

SANSKRUTI VIHAR A GREAT NOSTALGIA

● Subhanjan Mohanty

It was the summer vacation for all educational institutions and the year was 1963. One of our most affectionate friend Saroj Singh's father, who valued our heritage and culture most, and who wanted that the younger generation, mostly his son and his friends should as well preserve such great treasures, made available to us, one of his house, to indulge in any kind of cultural activities, games etc. which would utilize our vacation period in the most constructive manner. And his vision came literally true, which added a very colourful wing to the already colourful cultural activities of the great old City CUTTACK.

Saroj was an amateur with violin, so was Panchanan with flute and Pinaki with Tabla. Prashanta had acted in films, Debaki, Nihar, me and many more were one or the other way amateur in stage plays, singing etc. We all made a good team and were spending our time in cultural activities, when Bijoy, Chandra, Partha..... to name a few more joined who had good organizational skills and leadership qualities. Ideas thus poured in to establish a cultural organization, and Sanskruti Vihar was conceived, with the pre birth name, suggested by Bijoy's father Late Shri Manmohan Mishra.

Partha and myself, in order to raise funds went to Calcutta to get an English movie for organizing a charity show. I vividly remember we arranged to get the Oscar award winning movie of Ingrid Bergman which was "The Inn of the Sixth Happiness", and the show was a full house one which fetched us some initial fund for the yet to born baby.

The thoughts for the D'Day made us decide to go for a cultural show and formally lunch Sanskruti Vihar. Dances, songs, plays were planned for it, and we approached Shri Bishwa Bhushan Harichandan, who agreed to direct his one act play RANA PRATAP. I had the privilege of playing the lead, with Debaki as Bhil Sardar, Panchanan as Shakti Singh, Alok Bahidar as Pratap's daughter.... and so on.

The show was staged at Nari Sangh Seva Sadan, Cuttack during November 1963, around Deepawali.

With an elite audience as Late Shri Suren Mohanty, Late Shri Bhubaneswar Mishra and many others, SANSKRUTI VIHAR was born, with Bijoy Mishra reading out his address as it's Secretary.

No one knew few droplets, as small as we, would one day turn out to be a vast ocean. Many continued, many left, many abandoned, yet the ocean never dried up. But the greatness of the Ocean is that it has not forgotten the drops, which created it. although they are no longer in it. I am one of such tiny drops.

AND MY SALUTE TO ALL THOSE FRIENDS NIRMAL, NARAYAN, SAROJ, CHANDRA.. AND MANY OTHERS WHO TOOK THIS ORGANISATION TO A TOO GREAT HEIGHT AND MAINTAINED IT'S YOUTH, INTACT, WHILE SETTING IT READY FOR IT'S 50th YEAR, ALTHOUGH ALL OF THEM HAVE STARTED GROWING OLD.

My love and regards to you friends and my gratitude to the organization which has built my cultural foundation that makes me proud.

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