the case would not go to the court. But if public opinion is of no avail, you must put up a proper defence. If our case is weak, we should not defend it just for the sake of defence. It often happens that morally we are right and if by defending our case our position becomes clearer, in spite of realizing that we will lose in the end, it becomes our dharma to defend it. I have done this quite often and succeeded also. That is why I am putting this before you. I hope Dadasaheb[2] will reach there in time. I do agree with you about the defects you have pointed out, but it is possible that the leaders don't. At least not all of them. But you have every right to include all those things as defects. I would do so. Now first of all, send all the questions in brief, in Urdu script to Maulana. I think he will send a reply. Let him know your position. After waiting for sufficient time for a reply, place the questions in public. Do ask Deo's[3] opinion. The whole thing has to be clarified.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Priests who officiate at religious ceremonies

[2] G. V. Mavalankar (1888-1956); Speaker, Legislative Assembly, Bombay (1937-45); Speaker, Lok Sabha (1947-56)

[3] Shankarrao Deo; member, A.I.C.C. and Congress Working Committee

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494. LETTER TO MRS. SHUKLA

September 25, 1945

DEAR SISTER,

Chi. Nirmala had come to see me. She told me that you had had a fall and were bed-ridden. I was sorry to learn this. You must be older than I. Get someone to write to me about your health.

Pranams from
MOHANDAS

MRS. SHUKLA
BARRISTER SHUKLA'S BUNGALOW
RAJKOT
KATHIAWAR

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

495. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

September 25, 1945

CHI. SUSHILA,

As I feel stronger after dinner, I am writing this. I hope you will return soon after completing your work there. Except for weakness, there is nothing.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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496. LETTER TO RANI RAJWADE

September 25, 1945

DEAR SISTER,

I just cannot imagine you in widowhood. Raja Saheb passed away so suddenly. I have faith in your composure. God will give you forbearance. You should emulate Ramabai Ranade[1].

Blessings from
BAPU

RANI RAJWADE
POONA

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

497. LETTER TO ANAND SUNDARAM

POONA,
September 26, 1945

CHI. ANAND,

I have your letter. It would not be right to argue that just because I went to England all others should. Should others repeat all mistakes that I have committed? I don't believe that you can serve India better by studying abroad. To think this is sheer ignorance. To feel that education abroad is the best betrays ignorance.

I do not give my blessings to those who wish to study abroad.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI ANAND SUNDARAM
KRISHNAKUTIR
BENARES HINDU UNIVERSITY

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] (1862-1924); wife of Mahadev Govind Ranade; President of Seva Sadan at Bombay and Poona; worked in Central Relief Committee in 1921; led the movement demanding women's franchise

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498. LETTER TO V. A. SUNDARAM

POONA,
September 27, 1945

CHI. SUNDARAM,[1]

What a good thing your sister has passed away painlessly! We must all join her, some soon, some late.

Love.

BAPU

SHRI SUNDARAM
KRISHNAKUTIR
P. O. BENARES HINDU UNIVERSITY

From the original : C.W. 10523. Courtesy : S. R. Venkataraman

499. LETTER TO S. RAMANATHAN

September 27, 1945

DEAR RAMANATHAN,

I have read your letter. You do not want me to argue with you.

Yours sincerely,
BAPU

SHRI S. RAMANATHAN
9 BROADWAY
MADRAS

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] The superscription is in Tamil.

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500. LETTER TO V. S. SRINIVASA SASTRI

September 27, 1945

MY DEAR BIG BROTHER,

I shall treasure your gift. I have read the Preface[1]. What is there to offend me? Jagadisan is right in what he writes. But why could he not avoid errata even in a book of 147 pages?

Hoping you are well and with love,

LITTLE BROTHER

THE RT. HON. V. S. SRINIVASA SASTRI
SWAGATAM
MYLAPORE, MADRAS

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

501. LETTER TO SITA GANDHI

September 27, 1945

CHI. SITA,

You write in bold and distinct characters and therefore they look beautiful. Never mind if writing thus takes more time. Ultimately that won't take much time.

You must not fail. Do come to me after your examination is over. You must not let the examination weigh on your mind. Why should it when you have worked hard?

Arun[2] and Ila[3] are quite cheerful. Arun is still quiet but Ila makes up for it.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 4956

[1] To *My Master Gokhale*, a collection of the addressee's writings and speeches on Gopal Krishna Gokhale, compiled by T. N. Jagadisan

[2] & [3] Brother and sister of the addressee

CWMG - LXXI

502. LETTER TO DAHYABHAI M. PATEL

September 27, 1945

BHAI DAHYABHAI,

I have your letter. My advice to you is that you should save the money you would spend on coming here and use it for service.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI DAHYABHAI PATEL
C/O SHETH JAMNADAS ADKIA
211-13 KALBADEVI
BOMBAY-2

From the Gujarati original : C.W. 2714. Courtesy : Dahyabhai H. Patel

503. LETTER TO KRISHNAVARMA

September 27, 1945

SHRI KRISHNAVARMA,

We waited a long time for you in Bombay. Now come over whenever you can.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. KRISHNAVARMA
NATURE CURE HOSPITAL
P. O. MALAD
BOMBAY

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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504. LETTER TO MAGANBHAI P. DESAI

September 27, 1945

CHI. MAGANBHAI,

Your letter. As I feared it might rain, I had told Chi. Amritlal what to do. So I am doing nothing more. Go even now if you can.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI MAGANBHAI DESAI
GUJARAT VIDYAPITH
AHMEDABAD
B. B. & C. I. RLY.

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

505. LETTER TO N. VYASTIRTH

September 27, 1945

BHAI VYASTIRTH,

I have your letter. Your spinning activity is laudable. Go on increasing it, learn all the processes preceding spinning.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI N. VYASTIRTH
840 SULTAN BAZAAR
HYDERABAD DECCAN

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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506. LETTER TO NARANDAS GANDHI

September 28, 1945

CHI. NARANDAS,

As Kakasaheb is going there, he himself may be regarded as my message. Still I shall say this: The *yajna* this time is of a different character. Yarn is taking the place of gold and silver coins. In other words, labour takes the place of currency and claims equality with it. If this new practice is kept up and spreads, it will have effects too far-reaching to be estimated. In this there should be no place for fraud or untruth. Even the best of plans are ruined if they are mixed with fraud or untruth.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a microfilm of the Gujarati : M.M.U./II. Also C.W. 8631. Courtesy : Narandas Gandhi

507. LETTER TO CHIMANLAL N. SHAH

September 28, 1945

CHI. CHIMANLAL,

I enclose herewith Chi. Parnerkar's letter and also that of Chi. Kishorelal. Both are worth thinking over. The subject matter in each is different and yet the same. Everyone, that is to say, all the institutions there should ponder over K's letter. How did a saintly person like Kishorelal, working under Parnerkar, accept defeat? Do not get muddled. Leave the letter aside if you are unable to make head or tail of it. Everyone will not benefit by reading it. Only you three should read it. Write to me if you can think of something after some consultations; otherwise forget about it. Give it up if too much time is consumed in discussion. Naraharibhai is the secretary of the Committee, so he should think over both the letters: 1. Should the institutions be kept separate? Will that be possible now? (The subject matter of K's letter.) 2. Can't two neighbours live in amity? They may cultivate the land separately and have their cattle, fruit

trees, and water supply separate. (The subject matter of Parnerkar's letter.)

Yesterday there was a letter from Gordhandas. It seems Sharda is cured of the fever. She had both typhoid and malaria. I have written about the need for being careful in the matter of diet.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 10645

508. LETTER TO KANJI J. DESAI

September 28, 1945

BHAI KANJI,

I have your letter. I am doing what I can from here. I can very well understand your feelings as a father. But God alone is the true Protector of you, me and Pushpa, so let us take refuge in Him. There is no doubt that you will be able to find a suitable husband for your younger daughter.

KANJI JETHABHAI DESAI
OLD HANUMAN LANE, SECOND CROSS LANE
ROOM 4, SECOND FLOOR
RAJDAS CHAWL
BOMBAY

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

509. LETTER TO SHASHIKANT R. MEHTA

September 28, 1945

CHI. SHASHI[1],

I have your letter. I read Doctor's unsigned will also. There is no need for my permission at all. Under the law neither myself nor the Ashram has any right.[2] So you are free to do what you like.

[1] Son of Ratilal Mehta
[2] Presumably the reference is to the Red Bungalow; *vide* p. 259.

I have already told Maganbhai enough. Now the ball is in your court. I am glad to know that these days Chi. Ratilal is at home. I hope he is all right.

SHASHIKANT MEHTA
CHANDRAKUNJ
JAGNATH PLOT
RAJKOT

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

510. LETTER TO DUNCAN GREENLEES

POONA,
September 29, 1945

MY DEAR DUNCAN,

I was delighted to have your letter through Dr. Raju. Of course I will see him. There is a ring of despair running through your note. I do not like it. After all, you are a man of God and three can be no such thing as a note of despair for such.

Do come to me as soon as you find me finally settled down. Just now I am in a sanatorium, as you see. Then, if all goes well, I go to Madras in December and from there probably to the Frontier Province. After that I shall settle down in Sevagram.

Send me your manuscript. I shall see it and if it appeals to me, I shall get it published.

Love.

BAPU

PROF. DUNCAN GREENLEES
BHIMLIPATAM, VIZAG DISTRICT

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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511. LETTER TO BASSIC

[*September 29, 1945*][1]

DEAR BASSIC,

Many thanks for your letter and draft. You have correctly guessed my age. I did not know your good father-in-law was dead. So shall we all one day. I hope you are all keeping well. Amtul Salaam is working for khadi in Bengal. What work of service are you doing? You have not given me your full name. Nevertheless I hope this will reach you.

P. O. DEHENNU *via* KHANNA
LUDHIANA DISTRICT

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

512. LETTER TO PUSHPA K. DESAI

POONA,
September 29, 1945

CHI. PUSHPA,

I have had no letter from you recently. I am sending with this a letter from your father. Just now he is not likely to trust you. But that should not hurt you. When you have proved your freedom from worldly desires his present unhappiness will turn into happiness and you will be a credit to everyone.

I like your going for a couple of days to Vinobaji. Please remember that that alone is a true vision of Lord Krishna which is attained through pure service. Take care of your health. Take every step calmly and after careful thought. Use your intelligence in whatever public work you undertake. Write to your father from time to time. If you write to anybody else, do so either through him or through me.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 9265

[1] The letter is found among those of September 29, 1945.

513. LETTER TO SUMITRA GANDHI

September 29, 1945

CHI. SUMI,

I have your letter. I am not happy at your falling ill so often. Is it not an essential part of education to learn not to fall ill?

SUMITRA GANDHI
BIRLA HIGH SCHOOL
PILANI, RAJPUTANA

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

514. LETTER TO RAMDAS GANDHI

September 29, 1945

CHI. RAMDAS,

I am sending this—Sumitra's letter[1]—because you must see it. I would say that you should let Sumi gain experience by staying at Pilani and Delhi. I am all right.

RAMDAS GANDHI
KHALASI LINES
NAGPUR

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] *Vide* the preceding item.

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515. LETTER TO KRISHNACHANDRA

September 29, 1945

CHI. KRISHNACHANDRA,

I have your letter. Whatever you do, do after proper thought. Do talk to Kanchanbehn. There must be sweetness in your speech. I am glad to hear about Anantram. When faced with frightful disease our task lies in humbly doing the work of service.

Kanchanbehn must have recovered.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 4531

516. LETTER TO SUNDARI

September 29, 1945

CHI. SUNDARI,

I have your money. You should write in Devanagari or Urdu. Why do you write in English?

C/o SHETH PRATAP DAYALDAS
CHOWPATI BUILDING
FIRST FLOOR
BABULNATH, BOMBAY

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

517. LETTER TO HOSHIARI

September 29, 1945

CHI. HOSHIARI,

Krishnachandra writes and says that you have become somewhat weak. I hope you are better now and that you and Gajraj are carrying on well. I am all right. There is a little weakness which will go.

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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518. LETTER TO LALCHAND

September 29, 1945

BHAI LALCHAND,

I had your letter and I had made inquiries. I am sorry to learn about Pandit Ramarakhamal. Console his family members on my behalf. I feel that the respect that was shown to the late Atma Singh was misplaced.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

SHRI LALCHAND, CLERK
LOCO WHEELSHOP, N. W. R., MOGHULPURA
LAHORE

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

519. FOREWORD TO "NEHRU YOUR NEIGHBOUR"

POONA,
[*September 30, 1945*][1]

This is an effective collection made by Shri P. D. Tandon[2] out of numerous writings of numerous admirers of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. It gives at a glance a good picture of the patriot as seen by various eyes. He shines easily as father, brother, writer, traveller, patriot or internationalist. Nevertheless it is as an ardent devotee of his country and its freedom on whose altar he would sacrifice all his other loves that the reader will specially single him out from the essays. Be it said to his credit, however, that he will consider it beneath his dignity to purchase that freedom at the price of any other country. His nationalism is equal to internationalism.

M. K. GANDHI

Nehru Your Neighbour. Also C.W. 10541. Courtesy : P. D. Tandon

[1] This was enclosed with the letter dated September 30 to P. D. Tandon; *vide* the following item.

[2] A journalist from Allahabad

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520. LETTER TO P. D. TANDON

POONA,
September 30, 1945

BHAI TANDON,

I am sorry that I could not send anything for your book earlier. For one thing I was too busy, for another I just did not feel like writing anything. But how could I refuse to write anything on Jawaharlal? Now I only hope that my foreword[1] will not reach you too late.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

From the Hindi original : C.W. 10542. Courtesy : P. D. Tandon

521. LETTER TO UTTIMCHAND GANGARAM

September 30, 1945

DEAR UTTIMCHAND,

Thanks for your cheque of Rs. 500. It will be utilized like the previous ones[2].

Your puzzle remains a puzzle[3]. I submitted it here to a learned man as I did in Sevagram. Nothing could be done by either. I suppose a puzzle will cease to be one if it yields to an easy solution.

The Hindi translation though in defective Hindi is quite good and instructive. I have no difficulty in following it.

BOMBAY BAKERY
HYDERABAD SIND

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] *Vide* the preceding item.
[2] & [3] *Vide* also pp. 200-1.

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522. LETTER TO J. P. BHANSALI

September 30, 1945

CHI. BHANSALI,

How much money will be required for the boys you refer to? Will the Talimi Sangh admit them? How old are they? I do not think there will be any difficulty in meeting their expenses.

You must have inquired at the Mahila Ashram about the girl.

I hope you eat regularly.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 8358. Also C.W. 7190. Courtesy : Munnalal G. Shah

523. LETTER TO SUSHILA GANDHI

September 30, 1945

CHI. SUSHILA,

It cannot be said that your treatment is over. It will be over only when you believe that it is so.

Your wish to serve me is equivalent to your serving me. You may act on it when your help is really required. Just now there are many who are serving me or are eager to do so. If a time comes when no one is willing to serve then a person like you [should be prepared to serve. At the moment][1] be happy to let those who are already here serve me. This is what I [feel][2].

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 4957

[1] & [2] Illegible

524. LETTER TO PREMA KANTAK

September 30, 1945

CHI. PREMA,

I read your letter. I will tear it up after I finish this reply.

You are indeed sentimental. Where was the need for offering prayer just because I got a slight fever? And why need you feel miserable at my absence from the pandal[1]? If at such a large gathering somebody is not present, what effect can his absence have, and why need it have any? All this seems improper to me. If you have sent anything to *Nava Kal*[2] similar to what you wrote to me, you have made a mistake.

I have written to Bapa regarding your camp. It is quite a few days since I did that, You must get the permission now. It would of course be excellent if a hospital could be run at the same time.

Why do you even have the suspicion that I am displeased with Shankarraoji these days? I don't think about that matter at all. I have not read his article regarding Satara. I chance to read very few of such writings.

The members of the Committee ought not to be concerned whether I remain silent or not.

It is probable that Narandas may come here after *Rentia Baras*. What does it matter if you do not come to see me though you are so near? So long as you are going on with the work, where is the need for you to come and see me? When you have no work, you are of course free to come.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 10437. Also C.W. 6876. Courtesy : Prema Kantak

[1] The reference is to Gandhiji's absence in the A. I. C. C. meeting held at Bombay on September 21, 22 and 23. *Vide* also footnote on p. 274.

[2] A Marathi daily published from Bombay

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525. LETTER TO KISHORELAL G. MASHRUWALA

September 30, 1945

CHI. KISHORELAL,

In your postcard you say that your illness is negligible. But the letters from the Ashram say that you have lost quite a bit.

Whatever you decide about Ramanlal[1] is right. It will be good if somehow he settles down.

It is surprising that there was no excitement on account of the idols. Also it is surprising that the caste Hindus listen to Kamle's *bhajans* even after knowing about him.

I have shown to Zohra the portion about her.

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

526. LETTER TO GAJANAN NAIK

September 30, 1945

CHI. GAJANAN,

I have read your letter. If what you say is true, it is worth considering. You must show your letter to Kumarappa. If you permit me, I shall do so. You cannot suppress the complaint you have mentioned. I also wonder how you can stay in such an institution? Isn't there exaggeration in what you say? Meanwhile, I am preserving your letter.

MAGANWADI
WARDHA

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] *Vide* also p. 242.

527. YARN QUOTA FOR KHADI PURCHASE[1]

[*September 1945*]

It is true that the Congress adopted khadi, the Spinners' Association imposed the condition of the yarn quota and khadi which is not certified by the Association is taboo for Congressmen. A certain quantity of yarn has to be given as part of the price of khadi. All this is true. But I do not find anything wrong in this. That action alone can be compulsion where there is penalty for refusing to do a particular thing. What the form of punishment should be is a different matter. There is no compulsion if I demand the price of khadi and refuse to give it free. Similarly there is some condition or other attached to membership in any institution. It is also no compulsion if subsequently any change is made in such conditions. The case of uncertified khadi is also similar. If we go in for uncertified khadi, where is the guarantee of its purity and that a proper wage has been paid to the spinner ?

With the advance of time and experience, changes have to be made in the rules and regulations. The only questions to be considered are whether the change fulfils the object, is in keeping with the principle of truth and non-violence, and is actuated by selfish or benevolent motives. The answer to all these questions will show that the change was to fulfil the original object and the question of compulsion does not arise.

I should be thanked if, against my goods, I ask for yarn or some other commodity in place of money.

Let us go a little deeper. We believe that khadi is only for those who believe that non-violent swaraj can be established by making khadi universal. Spinning, even for a little time, by the greatest number of people will be helpful in obtaining swaraj. We do not therefore spin under compulsion but of our own

[1] This was in reply to a correspondent who had asked: "You persuaded the Congress to adopt khadi-wear for its members and introduced the rule of yarn quota for the A. I. S. A. khadi. Congressmen are prohibited from using khadi other than that certified by the A. I. S. A., and now khadi cannot be had from the Association without paying the yarn quota. Is this not compulsion?"

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accord. An additional gain is that through spinning we come in direct contact with the poor.

Therefore, I am quite clear that there is absolutely no compulsion in demanding part of the price of khadi in the form of yarn.

[From Hindi]

Khadi Jagat, October 1945

528. TELEGRAM TO BINA DAS

Express

POONA,
October 1, 1945

BINADAS
CARE COMILA BANK
BOMBAY

THURSDAY FOUR CLOCK EVENING.

GANDHI

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

529. LETTER TO C. RAJAGOPALACHARI

POONA,
October 1, 1945

MY DEAR C. R.,

I have read your letter[1] to the Sardar. I detect in it your worry. But why worry? The Sardar has said nothing to anybody. He, however, does feel that among Congress circles you have lost your popularity.[2] That, however, should be matter of no moment to you. You will serve if your services are required. My own opinion is that you will be wanted in due time. But I do not want you to feel over the thing. You do not imagine

[1] Dated September 28, 1945, which *inter alia* read : "The enclosed is a milder version of the central story in the *Andhra Patrika* for which Dr. P. [Subbaroyan]'s friends are responsible. The impression sought to be created is that Dr. P. has been pitched upon by you as a leader, and that it is an integral part of the big plan!"

[2] The addressee had been excluded from the Madras Provincial Congress Committee.

that the Sardar has a magic wand. He can go only to a certain extent and no farther. If he overstepped his limits he would lose what influence he has. What I suggest is that you should come here whilst we are both here and let us amuse ourselves. Let the elections[1] take care of themselves. I would like your name among the candidates but that too without an effort. But all these things can be discussed here. You should give yourself ample time with me. You will come to a friend, not as a Congressman to another, not on business. The weather is quite good. You will not stay at Parnakuti[2] this time. You will come to the clinic. I shall see to your being suited. Hope you are not too weak or too bad. Well or ill, you should be here.

Love.

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

530. LETTER TO KHURSHEDBEHN NAOROJI

October 1, 1945

VAHALAN BEHN[3],

I understand your letter. Of course you must go where your inner voice takes you. You will give a good account of yourself wherever you are. But I would like you to settle down some day to some definite work. That is a characteristic of *dordi*[4].

Nargisbehn saw your letter. She comes often.

Love.

SHRI KHURSHEDBEHN NAOROJI
ORIENT CLUB, CHOWPATI
BOMBAY

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] To the Central Legislative Assembly, scheduled to take place in November

[2] Residence of Premlila Thackersey at Poona

[3] The superscription is in Gujarati, meaning "dear sister".

[4] Rope

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531. LETTER TO RAIHANA TYABJI

October 1, 1945

CHI. RAIHANA,

Today I got your letter. I also read Salehbhai's article. Some of the things he says are true but neither Burma nor India has any power. Nobody would listen to a true Indian or Burmese and he cannot do much. The true dharma of India is to achieve independence and help Burma and other countries to attain it. All this enmity would disappear after both are free. At present no one will pay heed to what Salehbhai says. He would be regarded as merely an official. My advice is that he should silently serve [the cause] as much as he can. An official's dharma is not to speak but act.

Pass this on to Salehbhai.

Blessings to you both from
BAPU

RAIHANA TYABJI
40 A RIDGE ROAD
MALABAR HILL
BOMBAY

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

532. TELEGRAM TO TAN YUN-SHAN

Express

POONA,
October 2, 1945

PROFESSOR TAN YUN-SHAN[1]

MY GOOD WISHES TO ALL CHINA. LOVE.

GANDHI

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] The addressee had come to India at the invitation of Rabindranath Tagore and organized the Department of Sino-Indian Studies in the Visva-bharati University and later the Sino-Indian Cultural Society.

533. LETTER TO KONDA VENKATAPPAYYA

POONA,
October 2, 1945

MY DEAR DESHABHAKTA[1],

Is it not time I wrote to you in Hindustani? We are both old. If the younger ones will not spare us, let us spare each other. Do not drag me here, there and everywhere. Hope you are well.

Love.

BAPU

From a photostat : G.N. 3229

534. LETTER TO ANNE MARIE PETERSEN

October 2, 1945

MY DEAR MARIA,

Your letter.

You are foolish, so are we all, some more, some less. Therefore why worry? You must be well and live long enough to see your work flourish.

Your application is under way.[2] The Board meets some time this month when I hope the application will be finally considered. The ideal will be to find your expenses from the surroundings. We must strive to reach it.

Of course you will see me in Madras when I come there. Have you fixed your date for the departure overseas?

Send my love to Esther[3] when you write to her and accept it for yourself.

BAPU

MISS MARIE PETERSEN
SEVA MANDIR
PORTO NOVO (S. INDIA)

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Konda Venkatappayya, Member of the Congress Working Committee and A. I. C. C. and later of the Madras Legislative Assembly

[2] *Vide* p. 157.

[3] Esther Menon

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535. LETTER TO K. RAMA RAO

October 2, 1945

DEAR RAMA RAO,

I am glad you have been called to your original post[1]. You have my blessings in your work.

"NATIONAL HERALD"
LUCKNOW

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

536. LETTER TO MUNNALAL G. SHAH

October 2, 1945

CHI. MUNNALAL,

I hope Kanchan and Hiramani are well now.

After you are free from the cholera work, you should take up whatever work nobody else is doing. When you have no other work to do, you should spin.

I am of the opinion that chillies should not be served except when advised by a doctor. You may state your opinion and then remain unconcerned.

I advised[2] you not to join in singing the prayer, but did not forbid you. Whenever you find my advice painful, you certainly need not follow it. When you feel that you can join in, you may do so. You should then go and stand at a distance and sing alone, constantly changing the tune. You will thus learn the right tunes. There is a music teacher in the Nayee Talim. Learn the *sa-re-ga-ma*[3] from him. Hiramani seems to have settled down in the Mahila Ashram. She probably knows music; learn from her.

[1] As Editor, *National Herald*, which had been banned in August 1942
[2] *Vide* p. 263.
[3] Notes in Indian music, *sa*, *re*, *ga*, *ma*, *pa*, *dha*, *ni*

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As regards the plants, Kishorelal's decision may be carried out. Explain to me further when I return.

I think I have now replied to all the questions.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 8431. Also C.W. 5600. Courtesy : Munnalal G. Shah

537. LETTER TO PRABHAVATI

October 2, 1945

CHI. PRABHA,

I got your letter. I am well. I intend to reach Calcutta on November 2. I shall be staying in Sodepur with Satis Babu. Reach there a little earlier or on the same day. We shall think about what you should read.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 3583

538. LETTER TO ANAND G. CHOKHAWALA

October 2, 1945

CHI. ANAND[1],

It is good that you wrote.

You are doing well in joining the *Prabhatpheri*[2]. Don't be too mischievous. You don't harass Sharda, do you? Now you should help her.

Blessings from
SARDAR AND BAPU

From the Gujarati original : C.W. 10088. Courtesy : Sharda G. Chokhawala

[1] Son of Gordhandas and Sharda Chokhawala
[2] Morning procession

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539. LETTER TO SHARDA G. CHOKHAWALA

October 2, 1945

CHI. BABUDI,

I was very pleased to see your letter. I had received one from Gordhandas earlier. All of you seem to have stood the heavy rains well enough. Keep Shakaribehn there till you have fully recovered.

Come to Sevagram after I return and settle down there for some time.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : C.W. 10061. Courtesy : Sharda G. Chokhawala

540. LETTER TO T. P. JOSHI

October 2, 1945

DEAR SISTER,

I have your letter as well as the cheque. I would like to come over to Mahabaleshwar just to hear your poems. But it will be, won't it, as God wills.

T. P. JOSHI
40A RIDGE ROAD
BOMBAY

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

541. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

October 2, 1945

CHI. LILI,

I have your letter. Don't worry about me. The swelling has subsided and I am all right.

I am sorry to learn that you were down with fever. I hope you are all right now. Work as much as you can. You

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have to appear for the examination in time. You will get through, but let us remember that it is just the same whether you get through or not. This much you must learn from the *Gita*. Your effort will not go waste. The knowledge you have assimilated will fully pay. Think over what you study. Memorize little. Try to remember by carefully thinking over what you have studied.

G. S. MEDICAL COLLEGE
LADIES HOSTEL
PAREL
BOMBAY

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

542. LETTER TO KRISHNACHANDRA

October 2, 1945

CHI. KRISHNACHANDRA,

I have your letter. The letter to Ramprasad is enclosed.[1] I wonder why he refused to talk about *brahmacharya*.

I hope Manojna[2] and Durgabehn have recovered.

Does not Niamat stay in the Ashram?

I expect to reach there on the 22nd and leave for Calcutta on the 1st of November. Perhaps reaching there will take all of one day. The date for leaving Sevagram may be considered fixed. The rest depends on God.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 4533

543. LETTER TO RAMANLAL AGRAWAL

October 2, 1945

BHAI RAMANLAL,

Why do you write in English? You are fickle-minded; so what will you do if you once again get fed up with khadi?

