

— LIFE SKETCH OF —
Subhas Chandra Bose



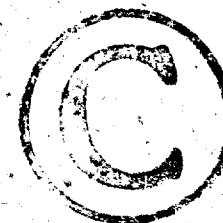
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revolutionary in his temperament as he is calm in his demeanour. From the start it was his extreme political views that alarmed the Government. He had therefore to experience the rigours of the Government's repressive measures and jail life. No Government can look on unperturbed at one who, instead of being as an I. C. S. an ally and a slave of the proud British bureaucracy, had come to the fore for the service of the Nation for the curbing of the British Government and its autocracy. We can venture to say that the British Government feared no other Indian political leader as they did Subhas Chandra Bose. Likewise it can be asserted that for the one reason that he was engaged in the cause of national freedom Subhas Bose was subjected to the repressive measures and suffered imprisonment as no other did. To understand how he became the object of the wrath of the Government, how his actions staggered the authorities, it is necessary to know the full history of his life. We shall therefore review his past life.



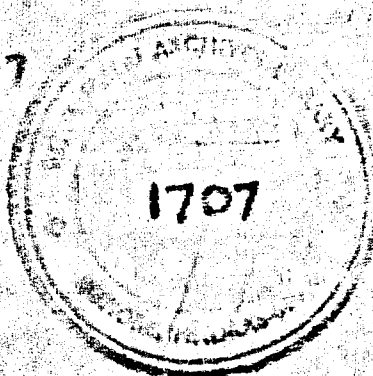
1. The Birth of Subhas Chandra Bose

Subhas Chandra Bose was born in the most nationalistic of provinces in India, Bengal. Our national poet Subramania Bharathy has sung in praise of the Bengalees. Our Bose was born of such valiant men. In Bengal, the land of birth of Ramakrishna Paramahansa, the treasure of philosophical wisdom, Swami Vivekanandha, Rajaram Mohan Roy, the Lion of Social reform, Rabindranath Tagore the king of poets, Chitranjana Doss, the great politician, Doctor P. C. Ray, the eminent chemist, Jagadis Chandra Bose, the great scientist and such *Vande matram* heroes as Surendranath Banerjee, Bepin Chandra Paul and others, was born Subhas on the 23rd of January 1897. His father was **Janakinath Bose** and his mother **Prabavathi**. He was one of 13 children. Of them, next to Subhas Chander, Sarat Chandra Bose and Suneela Chandra Bose have attained eminence. Sarat Chandra Bose achieved name as a great lawyer in Bengal. Likewise Suneela Chandra Bose acquired fame as a Doctor.

Janakinath Bose belonged to Kodalia a village in the twenty four Paraganas. But he

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— A LIFE SKETCH OF —

Subhas Chandra Bose

 beautiful round face; Broad forehead; eyes expressive of valour; a bold nose with golden specs perched on it; red cheeks that showed off the beauty of youth; lips that were ever set in smile; a chin that indicated will and determination; muscular shoulders; a broad chest; six feet of towering and majestic personality; milk-white-khadder-dress-draped splendour; these are the striking features of the present leader of the Indian National Congress **Srijiut Subhas Chandra Bose**. It is such majestic personality that has held him forth as one of the greatest of men.

He is now 41 years old. He is yet a batchelor. His wisdom and character and amiability are worthy of regard. He is as

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lived in Cuttack. He took to the profession of law and maintained his family by its practice. Born of a poor family, by sheer industry and enthusiasm, he not only carved out a status for himself, but he also brought up his children well. As was his duty Janakinath gave his sons and daughters alike sound education.

Subhas Chandra Bose comes of the Kayastha descent. The world famous Swami Vivekanandha and Jagadis Chandra Bose were born of the same sect. It is also said that Jagadis Chandra Bose also belonged to the same family as Subhas Chandra Bose. It is remarkable that though they were Kayasthas yet Subhas's ancestors were engaged in political administration. Subhas's great grandfather, Purandharakan Bose was Dewan and treasurer to Hussain Shaw the Mohamadan ruler who ruled Bengal towards the close of the 15th century.

Janakinath was also interested in public work along side of his profession. As member of Municipality and legislative council he laboured for the good of the people and for the progress of the country. He was also the President of the Cuttak Municipality. He was for several years a member of the Bengal

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legislative council. As a result he was conferred the title of 'Rai Bahadur'. In many ways he was helpful to the great Congress. He joined the Congress conferences and did his best in its service. He became absorbed in the 'Swadesi movement' since its start. It was while he was living at Cuttak that Subhas Chandar was born. The parents were mighty glad at the birth of a boy. They regarded him with the greatest affection. Subhas's great beauty, his childish prattle, all delighted his parents beyond measure. Quite early Subhas Chandar's keen intelligence, his energetic and agile disposition impressed and gladdened his father. Janakinath Bose attained an eminence and status through his son Subhas. Even so his mother Prabavati rejoiced over the accomplishments of her son.

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dered, a disgrace not only for himself but also for the nation as well. Hence he did not desire to acquire knowledge at the expense of honour.

Thus two years passed by. In the meantime his mind inclined towards religion. Even in his early days he was enthusiastic about religious knowledge. His mother was God-fearing and was also possessed of a fund of religious knowledge. Therefore her religious instructions took deep hold on him even in his early days. This religious bent appeared at intervals in Subhas and agitated him greatly. At such times he used to engage himself in religious research giving up his studies. He began to read the teachings of Ramakrishna Paramahansa and other religious books. He yearned for a religious *guru* after his own heart. He began to search for a teacher who could guide him in the right path. His mind sought asceticism. This obsession drove him from home.

