

Durga Puja  
2019

The Autumn  
Festival

অনন্য

The Unique



Hampshire Puja and Cultural Association



# Underwood Barron

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Hampshire Puja and Cultural Association

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01 October 2019



**MESSAGE**

Yaa Devi sarva bhutheshu Shakti rupena samsthithaa|

Namastasyie namastasyie namastasyie namoo namah||

On behalf of Hampshire Puja and Cultural Association (HPCA), I welcome you all to celebrate Durga Puja and Autumn Festival – 2019 together, which has come on leaps and bounds year after year, due to the enormous support and commitment of its members.

Since its formation in 2008, the HPCA family has grown from strength to strength. It has seen an enormous growth in membership which has laid a strong foundation in building a diverse community that bring their immense talent towards making the festival the most enjoyable experience in Hampshire and also in neighbouring counties. This has enabled HPCA to consistently lead as the flag bearer in promoting cultural diversity and community cohesion in the region.

Durga Puja would not have been possible without the hard work and efforts of the HPCA members. I thank all of them for their continuous support and their contributions year after year.

Cultural programme is an important aspect of Durga Puja. Like every year, HPCA's talented members showcase an entertaining programme that brings the whole community on a single stage captivating and entertaining the audience. This year's performance – 100 years of Indian Cinema, is based on the journey of Indian cinema and how it has evolved from the very beginning to modern day cinema. HPCA has a clear focus in creating cultural awareness amongst the younger people particularly the children in our community. Just like past years, there will be a performance by the children themed on 'Save the Environment' to create awareness. Also, HPCA will be hosting an afternoon with Raghab Chatterjee, who is a renowned Bengali singer in his own right. He sings his many self-composed songs and has sung in many Bengali as well as Hindi films like Devdas, Raincoat and Parineeta.

HPCA's annual Puja brochure (Ananya – The Unique) helps to raise funds for organising the Durga Puja. On behalf of HPCA, I am grateful to all our sponsors and patrons including the HPCA members who have contributed financially that has helped to sustain the Durga Puja and Autumn Festival celebrations for the past 12 years and hope that the same shall continue in the years to come.

With warmest autumnal greetings!

Suparna Kundu

General Secretary, HPCA

## MESSAGE from THE MAYOR OF EASTLEIGH

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Thank you very much for your invitation to Durga Puja.

I apologise from the bottom of my heart that I cannot make this wonderful event as I have another engagement at the same time which has been arranged for a long time.

However, I must congratulate you at this worshipful time and thank all the people involved.

It is very heart-warming to see people keeping in touch with their culture and traditions, teaching our younger generations, the values of it all in our community and informing other communities and cultures what it means and why.

I pray that everyone has a wonderful time and hope I will see you all some other time.

Thanking you all.

**Councillor Darshan Mann**  
**The Mayor of the Borough of Eastleigh**



## HPCA Committee 2018-19

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(Left to right) Haimanti Kumar (Cultural Secretary), Suparna Kundu (General Secretary), Sandhya Banerjee (Media Secretary), Manab Ranjan Basu (Technical Secretary), Sujit Sahu (Treasurer)

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**Website Design – Manab Ranjan Basu**

**Ananya Design – Manab Ranjan Basu, Sarika Khurana and Sandhya Banerjee**

**HPCA website – <https://southamptonpuja.org.uk>**

**Ananya's Front and Back Cover – Dipsankar Sinha**



## All about giants

Vivaan Bhadra (Year 2)  
Portswood Primary School

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Giants can be small but most of them are enormous. There are kind ones who help other people. Wild ones like nothing better than a fight. Sad ones who never stop crying. Once, there was a poor farmer. His wife was dead. He only lived with his son. In Autumn, they worked harder. Jon had to leave his father. His father gave him a warning: the warning was - don't stop at the big black rock, that's where the troll lives. Don't worry, I'll surely remember that. That night storm fell upon him. He saw a big black rock. Ah! at least shelter. Jon had done a big mistake: the big mistake was that he forgot his father's warning. Suddenly, he heard a baby voice. The baby said we are hungry. Jon quickly cut a big fish in half. Jon threw the fish at them. Jon heard a troll. The troll said I smell a man. The troll picked up Jon. Jon said please don't eat me. But the troll was gentle. I am not going to eat you. I want to thank you for feeding my children. The children said who's sleeping in my bed.



## BEAUTY, revisited...

Rhea Mukherjee (Year 7)

The Mountbatten School

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I slowly raised my quivering head,  
Gazed over a stretch of lemons and chromes.  
I don't look right,  
Do I belong?  
I shivered. Alienated.

Maybe I'm a precocious weed,  
Touched by a sliver of the beauty around me.  
Unwanted. Different. Nameless.  
In a sea of lemons and chromes,  
An azure stain.

'Hush', said the bee gracing my trembling leaf,  
'Shush', the ladybird, crawling on my tender petal,  
'You're not a stain,  
You're a show-stopper  
In a crowd of lemons and chromes.'

The Sun came out from behind the cloud.



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Quiz 2nd & last Tuesday of the month

#### THURSDAYS

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##### Boutique

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#### SUNDAYS

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## ভূতনা

Nabhjit Mukherjee  
Liphook, England



আমাদের পাড়ায় লোকজনের নাম নিয়ে অনেক কাহিনী। ডাকনাম, আদরের নাম, পোষ্য নাম, ভালো নাম। ভানু প্রসাদ আমাদের পুরোহিত। ওর বাবা শ্যামা প্রসাদ আমাদের বাড়ির আদি পুরোহিত ছিলেন, ঠাকুরদার সময় থেকে। তখন ভানু প্রসাদ বাবাকে সাহায্য করতে আসতো। ঠাকুমা ভানু কে আদর করে ডাকতেন ভানী। ঠাকুমা মারফত পাড়ায় ভানুর নামের অপভ্রংশ চালু হয়ে গেলো। শ্যামা প্রসাদ মারা যাবার পর ভানু প্রসাদ হয়ে গেলো ভানী, পাড়ায় বাড়ি বাড়ি ওর যজমান। কেউ বলে ভানী দা, কেউ বলে ভানী কাকা। দেখতে দেখতে ভানু নিজের নাম ভুলে ব্যাঙ্ক একাউন্ট খুললো ভানী ভট্টাচার্য নামে, তখন তো আর আধার কার্ড চালু হয়নি, নামের বানান নিয়েও কেউ মাথা ঘামাতো না। যে নামে যে পরিচিত সেই নামেই ব্যাঙ্ক একাউন্ট খোলে হতো। ভানির বিয়ে হলো, বিকেলে ডাগর বৌ নিয়ে গঙ্গার ধারে ঘুরতে যায় ভানী আর পাড়ায় লোকজন কানাঘুসো করে 'দেখো প্রায় এক বছর হয়ে গেলো ভানীর বিয়ে হয়েছে, এখনো বাচ্চা হলো না!' দু চারবার ভানীর কানেও গেছে কথাটা। তার মাস চারেক এর মধ্যেই পাড়ার লোক দেখলো যে ভানীর বৌ অন্তঃসত্ত্বা। সকলের মুখে চুন কালী দিয়ে ভূত চতুর্দশীর দিন ভানীর বৌয়ের ছেলে হলো। ভানী নাম রাখলো ভূতনাথ। ভূতনাথ পাড়ায় সকলেরই আদরের। এখানে বলে রাখা ভালো যে আমি যে সময়ের কথা বলছি তখন পাড়া বলতে যা বোঝাতো সেটা এখন অবলুপ্ত অশ্রায়। পাড়ায় তখন থাকতো বাড়ি, ফ্লাট নয়। খালি জমি দেখলে প্রমোটাররা ছীনে জোঁকের মতো জমির মালিকের বাড়ি রোজ রোজ আসতো না। পাড়ার রাস্তায় তখন বাচ্চারা ক্রিকেট খেলতো, বল দিয়ে লোকের বাড়ির জানালার কাছ ভাঙতো, কেউ কেউ বল দিতেন না, রাগাঙ্গী করতেন কিন্তু বাড়ির কাকিমা লুকিয়ে বল টা ফেরত দিয়ে দিতেন। পাড়ার কোনো ছেলেকে কোনো পাড়ার কাকু যদি দেখতেন দুস্টুমি করতে, মানে লুকিয়ে কেউ সিগারেট ফুকছে বা পাড়ার বাইরে কারো সাথে মারামারি করছে তাহলে কান মুলে দিতেন, কেউ কেউ কানের নিচে কষিয়ে চড় মারতেন, হির হির করে টানতে টানতে বাবা মার কাছে এনে নালিশ জানাতেন। বাবা মা বলতেন 'ঠিক করেছেন, আরো দু ঘা দিয়ে দিন'। পাড়ার কোনো ছেলে যদি খেলতে গিয়ে পরে মাথা ফাটাতো বা হাত পা ভাঙতো তাহলে সেই কাকুই কোলে করে ডাক্তারের বাড়ি নিয়ে যেতেন। মা বাবার জন্য অপেক্ষা করতেন না।

আমার মা আমাকে আদর করার ডাকতেন 'কচি ছেলে', ঠাকুমা নাম পাল্টে দিয়ে ডাকতেন 'কুঁচে', আমি হয়ে গেলাম পাড়ার কুঁচে। ভাগ্য ভালো আমার ব্যাঙ্ক একাউন্ট কুঁচে নামে খোলা হয়নি। বিজয়া দশমীর পর কার বাড়িতে ভালো নাড়ু হয়েছে বা কাদের বাড়ির ঘুগনীর টেস্ট ভালো, সে খবর ঠাকুর ভাসানের একটু পরেই রটে যেত আর আমরা দলবেঁধে সেই সব বাড়িতে হানা দিতাম। এই ছিল আমাদের পাড়া।

আমার সেজো মামার নাম সরোজ, ছগলি মহসিন কলেজে পড়াতেন, আমি ছোটবেলায় 'সেজো' বলতে পারতাম না, বলতাম 'ছেদো'।

সেজো মামা আমাদের বাড়িতে এলে ঠাকুমা ডাকতেন 'ছেদো এলি নাকি?' সেই থেকে সরোজ মামার নাম আমাদের বাড়িতে হয়ে গেলো ছেদো। মনে আছে একবার বাবার এক বন্ধু এসেছেন বাড়িতে, সেজো মামাও আছেন, বাবা পরিচয় করিয়ে দিচ্ছেন এই বলে যে এ আমার শ্যালক, ছেদো।

