

Chacha Nehru

K.S. Krishnaswamy
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CHACHA NEHRU

VIII STANDARD

By

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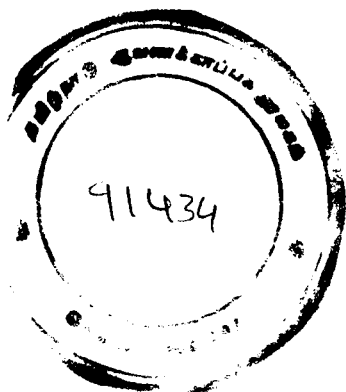
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PREFACE

This biography of one of the greatest leaders of the world has been written for children to inspire and instruct them. Hence only such incidents and episodes as would interest them and capture their imagination have found place in it, and these are presented in as simple and straight a manner as possible. The words used are within the prescribed vocabulary for the age group and the sentence patterns are based on the teaching items intended for the standard. Exercises at the end are to test the pupils' ability in comprehension and composition.

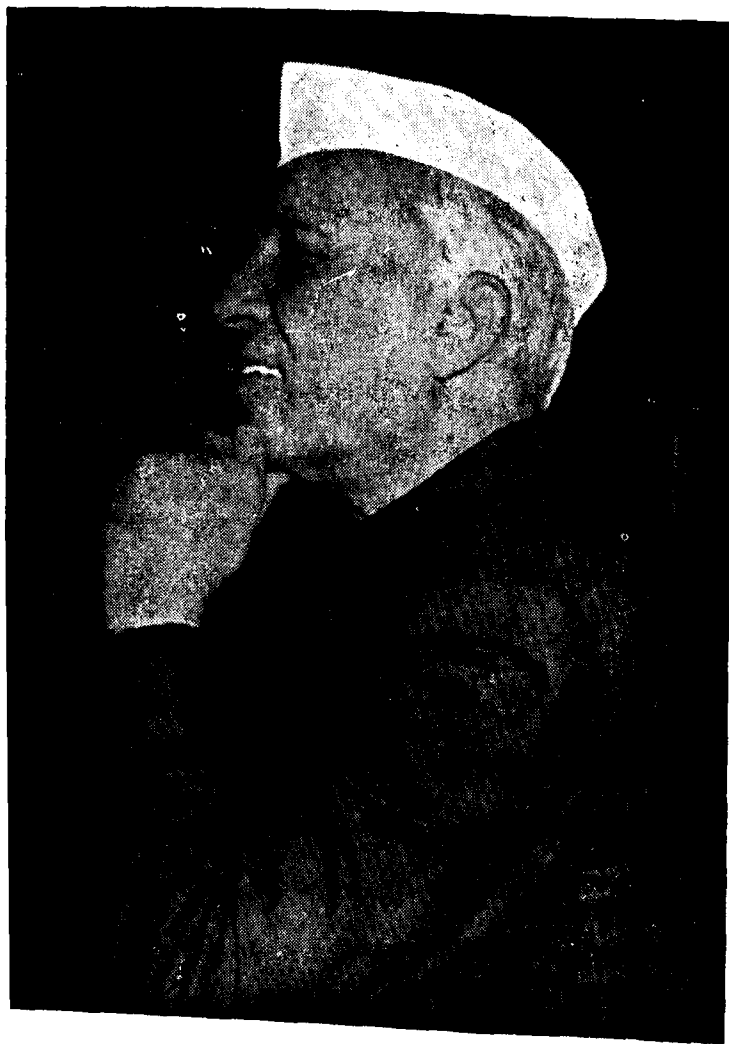
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CHACHA NEHRU

1. THE NEHRUS

FOURTEENTH November is a great and happy day. We call it the Children's Day. All the boys and girls of India remember that day. They look forward



to it eagerly as they do the *Deepavali* or the *Pongal*.

Why?

It was on that day India gave to the world and to herself a great and good man. He was Jawaharlal Nehru. He worked for the freedom of our motherland. He tried hard to give peace and joy to the world. He was lovable. He was *Chacha* to millions of children. People liked him. To them he was Arjuna, handsome and brave.

Asoka came after Lord Buddha: and



Buddha



Asoka

after Mahatma Gandhi came Nehru.

Asoka spread the Buddha's message of *Ahimsa*. So did Nehru spread Gandhiji's message of peace and love. Nehru did it with courage and strength, and he got success.

The story of his life is very interesting. You can learn many things from it. It will make you better and nobler citizens of the motherland.

More than two hundred years ago there lived in the lovely valley of Kashmir a learned Brahmin. His name was Raj Kaul. The Moghul Emperor in Delhi once visited Kashmir. He happened to meet Raj Kaul. He liked his learning. He invited him to go over to Delhi. So Raj Kaul came away to Delhi. The Emperor gave him a piece of land and a house near a canal in the city. Time passed, and Raj Kaul came to be called Kaul of *Nahar*. *Nahar* means canal. So his family name changed to Nehru.

After Raj Kaul's death the family had many troubles. But in Lakshminarayan Nehru's time the family became well known again. Lakshminarayan was Jawaharlal's great grandfather and he was a 'Vakil'. Lakshminarayan had a son. His name was Gangadhar. In 1857, the Indian Sepoys rose against their British masters. So the Nehru family left Delhi and came to live in Agra.

Gangadhar had three sons. The last of them was Motilal Nehru. Three months before the birth of Motilal, Gangadhar died. Nandlal, the second son of Gangadhar, brought up his little brother. Nandlal was for some years the *diwan* of a small state. Then he practised as a lawyer in the Agra High Court. The High Court was removed to Allahabad, and so he also moved to that city. From that time Allahabad became the home of the Nehrus. They have been living there since then.

Young Motilal was a bright lad. He studied in the Central College in Allahabad. But he did not take his degree. He appeared for the High Court Vakil's Examination and passed it. He won a gold medal. He set up practice as a lawyer in Allahabad.

About this time Nandlal died. Motilal had now to support the family. He worked harder than before. Soon he became well known as an able lawyer.

Motilal was now twenty years old. He married a Kashmiri girl. Her name was Swaruprani. She was beautiful and gentle like a flower. To Swaruprani and Motilal was born on November 14, 1889, Jawaharlal.