While he had suspended his studies Subhas left his home one night without telling his parents. Pilgrimage through such holy places as Gaya, Kasi, Haridhwar, Muttra, and Brindhavan he proceeded towards the

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Himalayas. Nowhere could he find a *guru* answering to his requirement. He met many saints and hermits. He disliked their ways and habits. He was revulsed by the hypocrisy of many of them and by their *ganja* habits, and he started to return sorely disappointed. He fell ill on account of irregular food and sleep during his travel. On the way a gentleman met him and enquired who he was. Knowing from Subhas his plight he wired to Janakinath at Cuttak. Janakinath who had searched for his son in vain so long hurried to Subhas and brought him back. It is as well in a way, that Subhas was foiled in his attempt at asceticism. Had Subhas found a *guru* even as Swami Vivekanandha found Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa in his quest for God and *Guru*, Subhas could not have been one of the foremost national leaders of our day. Would we not have lost a matchless hero who could carry on the country's struggle for freedom with zest and energy?

After his return Subhas desired to resume his studies. Sir Ashutosh Mukerjee fulfilled this desire. With great effort he secured permission for Subhas from the Bengal University and Subhas joined the University. He pas-

2. The age of Study

Subhas began his studies at Cuttak. He joined an English school at Cuttak. He evinced great interest in his studies. He was ever the first student in his classes and was promoted to higher classes rapidly. He passed his Matriculation in 1913.

Even while he was in the lower classes Subhas Chander was interested in the affairs of the outside world. Along with his school books he read books on general knowledge. He read with great interest books on 'Western knowledge. He was also interested in physical culture. It was this strength which he early acquired in life that stood him in good stead later. Else he could not have withstood the trials and tribulations that he had to face in his political career. He continued his physical exercises until he qualified for the I. C. S. Besides, even in his school days he began to do social work. Tender by disposition he was touched by the sufferings of others. He was anxious to do his best for them. Such social service often made him stay away from school. It was this lofty motive that later drew him

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into the national cause and inspired his great sacrifice to the country.

After passing the Matriculation with second rank in his 16th year he joined the Presidency College at Calcutta. An incident happened while he was reading for his B. A. Mr. C. F. Oden, a professor of the college, spoke contumeliously of the Bengalis one day while he was lecturing to his class. The students became excited over it and protested against it to the professor who however persisted in disparaging the Bengalees. So the students including Subhas felt their self-respect hurt and began to agitate against the conduct of the professor. They walked out of the college in a body. Oden became alarmed at the unrest. The college authorities tried to suppress the agitation. They dismissed from the college some students who were considered to be the ring leaders. Subhas Chander was one of them. Subhas was further debarred from studies for two years.

Subhas could easily have secured his re-admission into the college by expressing his apologies to the authorities. But Subhas, enthusiastic as he was for studies, would not compromise his self-respect. It was, he consi-

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sed the B.A. examination in philosophy as the first in the Presidency. He did not stop with that. In 1919 he sailed for England to qualify himself for the I.C.S. He first joined the London Cambridge University and read philosophy and religion for the B.A. degree. He read for the I.C.S. examination also simultaneously. He secured the 4th rank in the I.C.S. examination held in 1920. He had secured the highest mark in English essay writing. In 1922 Subhas obtained his B.A. degree in the Cambridge University.

When we consider the incidents of his scholastic career, his self-respect, his philanthropy etc, it must be admitted that his scholastic stage is a thing for emulation for students of our time.



3. National Service and Jail Life

After his I. C. S. degree Subhas started back for India. When he landed at Bombay in 1921 what did he see? He found India in the throes of a great struggle for freedom, India in violent commotion excited by the repressive measures of the Government.

After the great world war the British Government granted the 'Montagu-Chelmsford' reforms to India. As an auxiliary they also passed the Rowlat Act in 1919. This 'Black Act' alone demonstrated the retrogressive nature of the 'Montford Reforms.' Readers must be aware that it was as a protest against this Rowlat act that Mahatma Gandhi inaugurated his non-co-operation movement. On his return from South Africa where he had carried on a fight for Indian rights, Gandhiji joined the congress and began to work enthusiastically for the freedom of India. It was in connection with Mahatmaji's non-co-operation struggle that the Jalian Walbag massacre and the reign of martial law and such other atrocities took place. The boycott of Councils, Colleges, Courts etc, was carried out successfully. Besides, there was an energetic drive for the

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people appreciated Subhas's national spirit and his capacity for carrying out work. He rose in public esteem.

To Subhas was due the credit for the success of the Civil Disobedience movement in Calcutta. Therefore in December 1921 Subhas was arrested and sentenced to six months imprisonment. Jail life is the test of fire and baptism for men engaged in national service.

The Civil Disobedience movement was stopped on account of an untoward incident which took place at Chowrichowra. At this juncture C. R. Doss, Vittalboi Patel and others wanted to change the Congress programme and start the national fight in the legislative councils. In 1922 the Congress met at Gaya. Desabandhu Doss was its President. In that Congress there was much discussion about council entry.

Pandit Motilal Nehru, Sriji - S. Srinivasa Iyengar and Subhas Chandra Bose supported the resolution in favour of council entry. However, in the end, Mahatmaji's programme won. Hence C. R. Doss resigned his presidency and started the Swarajya party with the support of leaders like Motilal Nehru, and Vittalboi Patel. Through it they joined the

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legislative council and were fighting the government.

The vigorous propaganda carried on by the Swarajya party in behalf of council entry was crowned with success at the Delhi Congress where the programme was accepted. C. R. Doss became the leader of the Swarajya party which had now obtained the support of the Congress and the blessings of Mahatma Gandhi. Motilal Nehru became the Secretary and Subash the publicity officer. When the council elections began Subash threw himself energetically into the task of preparing and publishing election manifestos and organizing public meetings for the dissemination of the party views.

In October 1922 Bengal was inundated by floods. Northern Bengal, Assam, etc., were affected. There was much loss to life and property. Men were rendered homeless and suffered for want of food and clothing. As the Chief Secretary to the Bengal flood relief committee Subhas rendered great aid to the distressed. Lord Lytton, the then Governor of Bengal, and many others praised his services in this behalf greatly.