এবার ভূতনাথের কথায় আসি। ভূতনাথ যখন ছোট তখন কেউ ওর নাম জিজ্ঞাসা করলে ও 'ভূতনাথ' বলতে পারতো না, জিভের নিচে কোথাও যেন 'থ' আটকে যেত, বেরোতো শুধু 'ভূতনা', সেই থেকে ওর নাম হয়ে গেলো 'ভূতনা'। বড় হয়ে যাওয়ার পর ওকে কেউ নাম জিজ্ঞাসা করলে ও বলতো ভূতনা। ভূতনা আমার বন্ধু ছিল। এক ক্লাসে পড়তাম, এক সাথে ফুটবল খেলতাম, একসাথে চাকা চালাতাম।

একদিন ছেদো মামা আমাদের বাড়িতে এসেছেন । সারা বিকেল আর সন্ধ্যা জুড়ে বৃষ্টি হচ্ছে । আমরা গত দু দিন ধরে বাইরে গিয়ে খেলতে পারিনি। বন্ধুরা এ ওর বাড়ি গিয়ে একটু ইন্ডোর গেম খেলার চেষ্টা করছি, যেমন দিনের বেলা আমি গেছিলাম খোকনদের বাড়ি ক্যারাম খেলতে । বিকেলে বাবা বলেছেন যে বন্ধুরা আসলে লুডো খেলতে পারো কিছুক্ষন । সেই আশায় ভূতনা এসেছিলো আমাকে ডাকতে । আমি শুনতে পাইনি । ছেদো মামা দোতলার বারান্দায় দাঁড়িয়ে বাবা কে লুকিয়ে সিগারেট ফুকছিলেন । নিচে আমাদের বাড়ির বাইরে একটা লোহার গেট ছিল তার পাশে একটা বোগেনডিলিয়ার গাছ , গাছের আড়ালে গেটের কাছে কেউ এলে আলো অধারিতে তাকে ভালো দেখা যেত না । ভূতনা এসে আমার নাম ধরে ডেকেছিল । ছেদো মামা জিজ্ঞাসা করলেন

- কে রে ?

- আমি ভূতনা

- সে তো আমি দেখতেই পাচ্ছি , কিন্তু তোর নাম কি ?

- আমি ভূতনা

- আমি জানি তুই ভূত নোস্ , কিন্তু তুই কে, কি নাম তোর ?

- আমি তাই তো বলছি যে আমি ভূতনা ।

এবার ছেদো মামার ঠৈর্যচুতি হলো । বললেন

- দাঁড়া , দেখাচ্ছি মজা ।

বলে হনহন করে নিচে নামতে লাগলেন । মামার রাগ দেখে ভূতনা ততক্ষনে পালিয়েছে । নিচে গিয়ে ছেদো মামা কাউকে দেখতে পেলেন না । ওপরে এসে ঠাকুমার মুখোমুখি । ঠাকুমা জিজ্ঞাসা করলেন

- কি রে ছেদো , নিচে গেছিলি কেন ?

- আর বলবেন না কাকিমা, একটা ছোড়া আমাদের কুঁচেকে ডাকছিলো , আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করলাম কে তুই, কি নাম । বার বার শুধু আমাকে বলছে যে আমি ভূত নই। আমি যত বলি যে ঠিক আছে আমি বুঝতে পারছি যে তুই ভূত নোস, কিন্তু তোর নাম কি? আমার সাথে মক্কা করে বার বার বলছে যে আমি ভূতনা । তাই ওকে ধরতে গেছিলাম নিচে । গিয়ে কাউকে পেলাম না ।

ঠাকুমা বড় বড় চোখ করে ছেদো মামাকে ভয় দেখিয়ে বললেন

- ও যতই বলুক যে ভূতনা, আমার তো মনে হয় তুই ভূত দেখেছিস । বলে মুচকি হেসে চলে গেলেন

## Poila Baishakh 2019

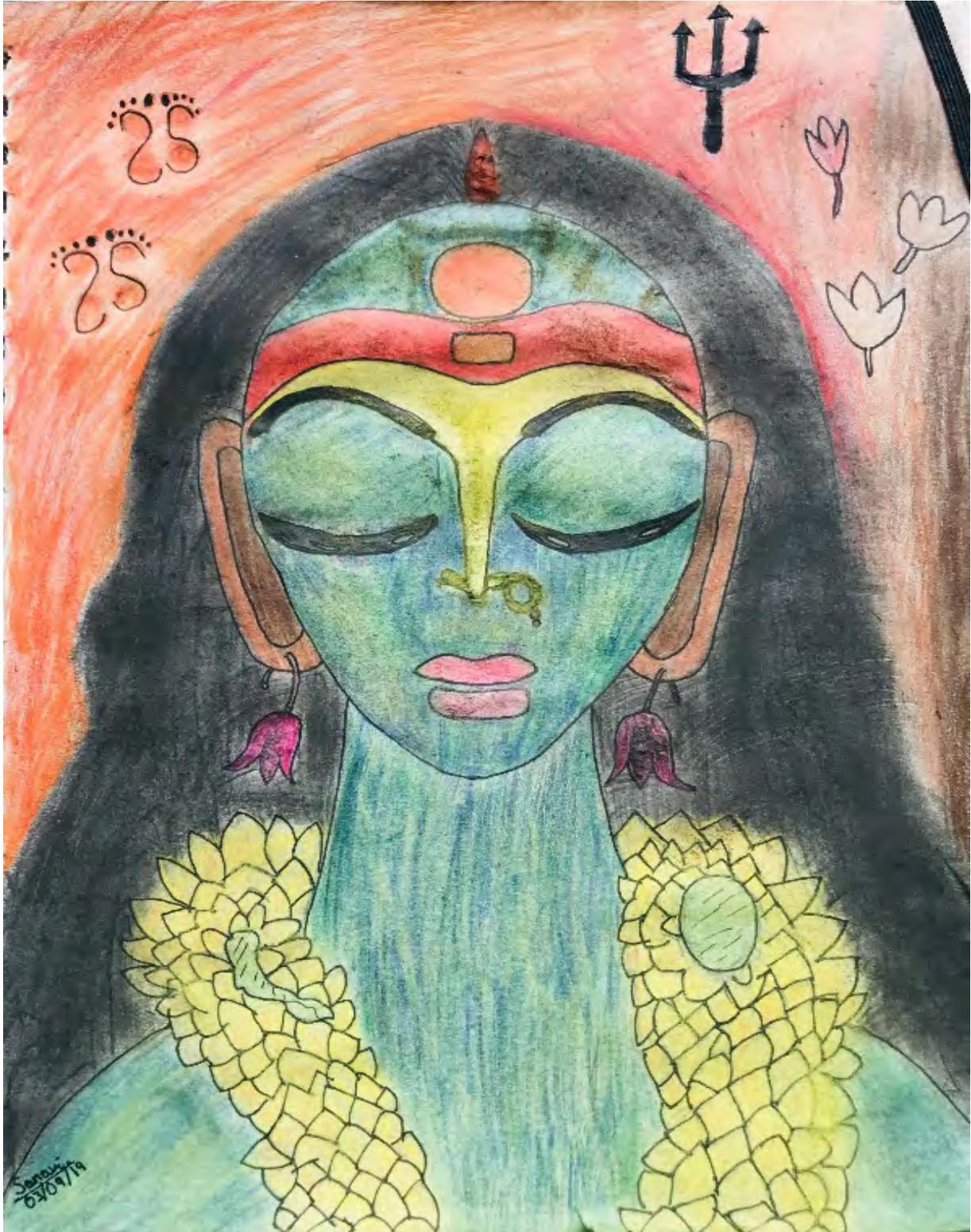




# Ma Durga

Sanavi Nishchal (Year 7)  
South Wilts Grammar School

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## Deception

Suhana Tiwari (Year 9)

Basingstoke

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“D – E – C – E – P – T – I – O – N, deception,” Mrs. Smith stood at the front of the class her beady eyes searching each and every student. “What is the meaning of this word, Nicholas?” The class turned as the 13-year-old slowly rose from his chair.

“Uh...” he stammered. The meaning of this word tore him apart as he relived the horrors it had caused. The meaning of this word lay in the relentless aching pain in his chest. His drooping face had forgotten ‘laughter’ and he could not remember trust. He had no one.

Abandoned at a young age, Nicholas had still been a rather happy child growing up; laughing, shouting and playing with other children. Those around him described him as ‘fun-loving, positive and a joy to be around’.

Back then, things were so different. At the age of seven, Nicholas’ adoptive parents decided to file for a divorce. The happy, carefree boy was no longer the center of their attention and he became isolated and depressed during the process. As the days became weeks and weeks became months, his adoptive parents no longer saw him in the way that they used to. To the both of them, Nicholas was an unnecessary reminder of their broken acrimonious divorce.

“Take him away! I never loved him!” His mother would scream.

“Don’t you dare flog him back onto me!” Shouted his father.

These were the conversations between his ‘parents’ now. Standing between them Nicholas would shut his eyes holding back the tears, wishing the ground would swallow him up.

“Nicholas, we have decided to send you to your Grandmother’s cottage for some time. At least until, um, we have sorted things out. This car will take you there.” they glanced around the room uneasily - avoiding eye contact.

When he heard the news, his mind throbbed. Were they sending him away? When would he return? Packing his things and walking down the paved driveway, Nicholas stepped into the black cab, not saying a word. The engine started and the car began rolling. The hours began to blur and the car was showing no signs of ending the journey. Nicholas, slumped in his seat wondered what lay ahead...

The final destination was a childcare center. Social workers approached him, with a sadness in their eyes.

“Nicholas, your parents no longer wish to care for you. You shall become a part of a different family now.” The social worker said in a calm, blunt voice.

Nicholas’ head spun and he felt his body give way. All strength drained out of his body, he could not bear to think about the future. They had deceived him. The people who were the first to show him any love had lied: they hated him. Following that day, Nicholas travelled around the country to numerous families, trying to feel accepted and wholesome yet again. However, a part of him was lost - he had lost the ability to trust.