[1] The enclosure is not available.
[2] Wife of Krishnadas Gandhi

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What do you do for a living? Your services will certainly be accepted if you are a good worker. Write about yourself in detail.

RAMANLAL AGRAWAL
33D NATH TERRACE
LADY JAMSHEDJI ROAD
BOMBAY 16

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

544. LETTER TO CHANDRANI

October 2, 1945

CHI. CHAND,

I have your letter after a long interval. I don't like your not being well. You don't have to study at the cost of your health. Satyavati is just the same.

DAGA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
NAGPUR

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

545. LETTER TO GOPI BIRLA

October 2, 1945

CHI. GOPI,

I have your letter. You have borne your illness quite well. I hope you will quickly regain strength. I am all right.

GOPIBEHN
BIRLA HOUSE
MALABAR HILL
BOMBAY

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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546. TELEGRAM TO K. SRINIVASAN

POONA,
October 3, 1945

KASTURI SRINIVASAN[1]
"HINDU"
INDUSTRIAL ASSURANCE BUILDING
CHURCHGATE
BOMBAY

SUNDAY SEVENTH[2] FOUR EVENING.

GANDHI

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

547. CABLE TO CHAIRMAN, INDO-BRITISH FRIENDSHIP GROUP

POONA,
October 3, 1945

CHAIRMAN
INDO-BRITISH FRIENDSHIP GROUP
BRAUNTON

THANKS. MY BLESSINGS ALWAYS IN EVERY NON-VIOLENT ACTIVITY. REAL TEST OF NON-VIOLENCE AND TRUTH FOR BRITAIN CONSISTS IN RECOGNITION FULL INDEPENDENCE INDIA.

GANDHI

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Editor, *The Hindu*

[2] The meeting however took place on October 6; *vide* "Letter to C. Rajagopalachari", p. 324.

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548. LETTER TO NARANDAS GANDHI

POONA,
October 3, 1945

CHI. NARANDAS,

I got your letter. The yarn figures this time must be interesting. Let me also know how much the yarn would fetch if sold.

You must have finished the work there. Come as soon as you have done so.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a microfilm of the Gujarati : M.M.U./II. Also C.W. 8632. Courtesy : Narandas Gandhi

549. LETTER TO PREMA KANTAK

October 3, 1945

CHI. PREMA,

I have given a long reply[1] to your letter. You must have received it by now. You have acted up to what you wrote. Send me a copy of the article[2] you have written in *Nava Kal*.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 10438. Also C.W. 6877. Courtesy : Prema Kantak

[1] *Vide* p. 296.

[2] Entitled *Amhi Kothen Ahont?* meaning "Where are we?" The addressee had severely criticized the proceedings of the A.I.C.C. meeting which failed to provide any guidelines for the workers and for making no reference to Gandhiji's absence.

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550. LETTER TO CHIMANLAL SETALVAD

October 3, 1945

SIR CHIMANLAL,

Thanks for your good wishes.

For years I have not been taking any part in elections. Hence I am entrusting your letter to Sardar. I seldom talk with him about this.

BOMBAY

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

551. LETTER TO YUSUF MEHERALLY

October 3, 1945

BHAI MEHERALLY[1],

Acknowledgement of your good wishes is just an excuse for writing to you. I hope you are all right. I have found an occasion for expressing my wish.

YUSUF MEHERALLY
WADIA LODGE
IGATPURI

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

552. LETTER TO KARSANDAS CHITALIA

October 3, 1945

BHAI KARSANDAS,

I am inquiring after Gokhale's legacy. Sushilabehn is at Sevagram for treating cholera patients.

Bapa is asking everyone about Kasturba Nidhi [work].

He will be looking after the affairs of Bhagini Seva Mandir also, won't he?

[1] (1903-1950); member, A. I. C. C.; Joint Secretary, All-India Congress Socialist Party; Ex-Mayor of Bombay

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Why have you slackened? And if you have, why grieve over the inevitable?

KARSANDAS CHITALIA
BHARAT SEVAK SAMAJ
SANDHURST ROAD
BOMBAY

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

553. LETTER TO JAMNABEHN GANDHI

October 3, 1945

CHI. JAMNA,

Why have you gone so weak? If you try a change of air here, it may help.

Kanaiyo has come back after finishing his work in Bombay. At present Santok, Radha, Keshu[1] and his wife have come. I am not writing a separate letter to Purushottam.[2]

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

554. NOTE TO DINSHAW K. MEHTA

October 3, 1945

CHI. DINSHAW,

1. The dirt which is there in the clinic all the time should be completely removed. There should not be any leakage. Cleanliness should have the first place in nature-cure. If the expenses go up on that account, let them.

2. I have taken deep thought about the clinic and am daily thinking about it. I am convinced that you should run it. It is better that we have a trust but that is a small thing. If a university is to come up it will be only from the clinic. There won't be any university if this is entrusted to someone else. To leave this will mean giving up your vocation. In order to raise a university, you must go and see all naturopaths, befriend them and try to get their co-operation. So long as this is not achieved, all is in vain. All things have come up in the world in this way. Money does not make universities.

[1] Son of Maganlal Gandhi
[2] Addressee's son

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3. Working for villages is altogether a different thing. I can see that at present you cannot work only in villages. You can't handle both the things single-handed. I don't mind if village work is postponed for the time being. It is good that a trust has been made. I feel this should be well-founded and thoughtfully done. It will not be desirable to back out after once starting it.

We shall sit together at 8.30 p. m. tomorrow and discuss all the three issues. If we are unable to finish the discussion, we shall have another session.

Sardar wants a Rumanian doctor to give him a check-up. I have told him that he can consult anyone he likes but the line of treatment should be yours.

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

555. LETTER TO JAMSHEDJI N. MEHTA

October 3, 1945

BHAI JAMSHEDJI,

I have your letter. My blessings are always there for any useful activity. No one should ask for anything more from me. But neither have you asked for more.

SHETH JAMSHEDJI NASSERWANJI MEHTA
SHRI SHARDA MANDIR
KARACHI

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

556. LETTER TO G. D. BIRLA

October 3, 1945

CHI. GHANSHYAMDAS,

I have your letter. I shall look forward to your coming on the 11th.

Blessings from
BAPU

SETH GHANSHYAMDAS BIRLA
BIRLA PARK, BANARAS

From the Hindi original : C.W. 8072. Courtesy : G. D. Birla

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557. LETTER TO RADHAKANT MALAVIYA

October 3, 1945

BHAI RADHAKANT[1],

Do I ever take part in elections? I wish Babuji also would give up his interest in them.

RADHAKANT MALAVIYA
18 HAMILTON ROAD
ALLAHABAD

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

558. LETTER TO GOKULBHAI BHATT

POONA,
October 4, 1945

BHAI GOKULBHAI,

Is it possible that I would drive you out just in a few minutes? But such is my plight if I wish to preserve my health.

Why are you making the mistake of writing in pencil? Can't you see violence in doing that?

What will Manibehn gain by making me a trustee? Will you respect me more than at present for calling me a trustee?

I approve of all other suggestions. Have you sent a copy of the letter to everyone?

GOKULBHAI BHATT
BHAGINI SEVA MANDIR TRUST
VILE PARLE

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Son of Madan Mohan Malaviya

559. LETTER TO MRIDULA SARABHAI

October 4, 1945

CHI. MRIDULA,

This time you are not coming for nothing. I shall be as I am at present when you come over. Strength goes away at a horse's pace and comes back at an ant's.[1] Come on Tuesday the 9th. I am keeping 3 p. m. free. I hope you are all right.

MRIDULABEHN SARABHAI
KASHMIR HOUSE
NAPEAN SEA ROAD
BOMBAY

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

560. LETTER TO MANILAL SHUKLA

October 4, 1945

CHI. MANILAL,

I am glad to have your letter. I am happy to know that you have improved considerably though I did not know that you were still not all right.

Thank God for Mother being somewhat better.[2] It is remarkable if a bone joins at the age of 80.

Normally it does not happen that I am not shown a letter which has something important to say. But your letter seems to have come when no letter was to be passed on to me.

It is a new thing for me that you are interested in horoscopes and know something about them. I am sorry I cannot satisfy your curiosity. I know that my horoscope was always kept perfect and up to date but that practice died away with my father. He used to take interest in it and got the yearly forecast from it. My elder brother's[3] eldest son Shamaldas has kept all the records, so he is likely to have mine. I am writing

[1] A Gujarati saying
[2] *Vide* also p. 281.
[3] Lakshmidas Gandhi

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to him. Perhaps you yourself know him. So write to him. He is running *Vandemataram*, a daily.

One may say that these days I am quite all right. Get well and write to me from time to time.

MANILAL SHUKLA
BARRISTER
RAJKOT

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

561. LETTER TO MUNNALAL G. SHAH

October 4, 1945

CHI. MUNNALAL,

I have your letter, also Kanchan's. One way for you is to become completely passionless, like Shiva—and win over Kanchan to your view but not with an effort. But this is beyond your capacity. You have, therefore, no other option but to start a separate establishment. You must satisfy Kanchan. This is your dharma. I regard it as your first duty. Doing it will answer all your questions. You must have read the letter that Kanchan wrote to me. If not, ask her. I tore it up.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 8362 and 8430

562. LETTER TO KANCHAN M. SHAH

October 4, 1945

CHI. KANCHAN,

I like your letter. My sympathy also is with you. Munnalal has not conquered passion. If he had, yours also would have disappeared. No more today, for it is time to go to bed.

Get well.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 8262. Also C.W. 6984. Courtesy : Munnalal G. Shah

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563. LETTER TO SARAT CHANDRA BOSE

POONA,
October 5, 1945

MY DEAR SARAT BABU,

Your letter. My instinct is to wait for the final reply. But do as yours tells. After all the stake is very great.

The purpose of this, however, is to know from you why you have launched a public attack on Jawaharlal.[1] Did you not first discuss the pros and cons with him? A public discussion seems ugly. Do please enlighten me if you can.

I hope you are well and will give yourself some rest.

Love.

BAPU

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

564. LETTER TO KHURSHEDBEHN NAOROJI

October 5, 1945

VAHALAN BEHN,[2]

Your letter requires no argument. It needs prayer. You must go your own way. You sisters are all chips of the old block. It is therefore well with you. Just as there is acceptance so is there rejection of a thing. Similarly there can be neither

[1] In his letter dated October 1, 1945, to Vallabhbhai Patel, Jawaharlal Nehru said : "... You would have noticed in the Press a totally unnecessary controversy between Sarat Chandra Bose and me .... He is making a dead set against Chiang Kai-Shek, which seems to me bad and harmful and likely to create unnecessary trouble all round. None of us admires all that Chiang Kai-Shek has done. But it does seem to be wrong for us to attack him in this way. He happens to be the head of the Chinese State and so far as India is concerned his attitude has always been friendly. For my part I have kept up friendly relations not only with Chiang Kai-Shek and the Chinese Government but with many of his critics in China. I do not want this controversy with Sarat, but to remain silent became impossible for me...."

[2] The superscription is in Gujarati.

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rejection nor acceptance. Truth-seeker must have that position also. I neither accept nor reject the statement that there is life on the planet Mars.

Love.

BAPU

SHRI KHURSHEDBEHN NAOROJI
ORIENT CLUB, BOMBAY 7

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

565. LETTER TO N. K. BOSE

October 5, 1945

Khurshedbehn has sent your letter to her to Gandhiji. He wishes me to write and tell you that you must certainly come and see him on his arrival in Calcutta which will be, D. V., in the first week in November.

[AMRIT KAUR]

My Days with Gandhi, p. 20

566. LETTER TO KUNVARJI K. PAREKH

October 5, 1945

CHI. KUNVARJI,

I have your letter. In order to make my reply brief, I am only writing a postcard. I am not writing separately to Madhavdas. Since you have all accepted him as one of you, I do not worry about him. Now do whatever seems proper to you. Madhavdas must learn to be brave and firm in mind. Let him give up his love for home. If possible, Manilal will go there. I am hoping that Chi. Vasantlal's problem will be resolved without any difficulty.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a microfilm of the Gujarati : M.M.U./22

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567. LETTER TO PRABHAVATI

October 5, 1945

CHI. PRABHA,

I got your letter. I have written a long letter to you, which contains answers to all your questions. I intend to reach Calcutta on November 2. I want you to meet me there, so that you may not have to wander about. I will write again only if I hear from you. I will inform you, however, if there is any change in my programme.

Pyarelal has given me your *Arabian Nights*. I am not sending it to you. I will bring it with me. If you desire, however, I will send it earlier.

You must procure milk from somewhere. In any case we are going to meet in a few days now. I am sure you are reading something or other, and also writing. Do master Urdu. Learn all the processes which precede spinning. Father seems to be better these days.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 3584

568. LETTER TO GUNOTTAM HUTHEESING

October 5, 1945

CHI. RAJA,

Why do you write in English? In any case I am of no use so far as elections are concerned. I just do not know anything about them. Why should I be angry? Of course, I do expect that "one may give up one's life, not one's word"[1]. Effort will help to make this a habit.

RAJA HUTHEESING
20 CARMICHAEL ROAD, BOMBAY

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] This quotation from *Ramacharitamanas* is in Hindi.

569. LETTER TO JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

October 5, 1945

CHI. JAWAHARLAL,

I have long been intending to write to you but can do so only today. I have also been wondering whether I should write in English or Hindustani. In the end I have decided to write in Hindustani.

I take first the sharp difference of opinion that has arisen between us. If such a difference really exists people should also know about it, for the work of swaraj will suffer if they are kept in the dark. I have said that I fully stand by the kind of governance which I have described in *Hind Swaraj*[1]. It is not just a way of speaking. My experience has confirmed the truth of what I wrote in 1909[2]. If I were the only one left who believed in it, I would not be sorry. For I can only testify to the truth as I see it. I have not *Hind Swaraj* in front of me. It is better that I redraw the picture today in my own language. Then it would not matter to me whether or no the picture tallies with that of 1909[3], nor should it to you. I do not have to establish what I had said before. What is worth knowing is only what I have to say today. I believe that if India, and through India the world, is to achieve real freedom, then sooner or later we shall have to go and live in the villages—in huts, not in palaces. Millions of people can never live in cities and palaces in comfort and peace. Nor can they do so by killing one another, that is, by resorting to violence and untruth. I have not the slightest doubt that, but for the pair, truth and non-violence, mankind will be doomed. We can have the vision of that truth and non-violence only in the simplicity of the villages. That simplicity resides in the spinning-wheel and what is implied by the spinning-wheel. It does not frighten me at all that the world seems to be going in the opposite direction. For the matter of that, when the moth approaches its doom it whirls round faster and faster till it is burnt up. It is possible that India will not be able to escape this moth-like circling. It is

[1] *Vide* Vol. X, pp. 6-68.

[2] & [3] The source however has "1908".

my duty to try, till my last breath, to save India and through it the world from such a fate. The sum and substance of what I want to say is that the individual person should have control over the things that are necessary for the sustenance of life. If he cannot have such control the individual cannot survive. Ultimately, the world is made up only of individuals. If there were no drops there would be no ocean. This is only a rough and ready statement. There is nothing new in this.

But even in *Hind Swaraj* I have not said all this. While I appreciate modern thought, I find that an ancient thing, considered in the light of this thought looks so sweet. You will not be able to understand me if you think that I am talking about the villages of today. My ideal village still exists only in my imagination. After all every human being lives in the world of his own imagination. In this village of my dreams the villager will not be dull—he will be all awareness. He will not live like an animal in filth and darkness. Men and women will live in freedom, prepared to face the whole world. There will be no plague, no cholera and no smallpox. Nobody will be allowed to be idle or to wallow in luxury. Everyone will have to do body labour. Granting all this, I can still envisage a number of things that will have to be organized on a large scale. Perhaps there will even be railways and also post and telegraph offices. I do not know what things there will be or will not be. Nor am I bothered about it. If I can make sure of the essential thing, other things will follow in due course. But if I give up the essential thing, I give up everything.

The other day, at the final day's meeting of the Working Committee, we had taken a decision to the effect that the Working Committee would meet for two or three days to work out this very thing. I shall be happy if it meets. But even if it does not meet, I want that we two should understand each other fully. And this for two reasons. Our bond is not merely political. It is much deeper. I have no measure to fathom that depth. This bond can never be broken. I therefore want that we should understand each other thoroughly in politics as well. The second reason is that neither of us considers himself as worthless. We both live only for India's freedom, and will be happy to die too for that freedom. We do not care for praise from any quarter. Praise or abuse are the same to us. They have no place in the mission of service. Though I aspire to live up to 125 years rendering service, I am nevertheless an old man, while you are comparatively young. That is why I have said

that you are my heir.[1] It is only proper that I should at least understand my heir and my heir in turn should understand me. I shall then be at peace.

One thing more. I had written to you[2] about Kasturba Trust and Hindustani. You had said you would write after thinking things over. I find that your name is already figuring in the Hindustani Sabha. Nanavati reminded me that he had approached you and Maulana Saheb and that you had appended your signature. That was in 1942. That was long ago. You know where Hindustani stands today. If you still stand by that signature, I wish to get some work out of you in this regard. It will not involve much running about, but some work will be called for.

The work of Kasturba Memorial Trust is rather complicated. I realize that if what I have said above is going to irk you or is irking you, you will not feel comfortable even in the Kasturba Trust.

The last point concerns the sparks that are flying about in the conflict with Sarat Babu.[3] I have been pained by the episode. I have been unable to trace it to its root. If what you have told me is all there is to it and nothing more remains to be said, then I do not have to inquire further. But if an explanation seems necessary, I very much want to hear it.

If we have to meet to thrash out all these matters, then we should find time for a meeting.

You are working very hard. I trust you are in good health and Indu[4] is well.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original : Gandhi-Nehru Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

[1] *Vide* also Vol. LXXV, p. 224.
[2] *Vide* Vol. LXXX, pp. 367-8.
[3] *Vide* footnote 1, p. 316.
[4] Indira, addressee's daughter

570. LETTER TO AMTUSSALAAM

October 5[1], *1945*

CHI. A. S.,

I have your letter. Despair has become the refrain of your letters. But there is hope behind your despair. You could work a lot if you gave up this refrain. What would you gain by staying with me? You have had the maximum advantage of staying with me. That is what I feel. You alone can do the work that you have to do. No one else can do that for you. So stay on there till I come. I shall see after coming there whether it would be better for you to go round with me or stay in your place. Leave everything till my coming there. I have got to go to Borkamta. Improve your health in the mean time.

I have replied to all your points in this.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 537

571. LETTER TO ANAND T. HINGORANI

October 5, 1945

CHI. ANAND,

I have your letter. My blessings are always with you. You will do much work after you recover. Think only of God. You will then have found Vidya and served her.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a microfilm of the Hindi. Courtesy : National Archives of India and Anand T. Hingorani

[1] This could also be read as 2.

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572. LETTER TO IFTIKHAR-UD-DIN AND ISMAT

October 5, 1945

BHAI IFTIKHAR[1] AND ISMAT,

I have your wire. May you both fare well and serve the community. It is all right that you have joined the League. There too work as a friend. Never have enmity against anyone.

21 ROOK MAIN ROAD
LAHORE

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

573. LETTER TO SATIS CHANDRA DAS GUPTA

October 5, 1945

CHI. SATIS BABU,

I am sorry about Prafulla Babu. Anyway I shall be staying at Sodepur. Sudhir Ghosh will have a major share in my tour. I will not be happy if all the parties do not unite. Only this much today.

SATIS BABU
KHADI PRATISHTHAN
SODEPUR (24 PARAGANAS)

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

574. SPEECH AT GOVARDHAN SANSTHA[2]

POONA,
October 5, 1945

Mahatma Gandhi said that the cow was a great wealth both when living and also after death. A large part of the population in India is rural and it has to depend much on this animal for its living. He appreciated the efforts of Chaunde Maharaj and the Govardhan Society in preserving

[1] Ex-President, Punjab Provincial Congress Committee
[2] Gandhiji was laying the foundation-stone of the Kasturba Goshala.

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and developing this great wealth, and added that more concerted efforts would have to be made all over the country to achieve the desired object of giving the cow her proper place in the national economy of rural India.

The Bombay Chronicle, 6-10-1945

575. LETTER TO C. RAJAGOPALACHARI

POONA,
October 6, 1945

MY DEAR C. R.,

Our friend Srinivasan was with me for some time about you. It distressed me to find that you were ill and morose. Why should you be ill? And I could not believe that you with your fund of humour at your disposal could ever be morose even if the world went down. They must need you, if they would have your services. I must repeat what I have said already.[1] Come here and be with me as long as you can.

Love.

BAPU

SHRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR
MADRAS

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

576. LETTER TO PREMA KANTAK

October 6, 1945

CHI. PREMA,

I read your letter and tore it up. I am returning with Sushila[2] the cutting[3] sent by you.

I asked Sushila to read out your article, so that I might not make any mistake in understanding it. It will be no good getting it published in English. Its publication in Marathi is more than enough. Your language is not faulty. But everything is not to be said on every occasion. We shall discuss the matter when we meet some time. If you wish to come specially to discuss it,

[1] *Vide* pp. 299-300.
[2] Sushila Pai
[3] Of the addressee's article published in *Nava Kal*; *vide* footnote 2, p. 309.

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take an appointment and come. Bapa has sent the statement about your camp to the Trustees[1]. We have fixed a meeting of the Committee here on the 16th. I will see then.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 10439. Also C.W. 6878. Courtesy : Prema Kantak

577. LETTER TO POONAMCHAND RANKA

October 6, 1945

BHAI POONAMCHAND,

I have your letter. Do come to Sevagram after I settle down. Whether anyone co-operates or not you have to go on with your work. Dhanvatiji[2] had come to see me.

SHANKER KUTIR
RANKA COLONY
NAGPUR

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

578. LETTER TO M. S. ANEY

October 6, 1945

BHAI BAPUJI ANEY,

I have your gift. I also got the wire. I have read the *sloka* with interest. I like the Hindi translation.

I trust you are well.

BAPU

HON'BLE SHRI ANEY
AGENT TO THE GOVT. OF INDIA
11 STANMORE, COLOMBO (CEYLON)

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Of Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust
[2] Addressee's wife

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579. LETTER TO RAIHANA TYABJI

October 6, 1945

CHI. RAIHANA,

I have your letter. You are mad. There was no need to write so much. I had heard the news about Ratnamayibehn. I did not pay much attention to it. Now you have reminded me of it. She was to go to a village but somehow could not go. Truly speaking, what is there to complain about? It is my attachment that has been reduced.

RAIHANA TYABJI
40A RIDGE ROAD
MALABAR HILL
BOMBAY

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

580. LETTER TO MUNNALAL G. SHAH

POONA,
October 7, 1945

CHI. MUNNALAL,

I got your letter. You will never find any suggestion for self-suppression in my letters. I would approve of only such non-attachment as involves no self-suppression.

I am putting off the other questions for my next letter.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 8630

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581. LETTER TO SURENDRA

October 7, 1945

CHI. SURENDRA,

I have already written to you.

I shall be in Sevagram on or about the 21st. Do come then. Most probably I shall go to Bengal from there.

SADHU SURENDRAJI
BORIVLI

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

582. LETTER TO JATINDAS M. AMIN

October 7, 1945

CHI. AMIN,

I have already written[1] to you. It is everyone's duty to destroy sin. But that is for one's own sin. With regard to another's sin our attitude should be one of non-interference, i. e., in that case nothing but non-violence is our duty. My mother used to go to temples. I did not. I did not take away or destroy the idols she used to worship. Let us not sit in judgment on others. Of course I admire your spirit of service. But you are rash and hot-tempered. Get rid of these two shortcomings and you will double your capacity for service.

AMINBHAI
ANTI-CHOLERA CAMP
SINDI KHANDALA
WARDHA

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] *Vide* p. 249.

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583. LETTER TO KRISHNACHANDRA

October 7, 1945

CHI. KRISHNACHANDRA,

I have your letter.

I am happy that you keep consulting Vinoba.

Follow Vinoba's instructions regarding *Gitai*. It is undoubtedly not right that while living in a Marathi-speaking region we do not understand Marathi. We should have the zest.

I am happy that you have accommodated the wife of a leprosy patient.

With regard to Munnalal I shall merely say that both of you have to win over each other. It will test your non-violence the least. But it will be an auspicious beginning.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 4534

584. LETTER TO ABUL KALAM AZAD

October 7, 1945

I am not happy to read in the newspapers about your ill health. It is not good that you should get temperature so often. Now the weather in the Punjab should be good. Perhaps the weather in the Frontier Province would be better than in Lahore. I think you need some rest.

You seem to have done good work in the Punjab.

MAULANA SAHEB ABUL KALAM AZAD
FALETTI'S HOTEL
LAHORE

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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585. STATEMENT TO THE PRESS

POONA,
October 8, 1945

I have received birthday greetings from all parts of the world, from individuals and associations. They will excuse me for my not sending them personal acknowledgements. Instead I hope they will accept this message of gratefulness.

The Bombay Chronicle, 9-10-1945

586. LETTER TO MADALASA

October 8, 1945

CHI. MADALASA,

How can I do without writing to you? Banish despair from your mind. Despair is only a product of our imagination.

I had fever only for two days. I am better now. Rasgulla[1] can be relished only when I come there. He must have grown very big now.

Blessings to all three of you from
BAPU

[PS.]

I hope to arrive there in the last week of this month.

[From Gujarati]

Panchven Putrako Bapuke Ashirvad, p. 326

[1] Addressee's son Bharat, whose pet-name was "Rasgulla" which is the name of a Bengali sweet

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587. LETTER TO G. V. MAVALANKAR

October 8, 1945

BHAI MAVALANKAR,

I approve of your draft[1]. On page 5 (e), I feel you should add "or its equivalent"[2] after "Vernacular IV Standard"[3]. But do what seems best to you. The Committee is not meeting here, but in Sevagram on the 25th, 26th and 27th.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati: G.N. 1254

588. LETTER TO GAJANAN NAIK

October 8, 1945

CHI. GAJANAN (NAIK),

I have your letter. Just think what my loyalty demands. Either I should pay no attention to your complaints or place them before Kumarappa and hear his side also and then ask for an explanation from you and then give the decision. Your own loyalty also demands the same.

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1], [2] & [3] These words are in English.

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589. LETTER TO CHAMPA R. MEHTA

October 8, 1945

CHI. CHAMPA,

I had sent a reply to Shashi.[1] If Keshavlal does not pay the rent, you can certainly take the necessary steps. Do I have to tell you that you are not a simple woman? Chi. Sarala should get well soon.

CHAMPABEHN MEHTA
CHANDRAKUNJ
JAGNATH PLOT
RAJKOT

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

590. LETTER TO VIRBHANU

October 8, 1945

BHAI VIRBHANU,

I have your letter. Congratulations to those who have taken a vow of making cotton hanks. It is good indeed that hanks are not sent by post. Spinners should learn to save every pie because it is not theirs but belongs to the poor. It is only proper that the hanks are handed over to the bhandar. And it will be all the better if khadi also is sold when it is woven.

DEPUTY SADAN
ATHAVA LINES
SURAT

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] *Vide* p. 288.

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591. LETTER TO PURUSHOTTAMDAS TANDON

October 8, 1945

BHAI TANDONJI,

I have your letter dated October 1, 1945. How can I ride two horses? Who will understand me when I say *rashtrabhasha*= Hindi and *rashtrabhasha*=Hindi+Urdu=Hindustani? I shall certainly serve the cause of Hindi, but by remaining out[1]. The Standing Committee should excuse me.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

PURUSHOTTAMDAS TANDON
HINDI SAHITYA SAMMELAN
ALLAHABAD

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

592. LETTER TO SHYAMLAL

October 8, 1945

BHAI SHYAMLAL,

I approve of Dada Mavalankar's draft. On page 5 (e), I feel it is necessary to add "or its equivalent"[2]; after "Vernacular Standard IV"[3].