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C. R. Doss started the "Forward," an English organ to inculcate the tenets of his party. He appointed Subhas as the editor of that paper. Could there be any doubt then as to the success of the Swarajya party?

Like the Congress party now, the Swarajya party had captured all institutions from the legislative council to the municipality. It is not surprising therefore that at Calcutta, where these leaders lived, the city council fell into their hands. C. R. Doss became the Mayor of Calcutta Corporation in April 1924. Subhas Babu was elected Commissioner. This responsible post carried a salary of Rs. 1,500 per mensem. Subhas who had spurned the I.C.S. did not take up this job for the sake of this salary. It must be said that, it was with the noble outlook of doing service to his motherland through the Corporation that Subhas accepted the job and led the way for others. Impartial in the discharge of his duty as Commissioner he accomplished many great things and made the Corporation flavour of nationalism. Even his political opponents admired his capacity for administration. But the Government was uneasy. The Viceroy and others were perturbed at the way the

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Swarajists entered the councils and their vigorous condemnation of the autocracy of the authorities. It was like bearding the lion in its own den. At first, however, the Viceroy diplomatically invited the Swarajist leaders and conferred with them. But they were proof against all the guiles of the Government. So Lord Lytton raised the false bogie of the Bengal Anarchist movement and under that pretext he promulgated the Bengal emergency regulations. Many Swarajists were arrested. On the 25th of October 1924 Subhas Babu also was arrested. They were all thrown into prison without enquiry.

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boycott of foreign clothes and the abolition of drink. Motilal Nehru, Chitranjan Doss and many others resigned from councils. Students left colleges. Leading lawyers gave up practising in courts. Undaunted by the repressive measures of the Government many went to jail disobeying orders. In the meantime the present Duke of Windsor visited India in 1921 as Prince of Wales. The Congress leaders decided to boycott the Prince to express their dissatisfaction at the conduct of the British Government. The Government measures became even more stringent. In the Bombay disturbances that followed many lost their lives. Leaders like Motilal Nehru, C. R. Doss, and Jawaharlal Nehru were sent to jail.

Again in 1921-22 Mahatma Gandhi started with the sanction of the Congress the Civil Disobedience and No-tax campaign all over the land. Thousands joined these movements and suffered many hardships and privations; They went to jail.

It was at this stage that Subhas reached India. Subhas was surprised at the distracted state of his country and men's zeal for the national cause. He forgot his I. C. S. degree. He ignored all considerations for his prospects

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of securing high posts in the future. His natural leaning towards national service and sacrifice flared forth and urged him to join the struggle for national freedom. The day that Subhas cast away the I. C. S. degree which was the symbol of servility, that day he incurred the wrath of the authorities who regarded him as their arch enemy.

Subhas sought Gandhiji as the man who inspired the true spirit of freedom. Mahatma advised him to see C. R. Doss. He accordingly met Doss. Desabandhu had started a National College at Calcutta for the benefit of students who had left Government Colleges in the non-co-operation movement. In May 1921 he appointed Subhas as the head of that college. Subsequently at the time of the Civil Disobedience Movement he appointed Subhas as the commander of the National Volunteer Corp.

Calcutta also observed complete hartal as well as the rest of India in connection with the visit of the Prince of Wales. The great Bengal leader Desabandhu entrusted with Subhas the responsibility for the conduct of the hartal at Calcutta. Subhas had the hartal carried out successfully. From thence

4. Illness in Jail

The public were greatly grieved at the unjust imprisonment of Subhas. The Calcutta Corporation expressed its grief at the arrest of Subhas and condemned the repressive measures of the Government. 'Is patriotism a crime?' asked C. R. Doss, 'If it is, I am equally guilty of it. It is not merely the Commissioner of the Corporation but also the Mayor who is guilty of it.' The other national leaders also expressed their deep concern at the imprisonment of Subhas.

Subhas was at first placed at the Alipore Central Jail and then at the Berhampore Jail. After a few months the Government removed him to Mandalay in Burma. It was here that Lokamanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak who proudly claimed Swaraj as his birthright, was imprisoned. It was in this jail that he wrote that valuable book 'The Secrets of Gita'. It was after he came into this jail that Subash realized the greatness of Tilak. Subhas happened to be placed in the cell next to that where Tilak lived for six long years. As Mandalay was a hot place, full of kerosine oil mines and sulphurous tracts, the people of the place were oppressed with the excessive heat of it.

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Subhas therefore suffered greatly. His health became impaired. He lost weight rapidly and was reduced by 40 lbs. He became afflicted with consumption. In 1927 he became bed-ridden. It was then that he wondered how Tilak lived 6 years in his old age in such a place which ruined one's health and strength. He expressed this later openly.

At this stage the Government removed Subhas to Insein near Rangoon. But even there his ailment only increased. In the meanwhile in 1925 C. R. Doss the political guru of Subhas died. Subhas was greatly grieved at this news. His mental pain coupled with his bodily ailment tortured him greatly. There was therefore agitation all over the nation for his release. In the Bengal legislative council and at other places there was an insistent demand that he should be instantly released.

When his bodily condition reached a stage of anxiety, the Government appointed Dr. Kelsal, Dr. Suneela Chandra Bose (Subhas's brother) and others to examine Subhas's state of health. The doctors declared that consumption had set in in Subhas and that he must be released from jail and placed in a sanatorium.

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for treatment. At the same time, on the 21st of March questions were asked in the Bengal legislative council regarding Subhas's state of health and his release. Mr. Moberly, the executive councillor, replying on behalf of the Government said, that, from the doctors' report, Subhas was not at the time in a dangerous state of health. Regarding his release he announced that, if necessary, the Government had no objection to Subhas's going to Europe for treatment but that he must undertake to sail to Europe direct from Rangoon and not to return to India until the Bengal Regulations remained in force. Besides, he said the Government would not pay the expenses of passage to, and treatment at Europe. This irresponsible reply served only to exasperate the people.