Currently, he was beginning to settle down and overcome the deception which he had faced. Yet, reminders like these pushed him back and rubbed salt in his wounds. In his heart Nicholas knew that he would never be the same.

“Don’t keep me waiting Nicholas, I hate waiting” Miss Smith said sternly with an edge of annoyance in her sharp voice.



“The meaning of deception is,” sighing deeply, Nicholas blocked his painful past, “the action of deceiving or lying to someone.”

“Good,” she replied instantly, “sit down.”

Funny, isn't it? Good would be the exact antonym of the word Nicholas would have chosen.

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## **My memorable Christmas Day**

Kousani Deb (Age: 12 years)

Budge Budge, West Bengal, India

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On Christmas, parents give their children many gifts but the children think that all of the gifts are presented by Father Christmas. On every Christmas, my parents give me many gifts like chocolates, toys etc. I also visit the local church with my parents.

Two years ago, I went to Bandel church to see the Christmas ceremony. This year, my Christmas was so unique because we went to Shantiniketan. On the morning of 24<sup>th</sup> December, we went to Viswabharati. There, we saw the houses of Amartyo Sen, Nandolal Basu and Sunil Ganguly. On that evening, me and my parents visited the

Poush mela. There were many shops and lot of people in the fair. We also listened to Baul (folk) song on that evening.

On Christmas morning, when I woke up, I thought that like every year we will go to church to celebrate Christmas. But this year, it didn't happen. I was upset due to this. But, in the afternoon, my father took me to the Viswavarati again. We reached in front of the prayer hall. This was made by lovely colourful glass. That's why many people call it as 'Glass House'. I saw that there were already many people sitting in the balcony of the prayer hall. Many people had not got seats, so they stood in the garden around the prayer hall. Though, there were many people in the hall but there was an absolute silence and it was very peaceful. The outside of the glasshouse was decorated by many candles. Inside the glasshouse, there was a beautiful chandelier (Jharbati) hanging over our head and the floor was decorated by wonderful paintings. On the middle of the floor, University students were seated wearing white clothes. The cameramen were taking photos of the programme. The ceremony started at 5.30 p.m. First, an introductory speech was given to describe why Rabindranath Tagore started to celebrate Christmas in Viswabharati. The university students sang the Christmas songs in English and Bengali both. All of the songs were written by Kabiguru Rabindranath. When 'Ekdin jara merechilo tare giye' was sang, I could feel the excitement. This was an hour-long ceremony and I was so amazed and delighted that I got the chance to attend. At the end, many people took candles and walked to 'Chatim tola' singing 'Aguner porash moni'. We accompanied them. Then they put their candles under the chatim tree. I had never seen such a wonderful Christmas ceremony before and I would be very lucky if I get the opportunity to visit this again



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## Five days stay with the little Mermaid

Toshani Maharatna (13 years)



Just before the May half-term one evening dad came back home and asked, “How would you feel to spend a few days with the little Mermaid?”

I was not sure what he was talking about and so asked, “Which little Mermaid?” He smiled and said, “The famous little Mermaid of Hans Christian Andersen”. I said, “But that is in Copenhagen, Denmark!” Then I realised what he meant and jumped up, “You mean we will go there this half-term?” He said, “Exactly that’s where we will be going”. I felt over the moon and started dreaming about the trip right from that day.

We started on the morning of Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May and our plan was to stay there for total five days. We took an EasyJet flight from London Gatwick Airport and it took about 1 hr and 30 min to reach to Copenhagen and so we reached there during afternoon. The Copenhagen airport is a small one but nicely organised. Once we came out of the airport we realised that the weather was windy and very cold although the Sun was shining brightly. But we never thought about such cold wind and so did not have enough warm cloths to protect us. But we were very excited to see the new country. So, we took a taxi and went to Tivoli Hotel where my dad booked us in.

After a little rest, we went out on foot to see the surrounding areas despite walking through the cold wind. The famous amusement park – Tivoli Gardens was just around the corner. Opposite to that was the main train station. We took a stroll along the road and experienced the beauty of the city full of tourists from different countries. One thing surprised me that there was very little number of cars on the road compared to British cities! On the other hand, loads of people were using bicycles – actually it seemed that bicycles are the main transports for the people. Then I realised this is the “green city culture” of Copenhagen. The Danish people have long tradition of cycling and they are very used to use bicycles for their regular transport. Therefore, they don’t need that many cars on the road, which means less environmental pollution! This was an interesting insight for me which I never thought about. The next day we took a city tour on hop-in hop-off bus and we went to see the statue of the Little Mermaid. It is on the bank of a channel connecting inside of Copenhagen to the Baltic Sea. The bus gave a stop there for quite some time so that we can take our time to take photos. Actually, the little mermaid is not as big as I thought, it is a small statue, but was pretty impressive. From there we went to see the other city monuments from outside like the Rosenborg Castle, Amalienborg Palace, the Nyhavn (the pronunciation is like “Newhaun”) – which was the main harbour of Copenhagen. The interesting thing about Nyhavn is that on the both sides of the harbour there are different coloured houses and they are more like terraced houses. The colours actually served as address of a house – I found this an interesting concept. Also, I saw the house where Hans Christian Andersen used to live. This area was full of restaurants, mainly Danish and Italian although there are odd Chinese restaurants. From there we went to a place which in general cannot be considered as a tourist place. My dad took us to the place called Niels Bohr Institute which was the workplace of one of the greatest scientists ever - Niels Bohr, who made the atomic model. We were given a tour by Dr. Chritian Joas, the director of Niels Bohr archive who showed us the room of Niels Bohr and the auditorium where all the famous Physicists came together to discuss big problems of Physics in 1930. I was so excited to see that place!! It was filled with pictures of the greatest scientists of all time. From there we made our way back to our hotel through the beautiful botanical garden of Copenhagen.

Next day we visited Rosenborg Castle and Amalienborg palace. We started with Amalienborg palace which is the home of Royal Danish family. It is a very big palace – on the left wing of that lives the reigning Danish Queen Her Majesty Margrethe II and on the right wing lives the Prince Frederik with his family. The architecture of the palace was really impressive. Right in front of the palace one can see the beautiful Danish opera house on the other side of the harbour. From there we went to Rosenborg castle which was used by Danish regents until 1710. Christian V had the hall partly modernised with twelve tapestries depicting the king's scanian war. The good thing of Rosenborg Castle is that it has a Royal museum. It's a grand exhibition of Royal wealth – like gold thrones, royal dresses and furniture, arms etc. But I was very impressed to see the library there. It seems that the Kings and Queens of Denmark used to do lots of reading! The castle garden was another beautiful thing to see. From there we went to Stroget at the centre of old Copenhagen – one of the longest pedestrian shopping street in Europe. This is a huge area full of shops and traditional Scandinavian cafes. We went to Café Norden, right at the centre of Stroget to taste delicious Danish cakes. They taste so different from British cakes.

Next day we planned a trip to Sweden. Actually, Sweden is separated from Denmark by the Oresund strait. The first Swedish city going from Copenhagen is Malmo. We took a train from Copenhagen central station and went over the very long Oresund bridge. It is the longest combined rail and road bridge in Europe. Malmo doesn't have any special thing, it just looked like another city. So, we took a train from Malmo to Lund. Lund is a university town which is small but beautiful. It has a nice cathedral. The roads of Lund are very much medieval time road. I really like that town. From there we took another train to reach Helsingborg. It was a short journey really. This was a nice city and has direct ferry connection over the narrowest part of Oresund strait to Danish town Helsingor. The ferries are really big and very comfortable. The view of Oresund strait is so beautiful I cannot describe it by word. The big attraction of Helsingor is the Kronborg castle – the castle of Hamlet, the Prince of Denmark in Shakespeare's drama Hamlet. At that time, we were practicing Hamlet at school in our drama class and so I got overly excited when I saw that castle. It is surrounded by dark blue water and looks very impressive from distance. From Helsingor, we returned to Copenhagen by train.

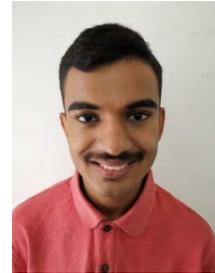
Next day we went to Roskilde by train. Roskilde was the former capital of Denmark and it was the main place of the Vikings. The biggest attraction there is the Viking ship museum. All of the reconstructed boats that were salvaged from their drowned state are on exhibition there. You can put on a real Viking dress there and get on a real Viking boat. I wore blue colour Viking dress with polka dots and I wore a Viking helmet. While on the boat, artificial sound and lighting recreating different types of sea weather made me feel like sailing in the sea in severe storm, tranquil night, early morning and under bright Sun. I actually felt like a real Viking! I realised how tough the lives of the Vikings were. It worth visiting the place. On our way back from Roskilde we went to Nyhavn again and had a very exciting canal trip around Copenhagen. The whole route was full of very low bridges and every time the boat approached a bridge we had to lower our heads. It was a great fun. But it was already evening and the wind was really chilli. However, I would always recommend that boat trip. On the last day, we went to Stroget again and spent some time there, relaxing with delicious Danish foods and checking the traditional Danish things in the shops. At the centre of Stroget a band was playing Danish music and people were singing and dancing together. I also took part in dancing. It was a great atmosphere. However, our time to go to the airport was nearing and so we had to bid farewell to the beautiful city Copenhagen and the little Mermaid.

## My Holiday in Bangladesh - 2019

Koushik Acharyya (16 years) Totton College

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In the last summer, we went for a holiday in Bangladesh. On 13th July 2019, we left Southampton to Bangladesh by Emirates Airlines. First, we took National Express coach to London Heathrow Terminal 3. On 14th July 2019. On our way, we took a break in Dubai and visited several places, for example, Dubai Shopping Mall, Burj Khalifa, and sea beaches. We took breakfast and lunch in a Dubai restaurant. We came back to Dubai Airport in the afternoon and boarded in a plane to Dhaka. We reached Dhaka on 14<sup>th</sup> July at 11.30 pm by Emirates. We stayed at grandma and



grandad's house in Green Road Jannah Gardens located in Dhaka. During our holiday, we did many things. On 18th July 2019, we went to watch Spiderman movie in local cinema hall. On 20th July 2019, we went to daddy's house to visit my grandma and granddads. On 22<sup>nd</sup> of July, we went to watch Toy Story 4 in Star Cinema at Bashundhara

City. On 27<sup>th</sup> July, we went to watch another movie Lion King. These movies are very interesting and I recommend all kids to watch them. We also went to watch a live theatre at Bangladesh Mahila Samity.