I have written to Dada also.[4]

KASTURBA NIDHI
BAJAJWADI
WARDHA

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Of the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan
[2] & [3] These words are in English.
[4] *Vide* p. 330.

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593. LETTER TO E. M. JENKINS

POONA,
October 9, 1945

DEAR SIR EVAN,

May I remind H. E. that the decision in the matter of Shri Haridas Mitra is now overdue.[1] I may mention that I have prevented all public appeals and demonstrations in favour of the prisoner in the hope that the death sentence will be commuted. His young wife was with me the other day and was anxious that a move should be made publicly here and also in Great Britain. But she listened to me and has waited.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

SIR EVAN JENKINS
PRIVATE SECRETARY TO H. E. THE VICEROY
VICEROY'S HOUSE
NEW DELHI

Gandhiji's Correspondence with the Government, 1944-47, p. 48

594. LETTER TO MIRABEHN

October 9, 1945

CHI. MIRA,

Your letter. I am not going to omit you when I come to that side which as at present arranged I do not do before January. But nothing is fixed unless I move from Sevagram. I hope you are keeping well. Tell Balvantsinha I am not writing to him for want of time.

Love.

BAPU

From the original : C.W. 6511. Courtesy : Mirabehn. Also G.N. 9906

[1] *Vide* p. 276.

595. LETTER TO KANTILAL GANDHI

October 9, 1945

CHI. KANTI,

I have your letter. I think it is a good thing that both the Desais[1] have gone there.

Valjibhai has told me all that you omitted from your letter. He gave me a description, too, of all the people he had met.

I did not tell you, but now I do, that Valjibhai readily agreed when I suggested it to him that he should go there. He did not even ask for any time.

If Sardar permits, I hope to reach Sevagram on the 21st.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : C.W. 7378. Courtesy : Kantilal Gandhi

596. LETTER TO D. B. KALELKAR

October 9, 1945

CHI. KAKA,

I got your very carefully written letter full of news. I intend to show it to others.

This is all for the present.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI KAKASAHEB KALELKAR
SWARAJYA ASHRAM
BARDOLI, T. V. RAILWAY

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 10966

[1] Valji G. Desai and Maganbhai P. Desai

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597. LETTER TO CHAMPA R. MEHTA

October 9, 1945

CHI. CHAMPA,

I have your pathetic letter[1]. What advice can I give you? And how may I guide you? I cling to your remark in yesterday's letter and derive confidence from it and hope that you will be able to face your difficulties.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRIMATI CHAMPABEHN R. MEHTA
CHANDRAKUNJ
JAGNATH PLOT
RAJKOT

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 8758. Also C.W. 1044. Courtesy : Champa R. Mehta

598. LETTER TO PUSHPA K. DESAI

October 9, 1945

CHI. PUSHPA,

I have your letter. Remain in contact with Vinoba and learn what you can from him.

I am not sending to Rajani your letter to him. If at all, I can send it only through Father. He will certainly not like it. I, therefore, suggest that you should not write to Rajani for the present. If you permit me, I will write to Rajani and tell him that you do not wish to write to him or any other old friends for the sake of your father. In order to prove that it is proper for you not to yield to his original wish and also in order to give him peace, you must observe this self-restraint.

[1] About her husband Ratilal Mehta who had lost his balance; *vide* "Letter to Maganlal P. Mehta", pp. 375-6.

You made a mistake in writing to your friend. A mistake is all right once. But don't repeat it. If you write, you should do so either to me or to Father. That is in your own interest.

Blessings from

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 9266

599. LETTER TO KISHORELAL G. MASHRUWALA

POONA,
October 9, 1945

CHI. KISHORELAL,

I have your letter.

Just now I do not know what I can do about Tryambaklal's letter. I cannot break my journey and, even if I do I don't think I can do much.

I understand about Kailas. If the Ashram has to bear her expenses to this extent, we would be going beyond our limits. Because I think we shall have to give a little in Nagpur, if not more. And I doubt very much whether she will learn anything there. But I don't worry because you are there.

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

600. LETTER TO GOKULBHAI BHATT

October 9, 1945

BHAI GOKULBHAI,

I have your letter. I have preserved your letter written in pencil. I shall read it at leisure in order to satisfy my curiosity whether I interpreted it that way because I read it in a hurry or whether it does warrant the interpretation.[1]

Even a co-worker like you, I could meet only for a few minutes. Of course I did not like it, but one has to swallow such [bitter] pills.

I think the draft you have sent is quite right. Obtain the approval of others and begin the work. I think the names

[1] *Vide* p. 313.

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mentioned by you will be useful. They will both be quite helpful to you in your work.

GOKULBHAI BHATT
BHAGINI SEVA MANDIR TRUST
VILE PARLE

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

601. LETTER TO KRISHNACHANDRA

October 9, 1945

CHI. KRISHNACHANDRA,

I have your letter. I am returning Gulati's[1] letter. It is good. What he says is correct. But we cannot sit back till we can find an expert. Work progresses by doing it, provided we do not do it mechanically. Inform Jajuji about Gulati.

I have not quite understood about Kailas.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 4532

602. A LETTER

[On or before *October 10, 1945*] [2]

DEAR,

I had read Field Marshal Smuts's[3] speech of which you have sent me a copy.

You write glowingly about the prospects of Phœnix. But can Manilal do what you expect of him?

Yes, we have all to wish to live 125 years on condition that our lives are dedicated wholly to service without expectation of result or reward.

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Ramdas Gulati, an architect

[2] In the source the letter is placed between those of October 9 and 10, 1945.

[3] Prime Minister of South Africa

603. LETTER TO E. M. JENKINS

NATURE CURE CLINIC,
6 TODIWALA ROAD, POONA,
October 10, 1945

DEAR SIR EVAN,

I enclose herewith an account of a case which the correspondent[1] has described with some wealth of detail. Can it be true? If it is, I wonder if His Excellency proposes to take any action by way of mending matters. I am told that this is not a solitary case but is typical.[2]

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

SIR EVAN JENKINS
PRIVATE SECRETARY TO H. E. THE VICEROY
THE VICEROY'S HOUSE
NEW DELHI

Gandhiji's Correspondence with the Government, 1944-47, pp. 58-9

604. LETTER TO E. M. JENKINS

October 10, 1945

DEAR SIR EVAN,

I am the Chairman of the All-India Spinners' Association, a wholly philanthropic body of about 25 years' standing, run solely in the interest of the millions of the poorest unemployed or partly unemployed women of India. In order further to popularize hand-spinning a rule was recently introduced at my instance to demand from the buyers of khadi a certain quantity of yarn in lieu of money. Since the inception of the Association, some-

[1] Sheelbhadra Yajee, a Forward Bloc member, who was arrested during Quit India movement, had narrated the ill-treatment and torture suffered in jail.

[2] The addressee on October 13 replied that he was forwarding the letter and enclosure to the Viceroy who was "away on tour". *Vide* also Vol. LXXXII, "Letter to Sir E. M. Jenkins", 7-11-1945.

time known as Khadi Board, over four crores have been distributed among spinners all over India. These include all communities from among the poor village women. Now, I understand, licensing rules are being issued by Provincial Administrations requiring khadi shops to take out licences as if they were dealers in mill-made cloth. Objection has also been taken to the price being partly demanded in hand-spun yarn. I am sure the Government do not intend to penalize khadi and thus the poor people. As this is an all-India matter, I venture to approach His Excellency in the hope of the impending wrong being redressed. I may add that the matter has been taken up by the Honorary Secretary of the Association with the Provincial Administrations concerned.[1]

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

Gandhiji's Correspondence with the Government, 1944-47, pp. 67-8

605. LETTER TO JAIRAMDAS DOULATRAM

POONA,
October 10, 1945

MY DEAR JAIRAMDASBHAI,

. . . I read out the whole of your letter to Bapu. He says that the ban on sending yarn in large quantities to him was imposed because of the new rules preventing posting of yarn or cloth from one province to another and also in order to save postage. He says if you can get over the rules and expense and send the yarn—if everyone insists on this—to him through someone who happens to be coming his way you may do so. But he would prefer you to have the yarn woven into cloth and your proposals which are sound should be adopted. You may send the dhotis, etc., to him for his personal use when anyone can bring them. In regard to the signatures they cannot be had for less than Rs. 5 each. Signature money can only go to the Harijan cause. Khadi auctioned or yarn or cloth donated at the Jayanti, all goes to the A. I. S. A. I hope I have made Bapu's wishes clear. . . .

I am not keen on going[2] but Bapu feels I should go and take advantage of doing work by the way so to speak. Bapu is all right again,

[1] The addressee wrote on October 19 to say that the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, which had not "undertaken or suggested control over the price or distribution of khadi", was "asking the Provincial Governments to look into the matter".

[2] Amrit Kaur was going along with Zakir Husain to attend the preliminary session of the United Nations Cultural and Educational Conference as Member of the Indian Delegation.

I am glad to say. Of course he gets tired easily. But this place admits of good massage and treatment for him as also more protection from visitors than most others and the climate is better than [that of] Sevagram in August, September and October. According to present plans he leaves for Sevagram on the 19th and after 9 days there leaves for Bengal, arriving in Calcutta on November 2nd. But this depends on what progress Sardar makes this week. Up till now there is no real improvement in his case but Bapu is hopeful that he will improve if he stays on. . . .

Yours,
AMRIT KAUR

From the original : C.W. 11060. Courtesy : Arjun Jairamdas

606. LETTER TO G. V. MAVALANKAR

October 10, 1945

BHAI MAVALANKAR,

I have your letter. There was no need to take the trouble to write it. I would not misunderstand your not coming. I know you quite well. But now you must have noted that the Committee is meeting in Sevagram itself on the 25th, 26th and 27th. If you can come at that time, do so. But if the direct railway service has not been resumed, it is not necessary to take all that trouble for coming. Please do nothing at the cost of your health.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 1255

607. LETTER TO K. T. SHAH

October 10, 1945

BHAI SHAH,

Only today I read a copy of the article Chi. Kishorelal had sent to [*The Bombay*] *Chronicle* around June 15. It is a short one which I am enclosing herewith. It will not take you long to glance through it.

If you find his suggestions worth while, you yourself can do further research. If what he says is right and if decimal

coinage is going to be forced on the people, you can play an important part in opposing it.

K. T. SHAH
8 LABURNUM ROAD
GAMDEVI, BOMBAY

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

608. LETTER TO V. L. MEHTA

October 10, 1945

BHAI VAIKUNTH,

Only today I read a copy of the article Chi. Kishorelal had sent to [*The Bombay*] *Chronicle* around June 15. It is a short one which I am enclosing herewith. It will not take you long to glance through it.

Write to me if you find his suggestions useful and take further steps if you can. I am writing a similar letter to Gaganvihari[1] and Shah. Perhaps the cloud (if it is a cloud) that is hovering over the people will easily be averted if something is done in time.

VAIKUNTH MEHTA
BOMBAY PROV. CO-OPERATIVE BANK
BACK HOUSE LANE, BOMBAY

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

609. LETTER TO KISHORELAL G. MASHRUWALA

October 10, 1945

CHI. KISHORELAL,

Today just after the prayers I read with care your article on decimal coinage. I liked it. Why did you take so long in sending it? Or did you send it and did I miss it by oversight? I was in Panchgani then[2] and hardly looked at newspapers. At present also the situation is just the same. To say that I have carefully gone through the article does not mean that I have also checked

[1] Gaganvihari L. Mehta, addressee's younger brother
[2] From May 31 to June 19, 1945

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up the calculations or that they are clear to me. Since you are so good at calculations I take it that the figures are correct. Suppose your figures are correct and your suggestions are very useful to the public, you cannot sit quiet after merely writing an article. If your health permits, pursue the matter yourself or discuss it with Narahari, Jajuji and Kumarappa. Vinoba also is an expert at figures. If he agrees, Jajuji or Narahari can go deep into the matter and correspond with Kodanda Rao. I am myself writing to him. I have written to K. T. Shah[1], Vaikunth[2] and Gaganvihari and sent them copies of the article.

Now about Jajuji. I don't think we shall gain anything by sending him to the Assembly. He would become weak. Ours is a queer way of working and the people working there are even more queer. People ask for Jajuji and others but will not listen to them after placing them on the throne. Jajuji will be much more useful by remaining out of the Assembly.

Dada's name is worth considering and perhaps he will be relieved of his family responsibilities when the time comes.

Sardar told me that you had written to him.

I am not convinced by what you say about your health. And I am helpless because you are insisting exclusively on one thing. I cannot understand your insistence. But since it is backed by your peculiar line of thinking how can I counter it? If you were temperamentally like Sardar I would have sent for you for treatment here or done some such thing. I just do not believe that your constitution is collapsing from within and that it cannot be helped. I believe it can be set right by nature cure. I have said all this as I could not help it. If any of this appeals to you, please let me know so that I may think about the next step.

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] & [2] *Vide* the preceding two items.

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610. LETTER TO SATYADEVI

October 10, 1945

CHI. SATYADEVI[1],

I am glad to have your letter. The letters are quite well-formed. I am glad to learn that none of you have given up the spinning-wheel. Ply it and also master all the attendant processes.

I hope Durga[2] and Maitreyi[3] are all right. So also Krishnamaiya[4]. What is Mahavir[5] doing these days? You have not given any news of Dharmakumar[6]. Do you all stay together?

SATYADEVI
BORIVLI

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

611. LETTER TO CHAUNDE MAHARAJ

October 10, 1945

CHAUNDE MAHARAJ,

I have your letter. I have expressed my opinion[7] but that does not mean that a new institution is to be formed for the whole country. The Goseva Sangh is already there and the work is going on. But the task is a difficult one. There should be a considerable number of people who know the science of *goseva* and can put it into practice.

Your ideas are noble but the work will not progress on mere ideas. I did not like the scene I witnessed the day I went there. Everyone was sentimental but they had no knowledge and no will for work. Try to expand the scope of the goshala. Till now there is no tannery there. I do not know if there is a good bull.

Do you have a dairy expert? If there is one and if the existing institution itself becomes an ideal dairy, I shall be too

[1], [2] & [3] Daughters of Dalbahadur Giri of Nepal
[4] Addressee's mother
[5] & [6] Addressee's brothers
[7] *Vide* pp. 323-4.

glad and hope to have great results from it. A similar experiment is going on in Wardha under my supervision. I cannot of course cite any significant results. I realize that it is very difficult to attain perfection. I know of no easy way of overcoming difficulties and perhaps I may never come across one. I hope you have understood the meaning of what I say.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

GOVARDHAN SANSTHA
POONA

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

612. A LETTER

October 10, 1945

BHAI . . .[1],

Your letter makes sad reading. Your sin is grave. You cannot expiate it by fasting. Fasting has its own limits. The real penance is a change of heart on your part. You will have to confess your fall to the bride. And if she still wishes to marry you, you may do so. You must give up the bride's mother. Is she of loose character? I have seen such mothers. The whole thing is very delicate. I can't understand it fully nor do I have the time to do so.

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

613. LETTER TO MAHAJANI

October 10, 1945

BHAI MAHAJANI,

Only today I got your letter dated September 18.

I am just repeating the message I sent to you in 1935, wishing that both the institutions may live long.

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Omission as in the source

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614. A LETTER

[On or before *October 11, 1945*][1]

DEAR . . .[2],

Yours is a simple case. If your wife has gone astray, you owe no obligation to her. She should leave you and marry or live with the person of her choice.

If you are firm in your vow, you should carry it out. If you are not, there should be no pretension.

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

615. LETTER TO RAMPRASAD

POONA,
October 11, 1945

CHI. RAMPRASAD,

I have your letter. I don't understand why you feel hesitant about writing to me. But now I am about to come there. Speak to me then.

I have suggested Jivanram as the boy's name. Jivanram was a great scholar. At present I am reading his translation of *Bhartriharishatakam*[3]. Meanwhile, Chi. Kanta asked a name for the child and this occurred to me. Moreover, he has just come out of the jaws of death. That is another reason for suggesting this name.

SEVAGRAM
WARDHA

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] In the source the letter is placed between those of October 10 and 11, 1945.

[2] The name has been omitted.

[3] A compendium of three sets of 100 verses each, on erotic love, moral wisdom and turning away from worldly pleasures, written by Bhartrihari

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616. LETTER TO DINESH SINGH

October 11, 1945

CHI. DINESH,

I was happy to receive your letter. It is good that all are together. Complete your studies and render public service to your heart's content.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI DINESH KUMAR
KALAKANKAR KOTHI
LUCKNOW (U. P.)

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 8676

617. LETTER TO SHRIKRISHNADAS JAJU

October 11, 1945

BHAI JAJUJI,

I am sending a copy of my letter[1] to the Viceroy's Secretary. I wanted to make it as brief as possible. Tell me if you think that some important point has been left out so that I may write again.

I am thinking over the legal aspect. I wish to take Dr. Kedar's help for that. And if you think that this cannot be arranged through you I am prepared to write to him myself. If you send a brief[2] I shall send the same or shall draw up one. If you are still not satisfied, I shall write to a lawyer in Bombay.

After going through all [the papers] I feel there is no need for us to decide in a hurry. Isn't it mentioned in the new rule that the date for implementing it will be announced later? I understand that we have no difficulty with the old rule. Is this correct?

I am planning to reach Sevagram on the 21st. If I do I shall be there till the 31st.

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Dated October 10, 1945; *vide* pp. 338-9.
[2] This word is in English.

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618. LETTER TO DEVDAS GANDHI

October 11/12, 1945

CHI. DEVDAS,

I have read your committee's amended report. If I have not told you earlier, let me tell you that as long as we do not get a woman to head the organization[1], it will be like building on sand. Our effort will bear fruit only if we can find a responsible woman organizer. She would also keep some kind of record, like your report. Now for taking any further step, for example choosing the site, I feel the same thing as I have already indicated should apply. I hope you are all right.

"THE HINDUSTAN TIMES"
NEW DELHI

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

619. LETTER TO UMA AGRAWAL

POONA,
October 12, 1945

CHI. OM[2],

I have your letter. After writing such a slovenly hand, how can you ask for pardon? One must never write a bad hand.

I received the baby's silent message. Whom do you mean by "his"? Is it not the limit of helplessness that you feel embarrassed in taking your [husband's] name? If you send me some names, I would select one.

Sushilabehn has returned. She did excellent work.

Blessings from
BAPU

[From Gujarati]

Panchven Putrako Bapuke Ashirvad, p. 345

[1] For Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust work
[2] Daughter of Jamnalal Bajaj, married to Rajnarayan Agrawal

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620. LETTER TO PREMA KANTAK

October 12, 1945

CHI. PREMA,

Join me in my walk on the 17th at 7.30. I have no other time to give.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 10440. Also C.W. 6879. Courtesy : Prema Kantak

621. LETTER TO RAMDAS GANDHI

October 12, 1945

CHI. RAMDAS,

Sumi's letter is at the back of this. So now there is no question whether she should go or not. Yesterday Manilal and Sushila left for Akola. Arun has stayed back. Valjibhai teaches him.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

622. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

October 12/13, 1945

CHI. LILI,

One may say you have done well. Now stick to it and get through and start working.

The date for going to Sevagram is not yet fixed. If I remember I shall write to you; in any case you will come to know of it. Don't spoil your health.

Blessings from
BAPU

SMT. LILAVATI UDESHI
G. S. MEDICAL COLLEGE, PAREL

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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623. LETTER TO F. M. PINTO

NATURE CURE CLINIC,
6 TODIWALA ROAD,
POONA,
October 13, 1945

MY DEAR PINTO,

I have your letter. I take little or no interest in the elections. Sometimes, however, I have to tender advice. Your letter I like and also dislike. I like its frankness but the argument is bad.[1] I want every minority to be robust and independent in the full sense of the term. A Christian remains a full Indian because he cannot be otherwise and expects or wants no reward for remaining an Indian. Then the word 'minority' loses all its significance. I have put myself in the minorities' position. I can, therefore, speak with frankness and even some authority. What does it matter, if older Christians cling to the Government and look up to it for crumbs? That will be the testing time for the younger ones. For time runs against the former and in favour of the latter.

If you have understood and appreciated my argument, in your private talks too you will bear down the opposition of the older ones by being and remaining true to yourselves and the nation to which you belong.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

SHRI F. M. PINTO
NATIONALIST CHRISTIAN PARTY
C/O ANGLO LUSITANO
15 BANK STREET
FORT, BOMBAY

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] The addressee had argued that since Christians, whose number was very small on the electoral roll, had little chance of getting elected independently to the Central Assembly they should be "put up on the Congress ticket".

624. LETTER TO K. ISWARA DUTT

October 13, 1945

MY DEAR ISWARA DUTT[1],

Having been the victim of such a volume myself I wonder whether you will appreciate my objection to any such volume. Does it do any good? Does the victim stand in need of encomium even from the tallest? If he does, it should be withheld. If he does not, it is superfluous. Holding such views and holding them strongly, I must pour cold water on your suggestion. Sir Tej Bahadur is much too good a man to require any outside prop.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

SHRI K. ISWARA DUTT
28 STATION ROAD
JAIPUR (RAJPUTANA)

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

625. LETTER TO P. C. GHOSH[2]

October 13, 1945

BHAI PRAFULLO,

Why did you send a special messenger ? Why did you write such a lengthy note? Rajkumari had shown me what she had written [to you]. I still find nothing wrong in it. Mahadev would have written a similar letter. The estrangement between you and Satis Babu hurts me very much. Perhaps I may not reach there on November 2 because it might be difficult to leave [ailing] Sardar. In that case I will be delayed. The second reason is the election excitement over there. In view of this I will fix the date after I hear from you. It will be better to draw up the

[1] A journalist who had proposed to bring out a felicitation volume for Tej Bahadur Sapru

[2] This was sent through Kantilal of Calcutta.

programme there itself. Of course it will mean some inconvenience but it would be better to put up with it.

I hope you are keeping well.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

626. LETTER TO CHIMANLAL N. SHAH

POONA,
October 14, 1945

CHI. CHIMANLAL,

I [had written][1] to Chi. Babu about my reaching [Sevagram]. She will not, however, go there in my absence, and it is only proper that she should not. She is eager indeed to come when I am there. But my own programme is uncertain. I cannot say definitely when I shall be able to settle down in the Ashram. I might be able to do so after I have finished Bengal, Madras and the Frontier Province. And now I am planning something new. Let us see what happens.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

I will certainly not be able to reach there on the 21st. I will give the exact date later.

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 10647

627. LETTER TO AMRITLAL V. THAKKAR

October 14, 1945

BAPA,

I am enclosing Mridula's letters. The draft of what I wish to say is also there.[2] If you approve of it, I intend sending it to Mridula. And if she too approves of it, we can send it to the Press.

Also see the letter about Lila Jog. I think it is better to send Rs. 250. But as you know the facts, please guide me in

[1] A word is illegible here; *vide* p. 305.
[2] For the letter to Mridula Sarabhai, *vide* pp. 357-8.

this also. I understand that it will be inconvenient for you to come here and I do not want you to run around in your present condition. So let us do as much as we can by correspondence.

BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

628. LETTER TO RATILAL B. MEHTA

POONA,
October 14, 1945

BHAI RATILAL BECHARDAS,

I have your cheque for Rs. 1635-6-0. I should like to use it for constructive work.

Blessings from
BAPU

RATILAL BECHARDAS MEHTA
GHATKOPAR CONGRESS COMMITTEE
NAOROJI LANE
GHATKOPAR, BOMBAY

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

629. LETTER TO DHARMAKUMAR GIRI

October 14, 1945

CHI. DHARMAKUMAR,

I am glad to have your letter. Let me know as soon as Satyadevi is operated upon. Appear for the examinations again since you have failed. It is always better to complete what one has undertaken. I have got the yarn.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI DHARMAKUMAR GIRI
BHIMJI KARA'S BUNGALOW
BORIVLI

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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630. LETTER TO K. T. SHAH

October 14, 1945

BHAI SHAH,

I have your letter. You have replied promptly. I approve of all your arguments. If you start an agitation on those lines, perhaps the changes recently introduced can be withdrawn.

Blessings from
BAPU

PROF. K. T. SHAH
GAMDEVI
BOMBAY-7

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

631. LETTER TO KISHORELAL G. MASHRUWALA

October 14, 1945

CHI. KISHORELAL,

Are you determined to die? Convince me if there is any logic in your thinking so that I too may follow you. Now it is high time [you listened to me]. Whoever writes, writes only about your getting weaker and weaker. How can I make you understand? What can I do if my going there is getting postponed?

Blessings to you both from
BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

632. LETTER TO ABHYANKAR

October 14, 1945

BHAI ABHYANKAR,

I have your letter. I am sorry to say that I do not read newspapers and heard about Chimur Ashti only from you. If what you state is all true, it is a matter of great sorrow and all the

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more so for me that such an incident should take place over my name. Moreover, I am totally ignorant about what is going on there at present. I cannot personally go anywhere but I am enquiring about both the matters. If the second incident also was as you describe, it is really sad.

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

633. LETTER TO GOPE GURBUXANI

October 14, 1945

BHAI GURBUXANI,

I have your letter written in English. There was no need for you to write in English. It is good that you are earning something on your own. I am glad you sent money to your father and repaid the loan to the Ashram also. Do silent service while remaining out of the Congress. When I become a four-anna member, ask me whether you also should become one.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI GOPE GURBUXANI
17 HASAN BUILDING
NICHOLSON ROAD, DELHI

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

634. LETTER TO VIMLARANI GURBUXANI

October 14, 1945

CHI. VIMLA[1],

Gurbuxani writes to say that you have gone to your parents and your confinement is drawing near. I hope you will have an easy delivery. Let me know when it is over.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI VIMLARANI GURBUXANI, M.A.
2A CONVENT ROAD
DEHRA DUN

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Wife of Gope Gurbuxani

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635. LETTER TO AMRIT KAUR

October 15, 1945

CHI. AMRIT,

I hope you reached Manorville safely and found all well. I hope you will have no difficulty on your way to London and back. You must keep well during your absence which I hope will be as short as possible.

Pyarelal is still in bed. Though fever was below normal for some time during last night, it went up to over 103° during the day. But he looks better otherwise.

Sardar must go to Bombay for a week. I shall stay here. This means I do not go to Sevagram before 2nd November.

Love to you all.

BAPU

From the original : C.W. 4167. Courtesy : Amrit Kaur. Also G.N. 7803

636. LETTER TO MANILAL AND SUSHILA GANDHI

POONA,
October 15, 1945

CHI. MANILAL AND SUSHILA,

I had your letter. Somebody told me only yesterday that you could not get the tickets immediately. Arun is happy. He wears nothing but underwear and is always in high spirits. He studies a little and plays a lot. He does spin, of course. He does not show, at any rate, that he misses you. Valjibhai teaches him. Kanaiyo went with my permission. I was in a position to let him go. Pyarelal has come, but with high fever. The fever has not been diagnosed. Do not worry about me.

Blessings to all of you from
BAPU

SHRI MANILAL GANDHI
MASHRUWALA BUNGALOW
AKOLA (C. P. BERAR)

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 4958

637. LETTER TO D. B. KALELKAR

October 15, 1945

CHI. KAKA,

I got your letters. I have already sent a brief message through Bal. As regards his exploits, he himself will tell you. I, therefore, don't write about them here.

I had a discussion with Deo regarding Hindustani. His views are firm. He adheres to every word of the Poddar-Deo statement. I showed him the whole of your letter. He finds some factual errors in it, the chief being that he has never opposed your propagation of Hindustani. He is not opposed to it even in thought. He has, in fact, restrained others who were opposed to you. He says that you or others may offer whatever opposition you wish and in whatever manner you wish. My path, therefore, is clear. You, I and others who regard knowledge of the two languages as essential should vigorously, but in our own manner, carry on our work.