In this weak state of health what could Subhas do? Should he comply with the conditions of the Government? Or should he sacrifice his life suffering in jail? The choice lay between the two. But Subhas the heroic lion of Bengal did not desire to gain health at the cost of self-respect. Even in this state his courage and determination did not waver. At this time he wrote a letter to his elder brother Sarat Chandra Bose, which gives us an insight

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into his mind. That letter abounds with patriotism and courage. He writes, "It looks as if my life will end in prison. Would God ever give me the opportunity to see my parents' faces? Nothing moves except by the will of God. In whatever state He chooses to keep me I am prepared to submit to Him. My sacrifice shall be an atonement for the sins of the people of *Bharat* country. Our ideals and aspirations which are as dreams now shall be realities in the time of our progeny. It is this faith that comforts me in this sad state."

When Subhas thus preferred to die in jail rather than live in foreign country, public anxiety increased. Subhas's state was anxiously watched. All over the country people prayed for his recovery. Subhas's condition became more serious. The Government too became alarmed. They began to take speedy measures for his release. The Bengal Government decided to bring him to India and place him at Almora. News somehow spread among the people that at 12 o'clock on the 15th of May 1927 Subhas was going to be brought to Calcutta. There was a great stir in Bengal. An immense crowd collected at Outram Ghaut

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to see Subhas. At 11 o'clock the steamer stood in the mid river. Sarat Chander, Major Hingston, Sir Neelaratna Sircar, Dr. P. C. Roy and others went by the steam launch of the Governor of Bengal called Queen Mary. As soon as the launch reached the steamer Sarat Chander boarded it. Within a few minutes Subhas was brought in a stretcher. In the launch doctors examined Subhas. They were struck by his extreme weak condition. At 3 p. m. leaving Subhas in charge of Major Hingston, Doctor to the Governor of Bengal, the other doctors left the launch. The launch stayed all that night in the river. The Major gave Subhas all the comforts that he could give. At day-dawn the Government released Subhas unconditionally.

The Government wired to Sarat Chander to take back Subhas. The people all over India rejoiced at the release of Subhas. The All India Congress Committee that was sitting at Bombay sent its blessings to him. There were prayers all over the country for his speedy recovery. Mahatma Gandhi condemned it as an act of cowardice on the part of the Government to have delayed his release until they realized he was in a serious state.

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On 2-6-27 a member of parliament raised a question in parliament about the release of Subhas Bose. Lord Winterton, the Under-secretary of State for India, replying to it said, that it was after an enquiry before two Magistrates that every accused under the Bengal Ordinance was committed to prison. In his ailing state Bose somehow came to know of the deliberate lie uttered by the Under-secretary. Weak as he was, on 5-6-27 he published a lengthy and detailed statement by way of reply to the Under-secretary. In it he stated that the accused under the Bengal Ordinances were not in truth produced before Magistrates, that in his case though an enquiry was asked for the Government would not hold one, and that from that it became clear to him that the police were making a false complaint against him.

Even in his illness his inability to carry on national service oppressed him greatly. He therefore informed his people of his plight and asked them, to allow him some rest until he recovered his health. As soon as he was strong in body and mind he would not hesitate to be amidst them again to render national service. When therefore he recovered a little from his illness he engaged himself again in public work.

5. Competition in national service

In the beginning of 1928 when Subhas resumed his political activities, a confusion arose in the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee. Differences and cleavages arose amongst congressmen. So long as Chitranjan Doss was alive the Bengal Congress was in many respects supreme. Chief among his assistants during his leadership of the Bengal Congress were Sri Senguptha and Subhas Chandra Bose. That these were the two heroes who were competent to succeed to his place could not be gainsaid. Both were great patriots; both had consecrated their lives for the nation; they had both endured hardships and jail life. But only one could grace the the leadership left by C. R. Doss.

Subhas Babu was in jail when C. R. Doss died. So Senguptha became the president of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee. He served well consistently with his position as leader. After Subhas's return to public life his followers strove hard to confer the leadership of the Bengal Congress on him. As a result the Bengal Congress split up into two groups, the party of Subhas and the party of

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Senguptha. Where there is faction there would be rivalry. Both the factions laboured hard to consolidate their position and influence in the congress and among the public. The "Forward" paper supported Subhas and "Advance" was started to espouse the cause of Senguptha. Both the party organs pursued wrong methods in advocating their respective causes and upholding their leaders. It was the mischievous methods of these party organs and party men that widened the gulf between the two great patriots Subhas and Senguptha and created bitterness between them.

Sri Senguptha was the Mayor of the Calcutta Corporation in 1927. On the 2nd of April 1928 the election for the Mayoralty was held. Knowing that Subhas was going to stand for the election Senguptha withdrew his candidature. Sri P. L. Basu of the moderate party contested the seat. Subhas was defeated having secured 57 votes as against the 46 votes secured by his rival. It speaks eloquently of the degenerate state of the Bengal Congress that an ordinary moderate should have defeated a great patriot. It is evident that many of Senguptha's party voted for a moderate out of jealousy against Subhas. There was a great

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disturbance created on hearing of Subhas's defeat. Electric lights were put out. Confusion prevailed. Some of Senguptha's party were severely belaboured. Slippers were freely flung. Henceforth the schism between the sections became more acute.

The faction which was localised at first in the Bengal District Congress Committee and the Provincial Congress Committee spread into the All India Congress Committee and the Working Committee as well. It caused anxious concern to leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Motilal Nehru. They therefore sought to effect a compromise between Subhas and Guptha. The Congress Working Committee deputed Sri M. S. Ana for the purpose. Sri Ana strove in vain to bring about a rapprochement between the two factions.