On 1st August 2019, we attended a post wedding reception party of my elder sister Puja Acharjee, who recently married Ripon Chakraborty. It was a very exciting event and many of our relatives and family friends attend the party. In Dhaka, we mainly used Uber for our travel.

We also visited many relatives and friends' houses including two wedding dinners during our tour in Bangladesh. Many delicious dishes were served wherever we went, both in houses and restaurants. Specially, I liked deliciously cooked hilsa fish curry.



It was rainy season in Bangladesh. The weather was a mix of wet and dry. However, it was very hot and temperature was over 35 degrees centigrade at all time. It was always sweating and I felt very uncomfortable.

There were lots of mosquitos in Bangladesh and many people suffered from dengue fever caused by mosquito bites. I had experienced many mosquito bites but luckily survived from deadly dengue fever.

Unfortunately, our holiday in Bangladesh did not end up quite well. My dad suffered from a heart attack on 5<sup>th</sup> August and hospitalised for treatment. We left Bangladesh to London via Dubai on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2019. My dad delayed the return journey due to his illness.

## Let Me Judge!

Vivek Bhadra  
Embed Logic Limited

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I was born to judge. But I have friends and families who are better judges. Yesterday I was chit-chatting with a group of people who were discussing different set of other people. There is this guy, Ramiz, he doesn't talk much – all he says is a "hmm". People were rolling on the floor laughing how silly he is, just "hm", "ha ha ha, ho ho ho", so very funny. There is another guy who is a chatterbox. People were all bursting out laughing, he shoots from the hip, "ha ha ha, ho ho ho", so funny. There is also this guy who is a "diplomat" and people are sick of his diplomacy, "never takes any stand", that's his big problem? "Yes. *If someone can hide so much inside then he must be calculating all the time*", "veeery shrewd", "veeery political", "always sitting on the fence", "absolutely spineless". Yes, you heard it right, someone's diplomatic behaviour has to necessarily do with his machismo. But then there is another guy who is very candid. "How can he say something like that?", "so rude!". Yes, he is rude, someone is spineless, the other one is too quiet, someone else is a chatterbox – endless tagging and stereotyping.

Long ago, there was a maid in my aunt's house, "Malati". One day my aunt lost her necklace. She looked everywhere but with no luck. Then suddenly she screamed, "I know where it is," I said "where?" She gave me the most curious look of all, like she has been struck by some divine light from the sky, her eyes glowed like "Byomkesh Bakshi" and said "Malati", I said "Malati what?" She said, "she took it". I was shocked at Malati's unfaithful behaviour. I was upset but curious, so asked "did you see her stealing it?". She said "No, I know it". Ah, you see, it is her considered view on the subject. I tried going to the bottom of it and asked, "how come you be so sure?" She said, "You don't know these people". Yes, that is perhaps one of the most cliched expressions of Indian elders which is also an indicator of their perceived wisdom, "you don't know". How do they know? They were born before us and their elders told them "You don't know!". Generation after generation this profound piece of wisdom has been propagating. Every new generation has always remained as clueless as their ancestors about the exact nature of it. But they did not forget to pass it on to their successors with the same alacrity and pride. Anyway, coming back to the story, couple of days later my aunt's necklace was found behind the corner sofa. When she told me about it, I gave her a look and her response was "if she didn't take it, how did it get there? Does it have legs?" I was like "No it doesn't ... but does that ..." but was interrupted by "You don't know". It is not just my aunt this is rather epidemic. And if you are not convinced by what I am saying my obvious defence will be, "You don't know".

My son the other day insisted on having a burger. I said "no". He said "why?" I said, "burgers are bad". Then he insisted to have cold drinks. I said "no". He said "why?", I said "bad". He said, "but you had cold drinks last-night". I said, "adults can have it". He said "but ...", I said "no more arguments", he said "why?", I said, "arguing with your elders is bad!". And he stopped. Obviously, he could see the point, that there is no point. My inherited wisdom "things are just bad" paid off once again.

People will constantly be judgemental but incessantly preach about how bad it is to be "judgemental". You will often see people taking part in debates and arguing how society

should not be judgemental about, such as, “girls”, what they wear, what they talk, what they listen to, or where they go. And then in the next moment someone amongst them would be like, *"You know they bought a new car because we bought a new car, so jealous"*, and I am like, *"Wait a second, they bought a new car maybe because they wanted a new car and maybe it's completely coincidental, how do you...?"* and then *"You don't know"* were hurled at me. Society is abstract, I cannot see or talk to it. But I can see the people who are living in the society and invariably what they are doing is passing their loaded judgements on everything all the time.

World's latest judgement point is FaceBook. Well-educated, responsible citizens are carefully observing Facebook activities of others to make up their minds about others. I keep on hearing discussions about how other people are mean and jealous because they didn't like someone's holiday pictures. These kind of snap judgements are bad because: (A) maybe everyone else do not take FaceBook as seriously as others or (B) maybe they don't like pressing the *like* button as often or (C) maybe they didn't genuinely like someone's pictures or (D) maybe they are fed up with someone's incessant posts. How any of these make them mean or jealous. At this point, suddenly, an advertisement pops up on your FB page *"Are you depressed from peer pressure? Do you want a new car or holiday in Paris?"*. Don't click it, because what if after coming back from Paris people do not like your posts? You will be depressed again, so what's the point?

We are constantly judging things around and sometimes conscientiously or subconsciously we start believing in our own biased judgements. In a start-up company in India once an HR lady said, *"People who talk more are more intelligent than others. They can think more and hence talk more"*. I am not entirely sure how much research has gone into it but she said it with utmost conviction, almost as if Philip Kotler himself whispered those golden words into her ears. This is when being judgemental turns dangerous. When you start to institutionalise your biased judgement and start believing in it, you actually affect others' lives in a negative way. That HR woman's thinking will potentially affect the future of a potential good but introvert candidate when she will be out there for hiring. Ok enough, now stop judging me!

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### **Poila Baishakh 2019**



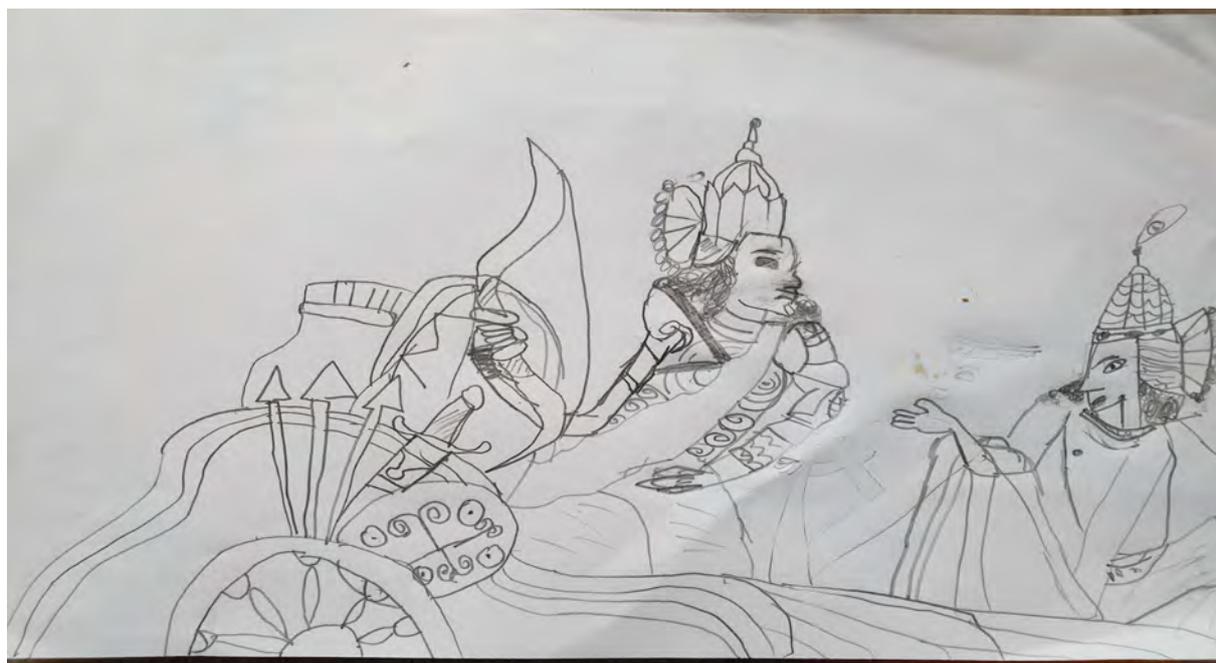
## The Mahabharata - The greatest epic of them all

Vihaan Bhadra (Year 5)  
Portswood Primary School

Recently I read a book called the Mahabharata by Namita Gokhale. Maha means great and bhārata means India so Mahabharata means a story about great India. The Mahabharata is about the great war between the Pandavas and the Kauravas. This is a metaphorical war between truth (Dharma) and evil (Adharma). The Pandavas stand for Dharma, the Kauravas stand for Adharma. The Pandavas are brothers of 5 and the Kauravas are of 100. So, readers who haven't read the Mahabharata are probably thinking the Kauravas have already won but that's not it. The Pandavas were born of gods. Yudhishtira was born of Dharma, Arjuna of Indra, Bhima of Vayu, Nakula and Sahadeva of the Ashwins . Karna was not actually a Kaurava. Kunti (Mother of the Pandavas) abandoned him at birth as she was a teenager so Karna was actually the oldest Pandava. Karna was born of the sun god Surya. Karna represents kindness and the art of giving. He gave away his Kavach - the thing that made him invincible. I am unsure who is my favourite character in the Mahabharata. It is either Karna, Bhima or Arjuna. Arjuna is the best at archery. Bhima is super strong. Karna symbolises kindness.