Atulanand's[1] leaflet and other literature have been passed on to you. Probably his letter also was there. I should like you to read them and return them to Sevagram with your opinion. My reason for writing this is that Atulanand has written a letter cautioning me.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 10967

638. LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI

October 15, 1945

CHI. MATHURADAS,

Why did you fall ill? You must not exert yourself to do anything. It is one's duty to keep the body radiant as copper. Eat only what suits you. Do only what you are able to. A

[1] Atulanand Chakravarty

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sevak[1] who falls ill requires others' services and is not able to do his work. It should not be difficult to see that others taking up his work cannot fill the gap.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 3764

639. LETTER TO MRIDULA SARABHAI

October 15, 1945

CHI. MRIDULA,

I have your resignation. I think you have acted wisely in tendering it. I know and I believe that in accepting the post of Joint Secretary your intention was to render wider service to the cause of women. Equally good is your motive in resigning because you realized and I also saw that by continuing in that post you would not be able to realize your ideal. There is temperamental incompatibility between Bapa and you. You tried to adjust but who can remove inherent differences ? You saw that your method of working did not satisfy Bapa. He, on his part, also tried to adjust but with little success. I could see that the difference was enormous. In my opinion neither of you is at fault. Very often such differences are unbridgeable. In these circumstances, the best thing is to work apart. Bapa was, and is still, ready to quit. But this is Bapa's creation and Bapa is a seasoned hand in this kind of work. It would be difficult for me, I think, to carry this burden without him. It is Bapa's wish and mine that all men should ultimately withdraw from the Samiti and the entire administration should be handed over to the sisters. That will bring it real credit. This effort will continue and none of us will rest on our oars till it succeeds. Success will not come early by Bapa's leaving it or allowing us to quit. Hence I am allowing you to quit the Joint Secretaryship and am accepting your resignation. I know that I am not losing your services thereby. You are and will continue to be a trustee. I am sure you will continue to work for the local Kasturba Nidhi committee of Gujarat; and you will also assist the Central Committee whenever it needs your help. Thus I am confident that you will not lag behind in serving the Committee even when you relinquish

[1] One who serves

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its Joint Secretaryship. Moreover, you should not forget that you have resigned from Secretaryship, not from trusteeship.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

Your decision to publish the resignation letter is well conceived. That will scotch all rumours and speculation either in private or in public. You are already on leave. Does it [resignation] take effect from now itself?

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

640. LETTER TO VAJUBHAI SHUKLA

October 15, 1945

BHAI VAJUBHAI,

Just now I heard about your wife's demise. What can I say by way of consolation? Everyone born has to die. Some die sooner, some later.

Blessings from
BAPU

VAJUBHAI SHUKLA
RAJKOT

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

641. LETTER TO KISHORELAL G. MASHRUWALA

October 15, 1945

CHI. KISHORELAL,

Just now Prabhakar rang up Sushila to say that you have fever. I am not at all happy about it. I shall be satisfied only when the fever completely subsides.

Rameshwardas has asked me to suggest a name out of the four for the Mahadev Memorial at Dhulia. I have selected Gomati's. It will be good if she agrees.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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642. LETTER TO R. ACHUTHAN

October 15, 1945

BHAI ACHUTHAN[1],

I have written a great deal about constructive work. Read it all, over and over again. Do not listen to criticism by others. If you hear criticism, you must have the strength to answer it. How long can I go on replying to people? Students should develop the ability to understand and reply to such things.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 10853

643. LETTER TO V. A. SUNDARAM

October 15, 1945

DEAR SUNDARAM,[2]

I have your gift for Monday. You have done well to revive old memories.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 3187

644. LETTER TO CHANDRANI

October 15, 1945

CHI. CHAND,

I have no difficulty in giving a decision. You cannot leave Nagpur on any account; not even if your parents are ill. Student life is a kind of sannyasa. I do not think that Satyavati would

[1] Secretary, Benares Hindu University Rachanatmak Mandal for students
[2] The superscription and the subscription are in Tamil.

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like you to give up your studies. And what will you gain even if you go there[1]?

Sushila will write the rest.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : Chandrani Papers. Courtesy : Gandhi National Museum and Library

645. LETTER TO ABUL KALAM AZAD

October 15, 1945

BHAI SAHEB,

Maulana . . .[2] writes to say that you need prolonged rest. I also agree with him. You must take rest for the sake of the country.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD SAHEB
CALCUTTA

From a copy of the Hindi. Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

646. LETTER TO ABDUL GHAFFAR KHAN

October 15, 1945

BHAI BADSHAH KHAN,

There must be plenty of bustle because of the elections. Will it be proper for me to go there at that time? Or shall I come later? I don't know when I will be able to make it.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

BADSHAH KHAN
CHARSADDA
FRONTIER PROVINCE

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] To the Tuberculosis Hospital, Delhi, where Satyavati had been admitted

[2] Omission as in the source

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647. LETTER TO VAMANRAO JOSHI

October 15, 1945

BHAI VAMANRAO,

Sardar informed me that you survived the accident but the injuries were quite serious. I hope they are not too serious and your life of service will go on for a long time.

Blessings from
BAPU

VEER VAMANRAO
AMRAVATI, BERAR

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

648. LETTER TO RAMESHWARI NEHRU

October 15, 1945

CHI. RAMESHWARI[1],

I have your letter. Your sister has passed away leaving behind a large family. Your mother must be feeling it the most. These days I read *Bhartriharishatak* for a few minutes daily. What it says on moral wisdom and detachment is worth pondering over at such times. Why grieve over the inevitable? It is good indeed that the fast over the Garhwal [issue] was withdrawn.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI RAMESHWARIBEHN NEHRU
SRINAGAR
KASHMIR

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Vice-President, Harijan Sevak Sangh

649. LETTER TO J. B. KRIPALANI

October 15, 1945

BHAI KRIPALANI,

I got your letter and the wire later. My wire was already drafted in accordance with your decision, so I withheld it. I hope your fever has completely subsided. Sucheta too must have recovered. Sardar's decision was also the same [as yours].

Blessings from
BAPU

ACHARYA KRIPALANI
SWARAJYA BHAVAN, ALLAHABAD

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

650. LETTER TO ANNE MARIE PETERSEN

POONA,
October 16, 1945

DEAR MARIA,

I have read your letter to Rajkumari. I must say your letter is unsatisfactory. That you are going to Denmark and that during your absence the institution will remain closed should have been sufficient for the withdrawal of the application. Was it good or necessary to bring in the matter of conversion? When you and Esther came to me, it was, I think, common between us that conversion from one faith to another was needless and created heart-burning. One's faith expands by removing the bad in it and absorbing the good and new from the others. You have every right to hold the opposite view. My point is simple. You had a decisive cause for withdrawing your application without raising an irrelevant issue.

I hope you will have a good time in Denmark and will return hale and hearty.

Love.

BAPU

MISS A. M. PETERSEN
SEVA MANDIR, PORTO NOVO

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

651. LETTER TO CHHOTUBHAI K. MEHTA

October 16, 1945

CHI. NAPOLEON[1],

I got your letter written in a beautiful band. I was glad to read about Mama. Why do you want blessings for your Association? You should assume that you have everybody's blessings for good work and go on with it silently.

Blessings from
BAPU

CHI. NAPOLEON
ADARSH DUGDHALAYA
MALAD, *via* BOMBAY

From a microfilm of the Gujarati : M.M.U./XXII

652. LETTER TO TARABEHN MODAK

October 16, 1945

DEAR SISTER,

If you had written your article in ink, I myself would have read it earlier. But as it was in pencil, I could not read the whole article though there is plenty of light in my room. Ultimately I made someone read it out. I know from personal experience that there is a lot of difference between reading something and hearing it read. Daily I make someone read out cuttings from newspapers and if and when I have time, I read them myself. Sometimes when a thing is re-read there is a striking change in my understanding. I feel this must be a common experience. Of course you have to realize yourself. I have mentioned this important, though irrelevant, thing because I thought it worth mentioning. I would be pleased if you accept that there is violence in writing in pencil things sent by post. The letters written in pencil fade away in course of time.

I am sending back your article. Please note the changes I have made in what I could read myself. The changes are just

[1] Son of Kunverji Mehta, a Congressman of Bardoli taluk

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from the point of view of language. The rest I find is quite all right. I am giving a gist of my experiences so as to make what I have said more clear.

I saw the work done by teachers trained under Madame Montessori, and carefully observed the working of the Nursery School. Of course the things were foreign and the poor teacher had not digested what she had been taught. What to speak of the children? They could not even observe normal discipline. I am not criticising anyone. I have given the gist of my experience just for your information. Imbibe whatever you find useful and discard the rest. The conclusion I have drawn from this experience is that we shall be able to propagate scientific knowledge of child education only when our teachers are competent. They should have the will to become one with children. I am afraid I am not saying anything new in this. These things are certainly not beyond your range of experience but since I have come to know you and also love you I hope you will not find fault with me for saying the things you already know.

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

653. LETTER TO HARIKISANDAS CHAWDA

October 16, 1945

BHAI HARIKISANDAS,

I have 77 paise coins from your institution.[1] I am putting them into the Harijan Sevak Sangh account. I hope everyone is spinning regularly.

HARIJAN VYAYAM MANDAL
20 COCHIN STREET
BOMBAY

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] To symbolize Gandhiji's entering 77th year on October 2, 1945

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654. LETTER TO ANAND T. HINGORANI

October 16, 1945

CHI. ANAND,

It is very good that your faith has increased and also your peace. I am writing the daily thought[1]. I hope to complete what is left. After that I want to be quiet.

Chi. Mahadev will be well.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a microfilm of the Hindi. Courtesy : National Archives of India and Anand T. Hingorani

655. LETTER TO KHURSHEDBEHN NAOROJI

[*October 17, 1945*][2]

VAHALAN BEHN,

Your letter. I note what you say. We serve according to our lights.

The Bengal tour will be postponed by a few days. The date is not yet fixed.

What you say about Satyavati is disquieting. But nothing better was to be expected. Let us hope she will witness the wedding[3].

Rajkumari may go to London for a month. . . .[4] I shall do my best about Nirmal Kumar whom I know and whose work I value.[5]

My love to Satyavati.

KHURSHEDBEHN NAOROJI
THE I. N. A. DEFENCE COMMITTEE
82 DARYAGANJ, DELHI

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] For the thoughts written during the period covered by this volume, *vide* "A Thought for the Day" at the end of this volume.

[2] The letter is found among those of this date.

[3] Of Satyavati's son; *vide* "Letter to Brijkrishna Chandiwala", 25-10-1945.

[4] Omission as in the source

[5] The addressee had asked Gandhiji to utilize the services of Nirmal Kumar Bose.

656. LETTER TO CHHAGANLAL JOSHI

POONA,
October 17, 1945

CHI. CHHAGANLAL,

I have your letter. I remember to have written to you that I would let you accompany me during some part of my tour.[1] My view is that it would be convenient if you accompanied me in the Madras Presidency, for I am familiar with the work there. The work in Bengal and Assam is rather difficult. I don't have a clear picture of it in my mind. I, therefore, don't wish to take with me there anybody who is not specially needed. The date of my tour also has not been fixed. Perhaps I may go to Bengal only after November 21. Everything depends on Sardar's health.

I think your accepting money from the Rulers requires some consideration. It was your letter which made me think about this. Shouldn't we ponder whether or not we can accept money from Rulers who pay no attention at all to the welfare of their subjects? When the amount of Rs. 1,000 is received, I will credit it to the account of the Harijan Sevak Sangh.

So far I have no knowledge of its being received this time. I do not know if it has been received at the Sevagram Ashram.

Do you think the States would give any protection to the Harijans wherever they are oppressed? Concerning joint fruit-parties for Harijans and caste Hindus, do you mean any caste Hindus or only reformers like you and me?

Remind me again when you read about the date of my tour. Rajkumari has gone to Simla. From there she may perhaps have to go to England for a month. Sushilabehn and Manilal have gone to Akola.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 5549

[1] *Vide* p. 245.

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657. LETTER TO SHANTILAL J. MEHTA

October 17, 1945

CHI. SHANTI,

I have no message to give to Natal.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a microfilm of the Gujarati : M.M.U./XXII

658. LETTER TO PRABHAVATI

October 17, 1945

CHI. PRABHA,

Why do you mark your letters "private"? What is there private for a public worker? And what was private in your letter? I have not kept a copy of my letter. What can I, therefore, write? Probably it was about your study, Jayaprakash and your coming. There may have been something concerning what you wrote regarding Banaras. For more details ask me when I arrive there. Learn to keep patience till then. I am enquiring from Rajkumari and Sushilabehn about the letter to you.

My departure for Bengal will be delayed by a few days. You will read about it in the newspapers. Most probably I will write.

We shall call your friend later.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 3585

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659. LETTER TO GAJANAN NAIK

October 17, 1945

CHI. GAJANAN,

I have your letter. I regret that I cannot make you understand such a simple thing. If the person who writes is himself not frank, what can be done about what he writes? I tell you it is your dharma to be frank; only then can an inquiry be held. If you wish to write to me secretly I don't want to listen to anything and don't want to be influenced.[1]

AKHIL BHARATIYA UDYOG SANGH
WARDHA

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

660. LETTER TO MAYASHANKER

October 17, 1945

BHAI MAYASHANKER,

I have your letter. I am helpless. Do write whatever you wish to say.

MAYASHANKER
C/O MAHENDRA BHOGILAL & CO.
DIVANCHAND BUILDING
75 JHAVERI BAZAAR, BOMBAY

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] *Vide* also p. 330.

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661. LETTER TO L. KRISHNASWAMI BHARATI

October 17, 1945

BHAI KRISHNASWAMI,

At the moment I don't feel like writing to Nadar[1]. Virtue is its own reward. So where is the need for appreciation?

I feel happy to hear about your family.

L. KRISHNASWAMI BHARATI
165 WEST MASI STREET
MADURA

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

662. LETTER TO RATNADEVI

October 17, 1945

DEAR SISTER,

Now don't ask for a message from me. As far as possible I want to do silent service. If you want to see me, come over when I have settled down.

RATNADEVI
VANASTHALI VIDYAPITH
JAIPUR STATE

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Kamaraj Nadar; President of Tamil Nadu Provincial Congress Committee, 1940-54; Member, Constituent Assembly; Chief Minister of Madras, 1954-63; President of Indian National Congress, 1964-67

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663. LETTER TO BHARATAN KUMARAPPA

[On or before *October 18, 1945*][1]

MY DEAR BHARATAN,

I have time only to say I accept all your amendments.

L. KOTWAL, GORDON HALL HOUSE
NEW NAGPADA ROAD, BYCULLA
BOMBAY

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

664. TELEGRAM TO P. C. GHOSH[2]

[*October 18, 1945*][3]

SORRY I HAVE BEEN OBLIGED TO POSTPONE VISIT TO BENGAL BY A FEW DAYS. AM UNABLE GIVE EXACT DATE COMING. AM ANXIOUS VISIT AS MANY PLACES AS POSSIBLE BUT REGARD BEING HAD TO MY HEALTH IT MAY TURN OUT TO BE AS FEW AS POSSIBLE. MAIN THING IS TO STUDY CONDITION AND SHARE DISTRESS BEST OF MY ABILITY. WOULD LIKE FINAL FIXING PROGRAMME AFTER REACHING CALCUTTA.

Gandhi's Emissary, p. 55. Also Sudhir Ghosh Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

[1] The letter is placed between those of October 17 and 18, 1945.
[2] A similar telegram was sent to Satis Chandra Das Gupta.
[3] In the source Sudhir Ghosh explains that Gandhiji drafted this telegram before he dictated the letter to P. C. Ghosh; *vide* the following item.

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665. LETTER TO P. C. GHOSH[1]

POONA,
October 18, 1945

BHAI PROFULLA,

I have your letter and telegram about Jawaharlalji.[2] I have understood the matter.

Sudhir came yesterday. I have had long talks with Sudhir yesterday and today. I could not send a telegram about my decision. It would have been too long. So I am sending this letter. Sudhir must have sent you a brief telegram.[3]

Taking everything into consideration I feel that at this stage you may announce this much: 'Owing to unavoidable circumstances Gandhiji cannot come to Calcutta on the 2nd November. As soon as the date is decided it will be announced. It is likely that he will come in the last week of November or thereabouts. His tour programme which has been published in the newspapers is also cancelled. But wherever he is likely to go, the organizers will be informed so that they can make some arrangements. No expenditure of any kind should be incurred at this stage. Wherever he goes, his transport will have to be paid for, but that can be seen at that time only. Gandhiji has made it clear that, health permitting, he will try his best to go to all the places he wanted to visit. But considering his age and health, it is obvious that in spite of his desire to visit as many places as possible he will be able to visit only a few of them.'

You may publish this much. Now I shall tell you what I want to do. If possible I want to visit Midnapore, Chittagong, Dacca, Borkamta, Santiniketan and Assam. If any other place is left out, like Feni, I would like to visit that also. You can inform the local organizers about my programme which all of you there may decide for me. Transport also would have to be arranged. Do not give anything to the Press yet. That can be done on my arrival. It takes a little time to make the preliminary

[1] This was sent through Sudhir Ghosh.

[2] The addressee wanted Jawaharlal Nehru to postpone his visit to Calcutta for a longer visit later.

[3] *Vide* the preceding item.

arrangements. That is why I have suggested this. It is for you to work out what places I can easily visit.

I don't feel that it is necessary for me to let you know just now who will be with me. If you want to suggest anything about this, you may do so.

I would certainly like to meet the people who have already been to see me. If you want any more persons to meet me you may send for them. Maulana Saheb is there in Calcutta at present. You should not trouble him; but if he wants to suggest anything you should go to him and ask him about it.

I do not want to get involved in addresses of welcome. Gift of any amount of self-spun yarn, or yarn spun by friends, will not be too much. My aim will be to convert it into khadi and distribute it there at the cheapest possible price. Any gift of money will be welcome, but no special effort should be made for it. It should be voluntary. The money will be used for some constructive work in Bengal. But please remember that this tour is not for the collection of either yarn or money.

I would of course like to meet Mr. Casey and try to secure from him whatever assistance can be had for the people. It has been my experience so far that wherever I go and settle down, my presence gives the poor and destitute a sense of comfort. If I can do even this much, I shall be satisfied.

I do not want to get involved in the politics of Bengal. I have neither the desire nor the knowledge.

Whatever you decide in this matter should be decided unanimously by all of you, rather than by majority opinion. This is not the kind of thing which should be settled by the majority. If anyone interested in my proposed visit does not like a particular thing, I do not want to do that. There must be no quarrel over my visit. My dharma is to settle quarrels. Please give this letter or a copy of it to Satis Babu. My earnest wish is that even though you are two separate bodies, you should become of one mind before my arrival. You are both eminent disciples of the same guru, a great guru like P. C. Ray[1]. What I want is to see you both truly united in heart. Both of you are doing my work. Then why should there be any difference between the two of you? But in all this God's grace is the main thing.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Sudhir Ghosh Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

[1] Eminent chemist and patriot who died on June 16, 1944

666. TELEGRAM TO ZAKIR HUSAIN

Express

POONA,
October 18, 1945

ZAKIR HUSAIN
CARE JAMIA
DELHI

"DAWN" OF THIRTEENTH CONTAINS REPORTED CONVERSATION WITH YOU.[1] I HAVE DENIED TRUTH STATEMENT BEFORE FRIENDS. I WOULD LIKE YOU TO GIVE YOUR VERSION BEFORE YOU LEAVE[2]. HOPE YOU ARE WELL.

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

667. LETTER TO ZAKIR HUSAIN

October 18, 1945

BHAI ZAKIR,

I have sent a wire[3] today. I can't believe you could have said such a thing. Whatever it is, you had better make a statement about what you had said.

I hope you are all right.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. ZAKIR HUSAIN
JAMIA MILLIA
DELHI

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] The report read : "Dr. Zakir Husain . . . expressed the view that though . . . the demand for Pakistan was first made as 'bargaining counter' it has now become a real demand. The only course for Congress is to agree to Pakistan and forge a united front with the Mussalmans to fight for the freedom of India. Dr. Zakir Husain said that the only man who could deliver the goods on behalf of the Hindus was Mr. Gandhi, but if he accepts the demand . . . the majority of Hindus will not approve it. . . ." The addressee however contradicted the report.

[2] For London to attend the preliminary session of the United Nations Cultural and Educational Conference as a member of the Indian Delegation

[3] *Vide* the preceding item.

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668. LETTER TO AMRIT KAUR

October 18, 1945

CHI. AMRIT,

I had your wire from Simla and I was glad. I hope you have found everything as we had hoped.

Here is a cutting from *Dawn*. I have wired to Zakir about it and written, too. I cannot believe that he has said anything like what the report says. Anyway we should know authoritatively what Dr. Z. said. If you feel any delicacy about mentioning the subject to him, you need not.

I am well.

Love.

BAPU

From the original : C.W. 4168. Courtesy : Amrit Kaur. Also G.N. 7804

669. LETTER TO K. SANTHANAM

October 18, 1945

DEAR SANTHANAM[1],

You know Dr. Ambedkar's indictment of the Congress during the short period of the Congress ministries. Bapa thinks and I agree that there should be an impartial statement in reply exposing the many mis-statements in the book. Bapa has prepared a reply on behalf of the Harijan Sevak Sangh which you should and will see. Rajaji was to prepare the Congress reply but he cannot under the altered circumstances.[2] You are the next best

[1] Editor, *Indian Express*, 1933-40; Joint Editor, *The Hindustan Times*, 1943-48; Member, Legislative Assembly, 1937-42; Member, Constituent Assembly; Minister of State for Railways and Transport, 1948-52; Lt.-Governor, Vindhya Pradesh, 1952-56

[2] C. Rajagopalachari however did prepare the Congress reply which was published under the title *Ambedkar Refuted*; *vide* also p. 169.

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man and I would like you to take up the matter. Bapa will write to you more fully.

Yours,
BAPU

SJT. K. SANTHANAM
"HINDUSTAN [TIMES]"
NEW DELHI

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

670. LETTER TO AMRITLAL V. THAKKAR

October 18, 1945

BAPA,

I see that you have left for Wardha. I can't as yet decide the date of my journey. It seems I shall be able to do so immediately after November 2.

I write this letter just to let you have a copy of my letter to Santhanam[1] and to ask you to write more about it to him. Send a draft of the answer you have prepared so that he can make the necessary changes and make a case for the Congress on the basis of it. I think he will have Dr. Ambedkar's book. If not, write to him that you will send a copy to him. Look after your health.

Jehangir Patel told me that he would be taking Elwin[2] to meet you. After that I have not heard from him. Write if there is anything.

KASTURBA GANDHI SMARAK NIDHI
WARDHA

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

671. LETTER TO MAGANLAL P. MEHTA

October 18, 1945

CHI. MAGAN,

I was pained to read your letter. I am still in correspondence with Champa. She tells a different tale altogether. Consider what your dharma in the present situation is. You should go and take charge. The case is a very difficult one. Champa reports that

[1] *Vide* the preceding item.

[2] Verrier Elwin, an English missionary who had been working in tribal areas

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Shashi took him[1] to his place, where he behaved sensibly for some time but lost his balance again. You yourself should ascertain the facts and do what is necessary. Narandas did all he could. But matters have gone beyond anybody's control. There are only two who can exercise some restraint on him—you or I. I do not belong to any single human being now. You alone, therefore, can do something.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : C.W. 1034. Courtesy : Manjula Mehta

672. LETTER TO MANGALDAS PAKVASA

October 18, 1945

BHAI MANGALDAS PAKVASA,

Many Provincial governments permit the sale of cloth under licences. They have now amended the terms. A copy of the amendment introduced by the C. P. Government is enclosed. In my view a product like khadi cannot be, ought not to be, licensed. A leading counsel in South Africa with a flourishing practice had told me that one must proceed on the assumption that every tangible wrong had a remedy in law and search for it, assured that it would be found. This had appealed to me very much, and I had always relied on it in my work in South Africa and succeeded in finding the remedies. I believe the principle is true in India, too. I have not read all the laws, but I feel that a law which applies to a mill-owner worth millions cannot apply to khadi.

If you see the definition of a 'dealer', you will observe that it must include 'business'. There is no trace of 'business' in khadi, for all processes relating to it merely ensure a livelihood to those who make a living through khadi.

I have alluded to this argument merely as a suggestion to you. You will also see that the Government is empowered to grant exemption to anybody. This is not a matter of law, as yet. I draw your attention to it. You may write to Jajuji for any further information which you cannot get locally. What I want you to do is this. Consult anybody whom you wish to and then write to the Government yourself, or request the counsel whom you consult to do so. If, however, you feel that whatever representation is to be

[1] Ratilal Mehta, addressee's eldest brother

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made should be addressed by Jajuji as Secretary, we shall do that. Send copies to Jajuji and me of any correspondence that you have. And if you decide to write to the Government directly from there, send the letter after showing the draft to me. I still cherish the belief that I may be able to suggest some improvements.

We should write immediately to the Provincial Government or to the Central Government, whichever you decide. I have already addressed[1] a communication to the Central Government as President of the Charkha Sangh. A copy is enclosed. I have even received an acknowledgement of the letter. The copy is only for your information for the present. We do not wish to give publicity to this matter in newspapers just now or let everybody know about it. Probably you know that by adopting such a procedure I had been able to save the Charkha Sangh during Linlithgow's tenure. Let us see what happens this time.

I am entrusting this important task to you relying on the assurance you have given to me, that you intend to use your ability and prestige as a lawyer, not for money but entirely for public service. And that is what you have been doing for some time. Isn't that the best way for everybody to use their talents? If you want any further information, please write to me. The matter is urgent, since they have already started issuing licences.

I forgot about one thing. Khadi is facing a special danger, namely, the U. P. Government's objection to our practice of demanding yarn worth some pice from the buyers for khadi worth every rupee. The objection seems to me ridiculous and harmful from every point of view. However, please consider along with the other issue whether such an objection can be sustained in law. In my view this is a secondary matter and can be easily dealt with. The chief thing is that khadi must not be considered as falling within the scope of the licensing law. We have even stores which sell less than 1,000 rupees worth of khadi every month. To require a licence for sale of khadi is to put a restraint over the production of khadi, i. e., over the poor.

Blessings from
BAPU

Enclosures :

1. Letter to P. S.
2. Jajuji's letters

From a photostat of the Gujarati : C.W. 4783. Courtesy : Mangaldas Pakvasa

[1] *Vide* pp. 338-9.

673. LETTER TO VALLABHDAS JOSHI

October 18, 1945

BHAI VALLABHDAS,

I have your letter. Real punishment or penance is not to repeat the same mistake even mentally.

VALLABHDAS JOSHI
NELSON MOTOR MARTS
27 QUEEN'S ROAD
BOMBAY-4

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

674. LETTER TO GULZAR SINGH

October 18, 1945

SARDAR GULZAR SINGH,

I have your letter. I don't know which places I shall be able to visit during my Bengal tour. My request is that all *sevaks* should spare me. Only then shall I be able to do what I want to.

SARDAR GULZAR SINGHJI
SHRI GURU SINGH SABHA
31 RASBEHARI AVENUE, KALIGHAT
CALCUTTA

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

675. LETTER TO MOHANLAL VERMA

October 18, 1945

BHAI MOHANLAL VERMA,

Just now I came to know about Kumar Chintaman Vinayak's death. If it is true that Congressmen were responsible for it and that too for unworthy reasons, it is a matter of shame, more so

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for Congressmen. Ever since I heard about this death, I have been trying to find out the truth.