Subhas subsequently became the Mayor of the Corporation. He became too the President of the Provincial Congress Committee. The party strife did not however cease. During the second civil disobedience movement Senguptha died in prison. The factions however persisted even after his death. On Senguptha's death Dr. Roy became the leader of his party. It was as a result of this mis-

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fortune, that the seed of dissension that was sown by the two factions, has borne fruit in the enthronement of the present Janab Faslul Haq ministry. Otherwise would there not have been a congress ministry even as in other provinces? Could otherwise Janab Haq of the Muslim league be indulging in tall talk even after the no-confidence motion? But there is a special trait in this Subhas-Senguptha rivalry. This is not like the rivalry of job hunters. Subhas and Senguptha were only competing in the service of the motherland. They did not compete for the love of jobs and for the pleasures they might derive from them. They only desired to serve their country men through the congress committees and institutions like the Corporation. They did not seek to secure honour or glory to themselves. Therefore it was that just as they competed for the above places they vied with each other in the fight for freedom and went to jail.

6. Complete Independence

Soon after his release from jail Subhas who swayed between life and death recovered his health completely. As soon as he returned to public work high and responsible positions like the Presidentship of the Bengal Congress were conferred on him. Even while he was in jail he was elected unopposed as a member for the Bengal legislative council in the election held in 1926. He therefore turned his attention to legislative work. He had not however the same enthusiasm for the work now as he had during the time of C. R. Doss. He did not therefore divert his attention very much in that direction, but concentrated on the carrying out of the Congress programme. He worked hard for the Khader programme, for the Swadeshi movement and so forth. He organised Students' Youth leagues, National colleges and institutions. By such achievements Subhas's reputation rose tenfold. The Government grew jealous and nervous at the name and influence acquired by Subhas in politics and public life. European newspapers declared that Subhas would soon attain the eminence of Gandhiji. That Subhas achieved so much fame, amidst reactionaries on one

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side and Sengupta's party on the other, speaks highly of his intellectual eminence and his capacity for action.

While Subhas was serving his term in jail the Congress that met at Madras passed a resolution declaring the attainment of complete Swaraj as the goal of India. The British Government constituted the Simon Commission with Sir John Simon at its head and sent it to India. Even the Moderates did not take kindly to the Commission. Lord Birkenhead, the Secretary of State for India, challenged the Indians to draft a constitution of their own. This supercilious attitude of the Secretary of State roused the feelings of the nation. All-parties conferences were held all over by all groups and parties in India in answer to the challenge of the Secretary of State. Meantime on 3-2-28 the Simon Commission arrived at Bombay. The cry of "Go back Simon" rent the air in Bombay. That day all over India complete hartal was observed. The commission was boycotted wherever they went.

In this state of unrest the nation was eager to know Subhas's views on the prevailing political situation. From time to time Subhas

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was giving out his views to the public. On 3-5-28 the Maharatta Provincial Congress was held. It was presided over by Subhas. What was the goal of India? Would Dominion status satisfy the national aspirations? Or was the nation set on achieving complete independence or "**Poorna Swaraj**"? This was the absorbing topic that agitated the minds of leaders. In his Presidential address Subhas clarified the political situation in India and laid insistence on "**Poorna Swaraj**" as the goal of India.

A committee was constituted led by Motilal Nehru to investigate into the resolutions passed by All-parties conferences and submit a report. The committee in its report favoured Dominion status. Subhas and Pandit Jawaharlal opposed the Nehru recommendation as incompatible with the resolution of the Madras Congress which accepted "**Poorna Swaraj**" as our political goal. With the reservation therefore that people of the "**Poorna Swaraj**" persuasion could have liberty of thought, Dominion status was adopted by the All-parties conference. Subhas declared that though he did not believe in Dominion status he would accept it as a first step towards "**Poorna**

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Swaraj". He did not rest with that. With the collaboration of Pandit Jawahar he started the "**Poorna Swaraj Sabha**". Just as they worked as joint secretaries in 1928, Subhas and Jawahar became the joint secretaries of this body also. At the All-India Congress Committee held at Delhi on 3-11-28 the status of "**Poorna Swaraj**" was reaffirmed as the goal of India. There could be no doubt that it was the joint effort of Subhas and Jawahar that was responsible for its acceptance.

On the 24th of December of the same year was held the 43rd session of the Congress at Calcutta. It was presided over by Pandit Motilal. Calcutta looked gay and cheerful. Streets were adorned with festoons. National flags waved merrily over house tops. People gathered in crowds dressed in milk-white Khader caps and dress. And amidst all drove Pandit Motilal in a chariot drawn by 36 horses in grand state. Volunteers on horses and cycles and national scouts went in cordons in the front and rear of the procession. The sight of Subhas leading the national volunteers in front on a beautiful horse was a grand and uplifting spectacle.

Pandit Motilal Nehru hoisted the national flag at the Congress Pandal on the 28th. On

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that occasion Subhas as the leader of the volunteers formed them into cordons and gave military honours to the President. It was indeed an impressive sight. Need we say that to Subhas was due the credit of having made the Calcutta Congress a great success.

5. Distrust in Gandhism

Chief among the resolutions passed at the Congress was the one relating to Dominion status. Mahatma Gandhi who had for some time been retired from politics moved, "that unless the British Government granted Dominion status as recommended by the All-parties conference before the 31st of December 1929 Congress would not accept it and if it was delayed beyond that date Congress would instead insist on obtaining Poorna Swaraj." There was vehement discussion over this resolution. Subhas stoutly opposed it. "Poorna Swaraj" was our ideal, declared Subhas. It was not proper that we should bargain with the bureaucracy for Dominion status. We had already passed a resolution at the Madras Congress in favour of complete freedom. And now that we should try to pass this resolution for Dominion status was hardly appropriate. It would be derogatory to the Congress. Supported by Jawaharlal he moved an amendment to Gandhiji's resolution. The amendment however was lost and Gandhiji's original motion was carried. Subhas however did not lose heart. He carried on his propaganda in behalf of "Poorna Swaraj." Through the medium of

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"Forward" he preached his ideal of "Poorna Swaraj." The Government observed with deep concern the extremism of the organ.