The great war broke out because Duryodhana didn't want to give away the throne to Yudhishtira. Arjuna wasn't ready to fight the war as he didn't want to fight his relatives. Then Sri Krishna explained how the soul lives on beyond death. And it is our duty to establish the truth over evil. His words became the heart of the Mahabharata - the Gita. I think the Mahabharata is a great epic and everyone should read it once in their lifetime. If I gave the Mahabharata a star rating I would give it a 10/10 as it is a great exciting story and a great learning for everyone.



**Arjuna and Krishna**

# My Super Awesome Trip to SCOTLAND!!!

Ridhit Nyle Barua (Year 4)

Portswood Primary School



During the summer holidays, me along with my parents and sister, went to Edinburgh, Scotland. We started our journey on 18<sup>th</sup> August. It was so rainy and windy but all of us were so excited about our trip, so the bad weather could not make us gloomy. From Southampton Airport to London Waterloo by train and the next train from London King Cross to Edinburgh. The later journey was around 5 hours long but we enjoyed the journey with the scenic view from the train and playing on my I Pad.

After reaching Edinburgh, we were overwhelmed with the beauty of the city, as there were lots of tourists roaming everywhere for Fringe festival.



Fringe is the Edinburgh festival where there were so many street events full of incredible acts from a diverse range of world-class entertainers. Not only that but also while we were looking for our apartment, we passed so many ancient buildings which were so attractive and also saw tram going across the city. Finally, we found our apartment which was at the centre of the city and the roads around the apartment were so vibrant that at night also people were enjoying the street shows and having foods.



The next day we went for Hop on Hop off sightseeing bus tours. From the bus, we saw the amazing buildings, historic Edinburgh castle, National



Museum of Scotland and divine statues of famous persons of Scotland. There were guides and live commentary in Edinburgh company sightseeing buses where they were describing the incredible facts about the city. City Sightseeing company buses have recorded commentary in 9 different languages, which was awesome and very informative.



Camera Obscura and World of illusions was one of absolute favorite place we visited in Scotland. There were six floors with astonishing unusual attractions on each. It's a tremendous place with interactive exhibits that demonstrate aspects of optical illusions, light, colour and with loads of fun associated with puzzles, mirror maze and a vortex tunnel. Our whole family had a great time over there.



Another interesting place was the Dynamic earth that just beside the Scottish parliament. It was a fun tour through the history of the planet with some great hands-on exhibits especially the time machine and volcano eruption below my feet.

Three bridges tour was also a remarkable experience which starting with the bus in the heart of Edinburgh for a tour to Queen ferry and then followed by a relaxing cruise on the Firth of Forth. It was a unique boat trip with the stunning view of three bridges along with iconic forth bridge.



Before the last day of our tour, we visited one of the historical Highland of Scotland, Loch Ness. I felt sick during the journey as the road was so spiral but the way was full of marvelous scenic view along with spectacular waterfalls. After the bus tour, there was a fantastic cruise on famous loch where we went to look for the mysterious Loch Ness Monster.



It was such a wonderful experience and I loved to go back to Edinburgh again to explore some more mystery and fun.

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### **Poila Baishakh 2019 (Rikta Mukherjee – Singer)**





## Painting by Arnav Karode

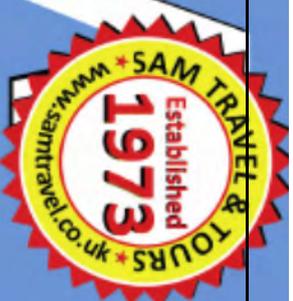
(Age: 13 years)

Bishop Wordsworth School

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## Durga Puja 2018



# Durga Puja 2018



Durga Puja 2018



## Durga Puja 2018



# Namanjur

Kabita Majumdar  
Jamaldaha, India



## নামঞ্জুর

কবিতা মজুমদার  
নামঞ্জুর  
জামালদাহ  
পশ্চিমবঙ্গ

কোন ব্যাপারে সিদ্ধান্ত নিতে মুগ্ধ হয়েছেন সে। এবারও সিদ্ধান্তটা নিয়েই মিন কনক। তার এক বছরে সাধন-প্রচেষ্টা কিশোর পৈতৃক বসতিতে শুধুমাত্র অভিমত করে তাদের দ্বারা বিক্রি করে দিয়ে দু বছরের একটি ছাত্রটি চলে এল। অত্যন্ত অসম্মানের শোখা ছেলের মধ্য-মমতা ত্যাগ করে প্রতিবেশীদের সম্প্রদায় করে নিল। আত্মীয় পরিজনরা শুনে হোঁ আতঙ্কিত হয়ে গেল। কারণ এ বিষয়ে একটি বছরে অন্যতম কোন আলোচনার পরেই হঠাৎমি সে।

সরকারি-স্কুলে চাপুরিতা কনক নিজের বাবা মমের একমাত্র সন্তান। অনেক সন্তানের ফল বলে নাম তার সন্তান। ভাল নাম কনকনতা। ছোটবেলা থেকেই বড় বেশি অধিকারী আর বেশি প্রকৃতির মেয়ে সে। বড় ছেলের তার এতটুকু পরিচরিত হয়নি। এই সুন্দরী শিক্ষিতা মেয়েটির অন্য সুন্দরের লাইন লেগে গিয়েছিল। কিছু আনন্দের মুহুর্তকে নিজের শিক্ষিতের বাসনে হোঁ মুগ্ধের কথা। পূর্ব পক্ষের সমসেই আনন্দের পরনে মি বাবা-মা।এর কারণ আনন্দের হাফতো প্রচুর মুগ্ধে কুণ্ডল এটাইছিল সে।

অবিবাহিতা কনক কাটিকে কিছু না জানিয়ে দুটি সন্তান এক সাথে দরক নিয়েছিল। মিন-ব্রাত এক করে সমস্তে বড় করে তুলেছে তাদের। দুটিকে ভাল স্কুলে পড়িয়েছে। কোন ব্যাপারে এতটুকু কার্পনা করেনি। বুক নিয়ে আগলে রেখেছে তাদের। সন্তানরাও ম আশ্বস্তে, ভাগ্য ভাল কনকের হাতেকোজরের পরেই আশান্তিত ভাল চাকরী পেয়ে গেল সুন্দরী, আর সেই সুবাসে দুই মেসে পড়ি নিতে ছল মুগ্ধকেই। অবশ্য বুক সতপাতক খুঁড়িয়ে নিতে পেরি করেনি কনক। সন্তানরা বরবরই মাকে পাশে পেতে চেয়েছে। স্টাী আর হান্দা, নিজের চাকরির কারণেই এখনকার পাট চুকিয়ে ছুটী-ভাবে সেখানে চলে যেতে পারেনি সে।

সব কিছু টিক-ঠাকই চেষ্টাছিল। হঠাৎ কোথা গিয়ে গিয়ে হয়ে গেল। সা ভেনে ফেলল কলে গেল। এই কলটা ভীখনই অধিকৃত হেলে মিন কনক কে। সে বেশ বুদ্ধিতে পালন এর মুগ্ধ হায়েই সন্তানদের পুষ্টির বসতি। তার কোন ভেনে কনক কে সহাই করতে পারছিলেন না। কনকের চানল কান্দ, সার-পেশাব, কাছ-কর্ম সব কিছুকেই বীকা চেষ্টে পেতে শুরু করেছিলেন। যা সহ্য করা অসম্ভব হয়ে পড়েছিল। শুরুতে ব্যাপারটা সাময়িক মনে করে সব কিছু উপেক্ষা করে হাতকিক ধকার চেষ্টা করেছিল কনক কিছু সেরেই কাল হয়েছিল। এটিকে কনকের অজ্ঞেয় উদ্ভাভ হয়ে নিতে তাকে প্রচারণান করে তার সাথে দুর্বল তৈরি করেছিলেন ওবা। কলে দুটি সংসারেই চানল অশান্তি বাসা হৈছিল।

সন্তানদের মুগ্ধের নিতে চাইতে পারছিল না কনক, তাদের ব্যাধি অসহায় মনে হত। বেশ মেসে দুটো পরিবারের মমতের কথা মেয়ে নিজেকে খনিকটা গুটিয়ে নিয়েছিল সে। কীখনে প্রশ্ন মনের মিত থেকে বেশ খনিকটা রেখে পালন কনক। কাজের সময় ছাড়া, বাকি সময়টুকু নিজেকে ঘরবন্দি করে রাখতে শুরু করল।

নতি নাতনিসের পরচানল চাল বেচোই চলেছে ফলে ছেলে মেয়ের আশ-বাচনও কমতে শুরু করেছে। তবে ফেনালপের খামতি ছিল না। নিজের সুখ-দুখ নিয়ে কখনো কারো কাছে মুগ্ধ খেয়েনা কনক। কীখনে নিশ্চিন করার মত কাটিকেই পক্ষে পায়নি সে। সহকর্মী আত্মীয় পরিজন টারমিন তাকে হিংসেই করে এয়েছে। বসিক কনকের মনে হা হিংসে করার মত তেমন কিছুই নেই তার। কিছু সতি কি তাই? এই বসেও বস তাকে ছুঁতে পারেনি। এই সৌন্দর্য, প্রকৃৎ, তার অসুন্দিক বাস বাসন, ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদের অশাল প্রশ্ন, জলেলালা। সবইতো ঈশুর তাকে হেলে নিয়েছেন। তার ওপর নিতে না করতে ইঁহের টুকরো দুটো সন্তান যা এ অরট্টা করে। ভাগ্যেই সোচেনি।তার সাথে হেলে কলা পূর্ন করেছে তার সুমিটী সোচনী প্রটী নতি নাতনি। দরখের বিষয় এ সবে বিনিময়ে ভগবান কি তার সব সুখ-শক্তি মহাবল কেতে বিখনা।

সন্তানদের ফেনালপ কমতে শুরু করেছে। যদের নিতে তার ছাত্র পেলে। তাদের কাছে সে অকর্ষী, যাদের থেকে নিজেকে বিখির ভাবলে তার অম্বরভ্য বেঁপে ওঠে। সেরেই কি হতে চলেছে? তিল তিল করে গড়ে গেল ব্যাপারি রেতে নিতে মনের সঙ্গে অবিয়র বুদ্ধ চলেছে। এরি মতো তার চাকরি কীখন শেল হয়ে গেল।