K. MOHANLAL VERMA
GENERAL SECRETARY
ANTI-PAKISTAN FRONT
GIRGAUM, OPP. MANGALWADI
BOMBAY

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

676. LETTER TO AGRAWAL

October 18, 1945

BHAI AGRAWAL,

If your intention is to run the clinic just for philanthropy and to use only such medicines as anyone can prepare with some effort, I believe it is bound to succeed.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
THE HINDUSTAN MERCANTILE ASSOCIATION
641 CHANDNI CHOWK
DELHI

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

677. LETTER TO S. K. GUPTA

October 18, 1945

BHAI GUPTA,

I am glad you have a high opinion of the Sevagram [Ashram]. Holding that opinion, make as much headway as you can. Otherwise there is nothing in Sevagram and you may give up the idea of going there.

S. K. GUPTA
EXCISE INSPECTOR
6 RLY. ROAD
FARUKHABAD

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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678. LETTER TO A. S. SAHAJANANDA

[On or before *October 19, 1945*][1]

DEAR SWAMIJI,

I have your letter. Of course during my visit to Madras, I would like to visit many places. But I am afraid I shall have to deny myself that pleasure. At the present time, the idea is to confine the visit to Madras, stay there for some time, and do the work that I can. Therefore, for the sake of the cause itself, all friends must spare me as far as possible. The forthcoming Bengal visit will tell me what my body is now capable of standing.

A. S. SAHAJANANDA
NANDANAR MUTT
CHIDAMBARAM

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

679. LETTER TO E. M. JENKINS

NATURE CURE CLINIC,
6 TODIWALA ROAD, POONA,
October 19, 1945

DEAR SIR EVAN,

Shri Jyotish Bose is a condemned prisoner with Shri Haridas Mitra and others. The condemned prisoner's father came to me two days ago and showed me his petition for mercy. If Shri Haridas Mitra's sentence is commuted, as I hope it will, this one deserves commutation *ipso facto*. Shri Jyotish Bose is the son of an uninfluential poor father. But I am sure that poverty will be considered no bar to commutation.

I see from the legal papers that there are others of the batch awaiting execution. The times when the sentences were pronounced were those of war when calmness was at a discount. Now they are changed. The war is over. The condemned men have, no matter what the cause of delay was, survived the war. Will it be too much if I suggest a reconsideration of all such cases in

[1] The letter is placed between those of October 18 and 19, 1945.

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the shape of commutation of death sentences? In my opinion, justice to be real justice requires extension of mercy to temper it.

May I ask you please to put this letter before His Excellency for consideration?[1]

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

Gandhiji's Correspondence with the Government, 1944-47, pp. 49-50

680. LETTER TO J. C. KUMARAPPA

October 19, 1945

MY DEAR KU.,

I have hurriedly gone through the cutting returned herewith. There is nothing new in it. The reference to Hitler is out of place. It does not seem to misrepresent my views.

I note what you say about Kishorelal. So your hawk-like eye has detected an error ! ! !

Love.

BAPU

From a photostat : G.N. 10181

681. LETTER TO G. L. CROSS

[*October 19, 1945*][2]

DEAR FRIEND CROSS,

It gave me joy to have your letter through Sudhir who will tell you all about my movement.

Of course you and your wife must see me when I come to Bengal. About attending Friends' meeting, you have proposed a

[1] In his letter dated November 1, the addressee wrote : "His Excellency has considered these petitions together with petitions from two others who were sentenced to death at the same time and has commuted all from death sentences to transportation for life." *Vide* also Vol. LXXXII, "Letter to E. M. Jenkins", 7-11-1945.

[2] The letter is placed among those of this date.

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difficult task. They will have to excuse me. But if they could come to Sodepur, I shall be delighted to meet them.

FRIEND G. L. CROSS
INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
D-3 CLIVE BUILDINGS, CLIVE STREET
CALCUTTA

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

682. LETTER TO SAILES CHANDRA BOSE

October 19, 1945

DEAR SAILES[1],

It gave me delight to have your Vijaya letter[2]. I wish you all well and above all to Bela. I may tell you that I am in constant correspondence with the Government in the matter. When I go to Bengal Bela should go there. I am sorry I am not reaching there on 2nd November. It will be after the middle of November, so far as it is possible to say today.

S. C. BOSE
59 FORBES STREET
BOMBAY

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

683. A LETTER[3]

October 19, 1945

DEAR FRIEND,

Your letter. If you have firmness of mind, nothing is difficult.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

P. O. THENKURISSI *via* PALGHAT

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Brother of Subhas Chandra Bose
[2] Apparently a letter conveying Vijayadashami greetings
[3] The name has been omitted.

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684. LETTER TO BHAGWANJI P. PANDYA

October 19, 1945

CHI. BHAGWANJI,

I had your postcard. I agree with you regarding khadi. I have already expressed my views. I am considering what more I should do.

I was happy to know that your work was going on well.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI BHAGWANJI
HARIJAN ASHRAM
WADHWAN

From a photostat of the Gujarati : C.W. 402. Courtesy : Navajivan Trust

685. LETTER TO KANJI J. DESAI

October 19, 1945

BHAI KANJI,

I have your letter and Chi. Bhanu's. Chi. Pushpa is not going to change her mind even if you go to Sevagram. My going there has been postponed. When I can go, I shall know on November 2. Come then if you wish to.

KANJI JETHABHAI
OLD HANUMAN GALI
SECOND CROSS LANE
RAJDA'S CHAWL
SECOND FLOOR, ROOM NO. 4, BOMBAY-2

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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686. LETTER TO PUSHPA K. DESAI

October 19, 1945

CHI. PUSHPA,

Read the accompanying letters. Reply to both of them. If possible, try to dispel their doubts. I have only dropped a post-card to acknowledge the letters and have suggested that, if they wish, they might come to Sevagram when I return there.

I hope you are all right. Never forget that you will have to become an ideal woman.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 9275

687. LETTER TO AMTUSSALAAM

October 19, 1945

DAUGHTER AMTUL SALAAM,

I have your letter. My going there has been put off by a few days. It will now be in the middle of November or towards the end. It depends on Sardar's health.[1]

What shall I say regarding you? It is true that you have learnt nothing from me, and also true that nobody has learnt more than you have. But that is neither here nor there. Talk things over with me when I arrive there. Pyarelal is ill. He will recover.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

It has not been decided who will accompany me. It was fortunate that you survived. This is how your life will pass. You will have fully recovered by now.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Urdu and Gujarati : G.N. 490

[1] This paragraph is in Urdu.

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688. LETTER TO KISHORELAL G. MASHRUWALA

POONA,
October 19, 1945

CHI. KISHORELAL,

I have your letter. We cannot have Premabehn on the Dhulia Trust[1]. Nor can we have Sushila. I would like to suggest Tara's[2] name. Have you written to Rameshwardas? If not, do so. I do not see the need to suggest a woman's name just for the sake of having one. Is what Kumarappa says true? He points out an error and then raises an issue.

I hope you are all right.

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

689. LETTER TO KISHORELAL G. MASHRUWALA

October 19, 1945

CHI. KISHORELAL,

Despite your illness, you are following up my suggestions regarding decimal coinage.[3] You will see from Vaikunth's letter that though the Government is collecting all literature about it, it will not start implementing it and meanwhile if suggestions are accepted, it will at any rate stop for the time being. Of course I am pursuing it.

I have sent to Dr. Zakir a cutting from *Dawn*.[4] Just like you I also believe that he would not have said what has appeared in the report. However, we shall await his reply. Sardar also received a cutting. I have taken that and passed it on to Rajkumari.

The argument about your health will take us nowhere. I think my heart-ache is also useless but one's nature does not

[1] For the Mahadev Memorial
[2] Tara Mashruwala
[3] *Vide* pp. 341-2.
[4] *Vide* p. 373.

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readily obey reason. So I stick to my suggestion[1]. . . .[2] It is good you took enema. . . .[3] My going there has been postponed. I shall be here till November 2. The date will be fixed after that.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

690. LETTER TO AMRITLAL V. THAKKAR

October 19, 1945

BAPA,

I hope the climate of Wardha suits you. See the enclosed letter[4].

Do what you think proper after reading it. She had come to me earlier about it and I remember having given some opinion.

KASTURBA SMARAK NIDHI
BAJAJWADI
WARDHA

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

691. LETTER TO SHRIKRISHNADAS JAJU

October 19, 1945

BHAI JAJUJI,

I agree with what (Bhagwanjibhai) has said in the enclosed postcard. So far as I recollect, I have said something about it. If you and other co-workers also agree with it, we can do something more. I have only ideas to give, you have the experience. Only if it agrees with my ideas we should go ahead.

KHADI VIDYALAYA
SEVAGRAM

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] To try nature-cure treatment at Poona, *vide* p. 342.
[2] & [3] Omissions as in the source
[4] From Satyabhama Devi of Tungi, who had asked for some work

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692. LETTER TO DR. S. M. KULKARNI

October 19, 1945

BHAI KULKARNI,

I have your letter. Come on the 27th at 5.30 p. m.

DR. S. M. KULKARNI
BHADKAMKAR HOSPITAL
KARAD
DIST. SATARA

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

693. LETTER TO BHAVANIDAYAL SANNYASI

October 19, 1945

BHAI BHAVANIDAYAL,

I have your letter. I am sorry to learn that you are not well. Get well soon. This is my hope as well as my wish.

It is surprising that you who know me from childhood should still fail to understand fully or to make others understand what I am doing. Truly speaking, good work does not need anyone's blessings because it is in itself a blessing. That is to say, its success lies in the work itself. Secondly, for what shall I send my blessings? There is no reason to doubt that your aunt may be greater than all the mahatmas in her field and perhaps she is. Moreover, she is certainly of an advanced age but it is my misfortune that I don't know her. In such a situation how can a man like me send blessings to her? And where do I count among so many titled men and other bigwigs, and, pray, why should I? When the rich take my blessings on some occasions you should take it that I know them and take service from them. Otherwise none of the rich come to me or can get anything from me. And what to say of the poor? They are mine and I am theirs. I am myself poor but if they get my blessings it is not going to appear in the newspapers. So looking from all points of view, I cannot be a participant in your aunt's memorial. Those who are in it do not know me; so they can only criticize me. What else can they do? If people like you can convince them with love, you may do so.

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What will you gain by writing to me except that I should waste my time in writing such long letters and give you the trouble of reading them even when you are not well? I shall have done my job if I have been able to make you see the point and if I have not, I am helpless.

BHAVANIDAYAL SANNYASI
PRAVASI BHAVAN
ADARSH NAGAR, AJMER

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

694. LETTER TO RAM MANOHAR LOHIA

October 19, 1945

BHAI RAMMANOHAR[1],

It is good that you got the wire regarding Mauritius. I am glad that I could get your letter under that excuse. Let me know about your health if you can, else let the jailor do so.

RAM MANOHAR LOHIA
CENTRAL JAIL, AGRA

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

695. LETTER TO DEVPRAKASH NAYYAR

October 19, 1945

CHI. DEV,

I have your frank letter. I understand what you say. If you don't need a change of air, I have nothing to say. But I consider it necessary for a person who is either bodily or mentally sick. It is necessary to have a fine sense of perception to understand everything.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a microfilm of the Hindi : Documents relating to Gandhiji. Courtesy : National Archives of India

[1] (1910-67); one of the founders of the All-India Congress Socialist Party; Secretary of the Foreign Department, A. I. C. C., 1936-38; resigned from Congress in 1948; General Secretary, Praja Socialist Party, 1953-54; Member, Lok Sabha, 1963-67

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696. LETTER TO HUMAYUN KABIR

October 19, 1945

BHAI HUMAYUN[1],

I had your book *Men and Rivers* with me. Khurshedbehn took it for reading. She especially recommended it to me. I read it with great interest. I recognize your ability to write novels.

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

697. LETTER TO VAMANRAO JOSHI

October 19, 1945

BHAI VAMANRAO,

I was very happy to have your letter and learn that you were not at all injured.

Do write a long letter.

VEER VAMANRAO JOSHI
AMRAVATI (BERAR)

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

698. LETTER TO SATYABHAMA DEVI

October 19, 1945

DEAR SISTER,

I am sending your letter to the Secretary.[2] We shall do all we can.

SATYABHAMA DEVI
VILLAGE MALVA, P. O. TUNGI
DIST. GAYA (BIHAR)

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] (1906-1969); Minister of Education in the Central Government, 1957-65; Chairman, University Grants Commission. Later resigned from the Congress and founded the Bangla Congress.

[2] *Vide* "Letter to Amritlal V. Thakkar", p. 386.

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699. LETTER TO H. L. SHARMA

[On or after *October 19, 1945*][1]

. . .[2] But let my time be divided between the nursing home and Sevagram.

I am surprised at your wanting to stand for the Assembly on the Congress ticket. I am also pained a little. You cannot have my blessings in this matter. Only the person who is sociable and can easily adjust with everyone, who possesses other abilities and is not fit for anything except legislative work can go to the Assembly. There is no question of high or low. It is a question only of fitness. A khadi worker is fit for khadi work. One cannot say that therefore he is also fit for the Assembly work.

Sardar cannot be said to have recovered yet. He has constipation. He used to spend one and a half to two hours in the toilet. It may be due to spasm[3] in the intestines, or the trouble may be due to some adhesions[4] inside. The pelvic loop[5] (of the colon) is much enlarged. He also feels cramps in the stomach. Dinshawji believes that the greater part of the complaint he has today will disappear after three months' treatment here. He will complete three months on November 22. He is not accompanying me to Sevagram. According to the present programme I shall myself go to Sevagram only for three or four days and then proceed to Bengal. The programme may be modified. Do write if you have any suggestions about Sardar's treatment. I am here at least till November 2nd. I shall stay on till the 21st, if necessary.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a facsimile of the Hindi : *Bapuki Chhayamen Mere Jivanke Solah Varsh*, between pp. 340 and 341

[1] According to the source this was written before the letter to the addressee dated October 27, 1945. However, Gandhiji's decision to stay on in Poona till November 2 was taken around October 19. This letter, therefore, appears to have been written some time after that.

[2] The first three sheets of the letter are damaged.

[3], [4] & [5] These expressions are in English.

700. LETTER TO S. A. WAIZ

October 20, 1945

DEAR WAIZ,

I was glad to have your letter no matter what the excuse was. I hope you are doing well.

S. A. WAIZ, I.I.C.A.
SOHRAB HOUSE, 235 HORNBY ROAD
FORT, BOMBAY

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

701. LETTER TO T. S. ABDUR RAHMAN

[*October 20, 1945*][1]

DEAR FRIEND,

I have your letter of 15th September last.

Two wrongs do not make one right. I do not remember the circumstances of the first ban mentioned by you. The second, I do know. In my opinion it is bad.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

JANAB T. S. ABDUR RAHMAN
C/O C. A. ABDUL WAHAB & CO.
NEAR IRON BRIDGE, ALLEPPEY

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

702. LETTER TO SUSHILA GANDHI

POONA,
October 20, 1945

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your and Manilal's letter.

Arun is very playful. He does not like to study. I see that neither Abha nor Zohra has any influence on him. Kanu looks

[1] The letter is placed among those of this date.

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after him a little. Valjibhai teaches him. He has also engaged a man to teach him tables. I feel now that it would have been better if I had insisted on your taking him with you. I am no good now for this kind of work. It might be better to make some arrangement for Arun there.

My plan is hanging fire. It seems that I shall be able to go to Sevagram after the 15th. I think it will be difficult to leave while Sardar's treatment is going on.

It seems Pyarelal has typhoid. He will recover. I am all right. My visit to Bengal is likely to materialize towards the end of November.

I hope all of you there are well.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 4959

703. LETTER TO NARENDRA A. TRIVEDI

October 20, 1945

BHAI NARENDRA,

There is room for disappointment in expectation. Moreover, it is a sin to entertain false hopes. What Manibehn says is clear. If you think that she is a *sevika*, that too of her ailing father, his secretary and aide, you may perhaps make changes in your article. If you find fault with her way of answering or her voice, one can only point out that you are much older. I don't remember anything.

NARENDRA A. TRIVEDI
SINDHI GALI
SETWALA BUILDING, 1ST FLOOR
BOMBAY 14

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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704. LETTER TO KISHORELAL G. MASHRUWALA

October 20, 1945

CHI. KISHORELAL,

The argument that you have put forward has also been shared by Shah and Kumarappa. It is clear that only independent India can make such changes. The best of reforms can be implemented only if approved by the people. I am also sending Gagan Mehta's letter to you. Why should you do typing work? I believe the Talimi Sangh should do it.

Regarding your health I would like you to come here for treatment while I am here. But that requires enthusiasm on your part or detachment like Sardar's. He has no faith in this system but still he is giving it a trial.

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

705. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

October 20, 1945

CHI. LILI,

I have your letter. You are very vain. Dr. Mehta would not have asked for anything. You must take what one says in the right spirit. If that is not possible, forgive him, viewing it as a shortcoming. That is why I advise you to come here. I will have to stay here for quite some time. You will feel relieved and will gain some experience since Sushilabehn is here. Still if you don't feel like coming, go and spend some time with Durga and serve her as she needs looking after. I think your going to Nagpur is futile. Perhaps you will not get peace of mind there, even if you study there and are with your brother and sister-in-law. Think over all this and do what you like. What is there to order you in this? This is a trifling matter.

Perhaps I may go to the Ashram about the 15th, and then to Bengal, after staying there for 7 days.

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

706. LETTER TO NAVNIT SHAH

October 20, 1945

BHAI NAVNIT,

I have your letter. You do not need a message from me. It has become a mania to ask for messages. Where is the need for messages while one does good work? Good work itself is the message. If young people understand this much they would be free of many worldly problems.

I have read your description. The money collected by you will be used for Harijan work.

NAVNIT SHAH
SHREE YUVAK SANGH
P. B. 726 KAMPALA (UGANDA)

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

707. LETTER TO P. N. MATHEW

October 20, 1945

BHAI MATHEW,

I have your postcard. The date for my going to Sevagram has not been fixed. I will stay there for a short time. Come over when I have settled down there. Do write and inquire.

P. N. MATHEW
DEVASKAR BUNGALOW
DHANTOLI, NAGPUR

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

708. LETTER TO VINA CHATTERJEE

October 20, 1945

CHI. VINA,

I have your letter and also Sailen's. My views are firm. I don't believe in this sort of family attachments. Do what both of you deem fit. You won't gain anything by coming with me. My going has also been postponed. Go if you think it is your

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dharma to do so. Isn't your marriage fixed for November? . . .[1] I hope both of you are all right.

VINABEHN
BAJAJWADI, WARDHA

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

709. LETTER TO PRINCIPAL, KANYA GURUKUL

October 20, 1945

PRINCIPAL,

I have your letter of 4th September.

I cannot involve myself in the activities you have mentioned because I don't have the time.

PRINCIPAL
RAMDEV SMARAK NIDHI KANYA GURUKUL
60 RAJPUR ROAD
DEHRA DUN

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

710. LETTER TO DR. KRISHNABAI NIMBKAR

October 20, 1945

DEAR SISTER,

I have your letter of the 10th instant. I have read all your papers. Jajuji also must have gone through them.

I have already formed my opinion that everyone should spin as a part of *yajna*. Its real impact will be known only when people are convinced that *yajna* is much more than money. Why should we worry whether the work is difficult or easy? Now you also are coming to Poona leaving Madras. Let us see what happens now.

DR. (MRS.) KRISHNABAI NIMBKAR
192 POONAMALLE HIGH ROAD
VEPERY P. O.

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Omission as in the source

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711. LETTER TO SATIS CHANDRA DAS GUPTA

October 20, 1945

CHI. SATIS BABU,

I have your letter dated 10th October.

Sudhir Ghosh has come here. I have had long talks with him. He will tell you all about it. You should get the long letter I have written to Prafulla Babu[1] as I have told him to show it to you. You will come to know everything from it.

Let me repeat this much. I shall be deeply hurt if any ill feeling is created because of my going there. The reason why I wish to come is that I can personally see the condition of Bengal and give whatever help I can.

You are doing a lot of work. You should not fall ill. If you happen to fall ill I shall feel very bad.

The date of my arrival there cannot be fixed yet. The last date for leaving this place is 21st November. So I hope to reach there by the end of November.

I hope everyone is all right.

Today Rajkumari will return to Delhi from Simla and she may have to go to London for a month.

KHADI PRATISHTHAN
SODEPUR (24 PARAGANAS)

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

712. LETTER TO SATIS CHANDRA DAS GUPTA

October 20, 1945

CHI. SATIS BABU,

I have the copy of the letter you have written to Rajkumari. Today she must have reached Delhi from Simla and will fly to London tomorrow or the day after. You did well in writing to her. Why keep it in your heart? Since you have written so frankly, I also have an opportunity of saying something. Your sense of detachment should be sufficiently strong. Explain your

[1] *Vide* pp. 371-2.

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doubts to Prafulla Babu and listen to what he says and if he disagrees, accept his advice. Haven't I made it clear in the letter that I have sent through Sudhir that so long as you all do not decide unanimously and not by majority, it should not be considered as finally decided? Still, I shall go there and decide which places I shall visit and which I may not. I have stopped anything being sent to the newspapers. I think this solves all the problems. How many people can be accommodated in Sodepur?

KHADI PRATISHTHAN
SODEPUR

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

713. NOTE TO CHANDRANI

[Before *October 21, 1945*][1]

The meaning of the middle path is this. If you suddenly take a liking for someone, you will not act on an impulse. If you are used [to male company] you will not be affected by the sight of a young man. All men are like a brother or a father to you. If yours is an ideal mother she will also be a preceptor and guru. She will care for you and will find a husband for you. If your mother is not an ideal one any other person whom you have accepted as your mentor will take full care of you. It is possible you may yourself come across a person of your liking but that will be due to your previous birth and not because of a sudden infatuation. Even then you would like to consult your mother or your mentor and in that case it will not be a secret matter at all. By "you" here I do not mean "Chand" but . . . .[2] This is the middle path. What Satyavati writes about is a latter-day notion and hardly acceptable.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]
You did well in coming.

From a photostat of the Hindi : Chandrani Papers. Courtesy : Gandhi National Museum and Library

[1] Satyavati Devi referred to in this letter died on October 21, 1945.
[2] Illegible

714. DRAFT TELEGRAM TO SATYAVATI DEVI[1]

October 21, 1945

SATYAVATI
TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITAL
KINGSWAY, DELHI

KNOW YOU ARE AT PEACE. LET THIS BE ITS WITNESS.

BAPU

From a copy : Brijkrishna Chandiwala Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Also C.W. 10543. Courtesy : Brijkrishna Chandiwala

715. LETTER TO AMRIT KAUR

By air to Delhi

POONA,
October 21, 1945

CHI. AMRIT,

Your letter of 18th by air mail came in only today (9 a. m.).

Your letter will be destroyed after Sushila has read it. She is just now (9.10) away at Talegaon to see a hospital. She will be back at 11.

Your time will pass quickly and you will be with me. Only keep well. "Be careful for nothing."

You will see Zakir's contradiction[2].

I am attending to all the matters referred to by you.

Pyarelal is slowly recovering I hope. He is deathly pale. But this illness may be a blessing in disguise. Let us hope.

God keep you.

Love.

BAPU

From the original : C.W. 4169. Courtesy : Amrit Kaur. Also G.N. 7805

[1] Though drafted in the morning, this was not dispatched because the news of the addressee's death had reached Gandhiji. A copy of the draft was, however, sent to Brijkrishna Chandiwala by Sushila Nayyar on October 25.

[2] Of the report in *Dawn*, 13-10-1945; *vide* footnote 1, p. 373.

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716. LETTER TO KHURSHEDBEHN NAOROJI

POONA,
October 21, 1945

VAHALAN BEHN,

Your letter in front of me.

I have sent a wire[1] to Satyavati. Please tell her that she is constantly in my mind. Her great courage and devotion to the country are an inspiration to all who know her or have known of her.

Your account of the I. N. A. pleases me but does not enthuse me.[2] It is most natural you wish I had such material. Do you know that it is not possible even if I wish it?

What material could I send you to assist you in your work there?

Love.

BAPU

SHRI KHURSHEDBEHN NAOROJI
82 DARYAGANJ, DELHI

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

717. LETTER TO BHULABHAI J. DESAI

POONA,
October 21, 1945

BHAI BHULABHAI[3],

As it is difficult to decipher my handwriting, I am dictating this letter so that it can be written in a clear hand.

Sardar and I keep receiving telegrams suggesting that you should be put up as a candidate for the Central Legislative Assembly. I myself have no interest in the elections. A durbar daily

[1] *Vide* p. 398.

[2] The addressee was on the Indian National Army Defence Committee appointed by the All-India Congress Committee.

[3] (1877-1946); Leader of the Congress Party in the Central Assembly; President, Bombay Provincial Congress Committee; member of Congress Working Committee

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assembles round the Sardar, but I know nothing about it. Ordinarily he does not talk to me nor do I ask him anything. I attend to my work and he attends to his. The only reason for our being together this time is his nature-cure treatment. He does not have much faith in nature cure while I have. An operation would be a very risky affair. No doctor except Dr. Deshmukh advises it. That is why he has put faith in me and is undergoing nature-cure treatment. I have, accordingly, brought him to Dr. Mehta for I have faith in him. My own knowledge of nature cure is superficial. I have given this introduction because I thought it necessary.

If Sardar receives any suggestion regarding you, he puts it before me. Since you have accepted my advice, I assume that you yourself are not at all keen on getting into the Central Assembly, and that, therefore, those who send the telegrams do not do so at your instance. Some big people naturally desire your presence in the Assembly. If I were not there, perhaps Sardar would have yielded to the pressure. But I am firm, for I am acting as your well-wisher. I want a big service from you, if you can give it. I wish to see you as a people's man. I don't consider you an old man. Why shouldn't you also live up to 125? If you do not aspire to live that long, as I do, please remember that I try to persuade everybody to have such aspiration for the sake of service. And it is not that there is no strength or effort behind my aspiration. If there is none and my aspiration proves fruitless, I will accept that. I am not, therefore, afraid of death if it should come today. But I will cherish my aspiration till my last breath, for I have to serve—I have not yet finished with service. There is a spirit of competition to serve which all of us should share.

From this standpoint I suggest to you that you yourself should issue a graceful statement, thanking all those who are trying on your behalf, explaining that you do not wish to be a member of the Assembly at the moment and that you have been doing, and will continue to do, whatever service you can from outside, that if you live long enough and feel later that you should also enter the Legislature, you yourself will come forward and seek people's votes.

I like the work you are doing just now of defending the prisoners.[1] It will bring you credit. I also wish that like Jawaharlal

[1] In accordance with the A. I. C. C. resolution of September 1945, a committee consisting of T. B. Sapru and the addressee had been formed to

and Sardar, and to a great extent Maulana Azad, you too should come into contact with the masses. Perhaps I should cite Rajendra Babu's case as offering the best example. Rajendra Babu is sought after by Bihar, he himself does not go seeking the support of Bihar. I can cite other similar instances, too. But where is the need to do so for you? Even what I have written above seems to me too long, but I cannot restrain my *moha*[1]. If desire also could be described as *sattvika*[2], I am sure this desire of mine is that and, therefore, I need not hide it. I trust you are well and succeeding in your efforts.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Bhulabhai Desai Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

718. A NOTE

POONA,
October 21, 1945

I have gone through this. I liked it. I would like to go a little further. Khadi is a symbol of truth and ahimsa. It should not subsist on the mercy of the Government. It will be a different thing altogether if khadi is adopted deliberately after its real strength is realized. The shortage of cloth will then be easily removed. We can even have swaraj by non-violent means and thereby bring credit to ourselves and to our Government. Sooner or later that will come but how soon it will come, depends on the public acceptance of the new plan. I do know that a time may come when we may even have to suspend the sale of khadi in our shops. Self-reliance is the only remedy.

