

MAHATMA GANDHI AND THE QUOTATION ON HOMOEOPATHY

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"Public can rightly tell you about its efficacy but however it is the latest and refined method of treating the patient economically and non-violently. Government must encourage and patronise it in our poor country. Late Dr. Hahnemann (founder of Homoeopathy) was a man of superior intellectual power and means of vast saving of human life having an unique medical nerve. I bow before his skill and the Herculean and humanitarian labour he did. His memory wakes us again and you are to follow him: but the opponent hate the existence of the principles and practice of Homoeopathy which in reality cures a larger percentage of cases than any other method of treatment and it is beyond all doubt safer and more economical and the most complete medical science."

—Mahatma Gandhi

Every Indian homoeopath is familiar with the quotation either by looking at a banner in a conference or by reading the book of Darbari. The majority of the Andhra Pradesh homoeopaths came across the quotation first in the All-India Homoeopathic Conference in 1956 at Rajahmundry where the quotation was displayed on a banner. Dr. Jaisoorya was the President of the Conference and Dr. M. Ramakrishna Rao and myself were the Secretaries of the general meet. Dr. Yudhvir Singh was the Chief guest at that time. It was displayed too, subsequently again in the next All-India Homoeopathic Conference at Hyderabad and at the felicitation function of "Shastiabda Poorti" celebrations of late Dr. Jaisoorya at Hyderabad.

In the country at several places whenever the homoeopathic conference was held, the quotation was put up prominently as a pride of the system because the quotation was from no less than the Father of our Nation!

At the Hyderabad Conference in 1968 a souvenir was brought out in which the quotation was published with veneration and joy. I was the editor of the souvenir and Dr. Allen S. Neiswander, Editor of American Journal of Homoeopathy, published the same quotation with unlimited pleasure in one of the issues of the journal.

Thinking that there must have been some other important sayings of Gandhi on the subject of Homoeopathy I wrote to Shri Pyarelal, the trusted Private Secretary of Gandhi, requesting him to send some more sayings by Gandhi on Homoeopathy from his mosaic memory.

Then started the wonder of wonders! Pyarelal immediately wrote to me saying that such an utterance by Gandhi was not there and he accused me that I was befooling the people with such false statements. On the top

of it, he wanted me to prove the truth of it by supplying him the source of it, the place where it was said and when it was said by Gandhi.

I informed him that I would make all efforts to get the authentic information, and failing which I promised to publish an apology in the widely circulated homoeopathic journal of India.

Immediately I addressed letters to Dr. Motilal Bhandari who was then the General Secretary of All India Homoeopathic Medical Association who supplied me the information in 1956. Up to date he has been writing that he had seen the quotation in a book in Secretariat at New Delhi where the details are available, but could not send me the correct information.

When I addressed a letter to Mrs. Darbary, her son wrote to me saying that except that his father published it in the book, he did not know further!

Then I addressed a few letters to my friend and client Shri Krovvidi Lingaraju, one of the veteran Congressmen of Andhra Pradesh to get me the source of the quotation, requesting him to search all the issues of *Harijan* as he has been having the record of these issues with him. He failed to get me the information.

Then I addressed a few letters to Dr. M. Ramakrishna Rao of Rajahmundry, a khadi-lover and good homoeopath and on the top of it a veteran in the organisational Homoeopathy since 1930's! He says he too does not know about it except that we got the banner written, as he was the Joint Secretary of the All India Homoeopathic Conference held at Rajahmundry in 1956.

Subsequently, I requested the great Gandhian Philosopher of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Tallapragada Prakash Rayudu who is 84 years to help me to solve the problem! He directed me to seek the help of Gandhi Trust at Ahmadabad who were having a big library of Gandhian literature. It seems they are having all the Gandhian literature and also Gandhi's letters and all the issues of *Harijan* of which Gandhi was editor.

I requested the Secretary through a few letters to help me by appointing a couple of young graduates to search and scan the whole publications and manuscripts by Gandhi at my cost. It is nearly one year and I am sorry to say that I am not favoured with any positive reply.

To add *ghee* to the fire, the problem reached the zenith, when I enquired of the khadi clad Swamiji of Kottayam at the Calcutta Convention in 1975! He said that when he displayed on a banner the same quotation of Gandhi in one of the homoeopathic meets at Kottayam, the then Health Minister of Government of India, Dr. Sushila Nayyar, sister of Shri Pyarelal vehemently denied the truth of the quotation and said that Gandhi never said it!

It is my bounden responsibility and journalistic ethics to send an apology for publication in *The Hahnemannian Gleanings* during the lifetime of Shri Pyarelal. I earnestly request the homoeopaths of India to write to me

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