আজকাল সন্তানদের ফেন না পেলেও কনক আর আগের মত ফেন করে বৌলকোত তলব করেন, ছোচলি অ্যাপে-এ বার্তা পড়ায় না বার নিমের পর মিন ফেন হতে উন্দরী হতে প্রতীক্ষা করে থাকে। অবশ্য কীখন তার কাছে বিবতুল্য লাগছে। কোন কাজে মন বসেনা,টেলিভিশন, ট্রেনিফোন কিছুই তাকে আর আকর্ষন করে না। সারাক্ষন একটা বেগা ট্রেপার মতো গোপনচারিতর মত মিন কাটছে তার। এই বেখা নির্বাসন তাকে অনেক প্রচুর মুগ্ধকুটী পীত করিয়ে নিলে। সম্প্রতি গুপ্তচলে তাকে কুঁতে কুঁতে থাকে। তার আকলের এই পরিবৃতির জন্য কে দায়ী? কলা তার কীখনের সব আসে এক কু-এ নিখিয়ে নিতে ঘন আকলের নিতাল কীখনে গৈলে মিল? এবেক উত্তরই এখন কুঁতে চলেছে সে।

এমস হতে চানল কনকের সাথে সন্তানদের ফেন যোগাযোগ হয়নি। না ফেনে ফেন না কোন মেসেও, ভেনে মেসেও কনকেরও। সেও আর নিতে থেকে ফেল করবেনা, এবার একটা হেগেনের হয়ে থাক।

ছেলের এক বন্ধু সাগর মাঝে মাঝেই আসে এখানে। ও নিজে থেকেই জানান সব টিকটাক আছে। তার সাথে নিয়মিত যোগাযোগ হয়। নিশ্চয়ই সাগরের সব কথা শুনে গেল কনক। কোন প্রশ্ন করল না। নিজের হাতে যা ভালবাসার পরিবেশন করল। দুপুরে না খাইয়ে ছাড়ল না। স্বাভাবিক কনক আরো জানতে পারল। তার সন্তানরা নাকি তাকেই কাঠখড়ার তুলেছে। সে নাকি সন্তানদের কোন খেঁজ-খবর নেয়না। এমন কি নিজের ফোনসিও সুইচ অফ করে রাখে।

এ ঘটনার পর কনকের বাবুজিরে আমূল পরিবর্তন এল। অনেক কিছু পাশে গেল। আরো বেশি চুপচাপ হয়ে গেল সে। বাবুজিরে ঘর না। নিজা নুতন ডিনিস কিনে আসে না। প্রতিবেশীর বাড়ির নিয়ন্ত্রণ রক্ষা করে না, ভাল-মন্দ রায় করে না, তার খাওয়া-পাওয়ায় রুচি নেই। বই পড়ার মন নেই। এমনকি বাবুজিরে কাগজও দেখে না। দিনের মধ্যে অনেকবার অংশে মত শেখাও ও পড়ায় না। তার বত কাগজেটিক, পরফিটম সব ফোনে লেখানে পাড়লটি যায়। কাজের মেয়ে লক্ষী অবাধ হয়ে চেয়ে চেয়ে দেখে। কিছু জিজ্ঞেস করলে টেবিলের কোনে স্থানহাসি ফুটিয়ে তোলে। লক্ষীর এসব মেটেই ভাল ঠেকবে না। কেন সে ঐ বিশাল বাড়ি ছেড়ে এই ছোট্ট ফ্ল্যাটে চলে এল তার বিপুল-বিসর্গও জানে না সে। মিনিসপন্ন বেশির ভাগই মান-খান করে নিচ্ছে। লক্ষীর মনেও শক্তি নেই। একে তো তার আপন বলতে কেউ নেই। বিয়ে হয়েছিল বর শুকে ছেড়ে চলে গেছে। এক মাসি ছিলেন তিনিও খেঁজ লেননা। কনক কেই সে আপন করে নিচ্ছে। সেই কনকের এমন নির্বাক ভাব পতিক তার মনে তারের সন্ধার করেছে। সে সারাফান ছায়ার মত কনকের সাথে লেপেট থাকতে চাইছে, কিছু নানান করে কনক তাকে এনিক সেনিক পড়াতে লাগল। লক্ষীকে অবাধ করে নিয়ে নিজের পাশ বই থেকে দু লক্ষ টাকা লক্ষীর পাশ বইতে জমা করে নিয়ে কনক তেমন মরকার না পড়লে টাকাটা তুলিস না। সুসে সুসে বাড়বে। নিজের হাতের দু-গাছ সোনার চুড়ি লক্ষীর হাতে তুলে নিয়ে কনক। হাতিয়ে ফেলিস না ফেন। চোখ কপালে তুলে লক্ষী বলল এসব কি করছ? কেন করছ তুমি? আমি কিছুই বুঝতে পারছি না। আমার কিছু লাগবেন শুধু তোমার সাথে থাকতে চাই।

সেনিন সকাল থেকে কনক কে একদম অন্তরকম লাগছে।লক্ষীকে সঙ্গে নিয়ে সুন্দর করে ঘর পেছাল। দুজনে মিলে পলে পলে অনেক রান্না করল। অনেকক্ষন ধরে স্থান করল সে। ঠাকুর ঘরেও অনেকটা সময় কাটল। ঘোড়শোপডরে পুরো মিল। কুপের গছে ম ম করছে ঠাকুর ঘর। সিয়েরে সামনে গানধু কনক। একটু পরেই নিজের ঘরে নিয়ে মরকার কিলসিয়ে সোফার বসে কি ফেন ভাবছে সে। সেখানে উঠানে ছেলে-মেয়ের ফটোর সিকে এক পুট্টী চেয়ে আছে। মরকার আশ্বত করে লক্ষী একে খাওয়ায় অন্য পিতাপিড়ি করতে লাগল। কোন উত্তর মিলল কনক। তার পেয়ে কারা-কটি শুক করে মিল লক্ষী। মরকার খুলে বেরিয়ে এল কনক। লক্ষীকে আসার করে বলল কেন ছেলে মনুনি করহিন? বনেছিতো পরে খাব। তুই চেয়ে নে। তোর খাবার বেতে রেখেছি। এই বলে মরকার মিল মিল সে।

এমন সময় তোর বেলা বেগে উঠল, মরকার খুলে স্বস্থির নিশ্চয় ফেলল লক্ষী, হস্তমস্ত হয়ে সকলে করে চুকল, কনকের ঘরে মরকার কাছে এসে সকলে সমধরে প্রবল উৎকর্ষয় প্রাপণে ডাকতে লাগল। ঘরের ভিতরে বিখ্যে হস্তবাক কনক। সে যে কম্পনাও করেনি এতদিন পরে আধকের দিনেই ওরা সব চলে আসবে। তবুও চুপই ছিল কনক কিছু নাকি নাওনিরা কনক বলল লিনা আমদের খুব খিমে পেয়েছে। বেতে নাও ঠান্ডা। সঙ্গে সঙ্গে মরকার খুলে বেরিয়ে এল কনক। ছেলে-মেয়ে লের সিকে চেয়ে শিউরে উঠল। প্রশ্ন করতেই মেয়ে বলল সে অনেক কথা মা- তোমার আশীর্বাদে প্রানে বৈচেছি কিছু তুমি একি চেহার করেছ মা। মাপুর বাড়িটা বিক্রি করে উকটা। আমার আর মামার অ্যাকটিংটে বেশে নিয়োছ। এখন আমার সবই কোথায় থাকব মা? লক্ষী বলল তোমাদের কথা ভেবে সোতনায় এই ফ্ল্যাটটাও মাসির নামে কুক করে রেখেছি। মাসির এটা খুব পছন্দ ।

মেয়ে বলল তুমি চিন্তা করবে বলে তোমায় জানাইনি, তা ছাড়া কথা বলার মত অবস্থার আমদের ছিলনা, বাড়ি অ্যাক্টিভেন্ট, অসুস্থতা, এরই মধ্যে অফিসের ব্যস্ততা। তোমার কাছে আসার জন্য মনটা খুব আনয়ন করছিল। তাই সবই স্বপ্নীয়ে চলে এলাম। আর বাগ নেই তো? খুশি তো? খুশি যে কনক হয়েছে সেটা বোকাই যাচ্ছে। নাকি নাওনিসের পরম আসরে থাকতে বসেছে। ছেলে বলল তুমি দেখছি আমাদের পছন্দের মেনুগুলোই বনিয়েছ। কি করে জানলে আমরা আকাই আসব? তোমার সাথে কি আমাদের ট্রেনিপ্যাথি চলে? দুরে দাঁড়িয়ে লক্ষী মিটি মিটি হাসছিল। সে যে তলে তলে এত কল কাটী দেবেছে কনক কুহতেই পারেনি।

এ মুহুর্তে কনক তার সন্তানদের সিকে চাইতে পারছে না। তার মনের মধ্যে জোলপাড় চলছে। কি তুলটাই না করতে খচ্ছিল সে। জেদ আর অভিমানের বশে কি মরকার একটা পরিস্থিতির মধ্যে সন্তানদের ফেলে দিচ্ছিল । আর কনক মর্মে মর্মে উপদ্রুতি করল। তার জেদ অভিমান আর হঠকরি সিদ্ধান্তই তাকে সবার থেকে দূরে সরিয়ে নিচ্ছে। এমন কি আজ হতে তো সূত্রার সিকেও নিয়ে বেত।

ভাগিয়ে এবার ওপরওয়াল তার সিদ্ধান্ত নামধুর করলেন।

## সমাপ্ত

## Waiting for Fate

Renesa Rhine Barua (Year 9)

St Anne's Catholic School

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“Kayla Reed” a booming voice rings in my ears as yet another child slowly stands up and makes her way to the awaiting door. Thousands of eyes follow her as she exits the hall. My own eyes wander back to my sweaty palms, memorising the grooves and patterns, distracting myself from the present situation.

13 people till I walk out of the hall just like her. 13 people until my life could be over. 13 people until I walk into a guarded room that could change my life. A petrifying scream pierces the air and I shiver from the sound of a dying girl.

12 more people. Anxiety sends chills through my body as my heart pounds against my chest. A masked figure walks over to me and injects me with a yellow liquid and I feel a bit nauseous but it's just like every other time. Every 2 years we come back to this hall to determine our fate. We individually get taken into a room with bare walls, a single chair and nothing else. In the chair, they have a mental torturing session with you. The masked adult scrutinises and evaluates you, asking unpredicted questions to decide whether to let you live or not. ‘To see how strong you are,’ are the exact words spoken by the president.

