Autograph Diary Page Relating to G.S. Khaparde's Fourth Visit to Shirdi Along with Bal Gangadhar Tilak

19 May 1917

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Sangamaner – Shirdi – Yeola.

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I got up early in the morning but so many people gathered that I could not pray. There was a movement to keep us here & not let us go till afternoon & Kelkar appeared to throw his weight on the side of the movement but most unaccountably I felt angry and insisted upon starting so after a Pansupari in the house of Mr Sant a leading pleader of Sangamner, we started about 8.30 A.M. We reached Shirdi about 10 A.M. after a puncture on the way. We put up in Digit's Wada. Bapusaheb Bootee, Narayan Rao Pande & the establishment of Bootee were there. My old friends Madhava Rao Deshpande, Balasaheb Bhate, Bapusaheb Jog & others gathered. We went to the Masjid and paid our respects to Sayin Maharaj. I never saw him so much pleased before. He asked for Dakshina as usual & we all paid. Looking at Lokamanya he said "People are bad. Keep yourself to yourself." I made my bow & he took some rupees from me. Kelkar & Pangamkar also paid. Madhava Rao Deshpande asked permission for us to proceed to Yeola. Sayin Saheb said "why do you want to go in the heat to die on the way. Have your food here & then go in the cool of the afternoon. Shama feed these people." So we stayed, had our food with Madhavarao Deshpande, lay down for a few minutes and then again went to the Masjid & found Sayin Maharaj lying down as if sleeping. People gave Lokamanya a Pansupari in the Chavadhi there and we returned to the Masjid again. Sayin Maharaj was sitting up and gave us Udi and permission to go. So we started by the motor and near Kopargaon, met Mr Vallabhadas, the owner of the motor car. He is a rich man & very good natured. The people of Kopargaon gave Lokamanya Pansupari on the Par of Datta with the Brahmachari at their head & then we resumed our journey reaching Yeola about 5 P.M. There was a splendid reception there. Vallabhadas took us first to his bungalow outside the town. We had light refreshments there & met Mr Wagh, Mr Joshi & many others. Then there was a big procession very carefully managed. Lokamanya & I drove in an open Tonga and people lined the streets, filled the houses on both sides & Mr Wagh & others walked round about to keep the crowd orderly. There was a tremendous meeting in the town. The assistant D.S.P. & police in full force attended it. About ten thousand may have been present. Lokamanya addressed the meeting & I spoke after him. Our speeches were very well received. Lokamanya was very much cheered. After the meeting we had Pansupari with a merchant and a Kshatriya who is a master weaver and then returned to the garden house of Vallabhadas where we were sumptuously fed and rested.

G. S. Khaparde

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