2. EARLY BOYHOOD

JAWAHAR'S childhood was very happy. Motilal was always busy and so the child saw little of him. He

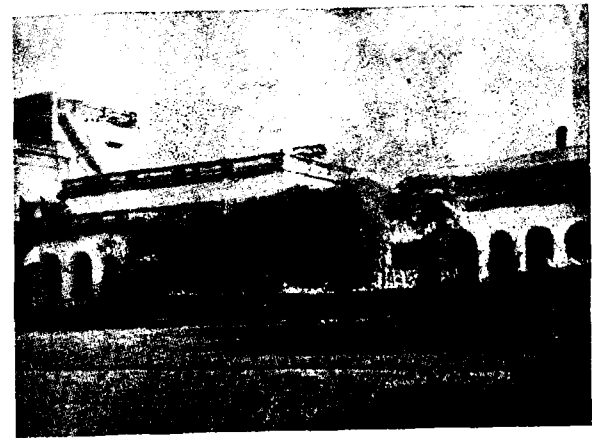


Jawahar and his parents
was always with his mother. From his

mother and aunt Jawaharlal heard the stories of Rama and Krishna.

There was in his house an old Muslim. His name was Mubarak Ali. Often Nehru would go to him and he would tell him stories from the *Arabian Nights*.

When Jawahar was three years old, his father moved to a bungalow. Here



Anand Bhavan

the boy lived till he was ten. Then Motilal bought a large fine house and they all went to live in it. Now about this time Jawahar had a little sister.

Her name was Vijayalakshmi. The new house was called *Ananda Bhavan*. It



Jawahar on his cycle

had fine gardens on all sides of it. It had a swimming pool. Here Jawahar

learned to swim. He loved the new home. There was in front of the bungalow a small summer house. Inside that house was an image of Lord Shiva on a rock. From the head of the image flowed a tiny stream of water into a small tank at the foot of it. Lovely flowers grew all around.

Motilal Nehru had many horses and dogs, cars and carriages. He was fond of hunting and riding. Jawahar had his own pony, a beautiful white animal. He called it *Rakshi*. One day he rode away on his horse without a servant following him. It was raining then. An hour or so afterwards only the horse returned without Jawahar. Motilal and some friends were playing tennis. They saw the horse without its rider. They were upset. A number of people were sent to search for the boy. They found him in a field. He had fallen from his horse.

He said, "It was my own fault. You make much of this, and you make me feel silly."

But his father and mother felt him all over to be sure he was not hurt.

Once when Jawahar was about six or seven years old he saw two fine pens on his father's desk.

"Why should father need two pens?" said the boy to himself.

He took one of them. When Motilal saw that one of his pens was missing, he searched for it everywhere. He was not able to find it. Servants ran here and there in fear. When Motilal was angry every one was afraid.

Nehru wanted to tell his father that he had taken the pen. But then he was afraid. So he kept silent. Soon however, the pen was discovered among his books in his room. His father gave him a severe beating. When it was over, Jawahar ran to his mother and she

spoke to him gentle, kind words. She rubbed some ointment on his back.

Jawahar was now nearly nine years old. It was time for him to have the holy thread. The *upanayana* or thread-ceremony is always an important event in the life of a brahmin boy. So Jawaharlal had it on a good day.

3. EDUCATION AT HOME

JAWAHAR did not attend any school while he was very young. He was taught at home by teachers. They were European gentlemen and ladies. One of them was Mr. Brooks. He was an Irishman. He knew Samskrit and had read the *Bhagavad Gita*. Brooks was twenty-six years old when he came to teach Jawahar. Jawahar was then a boy of eleven. He made Jawahar take interest in reading. He also made him take interest in science. He set up for the boy a small laboratory. Here Nehru learned to do some simple experiments in Physics and Chemistry.

Brooks was with Nehru for nearly three years. He taught him English and Mathematics. With his help Nehru read many novels and stories written by great English authors. Brooks encouraged Nehru to study English Poetry also.

Nehru liked pictures and drawings. But music and song appealed to him more than pictures; yet again the beauty of the sky, the stars and the clouds moved him more than music or song. He loved to look at the mountains.

The only Indian teacher Jawahar had was an old pandit who taught him Hindi and Samskrit. Among the boy's books was a beautifully printed book of the *Samaveda*. Nehru did not learn Samskrit with interest.

During these years Nehru had no friends or playmates. So he was left much to himself. Often he felt all alone.

Although Nehru was now thirteen, he had no clear ideas about his religion. Of course he went often with his parents to the Ganges to take a dip there, and he observed the Hindu festivals like the Holi. Sometimes the family made a journey to Benares, or

visited a holy man. These things, however, did not make the boy think of God or religion.

The most important occasion for Nehru was, however, his birth day. Early in the morning on that day Jawahar was weighed against wheat and other foodstuffs. These things were then given away to the poor. Then his mother would bathe and dress him in his new clothes. Then he would be ready to receive his presents. In the evening there was a party.

4. EDUCATION IN ENGLAND HARROW

AS A LAWYER Motilal became famous. He grew very rich. Many British officers were his friends. He liked their way of living. He wanted to bring up his son as a 'gentleman'. He did not wish to send him to any Indian School or College. He made up his mind to put him in a British Public School. He had good friends in England, and with their help he got his son a seat at Harrow. Jawahar was now sixteen.

In May, 1905 Jawahar sailed for England with his father, mother and his four-year-old sister, Vijayalakshmi. His parents stayed with him for a while and then left for Europe. For a time he felt very sad.

There were four or five Indian boys at Harrow when Jawahar joined the school. The English boys were friendly and kind to him. The Head Master was

a popular man and a good teacher. Jawahar did well in his studies. Once



Jawahar as Volunteer

or twice, he topped his form and received prizes. One of the prize-books

he got was about Garibaldi, the Italian hero. He played cricket and football. He joined the school Volunteer Corps. Once the Harrow School boys won a shield for shooting. The winners sat in a carriage and the carriage was pulled up Harrow hill by the school boys. Among them was Nehru.

Even while at school, Jawahar took great interest in politics. While he was at Harrow, there was a general election in Britain. One day when the election was over, his form master asked his boys to name the ministers of the new Government. There was silence in the class. Then to the master's surprise Jawahar was the only one to give all the names of the new Ministers.