A new sheen of sweat threatens to fall as the next person is called to the outlying side of the hall, they look back and I glimpse some familiarity in her face however dismiss it as my vision deceiving me. It can't be my best friend. Not yet. I glance up at the death board at the front of the room. Seconds that feel like an hour pass till a distant voice calls someone up and a new name suddenly appears on the board.

My heart collapses inside me and it feels like it's being viciously ripped apart by dozens of ravenous wolves, all tearing and clawing at the same time. It's not true. Tears pour down my face as I try to process the horrifying information that just entered my brain. Trembling hands clasp my unruly black hair and I tug hard, I hear faint footsteps growing louder and louder until they come to a stop beside me. The black leather on their shoes reflects a masked face staring at me. Confused, I carefully turn my face up towards the crowd of people who are all boring their eyes into me and then slowly face my right side.

Gripping my shoulder, he drags me out of the hall and into a room. I stifle a scream as he slams the door behind us and I wonder what my best friend felt just before she died. I unconsciously answer all the questions but my body feels weaker every second.

“N, n, no” is my final answer before a pain shoots through my chest, causing me to crumple down and a cry escapes my mouth. My vision blackens and the last thing I hear is a male voice calling out,

“Ha, call in the next one, we'll see which injection they received; the poisoned one or not!” but then he says a sentence that confused me even more than the last one “This one's a strong gal; she got lucky, unlike her lovely friend...”

## Trip to India

Arihaan Nishchal (Year 3)

Hiltingbury Juniors School

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We went to India during summer holidays this year. We took Finnair flights from LHR-HEL-DEL. We went to Helsinki airport for the first time. The flights were nice, calm and safe. I enjoyed relaxing on the aeroplane.

When we reached Noida on 30th July, we did pranam to everyone. That's how we greet elders in India. One of our cousin's friend came to play cricket with us. It was my cousin's birthday on 1st of August so we celebrated it. We had two parties. We watched Marvel Avengers SPIDER-MAN Far from home at the cinema hall in the mall in Noida.



On Sunday 4th August, we went to terminal 1 of Indira Gandhi International Airport to catch a GoAir flight to Patna's Jai Prakash Narayan International Airport. From there we took taxi to our home in Shiv Shankar Apartment.

We went to watch Hindi movie with our friend Trisha. The movie was very scary and horrifying. I got very scared and I started crying :(

We went to meet my Nani and my choti Nani. We had loads of fun on the swing

there. After couple of days I went to Bihar Museum with my grandparents, my dad and my sister. We saw lots of things there. From there we went to Patna airport to pick up my mum who was coming back from Bengaluru. We ate lots of mangoes in Patna.

In the third week we went to Saharsa where I met my Badi Ma. She's my dad's aunt. From there we went to our village in Brahmantoli. We have a hand pump there. It was very hot in the village and we drank lots of Maaza. While going back to Patna we went in a sleeper train where we got some food. Before going to bed, I had vanilla ice cream in the train.



When we finally came back to Noida, we packed our bags to go back to England. On 27th August, we went to Delhi airport to catch Finnair flights from DEL-HEL-LHR. I loved it when we reached England. I love England! I love India too!!

**Painting by Sayani Pathak**  
(Year 6)  
Banister Primary School

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কলি কলি ফুল ফুটেছে নীলকালো আর সাদা  
Abanti Chakrabarty

এবারে বইমেলায় সময় কলকাতা যাবার সুযোগ ঘটে গিয়েছিলো। একদিন নয় তা আবার দুদিনের জন্য। প্রথম দিন শুধু নতুন বই এর ঘাঁটার জন্য উৎসর্গ করে থাকলেও অন্যদিনটি কেবলমাত্র হাজার একজন বন্ধুর মোলাকাতের জন্য সুরক্ষিত ছিলো। অনেক পুরোনো কথা মনের মধ্যে জড়ো করে, নিজেকে ও সেই পুরোনো তব্বী চেহারার যদুবংশীয় ভেবে একদম ফুরফুরে মনে আমাদের বৈঠকের জন্য নির্দিষ্ট শিবিরের সামনে, নির্দিষ্ট সময়ে টহল দিতে লাগলাম।



এমন সময়, হটাৎ দেখি আমার হাতের ওপর একটা চাপ, ঘুরে দেখি এক অপকৃপা, আভিজাত্য ঝরে পড়ছে ভঙ্গিমায়, সৌষ্ঠবে। আমার বিস্মিত মুখের তাকিয়ে বললো, 'আমি বন্ধুর হাত ভেবে তোমার হাত ধরে ফেলেছি'। আমাকে একদম প্রথম দর্শনে তুমি বলাতে আমার ভালোই লাগলো, যাক তাহলে বয়েস টা চোখে পড়েনি সুদর্শনার। আবার দুঃখ হলো দুই রকমের, বয়েস এত হলো কিন্তু তাও ঠিক ভারিঙ্কি হলাম না, আর দ্বিতীয়ত ইনি তাহলে আমার বন্ধু বৃত্তের মধ্যে নন ? তবে সঙ্গে সঙ্গে মাথার মধ্যে ঝিলিক দিয়ে গেলো এই মহিলার কণ্ঠস্বর খুব চেনা, নামটা ..... আমি আর এক মুহূর্ত দেরি না করে বললাম, 'বহি, বহিশিখা ? ওরে বাবা কি সৌভাগ্য আমার'। আমি রোদ চশমাটা খুলে মাথার ওপরে ন্যস্ত করলাম, আমার চোখের দিকে গভীর দৃষ্টিতে তাকিয়ে বহি ...এই ফেসবুকের দুনিয়ায় যেখানে হাজার হাজার আলোকবর্ষ দূরের মানুষ ও পাতায় পাতায়, সেথায় লতায় লতায় ও কোনো নেই ঠাঁই? এ আজব ই বটে। সমস্ত দূরত্ব কাটিয়ে আমার কানে কানে বলে গেলো, 'এখানে একটু রসো, এখানে আসিবো ফিরে, এই জনমানবের ভীড়ে'। এর মধ্যে আমি তখন আমার প্রত্যাশিত বন্ধুদের তুমুল আদরের বন্যায় ভেসে যাচ্ছি। আমাদের দেদার আড্ডা, প্রবল হাসাহাসির মধ্যেও আমার মনের মধ্যে তবে বহির কথা ঘুরপাক খাচ্ছিলো। আমরা এক বয়সী হলে কি হবে, আমরা দুজনেই দুজন কে বেশ গুরুত্ব দিতাম। ওর দুটো বৈশিষ্ট্য ছিলো, এক খাঁটি বাংলা বলার নৈপুণ্য, যা রসে, ভাবে টইটুস্বুর, আর দুই ওর সাধনা, ওর নাচ, যা তাল, রস আর জ্ঞানের অপূর্ব মেলবন্ধন।

.... প্রায় ঘন্টা দুয়েক পর দেখলাম শ্রীরাধিকা হেলতে দুলাতে আসছেন। যাকগে, শেষ অবধি যে এসে পৌঁছেছে এই চের ! আমার পাশে এসে বসে আমার হ্যান্ডলুমের শাড়ির কুঁচিতে একটু হাত বুলিয়ে বললো 'সেই এক আছিস , কোনো বদল নেই' ! আমি চট করে সেই না বাদলের দিনগুলো হাত বাড়িয়ে ছুঁয়ে নিলাম । বললাম , 'তোমার নিত্য নৃত্য সঙ্ঘকে শুনতে আমি আগ্রহী দেবী, কিছু বাণী নির্গত করুন'। দেবী প্রসন্ন হইলেন, অধরে একটু হাসি নিষ্ক্ষেপ করিয়া বলিলেন, 'শুনিলে তুমি মর্মান্বিত হইবে বৎস' একটু স্তম্ভতার পর কোনো এক অজানা দিকে তাকিয়ে বললো, ' ডুবিয়া মরিলাম, মরিয়া ডুবিলাম' । ইন্দুবালা, বেশ ফর্মে আছেন বুঝে আমি আর কথা এগোলাম না, শুধু শুধু আবার একরাশ বিষাদ গ্রাস করবে মনটাকে। পরে কোনোদিন কথা হলে তখন যদি ইচ্ছে হয় বলবে নাহয় নিজের থেকেই।

ধীরে ধীরে সন্ধ্যা নামার পালা, আমার ও ছুটির একটা দিন কমে যাওয়া। আবার হাতে চাপ, শুধালাম, 'এবার কী মনে করে দেবী ? বারংবার চাপ সৃষ্টি করার হেতু কী' ? বহি আঙ্গুল দিয়ে দূরে নির্দেশ করে ক্র

টা বাঁকিয়ে বললো, 'ওরে পাগল মনটার দিকে তাকাও'। দেবীর আদেশে, আমি একটু মনোনিবেশ করার চেষ্টা করলাম, নতুন বই এর ঘ্রাণ নেবার জন্য মনটা আরও একবার উশখুশ করে উঠলো, কিন্তু আর যে সময় নেই। আরে আমি যে ভেবে রেখেছিলাম আর একবার পটের গানে টুঁ মারব, পরের বার ভাগ্য যদি থাকে, তাও হয়ে উঠবে না। আমি কান পাততেই শুনতে পেলাম, আমার মনের মধ্যে আপনা আপনি গুনগুন 'অস্তমারে' পুকুর ঘটে কানু দেখা দিলো' ।

ওমা একি আমি যখন নিজের চিন্তায় ব্যাকুল তখন দেখি আমার চারপাশ কখন হালকা হয়ে গেছে, সব গেলো কই ? বহি, গানের তালে, নাচের বোলে চোখ ঘুরিয়ে বললো, 'শাল তলে বেলা ডুবিলো' !বটে? আমিও সেই পুরোনো খেলায় সামিল হলাম, গাইলাম 'যাদবপুরের রাজকুমারী, গলায় চন্দ্রহার, দিনে দিনে বাড়ছে তোমার রূপেরই বাহার' ! কি আশ্চর্য আমরা কথা বলতে বলতে এষে ঝুমুর গানের মঞ্চে এসে পড়েছি। আমাদের দুজনেরই পা কি আর স্থির থাকতে পারে? মাদলের তালে তালে আমরা ডুব দিলাম সেই ঝিরি ঝিরি বাঁকা নদীতে যা বইছে বারোমাস।