From that point of view Jajuji's article is a preliminary and an essential move.

M. K. GANDHI

[From Hindi]
Sarvodaya, 1945

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defend Shah Nawaz Khan, Sehgal and G. S. Dhillon of the Indian National Army, who were to be tried for treason in November 1945. Later Jawaharlal Nehru, Asaf Ali and K. N. Katju were also included in the committee.

[1] Infatuation

[2] Pure

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719. LETTER TO SHRIKRISHNADAS JAJU

October 21, 1945

BHAI JAJUJI,

I am enclosing your article after making corrections and adding a note[1]. If you do not approve of my note, you may get the article published without it.

Chi. Narandas is coming tomorrow. I have kept a copy of the article. I shall discuss it with him.

I hope you are all right.

AKHIL BHARTIYA CHARKHA SANGH
SEVAGRAM
WARDHA

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

720. LETTER TO ANANT RAM

October 21, 1945

CHI. ANANT RAM,

Only today I could finish reading your letter of September 2. It is good.

Ramanama includes everything. The order is : *dharma*, *artha*, *kama* and *moksha*[2]. *Artha* cannot be opposed to *kama*, *dharma* and *moksha*. Hence, *artha* is food, clothing and other necessities of life; *kama* is noble desire. Ramanama transcends time and circumstance—it has to. And it must issue from the heart, not from the mouth. It requires persistent effort. Get Asha Devi to write down the *Gitanjali*[3] songs in Bengali and send them to me.

Become good and do lot of service.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : S.G. 133

[1] *Vide* the preceding item.
[2] The four ends of human endeavour
[3] By Rabindranath Tagore

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721. LETTER TO SHRIMAN NARAYAN

October 21, 1945

CHI. SHRIMAN,

I completed your article[1] yesterday. I am sending it by registered post. Read what I have written at different places. Make the changes that appeal to you. We can merely throw hints regarding Pakistan. I don't find any depth in the last few chapters. Nor is there any supporting evidence. There is according to me need for more hard work and careful thinking. If you think it fit and if Kishorelal and Vinoba can spare time, discuss this with them. I am postponing writing the foreword[2]. Come here if you want to. If you can put it off wait till I come over. Do what you think proper.

I hope Madalasa is all right.

SHRIMAN NARAYAN AGRAWAL
COMMERCE COLLEGE
WARDHA

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

722. LETTER TO MANILAL GANDHI

October 21, 1945

CHI. MANILAL,

I got your joint letter.

Everyone is concentrating on Arun. Let me see what happens. I am writing this at night. I have asked him also to write. We have had rains here recently.

I have told you that my work would always go on. Sushila is a very good worker. She has taken over all Rajkumari's work. Kanaiyo is still here. He quickly disposes of all the lengthy Gujarati letters and the other special work which I entrust to him. No work here, therefore, has stopped or presents any difficulty. I take proper sleep and rest. Do not, therefore, worry about me.

[1] & [2] *Gandhian Constitution for Free India*. For Gandhiji's foreword to it dated November 30, 1945, *vide* Vol. LXXXII.

Pyarelal's fever has come down today. Perhaps it will touch normal now. Sushila looks after him, but he is being given nature-cure treatment.

Arun is giving no trouble to anyone. He remains happy. Sumi has reached Nagpur.

Blessings to you all from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 4961

723. TELEGRAM TO BRIJKRISHNA CHANDIWALA

POONA,
October 22,[1] *1945*

BRIJKRISHNA CHANDIWALA
1 NARENDRA PLACE
DELHI

HOPE RELATIVES AND FRIENDS WILL NOT MOURN OVER THE DEATH OF ONE OF THE BRAVEST SERVANTS[2] OF INDIA. LET HER LIVE BY OUR DEDICATING OURSELVES SOLELY FOR THE FREEDOM OF INDIA.

BAPU

From a copy : C.W. 10544. Courtesy : Brijkrishna Chandiwala. Also Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

724. LETTER TO CHIMANLAL N. SHAH

October 22, 1945

CHI. CHIMANLAL,

How is it that Babudi has again fallen ill there? Does she take hip-baths? Does she exert herself? What does she eat? Does she use a mosquito-net? The money was to be given according to the usual rule. My impression is that it has been given to Jajuji.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : S.G. 128

[1] The C.W. source, however, has "23".
[2] Satyavati Devi

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725. LETTER TO SHARDA G. CHOKHAWALA

[*October 22, 1945*][1]

CHI. BABUDI,

Why do you fall ill? If your food habits and ventilation are taken care of nothing should happen to you. Do you drink boiled water? Do you know how to repeat Ramanama?

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : S.G. 128

726. LETTER TO JATINDAS M. AMIN

POONA,
October 22, 1945

CHI. AMIN,

I have your letter. Now have you declared me not guilty?

A man cannot become an inmate of the Ashram just because he appreciates the elevenfold vow[2] or knows all the Shastras and is acquainted with the constructive programme. But one certainly becomes such by observing the vows. It seems you have not been able to see that constructive programme is included in the observance of the vows. Now go through it again. A person who finds fault with most people, or with some of them, cannot see his own shortcomings. Don't make this mistake.

One becomes a leader not by making mistakes but by getting rid of one's shortcomings and imbibing a leader's qualities.

SEVAGRAM ASHRAM

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] This was written on the same sheet as the preceding item.

[2] Viz., non-violence, truth, non-stealing, *brahmacharya*, non-possession, body-labour, control of the palate, fearlessness on all occasions, equal respect for all religions, swadeshi and *sparshabhavana*, that is, refusal to treat anybody as untouchable

727. LETTER TO CHANDRANI

October 22, 1945

CHI. CHAND,

Satyavati has departed. She has been released from suffering. She is of course immortal. Our duty is not to grieve over it but to do our duty to the utmost, dedicating ourselves to the cause of India's freedom.

Blessings from
BAPU

DAGA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
NAGPUR

From a photostat of the Hindi : Chandrani Papers. Courtesy : Gandhi National Museum and Library

728. LETTER TO KASHI GANDHI

October 23, 1945

CHI. KASHI,

I am writing this letter for the sake of writing. Just to tell you that I have not forgotten any one of you while I am away.

Krishnachandra writes and says that you do not keep well and intend going to Nagpur for a change of air. I have my doubts if going there will be beneficial. Would not Madalasa's house be better than that? Madalasa would like it, too. This is merely a suggestion. Do as you think fit.

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

729. LETTER TO DURGA M. DESAI

October 23, 1945

CHI. DURGA,

From the letters that I get I find that you are both far from well. Why is it so? Bablo must be fine.

After the operation Sushi must have got rid of her ailment. Sushilabehn is at work here as I am dictating this letter. She informs me that Sushi has completely recovered.

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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730. LETTER TO AMRITLAL V. THAKKAR

POONA,
October 23, 1945

BAPA,

I have your letter.

I have not felt that we[1] have been needlessly lax. I do not therefore believe that our laxity causes confusion or indiscipline. There should indeed be no indiscipline. And from where can they get money, etc., if they want to have a maternity centre and other things without permission? We cannot say anything if they themselves collect the amount for it. Moreover, haven't I said that wherever people are willing to work, we allow them to do so by issuing a circular to that effect?

THAKKAR BAPA
BAJAJWADI
WARDHA

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

731. LETTER TO JETHALAL GANDHI

October 23, 1945

CHI. KAKU,

I am glad that Auntie[2] went and stayed with you. But I don't approve of her giving speeches and going round in Travancore. That is not her field. She is older than I. How then can she do justice to this new activity in her old age? It is a sad thing if she is after fame. I have no doubt that this sort of work is not at all proper for her, whatever the temptation. I don't know who is with her or who encouraged her in this. Find out about this and give my message to her if possible. Let me know what you have been able to do.

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] The management of the Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust
[2] Gandhiji's sister, Raliatbehn Vrindavandas

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732. LETTER TO KAMAAL KHAN

October 23, 1945

BHAI SAHEB,

I have your letter.

If you have anything to ask me on the occasion of your restoration to the rulership, do write.

I hope you are all right.

THAKORESAHEB KAMAALKHANJI
MARKS FARM
PARDI
DISTRICT SURAT

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

733. LETTER TO BENARSIDAS CHATURVEDI

October 23, 1945

BHAI BENARSIDAS,

I have your postcard. I am sending it on to Shrimanji.

Who are we to stop the spread of pure Hindi or pure Urdu? Even if we try, the attempt is bound to fail. Our duty is to bring together the two styles of Hindi and Urdu. And this can only happen when there is a large class of people knowing both the scripts and both the styles.

It is not very clear what you mean by *rashtrabhasha*. My definition is clear enough: only that person who knows both the scripts and can write in both the styles can be said to be proficient in *rashtrabhasha*.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI BENARSIDAS CHATURVEDI
TIKAMGARH
BUNDELKHAND

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 2518

734. LETTER TO SHRIMAN NARAYAN

October 23, 1945

CHI. SHRIMAN,

The registered letter[1] will be sent only today. I forgot to write one thing. My suggestion is that you should write in Hindustani whatever you wish to say and then repeat it in English if you think it is necessary to do so. Your present article is in English but I suggest that simultaneously there should be a Hindustani rendering also. It would be good indeed if it is both in Devanagari and Urdu scripts and is published simultaneously. Sooner or later we have to give up our fascination and attachment for English. And if you and I do not make the beginning who else will?

I am enclosing Benarsidas's postcard. I am also enclosing a copy of my reply[2].

SHRIMAN NARAYAN AGRAWAL
JIVAN KUTIR
WARDHA

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

735. LETTER TO NAYARBUL BHOWALI

October 23, 1945

BHAI BHOWALI,

I have the book *Bandhustan* sent by you. My knowledge of Bengali is too poor for me to read and understand your book.

NAYARBUL BHOWALI
85F WELLESLEY STREET
CALCUTTA

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] *Vide* p. 403.
[2] *Vide* the preceding item.

736. LETTER TO DR. H. K. LAL

October 23, 1945

BHAI LALJI,

I had received your letter of 8th September and also the earlier ones. Your letter shows that though you are a doctor you get excited very soon. I can only say that I started making inquiries as soon as I got your letter even though I was very busy. Now after making inquiries my son has written to me on 18th October.

Let me tell you that leprosy work is being done through Kasturba Smarak Nidhi; some other institutions are also doing it. If need be your help will be sought. At the moment I don't require any. I must also admit that your letter of 8th September has made me feel alarmed.

You seem to belong to the Punjab; so you must be knowing Hindustani well. English is not your mother tongue. Then why do you write to me in English which you cannot write as well as your mother tongue?

DR. H. K. LAL, M.B.B.S.
1 PUSA ROAD
NEW DELHI

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

737. LETTER TO MAHADEVSHASTRI DIVEKAR

October 23, 1945

PANDITJI,

I have your letter and three copies of your book on Hindu-Muslim [relations]. When you know Gujarati and Hindi, why did you write to me in English?

I was glad to know that you visited Porbandar and gave lectures in Gujarati.

I cannot say when I shall get time to read your book.

PANDIT MAHADEVSHASTRI DIVEKAR
MIRAJ

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

738. LETTER TO V. V. DASTANE

October 23, 1945

BHAI DASTANE,

I have your postcard. It is not that I have not replied to your letter owing to lack of time, but since I have something new to say, there is no need to reply to your other questions. The new thing is that till today you have considered public service as primary and have devoted to the family only whatever time was available after that. Now having heard everything from Akka[1], I feel that you are no longer in a position to do so. Naturally you have to take care of Akka and also look after your other daughters and manage their affairs. You have to support your wife. If you do not, who else will? So it is the duty of people like you to give primary importance to the family responsibilities and devote to public service only as much time as you can after that. One who shoulders the burden of the family as dharma also renders service. One must clearly distinguish between family responsibility and family enjoyment. You have long since given up indulgence. Why should I discuss these things at length ? You should be able to understand them from what I have already said. It should be clear enough that if you do not abide by what I have said the result will be quite to the contrary of what it should be.

I cannot say what I had in mind when I wrote "I cannot give" [answers to your other questions]. And what will you gain by thinking over it again and again? If I was short of time, I should have said that I would reply to the other questions some other time. At any rate, I was quite clear in my mind when I sent a letter[2] through Akka that I should tell you what according to me your dharma was without bothering you about other things. Now the question arises only if you are not able to understand and approve of my stand. You can discuss this letter with Vinoba and Kishorelal. Of course also with Dhotre[3] and other relatives there.

VASUDEV DASTANE
BHUSAWAL

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Addressee's daughter, Sarayu Dhotre
[2] Not available
[3] Raghunath Shridhar Dhotre, addressee's son-in-law

739. LETTER TO AMRITLAL V. THAKKAR[1]

October 23, 1945

BAPA,

I have no objection to the Gujarat training scheme being conducted in Sabarmati provided the sisters who come for training are qualified, whether they come from villages or not. In any case they should be working in villages or at least should be interested in village work.

BAPU

From the Hindi original : Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

740. LETTER TO ABUL KALAM AZAD

October 23, 1945

MAULANA SAHEB,

I have your letter. I really wish I had enough time to write Urdu in a beautiful hand.

It will be good indeed if you can go somewhere for rest in the beginning of November. Of course work is always there but sometimes rest is essential for work and for doing more of it.

Rajkumari will be reaching there today on her way to London with Dr. Sargent[2] and Dr. Zakir Husain Saheb. Educationists from all over the world will be meeting in London. Dr. Sargent has convened this conference, and Rajkumari and Dr. Zakir Husain were invited by him. She was not at all keen on giving her name for the conference[3]. She had discussed the matter with me. She will be able to meet others also in London.

Sardar's treatment is going on. I shall have to go to Bombay for five days.

From the Urdu original : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] This is written in the Gujarati script.
[2] John Sargent
[3] The source has 'Assembly'.

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741. TELEGRAM TO RADHABAI SUBBAROYAN

October 24, 1945

RADHABAI SUBBAROYAN[1]
TIRUCHENGODU

NEVER DISCUSSED WITH DELEGATES FROM SOUTH ANY ELECTION MATTER. HAVE TAKEN NO INTEREST. SARDAR RARELY TALKS ABOUT ELECTIONS. BUT WHY FRET ABOUT ELECTION?[2] FOR PATRIOTS SERVICE ONLY AMBITION.

GANDHI

From the original : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

742. LETTER TO K. SANTHANAM

October 24, 1945

DEAR SANTHANAM,

Many thanks for your letter. I have read your article. That is no bar to your proceeding with your work.

K. SANTHANAM
"HINDUSTAN TIMES"
P. B. 40, NEW DELHI

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Wife of Dr. P. Subbaroyan
[2] The addressee's candidature for the Central Assembly had been rejected.

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743. LETTER TO NILKANTH MASHRUWALA

October 24, 1945

CHI. NILKANTH[1],

I have your postcard. Everyone asked Chi. Arun and so did I. But he wants to leave this place only along with me. I don't want to send him away forcibly. Please go yourself on the date fixed.

MASHRUWALA
SOUTH AVENUE ROAD
SANTACRUZ

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

744. LETTER TO DR. M. D. D. GILDER

October 24, 1945

BHAI GILDER,

Do go and examine Sardar whether he sends for you or not. And let me know how much he has improved in your view or if he has changed for the worse, or if you are not able to say anything.

DR. M. D. D. GILDER
ZENITH BUILDING
SIR PHIROZESHAH MEHTA ROAD
BOMBAY

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Son of Nanabhai Mashruwala, brother of Sushila Gandhi

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745. LETTER TO JEHANGIR PATEL

October 24, 1945

BHAI JEHANGIR,

I have your letter. Gradually form the habit of speaking and writing in Gujarati. Read and write a little of Gujarati every day.

Your letter is clear and I have understood it. I feel that just now we should go to the sanatorium and shift to Tryambak Road after we get electricity and water. But I don't want to do this if Dinshaw does not like it.

I understand about Verrier. More when you come over.

I hope Mother is all right and you did not get fever again.

JEHANGIR PATEL
PATEL BROTHERS
10 CHURCHGATE STREET
BOMBAY 1

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

746. LETTER TO VENUBAI GODBOLE

October 24, 1945

SISTER VENUBAI,

Bhai Haribhau[1] informed me that Prof. Godbole passed away today. I knew him very well. He had taken part in the non-co-operation movement for the sake of the country. True mourning is for you too to have the same capacity for sacrifice that he had.

VENUBAI GODBOLE
'VINAYAK GHAR'
PRABHAT ROAD
DECCAN GYMKHANA
POONA-4

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Hari Ganesh Phatak

747. LETTER TO SUSHILA GANDHI

October 25, 1945

CHI. SUSHILA,

I had a postcard from Chi. Nilkanth yesterday saying that you wanted Arun to come to you with him. I told Arun about it. Kanu has the greatest influence over him. He and others also told him. But he remained stubborn. He says he will come with me. That means all of you will have to spend the Diwali without him. Put up with his absence. I am sure you do not wish that I should send him against his will. With great difficulty he wrote the letter on the back of this last night. He has no interest at all in study, but has plenty in playing and cycling. Whatever is possible will have to be done only here. Arun himself is quite happy. He studies a little, but very little. For all this backwardness I hold you, his mother, most responsible, since I have always believed you to be wise. If Arun remains a dullard, I will surely regard you as stupid.

May you all spend a happy Diwali. Reserve a share for us all in your happiness. "Us all" includes all of us here and the dumb, poor millions of India. Those who do not remember them even on the Diwali day, their Diwali, according to me, is worse than Holi.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 4962

748. LETTER TO MANILAL GANDHI

[*October 25, 1945*][1]

CHI. MANILAL,

I got your postcard. Please do not be eager to come here for my sake. Stay there as long as the relatives want. Join

[1] This letter is written on the back of the letter to Sushila Gandhi dated October 25, 1945.

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me when I start from here. Pyarelal's fever has come down. Arun has read what you had written on the back.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 4962

749. LETTER TO D. B. KALELKAR

October 25, 1945

CHI. KAKA,

I got your letter today. You have given a good deal of information. Take care of your health. It will of course be very good if you go to Wardha. Shriman has gone to Mainpuri for a few days. I think you should go to Kashi. I am afraid our dates will clash. I intend to reach Wardha on November 21, and then proceed to Bengal from there on the 30th. This is the intention just now. I will leave this place on November 19. I shall spend a day in Bombay.

I understand about Amritlal. About the examination, I suppose you will decide in consultation with Shriman. I am agreeable. My blessings to both the sisters. You may come here whenever you wish to.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 10968

750. LETTER TO BRIJKRISHNA CHANDIWALA

October 25, 1945

CHI. BRIJKRISHNA,

I have your letter. You have given a very moving account. Satyavati was exactly as you have described. I do not recall the name of anyone, but convey to all the members of the family the message I had sent you in my telegram[1]. How nice that Satyavati's desire in regard to marriage[2] was fulfilled!

[1] *Vide* p. 404.
[2] Of her son

If I think of any rites in connection with the death I shall write to you.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 2489

751. LETTER TO VITHALDAS V. JERAJANI

October 25, 1945

BHAI VITHALDAS,

I have read all your papers. I believe the A. I. S.A. Committee will meet immediately after the 21st. We shall discuss this then. So I am saving your time and mine by not discussing it here.

VITHALDAS JERAJANI
KHADI BHANDAR
393 KALBADEVI
BOMBAY

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

752. LETTER TO ICHCHHANAND

October 25, 1945

SWAMIJI,

I have your letter in English. If you did not know the national language Hindustani, you could have written to me in the language of your province. Why this infatuation for English?

I don't know when I shall be able to reach your book and make time to read it.

ICHCHHANAND
SOUTH GOVINDPUR
P. O. KATRASGARH

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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753. LETTER TO ABHYANKAR

October 25, 1945

BHAI ABHYANKAR,

I have your letter dated the 22nd instant. Your Hindi is not bad but it may be inadequate to express your thoughts. Mine is also imperfect but the very idea of writing to Indians in English pains me. Moreover, I will not agree that you can truly express your thoughts or feelings in English. Maybe, you think otherwise. But I know that I would have understood your thoughts better if you had written in Marathi.

I shall not enter into an argument with you. What I have written to you is right.[1] The inquiry is still going on. And I have all [the papers] as far as the matter has progressed. The day before yesterday I got the copy of the statement by the father of the child who met with an untimely death. Now I shall write to you after the inquiry is over. Only this much today.

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

754. LETTER TO AMRITLAL V. THAKKAR

October 25, 1945

BAPA,

I had the circular you wanted to issue about the women village workers. I don't remember now why I did not give then the approval asked for. I am sorry there has been this delay. I have carefully gone through it. Do circulate it.

Satyabhama Devi's donation should be accepted if the Provincial Committee can make use of it and no burden falls on us. I take it that the correspondence, etc., will be put in order.

The idea of training midwives through the Kamala Nehru Hospital[2] is good. It is commendable that facilities are made available by the Hospital. But I have my doubts about the utility of such midwives as they will not be able to serve in villages. Since our committee is going to meet now the matter will be decided

[1] *Vide* pp. 353-4.
[2] At Allahabad

without any delay. It had, therefore, better be postponed till then. I hope to reach Wardha on the 21st. Fix a date between that and the 30th, after consulting Jajuji, and issue a notice[1].

BAPU

From the Hindi original : Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

755. LETTER TO PESTON GROVER

NATURE CURE CLINIC,
6 TODIWALA ROAD, POONA,
October 26, 1945

MY DEAR GROVER,

I kept your letter with me thinking what I should do. The more I think the more I feel that I must not speak on the atomic bomb.[2] I must act if I can. Therefore, if you are a journalist of the right type, you will help me to observe silence on such matters.

Thank you for your enquiry about my health which is as good as it can be.

Yours sincerely,

PESTON GROVER, ESQ.
ASSOCIATED PRESS OF AMERICA
BOMBAY

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

756. LETTER TO FLORENCE WEDGWOOD

POONA,
October 26, 1945

DEAR SISTER,

Your letter of 27th February last year was received in the jail. It was given to me some time after my release[3]. I came to read it only a few days ago and I kept it for answering when I got a moment for such writing.

[1] This word is in English.
[2] *Vide* also p. 271.
[3] On May 6, 1944

Many thanks for your sympathy. Your late husband[1] and I were good friends. I miss him.

I have written on life after death. But sorry I cannot lay hands on it at the moment. It is buried among my writings on a variety of subjects. But there is much on the subject in the English literature. And why peep into the life beyond? It should be enough if you have faith that the future is as certain as the present.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

MRS. FLORENCE WEDGWOOD
902 HOWARD HOUSE
DOLPHIN SQUARE
LONDON, S.W.1

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

757. LETTER TO MAHENDRA G. DESAI

October 26, 1945

CHI. MAHENDRA,

I have a letter from you after a long interval. I really can't make out what you wish to do. It is good you have consulted Maganbhai. But my advice is that instead of attempting a new venture, do what you can in the normal course.

MAHENDRA GOPALDAS DESAI
P. B. 32, GIRIDIH
DIST. HAZARIBAG

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Josiah Clement Wedgwood (1872-1943); British Labour leader and Member of Parliament, 1919-42. He had attended the Nagpur session of the Congress in 1920.

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758. LETTER TO P. N. KAUL

October 26, 1945

BHAI KAUL,

Do barristers forget their mother tongue?

Maulana Saheb is doing something about Caveeshar[1]. I shall certainly take necessary action when required. There is no question of forgetting. He will certainly be released.

P. N. KAUL, ADVOCATE
83 EXPRESS ROAD
LAHORE

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

759. LETTER TO DR. SURESH BANNERJI

October 26, 1945

BHAI SURESH,

I feel happy whenever I get a letter from you. The news that you are fine is enough for me. I shall hear the rest from you when you are released. Keep well.

DR. SURESH BANNERJI
C/O SUPERINTENDENT, CENTRAL JAIL
RAJSHAHU, BENGAL

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Sardul Singh Caveeshar (b. 1886); President, Punjab Congress Committee, 1920; Member, Congress Working Committee, 1928; joined All-India Forward Bloc and became its Acting President in 1940. He was arrested under the Defence of India Rules.

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760. LETTER TO G. D. BIRLA

October 26, 1945

CHI. GHANSHYAMDAS,

I have had Jehangir Patel's[1] letter. He also writes that only the school building would be suitable. There should be some more facilities there. There should also be provision for electricity and water. Dinshaw suggests going straight into the school building when everything is ready. In that case it will take nine months. I favour moving at once into the sanatorium building and starting work there, and later shifting to the school building when it is ready. Whether this is possible or not has to be decided by you people. In the sanatorium building also more pipes will be required for water. Maybe, something will have to be done about electricity too. Water treatment requires plenty of water. I see some difficulty in taking the school building. If the school is to be housed there, it will be difficult to run two institutions in the same building. If my idea takes shape, even the present building may not be enough. For, my idea is that the poor also have to be admitted and I shall be interested in running nature-cure clinics for them, too. It seems to me that from the school building it would also be possible to serve the village people as I have planned to do. Think over all this and let me know what you feel would be best to do.

Let me also give you Sardar's view. He believes that I should not interest myself in this work to this extent. If Dinshaw requires financial help I should have it provided to him and then stop at it. In going further at the moment there is a risk of Dinshaw breaking down or my being disappointed and the great affection which Dinshaw is showing for me today coming to an end. I have no such fear. In my opinion Dinshaw can break down, but his affection for me cannot wane. I know that he had the same affection for me even when no question of money was involved and when I did not even know him. But Sardar understands human nature and he has too much consideration for me; so I think it is as well to place his view before you so that you may decide the question objectively.

[1] A Trustee of the Nature Cure Clinic

Please do not think that just because I have been given assurance about Nasik no other alternative should be considered. Nature-cure work is of great importance. If carried on well it can have far-reaching results the scope of which can hardly be envisaged today. It must also be considered to what extent Dinshaw can fit into this set-up. If you think it necessary to see me before taking any decision in the matter and if you can find some time, come and talk it over. But if the matter can be settled through correspondence, you need not come. In spite of my great interest in this work you should take it that I am acting in a detached way. If I am to live for 125 years, there is also this condition that my sense of objectivity, that is, non-attachment should increase day by day and approximate as much to perfection as is humanly possible. I do not know how this can happen or whether it will happen at all. Why should I even wish to know? Let me keep that ideal in view and do what I consider to be my duty. I know this much that it is difficult to reach that ideal. But my life has been spent in tackling difficult tasks.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: C.W. 8073. Courtesy: G. D. Birla

761. LETTER TO KRISHNACHANDRA

October 26, 1945

CHI. KRISHNACHANDRA,

Do what you think proper with regard to *Gitai*. After all, it is just for the morning, is it not? Consult the people who come every day and do what seems proper to all.

I note what you say about Kailas. It is good about Baburamji and Reddy.

My heart is there. I shall go there as soon as I can leave this place. I have decided on the 21st as the last day. Then Godwilling, I shall be there. I am not happy about Gomatibehn's illness.

How did Kantabehn fall ill?

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 4535

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762. LETTER TO L. N. GOPALASWAMI[1]

POONA,
October 27, 1945

MY DEAR GOPALASWAMI[2],

Yours about Rajaji. In so far as the people caused any disturbance neither the Congress nor I had anything to do with them. There is no doubt that the people resented and rose against the hasty and wholesale arrests[3]. The civil disobedience movement could only be started by me. I never started it. In some cases people lost self-control. But the Government['s] senseless violence eclipsed all popular violence.

To accuse Rajaji of betrayal is not to know him. He is too good to do anything mean. Of course I have accepted his Formula because I believe in it.