Nehru's liking for science grew at Harrow. It was during his stay at Harrow that he read about the Wright Brothers who made the first flight in the air. Nehru became much interested in it.

He wrote to his father, "I may soon pay you a week-end visit to India by air".

Nehru was at Harrow for two years. He liked the place. There were happy hours at school. He liked the Harrow school songs. He used to sing them with his nephews and grandchildren long afterwards when he came back to India.

5. EDUCATION IN ENGLAND CAMBRIDGE

Leaving the Harrow School in October, 1907, Jawahar joined Trinity College, Cambridge. He was now nearly eighteen. The Cambridge University was famous in many ways. Some of England's great leaders and ministers were the 'old boys' of Cambridge. The University was famous for its good laboratories. Nehru took Chemistry, Geology and Botany for his special subjects. He read a lot of English poetry.

Nehru had many Indian friends in the college. Some were his seniors and some, his juniors. Sen Gupta, the great leader of Bengal, was senior to Jawahar and he left Cambridge soon after Nehru joined the university. The other friends were Syed Mohammud, Sherwani and Kitchlew. Another Indian friend who was very dear to Nehru was Sri

Prakasa. Sri Prakasa later became Governor of Madras.



Jawahar at Cambridge

At Cambridge the Indian students had a union of their own. It was called

the Majlis. It met once in a week. Nehru was a member of the union. But he spoke very rarely at the meetings of the union. He was rather shy. There was also a college society. Here there was a rule. A member who did not speak for a whole term must pay a fine. Nehru often paid the fine. Jawahar, you know, was fond of swimming and rowing. So he became a member of the Cambridge boat crew.

In those days many Indian leaders came to Cambridge. Among them was Bepin Chandra Pal, a great and powerful speaker. One day Bepin Pal addressed the students, and Nehru listened to him.

Nehru wrote of him like this. "His voice was very loud. I could not follow what he was saying."

Lala Lajpat Rai was another visitor to Cambridge. He also spoke to the students of the university. Nehru liked his speech. He also heard Gopala Krishna Gokhale.

Nehru was at Cambridge for three years. Those years were pleasant and useful. During the same time great things were taking place in India. The Indian National Congress was growing strong. Bala Gangadhar Tilak and Aravinda Ghose were training the people for the freedom fight. Jawahar came to know of these things. He was restless and troubled.

6. EDUCATION IN ENGLAND LONDON

NEHRU did not know at first what to do after taking his degree in Cambridge. His father and mother and other friends wanted him to appear for the I.C.S. (Indian Civil Service) examination. Many of his relatives were Collectors or big officers in the Government. It was easy for his father to get him a high post.

Motilal Nehru was then a good friend of the British. He did not like the ways of Bala Gangadhar Tilak and his friends in the Indian National Congress. He wrote an article in a newspaper against them. Jawahar read it. He felt that his father was wrong. He wrote to Motilal Nehru, "The British Government will be pleased with you and your article. But I am not."

He said that he did not want to become a servant of the Government. Motilal Nehru was angry when he read his son's letter. He asked him to return to India at once. Some time passed. Jawahar's mother gently told Motilal Nehru that he should not be angry with his son. So the father wrote back to Nehru that he need not prepare for the I.C.S. examination. He could study law instead, and become a barrister. This made Jawahar happy. He would become a lawyer like his father. He could then serve his country freely and without fear.

So from Cambridge Jawahar moved to London. He joined the law classes. He studied law for two years.

Now Nehru had plenty of time in London. The law course was not hard. He dressed well. He ate well. He visited fashionable hotels. He spent a lot of money on parties. He was a member of many social clubs. He him-

self said later on "I enjoyed life". He



Jawahar as a student of law

was gay and handsome to look at. He had pleasing manners.

During the summer holidays he went to Europe. He visited France, Germany, Holland and other countries. He also visited Ireland. He moved like a prince from place to place. He loved

motoring and sight-seeing. To him life was a great adventure. There was much to be done: there was much to be seen.

One summer Nehru and some of his friends spent their holidays in Norway. They took pleasure in climbing the mountains and hills of that cold country. One day Nehru and his friends came back from the mountains to the small hotel where they were staying. As they were hot and tired, they wanted to bathe. But there was no water in the hotel. The hotel-keeper told them that they could have their wash in a stream nearby.

But he also warned Nehru, "The water is deep and fast. There are rocks in that river. Be careful."

Nehru had a young English friend with him. They both went to the stream. It was a mountain stream. Nehru stepped into the stream. He was rather careless. He slipped and fell. He



Barrister Nehru with his father

was no doubt a good swimmer. But the current was too strong for him. Besides, the water was very cold. So he was carried away. He was helpless. His English friend saw him. He ran along the bank of the stream. He caught hold of Jawahar, and pulled him out of the water.

On his way back to the hotel Nehru thanked his friend and said, "My fond parents will remember you for ever for having saved my life."

In the summer of 1912, Nehru completed his examination and he became a Barrister-at-law. Altogether he stayed in England for seven years. These years made many changes in Nehru. He did not know whether he belonged to India or England.

7. HOME COMING

The Nehrus were eagerly waiting for Jawahar's return. His parents were making great preparations to welcome their beloved son. The ship carrying Nehru was sailing towards India. He was standing on the deck near the rails and was looking towards the eastern sky. Many thoughts filled his mind. Many wonderful things had happened in India since he left her shores as a boy. He was now a young man.

His home would be the same. There would be no change in it except that another sister, Krishna, had come to him. Vijayalakshmi would be tall now, a beautiful girl of twelve. Krishna had never seen him. Vijayalakshmi had almost forgotten him.

But what of his country? What was his place, a rich Barrister, among the poor, helpless people of the villages?

With these ideas Jawahar reached at last Mussorie. The family was there at that time. As the hour of his coming neared, the eager parents and the sisters and other friends and relatives stood at the door way. A horse and its rider came in sight. A handsome youth jumped down from his horse. He ran first to his mother and took her in his arms. The mother wept for joy. Nehru then looked up and saw Krishna. She was too shy to come to him. So he went up to her and lifted her in his arms.

"So this is my other little sister!" he said.

Vijayalakshmi stood smiling waiting.

Nehru smiled in return, and said, "How tall and beautiful you are! And I learn you are going to be married soon!"