Political tension was in general very high after the Calcutta Congress. And Government reacted by introducing repressive measures. As a protest against the atrocities committed in prison Sri Yatheendhranath fasted for 64 days and gave up his life. It is no wonder then that the Government kept a close watch on the "Forward" paper which was voicing the extreme views of Subhas. Meantime the Nagpur Railway company had instituted proceedings against the paper for defamation on 24-4-29. A sum of Rs. a lakh and a half was awarded as damages to the Railway company. Subhas therefore abandoned the paper and overnight started another by name "New Forward." Sri Eunch Vihari Sarkar came forward as its publisher. But the Railway company stopped it with the aid of the Government. Within the third day however Subhas started another paper under the name of "Liberty." The Government was discomfited at this. They could not go further. They were baffled by Subhas's energy and persistence.

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On 12-6-29 Assam was inundated by floods. The people suffered greatly on account of such unexpected floods. Subhas sought to alleviate their distress and collected Flood Relief funds and mitigated the sufferings of twelve lakhs of people.

Close on this calamity came the Calcutta mill hands strike. On 11-8-29 the Police issued a ban against all meetings in the city for a period of 7 days. The same day had been arranged for the celebration of the "Patriots day" in commemoration of the Political prisoners of Bengal. At "Hajari Bagh" there was a meeting under the presidentship of Subhas and another at the Calcutta Corporation Premises under the presidentship of Sri Senguptha. Later Subhas conducted a huge procession. At the procession cries of "Long live the Revolution and down with autocracy" filled the air. The Police therefore seized the flags and dispersed the crowds by baton charges. Subhas and a few others were arrested on the charge of preaching sedition. The trial of the accused lasted until 23-1-30. In the end Subhas was sentenced to one year imprisonment.

In the meanwhile on 19-12-29 the 44th session of the Congress met at Lahore under

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the presidentship of Pandit Jawaharlal Nebrū. This Congress was more important than the previous Congresses. It was here that the resolution for complete independence was carried out. As assured by him at the Calcutta Congress, Mahatmaji himself moved the resolution for complete independence. Pandit Motilal seconded it. Subhas moved an amendment suggesting the formation of a parallel Government by the Congress to embarrass the British Government. Mahatmaji turned it down as an impracticable proposition. Subhas's amendment therefore was lost. Subhas was dissatisfied with Mahatmaji's trend of politics. Likewise, Gandhiji disapproved of Subhas's extreme views. As a result Subhas did not find a place in the Congress working committee that year.

After this Congress Subhas and the Madras leader Sri. S. Srinivasa Iyengar endeavoured to organise a "Congress People's Party." On close thought however they abandoned the idea apprehending that it may create a cleavage in the Congress. But many Bengali youths joined together and started the "India Liberty League". The outlook of this league was not merely political. It endeavoured to do good

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to the people in social and economic matters also. Subhas took a leading part in the league and worked enthusiastically. Leaders like Sri. S. Srinivasa Iyengar and Pandit Jawaharlal joined the league and co-operated with Bose. They laid down a programme for the investigation of the economic conditions of the country and for the eradication of poverty from the people.

After passing the complete Independence resolution the Congress set forth to inaugurate the national struggle in a new way. There too was a greater national consciousness among the people than ever. Even the British Lion was awed by the determination of the Congress to achieve complete independence. There were preparations all over the country for the observance of the "Independence Day".

It was just two days prior to the day appointed for the celebration of the "Independence Day" that Subhas was sentenced by the Alipore magistrate as stated supra. The Government started enforcing repressive measures rigorously. They declared certain national bodies like the Civil Disobedience League as illegal. The police reigned supreme.

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Even in the midst of such confusion the Independence Day was celebrated all over India. The Independence resolution was read everywhere. The police dispersed meetings with batons and arrested many. Subhas too did not remain idle in the Alipore jail. He got together his prison mates and celebrated the day in the jail. The national flag was flown in the jail. How was the tricoloured national flag got into the jail? That was what perplexed the jail authorities when they witnessed the celebrations. They considered it as a great disgrace to them and were furious. They enquired who was at the bottom of it all. Their suspicions centred on Subhas. None however would betray the secret. They were therefore exasperated at the solid unity of the prisoners. They could not however take any action then. They therefore bided their time.

One day, the jail authorities were discourteous to the prisoners. The political prisoners refused to submit to their discourteous orders. There was therefore a quarrel between the two sides. The authorities seized this opportunity and rang the danger bell and called in the army. The army and the warders brutally attacked the

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prisoners. They rolled the prisoners down the stairs. Subhas fainted with the dislocation of his wrist. He remained in this condition for 3 hours and fever set in. His ailment became serious and he was bed ridden for several months. In 1930 when the nation was in a state of great upheaval as a result of the salt satyagraha and the civil disobedience campaign, Subhas was serving his term. Else he should have been in the thick of the fight. In December 1930 his term expired and Subhas was released. He desired to join in the civil disobedience campaign. His release roused a new enthusiasm in the youth of Bengal. The Government realizing this served an order under S. 144 on Subhas. He was again arrested for disobeying the order. He was sentenced to a week's imprisonment. Subhas was at first placed in the Raja Sahib's prison but at dead of night he was roused from his sleep and removed to the Alipore jail. As soon as he was released he was again cast into prison for another offence. As a result of this intermittent jail life Subhas's health was impaired. On his release Subhas was elected to the mayoralty in place of the Commissioner's post which he had already held. Within a few days after he became Mayor the

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Independence Day came off. Enthusiastic efforts were made to celebrate it grandly. The police worked vigorously to prevent it. Subhas who was fully aware of the impediments had taken necessary measures even on the day previous. On the morning of the 26th of January Subhas went to the City Council. At precisely 4 p.m. in the evening the Mayor started bearing a big national flag. The Corporation officials and servants garlanded the Mayor and sent him in procession amidst great applause. The people joined the procession in great crowds. There was great uproar. The police were taken by surprise. The next moment the procession was dispersed by baton charge. Not only the police but the infantry and the cavalry also set upon the crowds and scattered them. Mayor Subhas was hurt severely in the head and neck. The Government did not stop at that. Subhas was charged under S. 147 and sentenced to 6 months rigorous imprisonment on the 27th. Meanwhile the salt-satyagraha was suspended and in March the Gandhi-Irwin pact was concluded. As a result political prisoners including Subhas were released.