Yours,
BAPU

SHRI L. N. GOPALASWAMI
C/O SHRI A. VAIDYANATH IYER
SANTHAIPET
MADURA, SOUTH INDIA

From a photostat : C.W. 10552. Courtesy : Government of Tamil Nadu

[1] A photostat of the letter was displayed at the Tamil Nadu Pavilion at the Gandhi-Darshan held in New Delhi in 1969-70.

[2] Secretary, Tamil Nadu Harijan Sevak Sangh. The addressee had accused Rajagopalachari on two counts, viz., non-participation in the Quit India movement and his stand regarding Pakistan.

[3] In August, 1942

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763. LETTER TO G. RAMACHANDRA RAO

NATURE CURE CLINIC,
6 TODIWALA ROAD, POONA,
October 27, 1945

MY DEAR RAMACHANDRA RAO,

Yours of the 13th to hand.

1. Booklet[1] on health is still undergoing revision. It was suspended after my premature discharge from jail and I never had the time for finishing it. When it is finished you will know of this new publication. You can certainly publish a translation. It will not be called a new edition. It will be, if it is ever published, a new thing altogether.

2. There are many claimants for service of labour. Unfortunately, Congress monopoly tacitly recognized by all is broken. But if the Congress is challenged I suppose the Congress will say we are the only real servants of labour. Who will establish the claim finally is in the womb of time. My participation in the affairs of the Working Committee is very slight and, I fancy, growing slighter. Therefore, don't expect me to do anything in the matter of the flag designed by you.

3. SWEEPERS. You and a few others may recognize my claim to be the first sweeper, but I will cut a sorry figure in a sweepers' conference. The so-called sweepers will themselves repudiate my claim as many do. My sympathy will be with them in such repudiation. The fortunate position of a self-styled man, however, is that he does not require any outside recognition of a style adopted by himself. Therefore, I must not bear the burden of having the conference even when the choice of the venue is left to me. What is more, I have neither the time nor the wish to carry more burdens than I have. You should therefore go on without counting on my service even in the way of a

[1] Gandhiji had started writing the *Key to Health* on August 27, 1942, during his incarceration in the Aga Khan Palace and completed it on December 18, 1942. The Gujarati original was translated into Hindustani and English by Sushila Nayyar under Gandhiji's guidance. For *Key to Health*, *vide* Vol. LXXVII. For Gandhiji's earlier writings on the subject written in South Africa, *vide* Vols. XI and XII. These were later published in the form of a booklet under the title *A Guide to Health*.

message. Cultivate the belief that every *bona-fide* service carries with it its own recognition.

4. MATERNITY HOME. Are you not principally dependent upon Government grant and recognition? The record you mention is certainly very good but it loses in public dignity and value. No Government or Government-aided institution suffers for want of funds. All are crowded, some even to suffocation. Whether they really serve the needy poor is a separate question. This criticism is independent of the fact that I have to ask you to be merciful and excuse me from the obligation you seek to impose on me. If I do succeed in visiting Madras for the Hindustani Prachar Sabha, I must ask friends who know me to extend to me their co-operation by imposing upon themselves restraint in the way of saving me from further burdens.

5. "UP FROM SLAVERY" : I would love to write a line on this. But seeing that you have waited all these years I would ask you to wait a little longer and remind me when I have settled down after the tours I have in mind.

Yours,
BAPU

SHRI G. RAMACHANDRA RAO
SEVAGRAM
GUDIVADA (KISTNA DISTRICT)

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

764. LETTER TO MANILAL GANDHI

October 27, 1945

CHI. MANILAL,

Read the accompanying cable[1] and reply to Nagin. Send him a cable, saying, 'Bapu unable send message.' The pre-paid form also is enclosed, so that you may use it. Send the reply immediately.

Arun is quite happy. The rest is going on well. Sardar has left on business, accompanied by Dinshaw. Both will return on the 1st. My work is going on very well. Do not worry at all.

Blessings to you all from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 4963

[1] From Nagin P. Desai of Durban seeking a message from Gandhiji for the foundation-stone-laying ceremony of the Gujarati school and hall of Kathiawari Hindu Seva Samaj which was to be held on October 31

765. LETTER TO KISHORELAL G. MASHRUWALA

October 27, 1945

CHI. KISHORELAL,

It would be very good indeed if Gomati completely recovers. She is as strong as you. She has the strength to bear any amount [of pain]. But ["those who are in it enjoy rare happiness] the spectators are scorched".[1]

Whenever I am consulted about an *abhinandan granth*[2], I always oppose the suggestion. So I will oppose it regarding Kakasaheb also. You too should do the same.

I am going to say the same thing about Nathuram Premi. I think this is a sort of mania.

I don't feel like writing to Ranka[3]. From your suggestion I take it that Sardar will write to him.

Don't trust what the newspapers say. I am not going to stay in Poona. It will be a different thing if I have to come here to help Dinshaw. More later.

KISHORELAL MASHRUWALA
SEVAGRAM
WARDHA

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] *Vide* Vol. XLIV, p. 452.
[2] Felicitation volume
[3] Poonamchand Ranka

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766. LETTER TO JATINDAS M. AMIN

October 27, 1945

CHI. AMIN,

You don't know how much anxiety you are causing to all of us. Your dharma is to admit that you yourself are suffering from illusion instead of saying that others have turned against you. You should not go to any shop or ask for money and spend it. If you lose your temper all the time, you had better leave the Ashram. Come here if you feel like it. You are not in a position to go to the Himalayas. Your place is either near your father or near me. Do what you think fit after thinking over all this. At any rate, leave the Ashram.

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

767. LETTER TO HARJIVAN KOTAK

October 27, 1945

CHI. HARJIVAN KOTAK,

I have your letter. I understand about the expenses. I don't remember the decision I had taken but I think if they agree to give you more, a way can be found.

I can say more if I know who is the hakim and what his opinion is. I want you to settle down.

HARIJAN ASHRAM
SABARMATI

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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768. LETTER TO H. L. SHARMA

October 27, 1945

CHI. SHARMA,

I have your letter written at 12 o'clock at night. Your brother is gone. From the empirical view it is only natural that you should grieve, but if you take the transcendental view, the integral view, what is there to grieve over in death? What is there to rejoice over in birth? These two go together, one must follow the other and the two are inseparably linked. Hence at least to you death should cause no sorrow. You have an added reason for devoting yourself to your duty.

It is all the more regrettable that you thought of going into the Assembly at the suggestion of your deceased brother.

About Gadodiaji, if you stick to everything [you have said] write to me point by point as 1, 2, 3. I am willing to send them to him. I shall also suggest that they should be placed before an arbitrator.

These should cover all the complaints you had made to me. The decision about other things may well depend on it, though now I must confess I have my suspicions.

I cannot write anything about Sardar because he and Dinshawji are in Bombay. They will return on the 1st. With the elder brother gone, who is shouldering the responsibility of the household? How many brothers are you?

Blessings from
BAPU

From a facsimile of the Hindi : *Bapuki Chhayamen Mere Jivanke Solah Varsh*, between pp. 342 and 343

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769. LETTER TO ABID ALI

October 27, 1945

BHAI ABID ALI,

I have your postcard. Come whenever you wish to. I hope everyone is all right.

JANAB ABID ALI SAHEB
GREEN HOTEL
MATHERAN

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy Pyarelal

770. LETTER TO AMRIT KAUR

POONA,
October 28, 1945

CHI. AMRIT,

Your Karachi letter just received. Thank God you were all right up to Karachi and hope you will continue so till you return to me. Pyarelal is out of fever, has been for the past four days, and is slowly gaining strength. Sardar is in Bombay and will return on 1st. Dinshaw is with him. Our party will leave Poona, *Deo volente*, on 19th reaching Sevagram on 21st, necessary persons leaving for Calcutta on 30th November. Narandas, his wife and Kusum are here, will leave on Tuesday. My sister is here with her daughter[1]. I hope I shall get some news about Beryl during your absence. Remember me to all the friends who may think of me and whom you may meet.

Love.

BAPU

From the original : C.W. 4170. Courtesy : Amrit Kaur. Also G.N. 7806

[1] Phoolkunvar

771. LETTER TO J. C. KUMARAPPA

October 28, 1945

MY DEAR KU.,

You have a good certificate about the sculpture[1]. As soon as it is on view in Maganwadi I shall set about collecting. I am glad Mrs. Hopman is herself coming to pay your commission.

The b. p. is good.

You must not gloat over your brother's[2] exploits. Wait and watch.

Love.

BAPU

DR. KUMARAPPA
A. I. V. I. A.
MAGANWADI, WARDHA

From a photostat : G.N. 10182

772. LETTER TO DILIP KUMAR ROY

October 28, 1945

MY DEAR DILIP,

Your letter is tempting. The recollection of your voice tempts me and so do several other things. But I must resist all temptation and keep on to the straight and narrow path as conceived by me. Therefore excuse me. If I can go further, I would say drop the project. If not, you may approach the others you mention.

I would have written to you in Hindi as I do generally but I forbore for obvious reasons.

BAPU

[1] A statue of Jesus Christ measuring 6 ft. by 4 ft., made by Mrs. Clara Hopman, a Dutch artist, and priced Rs. 10,000, was to be donated to the All-India Village Industries Association at Maganwadi.

[2] Bharatan Kumarappa's

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[PS.]

I hope to leave Poona on 19th November on my way to Bengal, stopping at Sevagram for a few days.

SHRI DILIPKUMAR ROY
AUROBINDO ASHRAM
PONDICHERRY

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

773. LETTER TO MRS. M. H. MORRISON[1]

NATURE CURE CLINIC,
5 TODIWALA ROAD, POONA,
October 28, 1945

DEAR MADAM,

I have just received your letter of 20th September, and I have devoured almost every line of the enclosure to your letter. Miss Slade whom we know here as Mirabai only, as she desires to be known, is in a basin of the Himalayas which she adores and loves. It is near Hardwar, a celebrated place of pilgrimage, through which the mighty Ganges flows down.

Your Green Cross scheme appeals to me forcibly, not that there is anything new in it for me. Your resolution is also brief and to the point, and therefore is a temptation and invitation for me to sign. But I must resist the temptation. The Green Cross Society will, I hope, forgive me for the resistance. It will do so readily if it appreciates the fact that some, among whom I count myself, render greater help by refraining from signing anything like your resolution but working silently and probably effectively.

Though I refrain from sending you my signature I will ask you, if you at all can, to keep me in touch with your activities from time to time. It may interest and even please you to know that I have enforced in my own life now for years your 'ten don'ts'[2] and invited my neighbours to do likewise for I have

[1] An extract from this appeared in *The Hindu*, 31-10-1945, which reported that the addressee had requested Gandhiji to sign a resolution which was "a non-controversial, conciliatory plea to protect helpless wild life and unspoilt nature everywhere".

[2] *The Hindu* reported : "The Society has put forward ten "don'ts" to prevent desecration of wild life and nature. It requests the people not to disfigure landscapes or the general appearance of the village, country road

long believed that there is a 'spirit in the wood', using the word 'wood' in a double sense.

Yours sincerely,

MRS. M. H. MORRISON
HON. SECRETARY
THE GREEN CROSS SOCIETY
41 ASMUNS PLACE, LONDON N.W. 11

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

774. LETTER TO DAHYALAL H. JANI

October 28, 1945

BHAI DAHYALAL,

Don't be angry with me but have a hearty laugh. I don't know who told me or where I read it or what happened but somehow I had the illusion that you had died. Later one day when I saw Kishorelal revising your translation of the *Gita*, I came to know that you were alive and I was happy about it. But I forgot about this and thought you were dead. Meanwhile yesterday your letter came and now this won't leave my mind. So now you have to live long. But I know that you may live beyond me, that is, you may live for more than 125 years, and yet will remain what you are now. Isn't that as good as being dead even when alive? This is the impression I have got after reading your letter.

There is nothing new in what you have said about the five things. Of course, there is some truth in it but according to me it is so full of ignorance that I have not found any one of them useful. Your last sentence is : "If there is any service that I can do, do order me." How incorrect this sentence is! I did order you to do a lot of service and what did I get from it? What could the country achieve or what benefit did you get? Think over the other four things in the same way. There is no need for a reply and this should not be published on any account. I have written this just to humour you in the hope that it may open your eyes one day. If any time you are able to understand

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or approach to town by throwing litter or by displaying advertisements in wrong places or cutting trees and plucking wild flowers or in any other way. Nor should they disturb the peace of nature which others are enjoying by shouting, loud singing or playing gramophone records or by tuning wireless sets."

the hidden meaning behind it I would think it is better than getting your reply and would consider your living meaningful.

SHRI DAHYABHAI H. JANI
939 WILSON GARDENS
BANGALORE CITY

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

775. LETTER TO AMRITLAL V. THAKKAR

October 28, 1945

BAPA,

I am enclosing Sushila Pai's letter. Go through it. I wonder if I have told you about her. If she goes and stays there, most of our problems can be solved. As I write these lines I recollect that I had introduced her to you.

I think she can be accommodated in Bajajwadi, where your office is situated. I do not know what facilities are available there. Of course, we don't want any overcrowding.

The question of her salary does not arise at the moment. The thing is we have to see whether we can have her as Joint Secretary with Sucheta, and whether she can stay in Bajajwadi. We have also to find out whether Sucheta will agree to have a Joint Secretary. If you approve of these suggestions, then we shall have to consult Sucheta. If you concur, I shall refer the matter to her. Please let me have your reply.

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

776. LETTER TO GIRIRAJKISHORE

October 28, 1945

CHI. GIRIRAJ,

I have your letter. Both the sisters were happy. Your work is progressing well. Take care of your health. I have received part of the dictionary[1]. I just glanced at it for two minutes. I hope to go through it a little more.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 8775

[1] The Hindi-Gujarati dictionary which the addressee was preparing

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777. LETTER TO SWAMI SATYADEV

October 28, 1945

SWAMIJI,

I was glad to have your letter and I noticed that you have signed it with some effort. You talk of settling down in Delhi but it is hot there too. For you the places are Almora, Abu or Girnar. Perhaps you don't require a library but wish to write on what you already know. If that is so I shall try. It is quite pleasant near the sea coast but considering your health I would not advise the sea coast. I understand you want my advice regarding only the place and you have the means to manage other things yourself.

SWAMI SATYADEV
SATYAJNANA NIKETAN
JWALAPUR

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

778. LETTER TO CHANDRANI

October 28, 1945

CHI. CHAND,

I have your postcard. Rest assured about your welfare. Your spirit of service will ever grow. Make your body as strong as steel and complete your studies. I hope to reach Sevagram on 21st November.

Blessings from
BAPU

KUMARI CHANDBEHN
DAGA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
NAGPUR

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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779. LETTER TO VICHITRANARAYAN SHARMA

October 28, 1945

CHI. VICHITRA,

I have gone through all your papers carefully. I wrote to the Central Government[1] as soon as I heard from Jajuji. I am making some alternative arrangement also.[2] Let us wait and watch. Keep me informed of the developments there. I hope to reach Wardha on the 21st.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI VICHITRANARAYAN
GANDHI ASHRAM
MEERUT

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

780. LETTER TO M. DUTT

October 28, 1945

SECRETARY SAHEB,

Meet me when I am in Calcutta. Meet Prafulla Babu and fix an appointment.

M. DUTT
617 CLIVE STREET
CALCUTTA

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] *Vide* pp. 338-9.
[2] *Vide* also p. 346.

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781. PREFACE TO "GITA PRAVESHIKA"[1]

Let me add this much to the above[2]. The verses originally included in this primer were those I had selected for Ramdas.[3] Friends have added so much to it that it would be a departure from truth to call it "Rama-Gita" or to attribute its compilation to me.

In this edition the meanings have been omitted. For this the reader may refer to the original book *Anasaktiyoga*[4].

M. K. GANDHI

October 29, 1945

From a photostat of the Hindi : G.N. 9955. Also C.W. 6929. Courtesy : Jivanji D. Desai

782. LETTER TO E. M. JENKINS

NATURE CURE CLINIC,
6 TODIWALA ROAD, POONA,
October 29, 1945

DEAR SIR EVAN,

This I write in fear and trembling, lest I may be overstepping my limit.

I am watching the progress of the trial of the members of the corps raised by or under Shri Subhas Babu. Though I can have nothing in common with any defence by force of arms, I am never blind to the valour and patriotism often displayed by persons in arms, as seems to be the case here. And can the Government afford to ignore the almost, if not the wholly, unanimous opinion of Indians of all shades of opinion? India adores these men who are on their trial. No doubt the Government have overwhelming might on their side. But it will be misuse of

[1] Second edition
[2] The reference is to the preface to the first edition; *vide* Vol. LVI, p. 73.
[3] *Vide* Vol. LI, pp. 372-5.
[4] *Vide* Vol. XLI.

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that power if it is used in the teeth of universal Indian opposition. It is not for me to say what should be done except that what is being done is not the way. Let His Excellency decide what is best in the circumstances.[1]

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

Gandhiji's Correspondence with the Government, 1944-47, pp. 40-1

783. LETTER TO E. M. JENKINS

NATURE CURE CLINIC,
6 TODIWALA ROAD, POONA,
October 29, 1945

DEAR SIR EVAN,

In continuation of my letter[2] of October 10, 1945, about khadi being licensed, may I add that the Privy Council had to consider the question of exempting the A.I.S.A. from the income tax. The case is reported in A. I. R. 1944 Privy Council at p. 88. His Excellency's predecessor had at my request ordered that the collection of the tax be suspended, pending decision of the Privy Council.[3] It reversed the decision of the Bombay High Court and expressed the opinion that the primary object of the Association is the relief of the poor, that its objects include the advancement of other purposes of general public utility and that the making of a commercial or private profit is not the purpose of the Association. On these grounds they came to the conclusion that the Association is a charitable and philanthropic body and entitled to exemption from tax. Can khadi manufactured and sold on behalf of the manufacturers—the profits, if any, going to the hand-spinners and handloom-weavers—be classed with mill-cloth under the Anti-Profiteering and Hoarding Regulations? In my humble opinion, it should be wholly exempt from such

[1] Replying to this on November 6, G. E. B. Abell, Deputy Private Secretary to the Viceroy, said: "His Excellency . . . asks me to say that he notes your views and presumes that they are based on articles appearing in the newspapers, in which the facts are not always correctly stated. His Excellency naturally cannot express an opinion on the merits of cases which are *sub judice*."

[2] *Vide* pp. 338-9.

[3] *Vide* Vol. LXXV, pp. 298 and 455-6.

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control, if the meagre earnings of the poor concerned are not to be taxed.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

Gandhiji's Correspondence with the Government, 1944-47, p. 69

784. LETTER TO MIRABEHN

POONA,
October 29, 1945

CHI. MIRA,

I have your letter just now and I reply before going for massage.

I am not leaving Sevagram, must not, having founded home for so many institutions. I must now contradict and correct the report[1]. I could not desert Sardar. I must come to you after doing the Frontier or [before] going there. Everything is postponed by a month.

Let us trust to God guiding us. He may so compass that ultimately I may have to live with you. Wish nothing except to do His will.

Sorry about Balvantsinha. No more time.

Love.

BAPU

From the original : C.W. 6512. Courtesy : Mirabehn. Also G.N. 9907

785. LETTER TO C. RAJAGOPALACHARI

[*October 29, 1945*][2]

MY DEAR C. R.,

I have just received your letter. I do not attach any importance to unscrupulous propaganda. However, what statement do you think I should issue? Today trees can only be tapped for *gur*[3] not for making intoxicants.

[1] In *Bapu's Letters to Mira*, the addressee explains : "A rumour had been started that Bapu was leaving Sevagram."

[2] In the source this letter is placed among those of this date.

[3] Jaggery

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How are you? What is the atmosphere there?

As I cannot yet leave Sardar, my tour has been put off by one month.

Love.

[PS.]

Madhavan's letter returned.

SHRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR
MADRAS

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

786. LETTER TO JIVANJI D. DESAI

POONA,
October 29, 1945

CHI. JIVANJI,

I am sending a new preface[1] also for the *Gita Praveshika*. As I have suggested, omit the meanings. I have suggested in the new preface that those who wish to know the meanings should consult the *Anasaktiyoga*. Those who are not ready to take that much trouble need not buy this. I have not, therefore, made any correction on page 6. Nor need we give all that just now for one pice. The verses which I had originally selected will be found somewhere. If they can be given, the "Rama-Gita" will be complete. I have them somewhere. Ramdas also will have them. I cannot permit you to fall ill. Remember how much depends on you and see that you do not fall ill. The remedy is given in *Arogyani Chavi*[2].

If I can manage about the *Constructive Programme*[3], I will send that too.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 9956. Also C.W. 6930. Courtesy : Jivanji D. Desai

[1] *Vide* p. 438.

[2] *Key to Health*; *vide* Vol. LXXVII.

[3] Gandhiji was revising *Constructive Programme: Its Meaning and Place*, written earlier in December 1941. *Vide* Vol. LXXV, pp. 146-66.

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787. LETTER TO K. M. MUNSHI

October 29, 1945

BHAI MUNSHI,

I got your letter and a copy of the speech just now. I had read somewhere about your having written Gujarati-Hindi. I was very pleased. It is good, moreover, that everything went off well. I hope you are in good health. I have always written *samun sutharun*[1] without knowing the origin of the phrase. You have now taught me that it is *same sutare*[2]. Why need this origin displease me?

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : C.W. 7689. Courtesy : K. M. Munshi

788. LETTER TO GOMATI K. MASHRUWALA

October 29, 1945

CHI. GOMATI,

Ramprasad told me everything about you. Sitting here, I can only wish that you get well soon. Medicine does little, rest works wonders. So you should not insist on getting up, doing things yourself and going out for toilet.

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

789. LETTER TO KISHORELAL G. MASHRUWALA

October 29, 1945

CHI. KISHORELAL,

Ramprasad and Amin have arrived. Amin seems to have behaved himself.

I am writing about the constitution of the Congress. I intend sending a copy to you after I complete it. It is entirely

[1] Literally, 'neat and tidy'
[2] Literally, 'when the yarn is even'

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different from your conception. Let me know what you have to say about it after you have seen it. I feel that the Congress will ultimately be the loser if it fails to do something of this sort.

Lakshmishanker Vaid, who is devoted to you, says that if you take one tablespoon of caster oil and two tablespoons of honey, you will get rid of your asthma.

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

790. LETTER TO S. K. GUPTA

October 29, 1945

BHAI SHRIKANT,

I have your two postcards. I shall start touring after finishing the work here. I shall probably reach the Ashram by February. Write to me then. In the mean time carry on the constructive work as I have suggested.

Do not trust the newspaper reports. I am not going to leave Sevagram.

Blessings from
M. K. GANDHI

SHRI S. K. GUPTA
EXCISE INSPECTOR
6 RAILWAY ROAD
FARUKHABAD, U. P.

From a photostat of the Hindi : C.W. 9696. Also Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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791. LETTER TO J. BARUA

October 29, 1945

SIR,

What you say is quite right. The word "easily" was used by me through ignorance. It was not deleted from the later edition through oversight. I have now written to the Press. Forgive me for this lapse. You can publish this letter.

J. BARUA
C/O G. N. TAGORE
BAJAJ BHAVAN
TILAK NAGAR, KANPUR

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

792. LETTER TO DEVPRAKASH NAYYAR

October 29, 1945

CHI. DEV,

I have your letter. You will be able to render a lot of service if you remain healthy. I know that though the Ashram is far from perfect there is something in it which is not found elsewhere. We have deliberately given up certain things which are seen at other places.

SEVAGRAM ASHRAM
SEVAGRAM

From a microfilm of the Hindi : Documents relating to Gandhiji. Courtesy : National Archives of India

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793. TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENT, FYZABAD DISTRICT CONGRESS COMMITTEE

POONA,
October 30, 1945

PRESIDENT
DISTRICT CONGRESS COMMITTEE
FYZABAD (U. P.)

SEND DOCTOR KATJU'S[1] OPINION ON BASUDA SINGH[2] CASE.

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

794. TELEGRAM TO D. G. TENDULKAR

October 30, 1945

TENDULKAR
CARE CONGRESS
BOMBAY

REGRET RECONSIDERATION IMPOSSIBLE.

GANDHI

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

795. TELEGRAM TO SHRIMAN NARAYAN

POONA,
October 30, 1945

PROFESSOR AGRAWAL
COMMERCE COLLEGE
WARDHA

YOU CAN HOLD MEETING[3] 8TH NOVEMBER.

BAPU

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Kailash Nath Katju
[2] Who was sentenced to death because of his part in the 1942 movement
[3] Of the Hindustani Prachar Sabha

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796. LETTER TO DR. KRISHNABAI NIMBKAR

October 30, 1945

DEAR SISTER,

I have your letter. Now that the members of the Working Committee are released write to them in detail. Meet me, if I am here, when you reach Poona.

DR. KRISHNABAI NIMBKAR
192 POONAMALLE HIGH ROAD
P. O. VEPERY

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

797. LETTER TO SARVAJITLAL VERMA

October 30, 1945

BHAI SARVAJIT SINGHJI,

I got your letter today. Your wire too had come. I have sent a wire asking for Dr. Katju's opinion on this case.[1] If you have any papers besides this, send them along. Send the application on behalf of the prisoner or in the lawyer's name to the Viceroy and send a copy to me. Also do as the Vakilsaheb advises. I shall do what I can from here.

SARVAJITLAL VERMA
PRESIDENT, DISTRICT CONGRESS COMMITTEE
FYZABAD

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

798. ANSWER TO A CORRESPONDENT[2]

[On or before *October 31, 1945*][3]

Sardar is as dear as a son to me. Our relation is as good as that of a father and a son. What message can a father give to a son? There is no scope for a message from me.

The Bombay Chronicle, 1-11-1945

[1] *Vide* p. 445.

[2] & [3] Gandhiji was asked for a message for Vallabhbhai Patel's birthday which fell on October 31.

799. LETTER TO KANCHAN M. SHAH

POONA,
October 31, 1945

CHI. KANCHAN,

I do not like your recent letters. Ask me about Madras when I arrive there. I hope to reach there on November 21. I have written a short letter[1] to Munnalal and am daily awaiting his reply. Ask him why he has not sent it till now.

When will you improve your health?

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G.N. 8261. Also C.W. 6986. Courtesy : Munnalal G. Shah

800. LETTER TO J. P. BHANSALI

October 31, 1945

CHI. BHANSALI,

It is all the same whether you sleep in water or on the ground, sit in the sun or in the shade. My opinion is that if now you lead a normal life the people around will be much more benefited. If you have any doubt about this, ask me, as I hope to reach there at the latest on the 21st [November].

Blessings from
BAPU

ASHRAM
SEVAGRAM

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] *Vide* p. 326.

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801. LETTER TO AMRITLAL V. THAKKAR

October 31, 1945

BAPA,

Yesterday I got Mridula's letter. What you said was right.

Send three months' money to Lila Jog without any comment. If you wish you can send it to me. I shall handle it in my language and in my own way. We shall thus close the chapter.

Fix any days between November 22 and 28.

BAPU

KASTURBA GANDHI SMARAK NIDHI
WARDHA

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

802. LETTER TO VASANJI HANSJI

October 31, 1945

BHAI VASANJI HANSJI,

I have the *hundi* for Rs. 4,205 sent by you as well as the list of donors and the report of the agreement sent by Pranshanker Joshi. I shall use the money as desired. Convey my thanks to all the donors.

Vandemataram from
M. K. GANDHI

VASANJI HANSJI
GANDHI YUVAK BHAJAN MANDALI
67/B STREET, JOHANNESBURG

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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803. LETTER TO CHHAGANLAL JOSHI

October 31, 1945

CHI. CHHAGANLAL,

I have your letter. While I was talking to Narandas about the money from the States, he promptly said, "Certainly stop it if you wish to." Now we shall think over it when we meet. I have received the money from Wankaner. I shall send it to you as I received it—in two instalments and under insured cover.