Many hours and days were spent in talking. The sisters told their brother

what had passed in the years while he had been away in England. Nehru was very happy to live again in his old rooms. He loved to swim in the pool. He played tennis with his friends. He visited relatives. He made his little sister Krishna do all sorts of things for him. Some of them the little girl disliked. He played tricks upon her and she would cry. Then he would give her gifts of fruits and dolls and be very sweet and kind to her.

Several weeks passed in this happy way. Nehru began to think what he should do. Life became dull. He then made arrangements to practise law. He attended the law courts. This kept him busy for a while. When he was not busy he went on hunting trips. Once he killed a bear in Kashmir. On another occasion he shot down a deer. It was wounded to death. It lay at his feet and looked up at him. Its great eyes were full of tears. Nehru was moved.

He was filled with shame. He never went out hunting after that, nor did he fire a gun again.

And now there came news of a war in Europe. The war spread to parts of Asia also. Every one called it a world war. Of course it was far away from India. The British Government in India asked our young men to help Britain. Some of them joined the army and fought bravely in France and Mesopotamia. Our young men joined the war because they felt Britain would give Home Rule to India. But when the war was over, the Government did nothing for us. So the Indian National Congress leaders started a great struggle. A great many meetings were held all over the country. There was a meeting in Allahabad, and Jawahar made his first speech at the meeting. This was the beginning of a change in Nehru's life. Step by step, slowly Jawahar gave up his life of comfort and took part in the fight for freedom.

8. KAMALA

NEHRU was now twenty-six years old. His father and mother wanted him to marry. Anand Bhavan would never be quite happy unless their little grandchildren ran about its fine gardens and rooms and halls. Kamala, a pretty Kashmiri girl of seventeen was to be his bride. She was a tall, gay girl, but she was also shy.

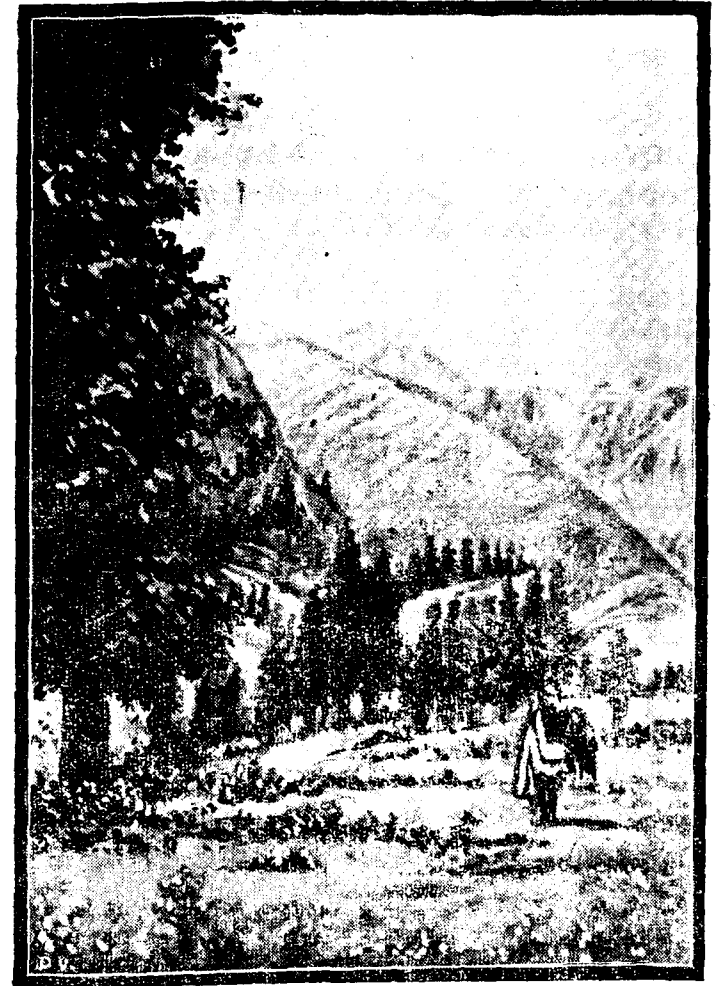
It was the month of March, 1916. It was the festival of spring. The flowers were bright and shining every where. For months preparations went on. The wedding was to be grand. The house was full of jewellers and tailors. The marriage was to take place in Delhi, the home of the bride. The bridegroom's party left Allahabad a week before the wedding day. Motilal Nehru took over a hundred guests with him and they all went in a special train. The train was beautifully decorated.

Hundreds of other guests joined them in Delhi. Many houses were set apart for them. But they were not enough. Tents were put up in an open maidan. The place was called "the Nehru Wedding Camp".

On the day of Vasant Panchami Jawahar got married to the sweet and simple girl, Kamala. Jawahar made a handsome bridegroom, and Kamala, a lovely bride. There was plenty of feasting and merry-making.

So began another part of Jawahar's life. Kamala also became a part of the great Nehru family.

Soon after the marriage all the Nehrus went to Kashmir for the summer. Jawahar was glad to be there for he loved the mountains and the valleys and the snow. They all stayed in Srinagar. One day Jawahar and a cousin of his took a journey to the mountains. It was four o'clock in the morning. The two young men climbed



Kashmir Valley

high rocks covered with snow. The wind was cold but the sun was hot. They took with them some porters. A shepherd was their guide. They were all tied together by ropes while they got up the rocks. As they went up and up, they began to breathe with difficulty. They climbed for twelve hours. Then they saw a big field of ice. There was a thick mist and they could not see one another clearly. On the other side of the field was the cave of Amaranath. If only they crossed the field of ice, they could reach the famous cave. They walked step by step. There were deep holes on the way. Some of them were covered with fresh snow. So they were hidden. As they were walking, Jawahar fell through the soft snow into a deep hole: but his rope held him. He caught hold of a rock and thus did not go deep down into the pit. Soon his friends pulled him up, and he was saved.

Did he bear a charmed life? Yes: God wanted him to live for India and serve her people.

A few days after the party returned to Anand Bhavan.

9. MEETS HIS MASTER

DAYS, weeks and months passed. In November, 1917, twenty-one months after Nehru's marriage, his daughter and only child, Indira was born.