Subhas was not a little dissatisfied with the Gandhi-Irwin pact. He boiled with rage

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at the Government's persistence in hanging Bhagat Singh, Rajaguru and Sugadev in spite of Gandhiji's intercession. He was of opinion that in the matter of political prisoners neither Gandhiji nor the Congress took adequate steps. In the Nowajawan Conference held at Karachi on the 27th of March Subhas feelingly expressed this opinion in his presidential address. Despite much opposition the resolution relating to the Gandhi-Irwin pact was moved by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and carried out at the Karachi Congress. Gandhiji's influence was still solid in spite of the agitation of the youth of the nation.

Subsequently Mahatma Gandhi was invited to the Second Round Table conference held at London. There Mahatma voiced forth the rights and grievances of the Indian people as their true and accredited representative. On account of the machinations of Indian reactionaries however, the British politicians did not pay heed to Gandhiji's utterances. Hence Mahatma had no other alternative but to return. Meanwhile the Gandhi-Irwin pact was cast to the winds and repressive measures were again enforced. Many including Pandit Jawaharlal were imprisoned. Mahatma was

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arrested immediately he landed in India. This situation lent force to the suspicions which Subhas had already had. He too was placed in the Seyon Prison. He again fell ill within a few days of his imprisonment on account of the extreme heat of the place. He was transferred in this state to Jubalpoore. His ailment only became worse. Hence the Government brought him to the Madras Jail. Here an X-ray examination of Subhas showed that he was suffering from consumption. Eminent Bengal doctors like Sir Neela Ratna Sircar and Dr. P. C. Roy examined Subhas and declared that if he was sent to a cold country like Switzerland he might recoup health. As Subhas's condition was grave the Government agreed to the medical advice. Subhas desired to see his parents before he started for Europe. But the Government refused to permit it. At the Bombay harbour his relatives and friends were allowed to see Subhas only in the presence of the police. On 23-2-33 he left India for Europe. He underwent an operation at Vienna. He was further given appropriate treatment. It was a great comfort to Subhas to meet and move in the company of Vithalboi Patel who had gone there before him for health.

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Subhas and Vithalboi were dismayed at the news of Gandhiji's suspension of the civil disobedience campaign on 8-5-33. They were furious against the Mahatma. They made a statement that the Mahatma was incompetent to be a political leader, that the Congress must be reformed, that new political measures must be adopted, and that, if it was not possible to change the Congress, a new party with energetic views must be formed within the Congress.

8. Talk with the Eminent men of Europe

On the 10th of June an Indian political conference was held at London. Subhas had been invited to preside over it. He sought the permission of the Government to attend the conference. But they refused to permit him to visit England. Hence Subhas wrote his presidential address and sent it to the working committee to be read at the conference.

Meanwhile on 22-10-33 Vithal Boi died in spite of all treatment. Subhas was near Patel on the eve of his death and rendered all comforts. Subhas was deeply grieved at the death. He sent the corpse to India by steamer. He wired to the Mahatma about it. At the time of his death Vithalboi had left a will directing a sum of a lakh of rupees to be given to Subhas for propaganda in foreign countries about the condition of India.

Before he recovered from his grief over Patel's death Subhas received news of the dangerous state of his father. Hence regardless of his own state of health he hastened from Europe and reached India on 4-12-34. His father had died meantime. How Subhas must have felt that he could not be at his father's

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bedside even during the last days! As soon as he alighted from the aeroplane at Karachi the customs officials searched his belongings. They seized some portions of the type written treatise entitled "India's Struggle for freedom." The next day when he went to Calcutta he was served with an order enjoining him on pain of 7 years imprisonment not to leave his house until permitted and his letters were also examined before they were delivered to him. It was under these conditions that Subhas performed the funeral ceremonies of his father. Thus a month passed by. As he was confined to a place without being permitted to move about his illness again increased. On medical advice he was sent to Vienna on 10-1-35.

Sea voyage was soothing to him in his ailment. He landed on his way at Egypt. There he met and interviewed Nahaz Batscha the founder of modern Egypt. He was delighted with the progress of the Egyptian people.

In spite of two months' treatment at Vienna his condition did not improve. He had therefore to undergo several abdominal operations. After he recovered a little, for considerations of health, he proceeded to

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Morlesburg in Czechoslovakia, the recent unfortunate victim of Hitler's Fascist aggression. While there he studied European politics. At this time he was drawn to Mussolini's Fascism. He discussed Fascism with Mussolini. Eventually he felt that Fascism was unsuitable for India. In February 1936 he went to Ireland. He interviewed the Irish leader Devalera, who received Subhas with great enthusiasm. They since met often. That year Subhas's book, 'India's struggle for freedom 1920—1934' was published. Readers may be aware that the Indian Government had proscribed this book. But it was greatly appreciated by Devalera. Finally on 30-4-35 he went and interviewed the eminent French man Romain Rolland. Thus Subhas stayed three years in Europe, not only interviewing prominent politicians but also enlightening Europeans on Indian conditions. Subhas met at Europe Jawaharlal Nehru who had come there for his wife Kamala Nehru's treatment and ascertained Indian conditions from him. Both discussed plans for the furtherance of India's struggle for freedom. At this stage on 5-3-36 Kamala Nehru died. Even in his grief Jawaharlal Nehru had to hurry to Lucknow congress to preside over it.