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## Ode (noun)

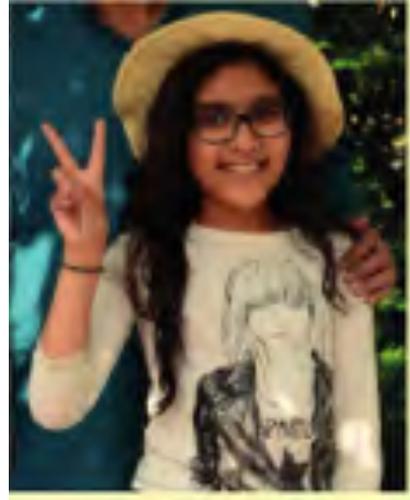
Shubhashukla (Year 9)

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a lyrical poem, typically in form of address to a particular object or subject the poet enjoys

an ode to art:  
a bittersweet love.  
a scored hate.  
a tale.  
a journey.  
or the weight,  
on your shoulders...  
the pain.  
or feeling happiness,  
for the first time,  
again.  
a different meaning to each.

alone,  
in a paradise,  
surrounded by nothing and all,  
and art.  
explosions of love and gratitude burst in your heart.  
the smell of fresh paint.  
the hue, shade, taint.  
the unscrewing of a lid,  
your hands stroking the paint as it did,  
beautiful.  
majestic  
unique.  
a place to flee...  
this is what art means to me.



## The Monster and the Boy

Kamolpriya (Year 7)

---

Ascending from the cool, sapphire blue rippled water, a dark shape of a creature could barely be seen.

But was still there.

The breeze puppeteered long green trees, making them sway gracefully.

All that could be heard was the wind humming and a fire crackling in a camp making dim light.

In the camp sat an innocent, young boy toasting gooey marshmallows; a grin on his pale face, all by himself.

As this sly creature drew close, the light revealed merciless green eyes and a cruel sneer from its slimy face.

The boy heard faint footsteps and an icy breath obviously not himself.

His smile turned to horror.

He turned.

Slowly.

And screamed.

Using the stick, he was holding with a cold marshmallow, he tried to like he wasn't sweating everywhere in fear.

But he was.

He felt his heart beating in his dry mouth.

He was doomed...



## All about the car industry ....

Devjeet Acharyya (Year 5)  
Highfield CE Primary School

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In this world, we have many ways to go from Place A to Place B such as buses, planes, trains and etc. Thanks to technology, this is possible. I'm going to be talking about a specific type of transportation, which are cars. Cars have been here for more than over two centuries. The first car was made by a guy called Carl Benz (Creator of Motorwagen), however I would say the oldest modern-day car is probably the Ford Model T made by Henry Ford (Creator of Ford). The

car that Benz designed looked like a bike, but with Ford's creation, it actually has an engine and some of the features that we have in our modern-day technology. Benz' car was created in the year 1886 while Ford's car was created in the year 1908.

Now these days, we have electric cars, sport cars, racing cars etc.



A big downside about some cars is that they pollute the planet causing climate change. The cars, which are run by fuel, heavily pollute the planet which is really bad for our atmosphere. However; people like Elon Musk have created electric cars to stop this. Brands like Tesla, Nissan, Audi and many more are trying their best to produce more electric cars and stop using gas cars. It was estimated that 1.2M million people bought electric cars in 2018 in the United States. It is estimated that in 2040 all cars will be electric.

Moving on from that topic, we also have autonomous which is commonly known as self-driving cars and some are now running on some parts of the world, The manufactures are such as Acura, Audi, BMW, Tesla, Cadillac, Jaguar, Lexus, Mercedes-Benz, Nissan and more. They still need a human to be in the driver's seat.



Moving into a different category of cars, we have sports cars. Normally when you think of sports cars, we would think of fast famous branded cars like Lamborghini, Ferrari, and McLaren etc. Some of these cars are quite expensive which makes the majority of the population not have cars like these. Roughly, these cars are ranged in between £200,000 and £400,000. *Interestingly*, people now days are willing to pay the insanely high price tag for just transportation.

Moving from sport cars to luxury cars, luxury cars are preferred by the wealthy people for their statues and relaxation. Rolls Royce is probably the highest class luxurious cars which

are equipped with fancy things. The famous manufacturers, such as, Audi, Mercedes Benz, BMW and others are also trying to make luxury cars.

In parallel, we have normal economic cars which is what most of the population use for their everyday transportation. These types of cars might not necessarily be stylish, or the most expensive, but it does what its meant to.

Then we have SUV's, those with big body and engine, such as Range Rover. There are some sport SUV's but I wouldn't consider them as sport cars as they weigh around 2,900 to 3,200 kilograms compared to an upcoming fast electric car in 2020 weighs approximately 1,305 kilograms with a huge difference. These types of vehicles can cost up to £200,000 depending on cool features.

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## **Animal Poetical**

Aaheli Mukherjee (Year 6)  
Scantabout Primary School

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Once there was a Fox who was quite ruse  
And managed to steal food from a Moose!!  
You might call this Fox precocious  
I would rather call him sagacious!  
Once the fox was in a human-created sanguine situation  
But he was clever enough not to die of starvation!  
Next let's talk about Ants  
Wait hold up, they are not meant to be here,  
They should be busy chewing dead plants!  
Shall we talk about something more gallant  
Like an animal which is magnificent!  
Not a mere Sheep or a Hare  
Here comes the snowier Polar Bear!  
This type of animal you will regret to meet  
Everybody knows they have the highest killer instinct  
Don't get fooled by the mushy soft toys  
Heard they can kill without making noise!!!  
One good thing they love the north pole  
Left the south for the penguins their exact counter pole!  
Lets now move on to the King of Jungle  
Who is not always humble  
His deadly roar when heard miles away  
Most animals would wish to flee on a Segway!!  
His razor-sharp claws can tear your flesh  
But maybe he would spare you if you are not mentally fresh!  
In the Jungle you cannot afford to be reckless  
Otherwise you may end up being headless !!  
I hope when we meet he is in a quagmire  
And I will drink his blood and become an Animal Vampire!!!





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## AN URGENT NOTE - PLASTIC POLLUTION

Aishik (Year 3)

All Saints School, Maidenhead

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Dear All,  
There is pollution in sea. We can recycle our own plastic. Can we all help to take the plastic out of sea? We are the ones causing pollution. It is our fault. Everyone is killing sea creatures. There are more plastic than fish!  
We must try to make all plastic gone. Otherwise fishes will die out forever. That will be really sad. We do not want to kill the sea creatures. Please help!!



# Sports Day 2019



# Poila Baishakh 2019



# Poila Baishakh 2019



HPCA MEMBERS' LIST – 2019/20 (Start of the year)	
Acharya Madhu	Kundu Krishnan
Acharya Bharati	Kundu Suparna
Banerjee Anindo	Khurana Tarun
Banerjee Shikha	Maharatna Koushik
Banerjee Raj	Maharatna Aditi
Banerjee Sandhya	Mishra Tapas
Barua Pranabesh	Mishra Mamata
Barua Sushmita	Mukherjee Monoj
Basak Raja	Mukherjee Kajari
Basak Moumi	Mukherjee Manish
Basu Manab	Mukherjee Sutapa
Basu Roy Ratish	Nagpal Mahesh
Bhadra Vivek	Nagpal Artee
Bhadra Sarbani	Nicholson Soama
Chakraborty Ananda	Nicholson Colin
Chakraborty Ahana	Nischal Yogesh
Chakraborty Soumya	Nischal Jayashree
Chakraborty (Mukhopadhyay) Abanti	Pathak Debnarayan
Chatterjee Manas	Pathak Dalia
Chatterjee Urmi	Prem
Chatterjee Shre Kumar	Ray Sawayamjyoti
Chatterjee Sanhita	Ray Meenakshi
Sophie Louise Chatterjee	Rokade Ashok
Chaudhuri Sadhana	Rokade Kirti
Das Pasupati	Roy Kohinoor
Das Anuka	Roy Nandan
Das Bulbulee	Roy Choudhuri Saroj
Deb Rishi	Roy Choydhuri Ratna
Datta Sumantra	Sahu Jayanta
Datta Sumita	Sau Aparna
Ghosh Debanjan	Sahu Sujit
Ghosh Ray Atanu	Sahu Ranu
Ghosh Ray Aditi	Sarkar Gobinda
Hall John	Sarkar Aparna
Hall Debika	Singh Vinod
Janjhi Sumeet	Semple Chris
Kar Shantanu	Semple Peyalee
Poddar Monisha	Somani Bhaskar

HPCA MEMBERS' LIST – 2019/20 (Start of the year)	
Karmakar Snehamoy	Somani Sweta
Karode Shyam	Turnbull Priyanka
Karode Chhaya	Turnbull Nick
Kumar Tonmoy	Tiwari Laxmikant
Kumar Haimanti	Mazumder Baishakhi

## Durga Puja Schedule 2019

# Hampshire Puja and Cultural Association



REGISTERED CHARITY NO-1180289



## Durga Puja 2019 (Sharodotsav 1428)

Friday – 4th October Maha Saptami	Saturday – 5th October Maha Asthami	Sunday – 6th October Sandhi Puja & Maha Nabami
7:00 pm – Puja (Worship) 7:30 pm – Anjali (Prayer) 8:00 pm – Bhog (Dinner) 9:00 pm – Garba and Dandiya Evening	11:00 am – Puja (Worship) 12:00 pm – Anjali (Prayer) 01:30 pm – Bhog (Lunch)  6:30 pm – Puja (Worship) & Arati 8:00 pm – Cultural Programme 9:30 pm – Bhog (Dinner)	10:15 am – Puja (Worship) 11:30 pm – Anjali Prayer 12:30 pm – Bhog (Lunch) 2:00 pm – Open Stage Performance by Young Artists 3:00 pm: LIVE Musical Concert by Raghav Chatterjee 6:00 pm – Ghot Bisorjon & Sindur Khela







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**Venue: The Hilt  
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**Visit the website for more details-  
<https://southamptonpuja.org.uk>**