With his Master

The world war was now coming to an end. But there was no change

and no peace in India. Nehru had heard about Gandhiji but he had not met him face to face and talked to him. In 1919, Motilal invited Gandhiji to his house at Allahabad. Jawahar liked the little man's simple, charming manner. He listened to him for long hours. He heard about his fight for the rights of our people in South Africa. He explained to Nehru the value of patience and suffering. He told him how suffering made men nobler and better. Nehru saw truth in his words. When Gandhiji said to him that violence and hate were evil, Nehru readily agreed with him. Gandhiji wanted his people to oppose the evil with the good in them. He also explained to Jawahar his plan to start a great movement to fight the Government. That plan was to resist the bad laws of the Government and to get arrested.

Jawahar liked much this new way of fighting the Government. He wished

to join Gandhiji's movement. But Motilal Nehru was against this. He knew that his dear son would be arrested and put in jail. He did not want his son to suffer in jail.

But before Jawahar could decide or do anything, the country was in great sorrow and anger. Gandhiji had set a day for a 'hartal' all over India. On that day all shops were closed in in every city and village, through out the land. All business stopped. The Government gave the order that there should be no meetings. But in Amristar a big crowd gathered in a park called Jallianwala. The police came there. Without giving notice to the people, they opened fire. Many hundreds of people were killed. There were many women and children too among the dead.

Everyone in the country was angry. All the people said that they would follow Gandhiji and work with him for the freedom of India.

Nehru was one of the first few to do so.

10. THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM BEGINS

JAWAHAR'S work was now to prepare the people for the battle of freedom. He went from village to village, talking to the people. He understood their troubles. He taught them our dear Mahatmaji's peaceful way of fighting one's enemies. This work kept him busy for some months.

Then came the news that the Prince of Wales was to visit our country. The Prince of Wales was the eldest son of the king of England. He was to become the next king.

The leaders of the Congress decided to show him black flags. So the Government arrested many people. One day Jawahar was working in his office. The police came there and took him away. They also arrested Motilal Nehru and all our leaders. But Gandhiji, they did not arrest.

Both the father and the son were sent to the same jail in Lucknow. This was their first taste of jail life.

In prison Jawahar kept himself busy. He would spend the mornings clearing the room and washing his father's and his own clothes. He would also spin for sometime every day. In the afternoon all the prisoners played games. Then they held classes, when Nehru would teach those prisoners who could not read and write.

One day came the news that Gandhiji had stopped the fight with the Government. He did so because some people forgot his teaching and set fire to a police station. Many policemen were burnt to death. Gandhiji said, "I do not want violence. We must fight our enemy without hating him."

After three months Nehru was set free. But his father was still in jail. As soon as Jawahar got back to Allahabad, he started his work. So he

was arrested and was taken back to the Lucknow jail. He was to be there for eighteen months. He was fined thousand rupees. He did not pay the fine. It was Gandhiji's order that no one should pay fine.

So while Jawahar was in prison, at Anand Bhavan many things happened. There the police came often to the place and carried away tables, chairs, silver vessels and other costly articles. Little Indira would watch the policemen and she could not understand why they took away everything. And no one stopped them.

Then one day in January, 1923, Jawahar was set free. Gandhiji stopped the fight for some months. He asked the Congress men and women to go and work in the villages.

As the months went by, Kamala fell ill. The doctors said she must go to Switzerland. There in the fresh, cool air she would get all right. So Jawahar,

Kamala and little Indira left for that country. Jawahar's sister, Vijayalakshmi, and her husband also went with them. Kamala stayed in Switzerland for a year. She got back health and strength, and returned to India.

11. PRESIDENT OF THE CONGRESS

SOON after returning home from Europe, Jawahar went to Madras and attended the Congress session there. This was in December, 1927. Early next year seven men came from England to India. They were sent by the British Government to see what could be done to improve matters in India. One Mr. Simon was their leader. But everywhere Simon and his men went, people showed them black flags and asked them to go back.

Jawahar was in Lucknow when the seven men came there. He led a big crowd of people who shouted at Simon and his men. The police beat the men and the women in the crowd with lathis. A mounted policeman rushed at Jawahar, but Jawahar would not move from his place. He was beaten on the

head and on the shoulders. Nehru took the beating cheerfully.

Twenty-ninth December, 1929 was a great day for Nehru. Gandhiji said that Jawahar must become the President of the Congress. So the Congress men chose him as their leader at Lahore. This was a great honour for Jawahar, because he was very young. His fame spread everywhere. He became the idol of the people. From distant places men and women came to see him. But all this did not make Jawahar proud or silly.

Jawahar travelled to all parts of the country. He spoke to thousands of people in villages and towns.

He asked his people, "Will you simply look on at this great struggle? The field of battle lies before you! The flag of India calls you! Freedom waits for you! Who lives if India dies? Who dies if India lives?"

It was at this Lahore meeting the leaders fixed the 26th January as Independence Day. We now observe it as Republic Day.

You know that the Nehrus were living in their beautiful house, Ananda Bhavan at Allahabad. Motilal Nehru now gave it away to the Congress and it came to be called Swaraj Bhavan. Then he had a smaller house built and he named it Ananda Bhavan. The family moved into this house. Great changes took place in the life of the Nehrus. Motilal gave up his large practice at the Bar. He sold his horses and carriages. He sent away a number of servants. There were no more feasts. A number of costly and beautiful articles were sold off. In the beginning all this was hard upon the parents and the children.

Before these changes took place, a wonderful thing happened. In one of the out-houses of Ananda Bhavan,

charcoal, firewood and other things were stored up. Amidst these things lived a big cobra. It had been there for many, many years. No one was afraid of it: no one disturbed it. Everyone thought that so long as it was there, it protected the family from all harm.

Sometime before Motilal and his son joined the freedom fight, a new servant saw it one evening. He killed it. All were filled with fear. Nehru's mother was much upset.

It was after the death of that snake troubles came on the family. So thought, however, the servants and some members of the family.

12. COMMON SALT

TIME went by. The year, 1930 came. Gandhiji made preparations to start another great struggle. Common salt, which we need every day, was made and sold only by the Government. It was taxed.

Gandhi said, "We will prepare our own salt. We will thus break the law."