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Subhas was eager to come back to India. But the British consul at Vienna informed him that he would be arrested if he returned to India. The Government replied in similar terms to a question asked in the Indian legislative assembly. Subhas however decided to brave it all. On 29-3-36 he left Vienna and reached India on 8-4-36. Amidst the tremendous ovation that welcomed him from the crowds that had gathered at the Bombay harbour to receive him, he was arrested by the Government immediately he set foot on the shore. At this time the Faizpur congress was convened. Pandit Nehru proclaimed the 10th of May as "Subhas's day" and the day was accordingly celebrated all over the land. The Indian legislative council and the Calcutta Corporation adjourned their sittings in observance of the day.

Jail life again made Subhas weak. The Government therefore interned him in Sarat Chandra Bose's palace. Eventually on 17-3-37 they released him unconditionally. The members of the All India Congress Committee and the congress legislative council members, who were taking part in the national convention that was then meeting at Delhi,

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rejoiced over the release of Bose and invited him to join the convention. Bose was however too weak and on 26-4-37 he proceeded towards Dalhousie. On the way he alighted at Allahabad and stayed at *Anandh Bhavan* for two days. Here he conferred with Mahatmaji, Pandit Nehru and others on the political situation.

During his stay at Allahabad a welcome address was presented to him by the students at Purushothamdoss Park. An immense crowd had collected to hear Subhas.

Towards the close of October 1937 the All Indian Congress committee met at Calcutta. It was Subhas who was in charge of the arrangements.

On 10-11-37 Subhas was elected the Alderman of the Calcutta Corporation.

Subhas had not still recovered his health completely. He therefore flew to Europe on 18-11-37. While he was undergoing treatment at the Padgastine Sanatorium the Bengal Congress Committee proposed him for the Presidentship of the Haripur Congress. It was acclaimed all over the country.

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As soon as his health improved he started for London via Germany on the 10th of January 1938. Europeans as well as Indians received him at the London Victoria Station with great ovation. Srimathi Battacharji garlanded him. Press-men closed round him and sought his views on many things.

9. The Presidentship of the Congress

When Reuter's representative reminded him of his appointment as President of the Haripur Congress Subhas replied that he was not conceited enough to think that he was competent to hold such a lofty place. He regarded the honour conferred on him as honour conferred on the men and women who had suffered trials and tribulations in the national struggle for freedom. With his people's support and good will he would endeavour to serve his country better.

Later he met Prof. Haldane, Dr. Jennings and others. Before he left London finally he had a long talk with De valera. That night he spoke with the great politician Bertrand Russell. When he took leave of De valera at the Piccadily Hotel the Irish leader wished him all success in his fight for India's freedom.

Finally on the 19th January 1938 Subhas started from the Croydon aerodrome towards India via Naples. At Karachi he was accorded a rousing reception.

On the 13th of February Subhas arrived at Haripur for the Presidentship of the Congress. He was taken in procession in

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a chariot drawn by 51 bulls. Under his Presidentship the Congress was a tremendous success. It is remarkable that, at this juncture when the congress has captured the councils and accepted the Ministry, our Bose has become the *Rashtrapathi*. Since then there have been many critical situations in the land. We may recall the resignation of the Ministries of Bihar and the United Provinces, the confusion in the Central Provinces and so forth. All these difficulties were resolved in a way and in addition to the Seven Provincial Congress Ministries, a Congress coalition Ministry has been formed in Assam.

Subhas is endeavouring to bring Bengal again under the influence of the congress. He chafes at communalists and reactionaries exploiting the dissensions in the congress. He became vexed with the Calcutta Corporation Congress party which would not be influenced by all his strenuous efforts for the promotion of unity and he therefore resigned his leadership of the party and the post of the Alderman in disgust. Extremist as he was Subhas laid insistence on Party Discipline.

Quite early in his 24th year Subhas entered the political life. Ten out of his seventeen

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years of political life he spent either in jail or in Europe. And these ten years too he was tormented by illness. He had, too, to spend considerable time in recouping his health. The period of his active service to the nation was only Five years. Within that brief space however he has great achievements to his credit. It was his great sacrifice to his country that has brought Subhas to the pinnacle of glory so soon in life.

It is our singular good fortune that at this critical juncture we have for our leader a statesman of sterling character, outstanding ability and of great political intuition and sagacity. Subhas may well take his rank among the gallery of illustrious Patriots who have shed glory on India. It shall therefore be the proud privilege of Tamil Nad to welcome this National Hero, Srijut Subhas Chandra Bose.

[THE END]

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A REVIEW

VASIKARANA TANTRA By. Swami Premananda Yogi. (English edition) M. S. Ramulu & Co. 286, Esplanade, Madras. Price Rs. 3.

Mesmerism is considered a mystic art, and there is a confusion of ideas about it. Swami Premananda Yogi tries to dispel the confusion and explain the art, and his book is an interesting treatise on the subject. Success in mesmeric practice depends entirely on the development of soul force. Soul force is a divine gift inherent in man, and according to Swami Premananda yogi, the *Summum bonum* of existence is the development of this force. He even claims that he who has cultivated and strengthened soul force "can not only become great and famous but may also protect and uplift others."

The first step towards the development of soul force is meditation with a firm faith in the potentialities of soul force. After a course of exercise in meditation, the aspirant to Vasikarana Tantra should strengthen his power of thought. For acquiring this power, *pranayama* or breathing exercise is the best aid. The effect of *pranayama* is that it enables one to gain that state of mental poise and fixity necessary for developing spiritual force. The author here discusses the value of *pranayama* and explains its various postures. * *

The chief methods of *vasikarana*, or captivating others, are concentration and determination to accomplish the object in mind; the author explains concentration as "being fascinated by an object, and being merged in it forgetting everything else."

The book is intended for those who believe in the potencies of the divine in man and in the possibilities of spiritual force. It will be very valuable to those who can practise the art. It is written in an easy and popular style and is neatly printed.

—Madras Mail.

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