I understand about Tryambaklal Choksi's donation. Just now I am not writing a letter of thanks. I don't approve of the condition laid down by him. How can we have a trust for such a small amount? Why does he not have faith in an institution like the Harijan Sevak Sangh? And why all this fuss about making a trust? He can give the shares to Harijan Sevak Sangh on condition that the money received from the shares will be utilized as decided by the Sangh for the Harijans of Sorath. I also believe that if we can get more money by selling the shares, the Sangh should have the right to do so. Think over this and discuss this with Tryambaklal if you wish to. You can convey to Bapa my opinion about this. Come to Madras when I reach there.

Blessings from
BAPU

CHHAGANLAL JOSHI
HARIJAN SEVAK SANGH
RAJKOT

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

804. LETTER TO SATYADEVI GIRI

October 31, 1945

CHI. SATYADEVI,

I have your letter. I am glad you gave news about the entire family. If the doctor so advises, get yourself operated upon. There is no risk at all in an operation. If the complaint is diagnosed as appendicitis, I do not know of any other treatment.

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It is good you have not totally given up the spinning-wheel. All the same, understand the science of it also. Personally I think that Dharmakumar should complete his studies.

Blessings to you all from
BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

805. LETTER TO JETHALAL GANDHI

October 31, 1945

CHI. KAKU,

I have your letter. What you say is right. Yesterday I read it out to your father's sister also. I appreciate your writing so frankly about service-mindedness but I wish to caution you. By following tradition you will feel the burden of the family all the more and you must know that sometimes one gets entangled in it. So you will have to cultivate the spirit of service.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI JETHALAL K. GANDHI
C/O JEEVANLAL (1929) LTD.
127 MINT STREET
G. T. MADRAS

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

806. LETTER TO K. T. SHAH

October 31, 1945

BHAI KHUSHAL SHAH,

I have your English book on the foundation of peace. As usual I turned a few pages and tried to look up the index but found none. How can one do without an index in a book on a serious subject? You must find a helper who would prepare the index. I know you have written novels, too, and may still be writing more. I can understand not having an index there. But how can one do without one in a book on a serious subject? I hope you are all right. I just saw your letter. I had written

this earlier. How nice it would be if you started writing in Gujarati or *Rashtrabhasha* which millions can understand!

Blessings from
BAPU

PROF. K. T. SHAH
8 LABURNUM ROAD
GAMDEVI, BOMBAY

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

807. LETTER TO CHHAGANLAL SHAH

October 31, 1945

BHAI CHHAGANLAL,

Go home from there and live where and as God ordains. I can't say anything more than this.

Blessings from
M. K. GANDHI

CHHAGANLAL SHAH
DEVJI LADHA
DAFTARI ROAD
MALAD EAST

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

808. LETTER TO DR. PRAKASH

October 31, 1945

CHI. PRAKASH,

I hope to reach Khadi Pratishthan, Sodepur, Calcutta on 1st December. I shall be pleased if you stay with me in Calcutta.

Pyarelal's fever has subsided.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. PRAKASH
DUFFERIN HOSPITAL
BETTIAH, DIST. CHAMPARAN

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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809. LETTER TO C. RAJAGOPALACHARI

October 31, 1945

BHAI RAJAJI,

Have you made a study of the Christian agitation that is going on in Travancore regarding education? If so, give me your opinion. Shastriar has given a definite opinion on it. Discuss it with him if you wish to. What and where is the truth? Since I could not form a definite opinion, I am asking you.

You should not find it difficult to read this much Hindi.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

810. LETTER TO E. W. ARYANAYAKUM

October 31, 1945

CHI. ARYANAYAKUM,

If you have read about the confusion prevailing in Travancore regarding education, let me have your opinion. Many people are writing to me that I must say something about it. I had not read anything till now, nor had I any [other] material. Now Shri Cherian Kopen has sent a letter and also a lot of literature with it. I have read it and if you have not and wish to read it, I can send it. I have sent a similar letter to Kumarappa.

Blessings from
BAPU

ASHRAM
SEVAGRAM

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

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811. LETTER TO KALICHARAN GHOSH

October 31, 1945

BHAI KALICHARAN GHOSH,

I have your letter. I have the book about famine in Bengal but I have not read it. Send *Economic Resources of India*. Carefully go through what I have said about prayers. Go and see Satis Babu of Khadi Pratishthan and also Babu Nirmal Kumar[1]. If even then you are not satisfied, write to me again.

It is good that you care for work and are not after name. If you do care for name it should be only for Ramanama, for that includes all work.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

SHRI KALICHARAN GHOSH
6 RAJA BASANTRAI ROAD
KALIGHAT, CALCUTTA

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

812. LETTER TO CHERIAN KOPEN

[*October 1945*][2]

BHAI CHERIAN KOPEN,

You are the only one who has sent me some literature about the agitation that is going on in Travancore over education. I have read your letter though not the whole material you have sent. But I went through what was relevant to my purpose. Still I am not in a position to give a definite opinion. In such a situation I can only say this much by way of consolation that I am asking my Christian friends and friends of other religions who take interest in such things what this is all about.

From a copy of the Hindi : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy : Pyarelal

[1] Nirmal Kumar Bose

[2] From the reference to the addressee in the letter to E. W. Aryanayakum dated October 31, 1945, it appears this letter was also written about the same time; *vide* p. 452.

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813. A THOUGHT FOR THE DAY[1]

July 17, 1945

A man of the world can as little comprehend the universe as a fish living in the ocean can fathom its depths.

July 18, 1945

Not to do evil is the only true law of life, says Guru Teg Bahadur.

July 19, 1945

Life is unreal, death is real and certain. —Nanak

July 20, 1945

Truth can be found by searching within, never through argument or disputation. It is just the same if for 'Truth' one reads 'God'.

July 21, 1945

Nanak says : "God dwells in every human heart, and so every heart is a temple of God."

July 22, 1945

If God resides in every heart, then who dare hate whom?

July 23, 1945

Nanak says : "If we obey the law of God, we then need no man-made laws."

July 24, 1945

Nanak says : "God has ordained that all of us in this world are one family and each of us has to live for others."

July 25, 1945

The darkness of egoism is more impenetrable than darkness itself.

July 26, 1945

How shall we dispel this darkness of egoism? By the light of uttermost humility.

[1] At the request of Anand T. Hingorani and to comfort him Gandhiji had started the practice of writing a thought daily from November 20, 1944. *Vide* Vol. LXXVIII.

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July 27, 1945

Sorrow is but another aspect of joy. Hence the one invariably follows the other.

July 28, 1945

Just as joy and sorrow are a pair that follow each other, in succession, so is the case with all things in life. Consequently, to have real peace of mind, we must rise above such pairs of opposites.

July 29, 1945

How can he who realizes not the true value of the Self, nor is able to protect it, protect anything else in life?

July 30, 1945

Even one word, if true, is enough. Untrue words, however many, are worth nothing.

July 31, 1945

The power of a true word is such that it leads one from selfishness to selflessness.

August 1, 1945

He alone lives in whose heart dwells Rama (God) and who is ever aware of such presence.

August 2, 1945

Real knowledge cannot be acquired by mere reading of the scriptures. Indeed, it is difficult of attainment without the practice of virtue.

August 3, 1945

One can never find Truth if one is not wide awake every moment of one's life.

August 4, 1945

There can be no such thing as rights for a satyagrahi. For him there is only one right—the right to serve.

August 5, 1945

Therefore, a satyagrahi will never seek rights; these will come to him unsought.

August 6, 1945

Even one drop of the poison of untruth will poison the entire milk-ocean of Truth.

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August 7, 1945

Nanak says : "Man is born of woman as woman is born of man." Then, why is it that we find sexual immorality in the world ?

August 8, 1945

Nanak lay in the open under the sky. A kind-hearted householder suggested to him, "There is a beautiful dharmsala nearby. Why not go there?" Nanak replied : "The whole earth is my dharmsala and the sky is its roof."

August 9, 1945

Nanak says : "The craving for happiness is a veritable disease. Sorrow or suffering is its remedy."

August 10, 1945

Says Nanak again : "Whatever you give away is yours; whatever you keep is not yours."

August 11, 1945

Whatever we take, we are snatching from the mouths of others. Therefore, whenever we acquire anything, let us see that it is really needed and that our wants are as few as possible.

August 12, 1945

Nanak says : "He who earns his bread by the sweat of his brow and shares with others what he so earns, can be called truly honest."

August 13, 1945

Nanak says : "The more one indulges oneself, the more unhappy one becomes."

August 14, 1945

St. Catherine of Italy had no money with her. She had only a cloak which she was wearing. A destitute asked for it and she gave it away. Someone, thereupon, asked her : "How will you go about now?" She replied : "The raiment of love will cover me far more securely than the cloak."

August 15, 1945

Money alone can keep memory green—how much harm this false notion has done! This thought occurs to me today on the anniversary of Mahadev [Desai].

August 16, 1945

Nanak says : "Dreams are evidence of the fact that the *atma* (soul) uses the senses as its instruments. But it is only

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when the *atma* keeps the senses under control that they become its instruments, and the *atma* then becomes ripe for union with the *Paramatma*."

August 17, 1945

The pangs of hunger are not relieved by filling the stomach. They can be overcome by taking a limited quantity of food, like medicine, and remaining content with it.

August 18, 1945

Fear vanishes only with the annihilation of the ego.

August 19, 1945

It is an ordeal nowadays to read the newspapers. They do not give correct news. Nothing would be lost by not reading them.

August 20, 1945

It is as difficult to make the impossible possible, as it is easy to make the possible impossible.

August 21, 1945

What seems impossible is not always really so.

August 22, 1945

One person has God on his side; millions have Satan on theirs. Must, therefore, one fear the millions?

August 23, 1945

Supposing God is on the side of both, then who should fear whom?

August 24, 1945

He who remembers God can afford to forget everything else.

August 25, 1945

He who remembers everything else but forgets God, really remembers nothing.

August 26, 1945

He who forgets God, forgets himself.

August 27, 1945

If there is a soul, then surely the Supreme Soul (God), too, exists.

August 28, 1945

Because of our physical limitations, we cannot have a conception of the existence of God.

August 29, 1945

How can one believe in Truth if one has no belief in non-violence? If non-violence is not put into practice, Truth, too, cannot be.

August 30, 1945

Why would one who is capable of violence for gaining his ends, hesitate to resort to untruth in both speech and action?

August 31, 1945

There are some things which a man does by word of mouth, some by observing silence, and yet others by action. If all that he does is informed with knowledge, it is action indeed.

September 1, 1945

Never should we make the mistake of imagining that a wrong can be classified as 'big' or 'small'.

September 2, 1945

One man commits a theft, another aids and abets it, while the third only harbours the intention to commit it. All the three are thieves.

September 3, 1945

'What I do is a minor lapse; what others do are major lapses'—one who thinks like this lives in abysmal ignorance.

September 4, 1945

He who does something wrong out of a false sense of shame is guilty of a twofold wrong and will not be able to stand up before God.

September 5, 1945

He who thinks, speaks and acts with God as his witness, will never feel ashamed of doing the right thing.

September 6, 1945

A man who believes whole-heartedly in something, even if it be absolutely improper, for him it shall be right and proper.

September 7, 1945

He who doubts the existence of God perishes.

September 8, 1945

He who denies the existence of God denies his own.

September 9, 1945

A man who behaves like a beast is worse than the beast; bestiality is natural for the beast, not so for the man.

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September 10, 1945

Woman is not helpless. She must never regard herself as weaker than man. She should not, therefore, beg for any man's mercy, nor depend on him.

September 11, 1945

Everyone, prince or pauper, is the guardian of his own dharma. What is there to grieve or rejoice in this?

September 12, 1945

How strange that a man very often does not know who is a friend and who is a foe!

September 13, 1945

Belittling one's mother tongue is like disparaging one's own mother.

September 14, 1945

Who can make him take a lower seat who has chosen to sit on the ground? Likewise, who can make him a servant who has himself become the servant of all?

September 15, 1945

When a man gives way to anger, he only harms himself. The truth of this is borne out by daily experience.

September 16, 1945

Life becomes perpetually renewed every day. This knowledge should be helpful in uplifting us.

September 17, 1945

Happiness eludes us if we run after it. In fact happiness comes only from within. It is not a commodity to be bought from outside.

September 18, 1945

It is a moot point as to how far a man should go with his comrades when he knows that they really no longer walk with him in spirit.

September 19, 1945

He alone can be said to have conquered anger who is not angry even when there is a cause for anger.

September 20, 1945

Conquest of anger does not mean that anger is not outwardly manifest while the heart is full of it. Deliberately casting out anger root and branch, constitutes real conquest.

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September 21, 1945

Indigestion, etc., are not the only causes of fever. Anger, too, can bring it on.

September 22, 1945

It is far easier to conquer others than to conquer oneself because the former can be attained by recourse to outside means, while the latter can be achieved only with one's own mind.

September 23, 1945

Religion is no religion if it becomes mechanical.

September 24, 1945

Only when religion becomes an integral part of one's life can it be called religion. It is not like a garment.

September 25, 1945

'Money is God'—it is wrong to say so, and it has been proved to be wrong.

September 26, 1945

Flout one rule and all rules are flouted, for they all have one basis—breach of any rule is a breach of self-control.

September 27, 1945

All human activity is or should be directed towards the realization of the self. And in this self-realization lies hidden God-realization.

September 28, 1945

Man cannot worship God and at the same time despise his fellow-beings. The two are irreconcilable.

September 29, 1945

Man is truly known by the humility of his spirit.

September 30, 1945

A poet has said that a man without knowledge is like an animal. What is that knowledge?

October 1, 1945

Knowledge is that alone which enables a man to know himself. In other words, knowledge means self-realization.

October 2, 1945

"Kind and generous though [the man of God] is to the sorrow-stricken, his mind is not touched with pride." If it is God who inspires all our actions, then what place has self-pride?

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October 3, 1945

In faith there is no room for despair.

October 4, 1945

How can that be religion which cannot be put to use in one's daily life?

October 5, 1945

By donning the garb of religion, vice does not become virtue nor does a wrong cease to be wrong.

October 6, 1945

"Rather perish than break the pledged word." —Tulsidas

October 7, 1945

"There is no sin like untruth, even as a million berries heaped together cannot equal a mountain". —Tulsidas

October 8, 1945

A guru should be perfect. God alone is that.

October 9, 1945

It is easy to instruct an uneducated person, but who can carry understanding to a man of little learning?

October 10, 1945

He who knows no rules and follows none just cannot be a servant of the people.

October 11, 1945

One test of non-attachment is that a man, on retiring to bed with Ramanama on his lips, falls asleep in a moment.

October 12, 1945

Narasinha Mehta says : "To say 'I do this' and 'I do that' is the height of ignorance." The key to non-attachment lies in the contemplation of this truth.

October 13, 1945

It is possible to endure a diseased body, but not a diseased mind.

October 14, 1945

What greater meanness can there be than to seek out our good points and praise them to others?

October 15, 1945

To see nothing but faults of others is even meaner than praising one's own virtues.

October 16, 1945

The objects of the senses come and go. The point to remember is that when they leave us, we feel miserable; but when we ourselves renounce them, we feel happy and joyful.

October 17, 1945

To mistake selfishness for selflessness is like mistaking a jackal for a lion.

October 18, 1945

The saying that "distance lends enchantment to the view" is apt not only in the case of hills, but also in that of most other things in life.

October 19, 1945

Purity is tested only when it is pitted against impurity.

October 20, 1945

What is true of purity is true of all other virtues. Non-violence is tested when it faces violence.

October 21, 1945

Vice flourishes in darkness. It vanishes in the light of day.

October 22, 1945

Non-violence, truth, etc., are self-luminous. They cannot be genuine otherwise.

October 23, 1945

Justice needs to be tempered with generosity as much as generosity needs to be tempered with justice.

October 24, 1945

Only he is worthy to mete out punishment whose judgement is infallible. Who but God can be such?

October 25, 1945

To speak or not to speak—when that is the question, silence should take the place of speech.

October 26, 1945

Religion does not consist in eating this food or eschewing that but only in the realization of God within oneself.

October 27, 1945

Religion is not religion if it expects others to follow it. For example, the religion of ahimsa (non-violence) can manifest itself only in the face of *himsa* (violence).

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October 28, 1945

A Tamil poet says that man's life is as transient as words inscribed on water. This needs to be pondered over repeatedly.

October 29, 1945

Alcohol maddens a man for the moment, but pride devours him completely and he is not even conscious of it!

October 30, 1945

Merit lies in fighting alone, be the opponent one or many.

October 31, 1945

How can he who does not know the art of living know the art of dying?

[From Hindi]

Bapuke Ashirvad: Rozke Vichar, pp. 240-346

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I

ABUL KALAM AZAD'S LETTER TO LORD WAVELL[1]

ARMSDELL, SIMLA,
July 15, 1945

DEAR LORD WAVELL,

After announcing the failure of the Conference, you were good enough to ask for the support of all parties in ensuring a calm atmosphere. I do not propose to reiterate the Congress view about the failure. I expressed it sufficiently at the Conference. But in fairness to you and to ourselves I must point out that co-operation inevitably depends on the removal of obstacles to it. Some of these obstacles are of a psychological nature with roots in the past relations between India and England. These can only gradually disappear with a change in those relations. But there are others of a more tangible kind which serve as constant irritants to our people and which affect our day-to-day activity. They are continually before us. In spite of this preoccupation, however, we did not think it desirable to raise this matter, except perhaps rather vaguely in the course of conversations with you, as we were anxious not to place any difficulties in your path when you were dealing with a delicate situation.

2. But now that one chapter has ended and our minds, as well as yours, are turned to future possibilities of finding a way out, honourable to all concerned and leading to the objective of Indian freedom, these obstacles to co-operation cannot be ignored. I am taking the liberty, therefore, of pointing them out to you in the hope that you will have early steps taken to have them removed.

3. The steps that I consider necessary and earnestly urge upon you are :

(a) The bans on all Congress and allied organizations should be removed at once. It has not been possible to convene the A. I. C. C. because of its being an illegal organization.

(b) All detenus should be released without any condition being imposed upon them, whether the detention was imposed by the Central Government or the Provincial Governments.

[1] *Vide* p. 4. The letter bears corrections in Gandhiji's hand.

(c) All restrictions on the movements of released detenus or prisoners should be removed.

(d) Cases of all prisoners convicted for political or like offences should be examined by a popular judicial tribunal, its verdict should be regarded as final by the Government.

(e) Extra-legal restrictions on the freedom of the Press or on the movement or association of people should be removed so as to make the people feel that they are free to follow normal activities under democratic conditions.

(f) All pending sentences of hanging arising out of the disturbances of August 1942 should be commuted to life sentences.

(g) All pending arrests of 'absconders' should be cancelled.

(h) All prisoners who have served full fourteen years should be unconditionally discharged.

(i) What has been said above about prisoners applies equally, and with even greater force, to properties, movable and immovable, and frozen or confiscated.

4. I have not endeavoured to argue out the justness of the foregoing requirements as I have no doubt that you will yourself appreciate the need for action along the lines indicated. If India is on the eve of having a *bona-fide* national representative Executive, leading to independence after the defeat of Japan, then the necessity for this approach is self-proved and inevitable.

5. There is another matter to which I should like to refer. I need hardly say on behalf of the Congress that whatever the result of your promised effort the Congress is and has always been against the Japanese aggression. Therefore, there will always be on the part of the Congress a desire for the defeat of Japan in her designs upon China or any other aggression on her part. But the thought expressed in this paragraph will be incomplete if I did not inform you that, in the Congress estimation, the effort now being made on Indian soil will continue to be looked upon as a British and Allied effort, so long as there is not at the Centre a popular government assisted by provincial popular governments.

Yours sincerely,

His Excellency Viscount Wavell
Viceregal Lodge
Simla

A.I.C.C. File No. 1451-A, 1945-46. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

APPENDIX II

MARRIAGE RITES[1]

The marriage between Ganapat Narayan Mahadev Tendulkar and Indumati Nagesh Vasudev Gunaji is being solemnized and I perform the ceremony with God as witness. Both of you should also do the same. Those who are witness to this ceremony should keep their minds pure and thus help in the realization of the sacred wish of the couple getting married.

Now I shall recite a *bhajan* thanking God. All of you should listen to it carefully. (*Bhajan* "*Aaj milkar geet gao*")

Q. Are both of you composed ?

A. (Both to say :) Yes.

Q. Have you performed the seven *yajnas*[2] as described to you yesterday?

A. Yes.

Q. I hope that you know that this relationship is not for sexual gratification or enjoyment.

A. Yes.

Q. Are you entering the *Grihastha Ashram* in a spirit of duty, dedication and sacrifice?

A. Yes.

Q. And therefore you will not obstruct each other in his or her work of service, but assist each other?

A. Yes.

Q. Will you be always loyal to each other in thought, word and deed?

A. Yes.

Q. Will you try your best not to have children till India wins independence ?

A. Yes.

Q. You do approve the idea of inter-dining and inter-marrying with the so-called untouchables, don't you?

A. Yes.

[1] *Vide* p. 82.
[2] *Vide* p. 136.

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Q. You do believe that men and women have equal rights?

A. Yes.

Q. Both of you are friends and neither is a slave to the other. Isn't that correct also?

A. Yes.

Q. You understand, don't you, that the seven *yajnas* mentioned in the second question are in place of the *saptapadi*?

A. Yes.

Now by this yarn spun by me I bind you in union. You should preserve the yarn-garland carefully and should resolve that you will never break this union. Bear in mind the religious ceremony and pray to omnipotent God to help you in the fulfilment of the vows you have just taken.

Now we shall all together sing the *Ramdhun*.

August 18, 1945

[From Hindi]

Bapuki Kalamse, pp. 445-6

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CHRONOLOGY

(*July 17, 1945—October 31, 1945*)

July 17: Gandhiji arrived in Delhi.
Visited Satyavati and Shaukat Ansari.
En route to Wardha addressed the crowd assembled at Agra Cantt. Station. Gave interview to *People's War.*

July 18: Reached Sevagram.
Issued statement to Press.

July 25: Resigned from Hindi Sahitya Sammelan.

On or before *July 28:* Gave interview to *The Hindu.*

August 3: Gave statement to Press.

August 4: Issued statement to Press.
Gave interview to *The Hindu.*

August 6: Hiroshima atom-bombed.

August 8: Gandhiji issued statement on appeal for funds for Dakshin Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha.

August 9: Nagasaki atom-bombed.

August 10: Japan surrendered.

August 11: Gandhiji issued statement on death sentence of Mahendra Chowdhary.

Before *August 14:* Had discussion with B. S. Murthy.

August 14: Addressed Central Board meeting of Harijan Sevak Sangh.

August 16: Death sentences of Ashti-Chimur prisoners commuted to life imprisonment.

August 19: Gandhiji attended meeting of Kasturba National Memorial Trust.
Left Sevagram for Bombay.

August 20: At Bombay.

August 21: Arrived in Poona.

August 29: Sent message to U.S.A.

Before *September 2:* Had discussion with Narendra Dev and Suraj Prasad Awasthi.

September 12 and *13:* Attended Congress Working Committee meeting.

September 14: Attended C. W. C. meeting.
Spoke at prayer meeting.

September 15: Attended C. W. C. meeting.

September 16: Attended C. W. C. meeting.
Sent condolence letter to Nawab of Bhopal.

September 17 to *20:* Attended C. W. C. meeting.

September 21: Arrived in Bombay; had mild attack of influenza, was advised complete rest; could not attend A. I. C. C. Spoke at prayer meeting.

September 22 to *23:* Attended C. W. C. meeting.

September 24: Attended C. W.C. meeting, Bombay.
Returned to Poona.

October 5: Laid foundation-stone of Kasturba Goshala.

October 8: Acknowledged birthday-greetings through Press.

October 31: At Poona.

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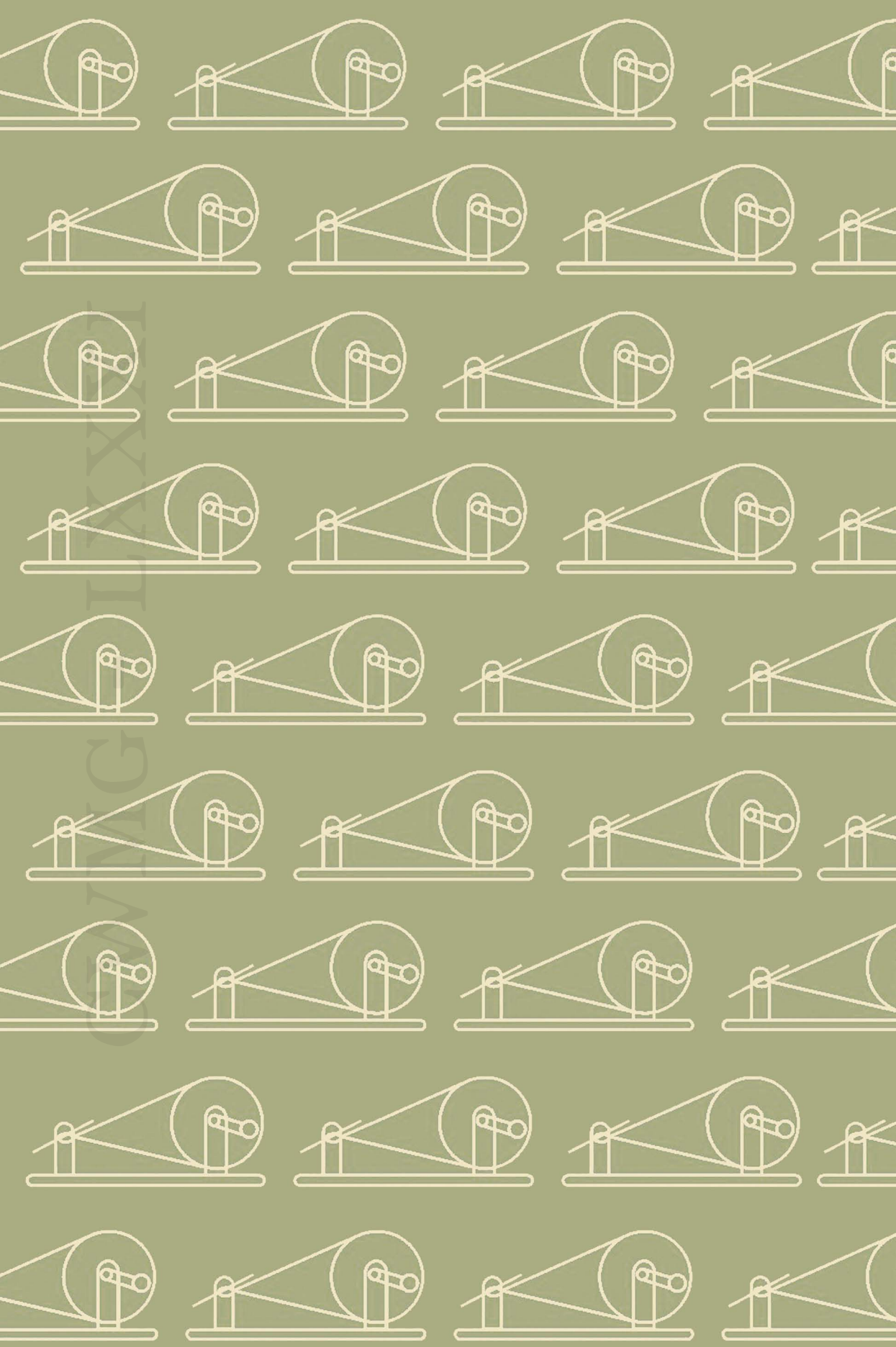
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