All over the country people began to make salt from sea water. Women took part in this struggle. Among these brave women were also Kamala, Nehru's mother and his two sisters.

The Government arrested the leaders and thousands of men and women. Gandhiji and Jawahar were sent to jail. Soon after Motilal Nehru also was arrested and put in the same jail as Jawahar.

Motilal was ill. So Jawahar was glad to be with him and be able to look

after him. But the old man's health did not improve. He was set free.

On the New Year's Day in 1931, Kamala was arrested. When Nehru heard about it, his heart was full of admiration for her. But Kamala was not long in prison. Motilal Nehru fell very ill and so Kamala and Jawahar were set free to be with him. A week or so afterwards Motilal died. His death was a great loss to the country.

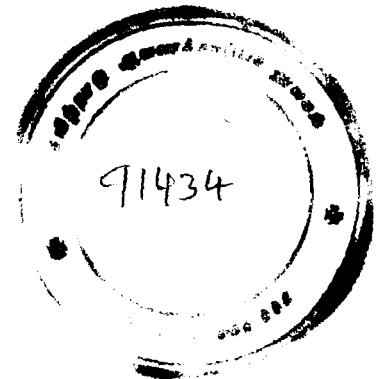
The fight was now stopped. The Government wanted to talk to the Congress leaders. There was a meeting in London. But no good came of it. So the struggle started again.

Jawahar's mother and two sisters were arrested and put in jail. The mother led a big procession when the police came on them. They beat her and she was badly hurt. At this time poor Kamala was very sick in bed. Jawahar was in the Dehra Dun jail at

the foot of the Himalayas. Long months went by.

One day news came that his mother was very ill. So Jawahar was set free to go and see her. He was with her for some five months only. She got better. After that he was again arrested and put in jail.

Before long Kamala fell ill. She grew weaker and weaker everyday. Her condition became serious. So the Government said to Jawahar that he could go and see her. He was glad to do so. He nursed Kamala night and day; and when she got better Jawahar was taken back to the prison.



13. KAMALA IS NO MORE

NEHRU was now in Alipore Jail. The place did not suit his health. He was removed to Dehra Dun. He was glad for he could see the mountains and the clouds. But he did not get better. When he slept he had bad dreams. Sometimes he shouted in his sleep. During all the day time, he thought of the past.

He asked himself "How far am I right? How far am I wrong."

Then he began to write the story of his own life.

In the meanwhile Kamala fell ill again.

The Government said to Jawahar "If you promise that you will not take part in the fight, we will set you free. You can be with your Kamala."

Our Jawahar was not the man to do so. Kamala also heard about this.

She asked Jawahar not to give any such promise.

Day by day Kamala grew weaker. The doctors said that she must go to Germany for good treatment. So Kamala sailed to Europe. Indira went with her.

On the day they left, Jawahar was allowed to see her off. He kissed Kamala with sorrow; she was weak and she could only smile. Then she was put in the car and was gone. And Nehru went to the police car that was waiting for him. He felt very sad and lonely.

But the doctors in Germany could not do much for Kamala. Her sickness had become very serious. So Jawahar was released. He flew to Germany. He saw Kamala. She was very weak and in great pain. But in the next few days she grew a little better. Nehru sat by her bedside and

read aloud to her some great books. For a month she was making some fair progress. During this time Nehru went to England with Indira and put her in a school there.

It was Christmas, 1935. Kamala became very ill. She was taken to Switzerland.

In the meanwhile Jawahar was made President of the Congress again. He should be back in India by April, 1936.

In January, 1936, Kamala's condition was very bad. But even so she asked Jawahar to return to India and take up the nation's work.

The sad day came too soon. On the last day of February, 1936, Kamala died. Nehru had lost his fine and noble wife.

14. THE FINAL STRUGGLE

JAWAHAR returned to India alone. And soon after there were elections in the country. Jawahar worked hard for these elections. Everywhere people voted for the Congress. The Congress ministers governed the States. Among the ministers was his own sister, Vijayalakshmi, in the United Provinces. She was the first woman to become a minister in India.

But soon sorrow came again to Jawahar.

One evening when they were all together in Ananda Bhavan, Jawahar's mother became sick all on a sudden. They sent at once for the doctor. All night Nehru and his sisters watched by their mother. But early in the morning Swarup Rani passed away.

Ananda Bhawan now became a very lonely, sad place for Jawahar. His dear

ones had gone away. He remembered the good old days when his father, mother and Kamala were alive. What happy times he had spent with them and his sisters!

But there was still one who could comfort and cheer up Jawahar. It was Hari. Hari was an old and good servant of the family. He had been with the Nehrus for many, many years. Nothing was done by anyone of the family before consulting Hari. Now when Jawahar was left alone, Hari looked after him like a mother.

In the meantime there was much trouble in Europe. Bad men like Mussolini in Italy and Hitler in Germany came to power. Once when Jawahar was in Italy, Mussolini wanted to meet him. But Jawahar said that he did not wish to see a wicked person like him. But some years later when Jawahar visited Italy, he met in Rome a great and good man. That was Pope Pius.



With Pope Pius XII at the Vatican : 1955

Soon a great war broke out in Europe. It was called the Second World War. Britain, France and America joined to fight Mussolini and Hitler. The British said that India too was at war. The Congress leaders said that they wanted freedom before the country took part in the war. So they

were all arrested again. Jawahar was again sent to jail.

But things became worse day by day. The Japanese were on the side of Hitler. Their armies entered Burma. They were very near our borders.

Gandhiji now asked the British to leave India. He said that all the Indians would unite and fight the Japanese if they came. On the 8th of August, 1942, our leaders met in Bombay. They decided to start another great fight against the Government. But before the leaders could do anything they were all arrested. Thirty thousand workers and leaders were sent to jail. The people rose up as one man against the Government. They forgot all about Gandhiji's message of peace and non-violence. They attacked police stations and post offices. They burnt down Government

buildings. Many men were killed. While all these things were taking place through out the length and breadth of India, Jawahar was in jail at Ahmednagar, and Gandhiji, at Poona. This was to be Nehru's last jail-going.

When Gandhiji heard of the things taking place outside, he became very sad. He made up his mind to fast for twenty-one days. Day by day he became very weak. He could not even rise from his bed. All gave up hopes of his life. But God is great. At last the twenty-one days came to an end. He took his food. The whole country felt happy. The nation offered its prayers to God.

The Ahmednagar prison was not a bad, small place. It was in a fort. Jawahar liked the place. Do you know why? Once it was bravely defended by a noble Rani. She fought against Akbar's army. Her name was Chand Bibi.

With Nehru were many other Congress leaders. Sirdar Patel was one of them. Jawahar spent most of his time in reading and gardening. Here it was he wrote a great book called 'The Discovery of India'.

Nearly three years after, in the year 1945, on June 15, Nehru and the Congress leaders were set free. The world war was coming to an end.

In all Jawahar went to prison nine times and spent more than nine years behind bars. This was indeed a great punishment for such a pure, noble and active man. But the prison gave him time for a good lot of thinking. For it was while in prison he wrote his great books.

15. THE HOUR OF VICTORY

IT WAS now clear that Britain could not hold on to India. In July, 1946, the Viceroy invited Nehru and the Congress leaders to a meeting. Some Muslim leaders also took part in the meeting. A Government of the people was formed. This Government did not work well because the Muslim leaders wanted India to be divided. They wanted Pakistan. There was fearful fighting between the Muslims and the Hindus. There was killing everywhere.

Now a new Viceroy was appointed. He was Lord Mountbatten. He was a good man. He said that the British would leave India on the 15th of August, 1947. He also said that India would be divided. So Pakistan came into being. Jawahar and Gandhiji were sad that it should be so. But India could not be free without that division. Lord Mountbatten helped much in bringing

about this great change. For two months he worked hard with the leaders to make the final arrangements.

It was the midnight of the fourteenth day of August, 1947. It was a Tuesday. Drums were beaten. Conches blew. In cities and villages lights of many colours shone from house tops and temple towers. The crowds were gay and happy.

People of Delhi, in their hundreds and thousands, made their way to the Parliament House. Within the House, Khaddar-clad members, many with white caps, sat in rows. The galleries were packed.

Slowly the hands of the clock moved towards midnight. There was now deep silence. The clock struck twelve. From the front line of seats rose to his feet, a slight, thin man. He was in pure white Khadi. His face looked serious. He had in his button-hole a red rose.

He spoke. At first his voice was low. Then in a few seconds it became loud and cheerful. Jawahar was speaking.

“Long years ago, we took a promise. It was a great promise to meet as free men and women of this great land. We have kept that promise. At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will wake to life and freedom. We step out from the old to the new”.

So spoke Jawaharlal, India's first Prime Minister. It was a fine speech, full of feeling.

In that great hall all the great leaders of the country were present. But the one man we loved and honoured most, was not there.

Who was he?

Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, was away in a Bengal village. He was looking after the poor, helpless

people who had suffered on account of the Hindu-Muslim fighting.

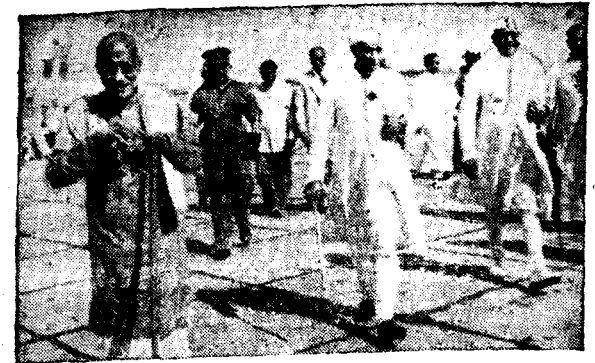
This joy of victory did not last long. A great shock came to the people. Not even six months passed. On January 30, 1948, Mahatma Gandhi was killed by a wicked man. Gandhiji was going to his evening prayer. Three shots were fired at him. He fell on the ground. His last words were "Hare Ram! Hare Ram!"

Jawahar wept like a child. His great leader and master was no more. Again Jawahar became a sad and lonely man.

But he told the nation. "The light has gone out; but the light will continue to guide us. So work harder and keep up his message of love and truth"

Soon after Lord Mountbatten left India. Rajaji became the next Governor General. On the 26th of January

1950. India became a Republic, and Babu Rajendra Prasad was elected President of India.



Governor-General Rajaji and Jawahar

16. THE LIGHT GOES OUT

Jawahar was our Prime Minister for seventeen long years. He gave all his time, strength and life to serve his people. He made India great. He was gentle and kind. Students and children were dear to him. They could always see him and talk to him. He was a good son, a loving father, a kind brother and a true friend.



President Prasad and Jawahar

It was the month of May, 1964. It was a busy month for Jawahar. But he was not in good health. He went to Dehra Dun for two days' rest. He was back in Delhi on May 26. But the next morning he took ill suddenly. His daughter Indira was by his side. The doctors came. But the end came at 2 P.M. that day.

Within minutes the nation had heard it. People were stunned. Slowly they realised that they were in an India without Nehru.

In Delhi all roads led to the Prime Minister's house. Outside the house people waited to have a last look at the man they loved and honoured.

The next day the body of Jawahar was placed on a gun carriage and taken to Rajghat where sixteen years earlier his own Master, Mahatma Gandhi, had been laid to rest. The carriage was drawn by men of the Army. Statesmen

of several countries walked behind the carriage. Twenty lakhs of people formed the procession. It reached Shanti Ghat. The body, covered with India's tricolour flag, was placed on a pyre. Jawahar's grandson lit the pyre.

Our uncrowned king of India is no more with us. We have lost our priceless jewel, Jawahar. But we will remember him for ever and work hard to make our motherland greater than she was ever before.



Students and Children were dear to him.

COMPREHENSION AND COMPOSITION

1. *The Nehrus.*

1. What is called a children's day? Why is it called so?
2. Who are compared with Buddha and Asoka?
3. Who was Raj Kaul? Why did he come to Delhi?
4. Who was Motilal's father? Who brought up Motilal? Why?
5. Who was Jawahar's mother?

2. *Early Boyhood.*

1. From whom did Jawahar learn the stories from the Arabian Nights?
2. Write five sentences on "Ananda Bhavan".
3. "It was my own fault. You make much of this." Who said these words? What was the fault?
4. Why did Motilal beat Jawahar?

3. *Education at Home.*

1. Who was Brooks? What did he teach Jawahar?
2. How was Jawahar's birth day observed?

4. *Education in England: Harrow.*

1. When did Jawahar go to England for his studies? Who went with him?
2. Write four sentences about Jawahar's school days at Harrow.

3. "I may soon pay you a week-end visit to India by air." Who said these words? What made the speaker say these words?
5. *Education in England : Cambridge.*
 1. How old was Jawahar when he joined Trinity College?
 2. What special subjects did Jawahar study in Trinity College?
 3. Why did Jawahar often pay fine to the college society?
 4. Did Jawahar like Bepin Chandra Pal's speech? Why?
6. *Education in England : London.*
 1. What did Jawahar's parents and relations want him to do after he took his degree at Cambridge?
 2. What did Jawahar write to his father when he read his article?
 3. "I enjoyed life"—Who said this? How did the speaker enjoy life?
 4. How was Jawahar saved from death when he was in Norway?
 5. When did Jawahar return to India from England?
7. *Home Coming.*
 1. What were Jawahar's thoughts when he returned home?

2. "So this is my little sister"—Who said this? Who was that little sister?
3. How did Jawahar get on with his little sister, Krishna?
4. Why did Jawahar give up hunting?
8. *Kamala.*
 1. Write five sentences on the preparations made for Jawahar's marriage.
 2. Where did Kamala and her husband go after their wedding?
 3. How did Jawahar escape from falling into a deep hole in the ice field?
 4. On two occasions Jawahar was saved from death—What were the two occasions?
9. *Meets his Master.*
 1. When was Indira born?
 2. Write five sentences about Gandhiji's visit to Ananda Bhavan.
 3. Who did not like Jawahar's joining Gandhiji's movement? Why?
 4. What happened in Jallianwala park when people met there?
10. *The Fight for Freedom Begins.*
 1. What did the Congress leaders do when the Prince of Wales visited India?

2. Where was Jawahar when the police came to arrest him ?
3. How did Jawahar spend his time in jail ?
4. When Jawahar was in jail what did the police do in Ananda Bhavan ?
5. Why did Jawahar go to Switzerland ? Who went with him ?

11. *President of the Congress.*

1. Who was Mr. Simon ? Why did he come to India ?
2. Why did the police beat Jawahar ?
3. Write two sentences about Republic Day.
4. To whom did Motilal give his big house, Ananda Bhavan ?
5. "Before these changes took place a wonderful thing happened"—What was that wonderful thing ?

12. *Common Salt.*

1. "We will prepare our own salt. We will thus break the law"—Who said this ? Why ?
2. Why did Jawahar admire Kamala ?
3. Where was Jawahar when the police beat his mother ?
4. Why was Jawahar set free from jail ?

13. *Kamala Is No More.*

1. Where and when did Jawahar begin to write the story of his own life ?

2. "If you promise that you will not take part in the fight, we will set you free"—Who said this ? Who was asked to make a promise ?
3. What did the doctors say about Kamala ?
4. How did Jawahar look after Kamala ?
5. When did Kamala die ?

14. *The Final Struggle.*

1. Who was the first woman to become a minister in India ?
2. Write three sentences about the second World War.
3. Who was Hari ?
4. What did people do when the Congress leaders were arrested in Bombay on the 8th of August ?
5. Why did Gandhiji fast for twenty-one days ?
6. Why did Jawahar like the Ahmednagar prison ?
7. How many times did Jawahar go to prison ?
8. How many years did he spend in prison ?
9. What good came of his jail-going ?

15. *The Hour of Victory.*

1. Who wanted Pakistan ?
2. Write three sentences about Lord Mountbatten.
3. When did India become a free country ?
4. "Long years ago we took a promise"—Who said these words ? When ? What was the promise ?

5. Where was Gandhiji when Jawahar said in Parliament that India was free?
 6. A great shock came to the people—What was the shock?
 7. Who became Governor General after Lord Mountbatten?
 8. Who was the first President of India?
16. *The Light Goes Out.*
1. Write three sentences about Jawahar's death.
 2. Who is our uncrowned king? Who is our real jewel?
 3. Translate the following into your mother tongue:
 - (a) We will remember him for ever and work hard to make our motherland greater than she was ever before.
 - (b) Students and children were dear to him. They could always see him and talk to him.

TOPICS FOR ESSAYS

1. Describe how the Nehrus came to settle in Allahabad.
2. Give a brief account of some interesting incidents which happened during Jawaharlal's early boyhood days.
3. Describe Jawahar's education at home.
4. Give an account of Jawahar's stay at Harrow.
5. Jawahar had a charmed life—Explain.
6. Describe Jawahar's wedding with Kamala.
7. Describe Jawahar's first meeting with Gandhiji.
8. Briefly describe Kamala's illness and death.
9. Describe the circumstances that led to the arrest and imprisonment of Jawahar in Ahmednagar.
10. Give an account of the scene in Parliament on the fourteenth of August, 1947.
11. Describe the passing away of Jawahar.

WORDS OUTSIDE THE LIST OF VOCABULARY

- Admiration*: wonder due to excellence or beauty.
Adventure: event caused by chance.
Arrangement: act of putting things in order.
Arrest: stop or stay.
Battle: fight between two parties.
Border: outer part.
Bride: woman newly or about to be married.
Charmed: magic.
Conches: shells used for making sounds. (explain in mother tongue)

Consult: ask advice of.
Corps: a body of persons.
Courage: bravery.
Decorate: adorn, beautify.
Dip: plunge for a while.
Eager: keen.
Guide: one who leads or directs.
Idol: person loved much.
Inspire: give good ideas.
Jewel: (explain in mother tongue)
Laboratory: place where experiments are done.
Millions: many thousands.
Mist: water vapour in the air, seen by the eyes.
Popular: pleasing to.
Prison: jail.
Procession: a number of people going in order.
Religion: (explain in mother tongue)
Resist: oppose.
Slight: thin.
Socialism: (explain in mother tongue)
Stream: a small river.
Stun: astonish.
Tiny: very small.
Uncrowned: without a crown.
University: place of higher learning.
Volunteer: one who works of his own will.
Violence: force.
Weigh: (explain in mother tongue)
Wake: be active.
Worse: bad in a greater way.

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