Twitter Thread by Sarvesh Tiwari



Sarvesh Tiwari
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#LangarPR

Milk and biscuit distribution by a gurudwara committee in Lucknow.

Value of material distributed may be far smaller than its show off, advertising and PR.

Thoughts. 1/n



According to a ■■■■■■■■■, once a follower of Tulas■d■sa needed a loan for a family wedding.

Rah■m was then living in Kashi, and known to be a rich and generous man. No needy would return emptyhanded from him.

Requested by the man, Tulas■d■sa sent him to

2/n

Rah■m with a letter.

Rah■m not only helped the man but also sent a humble letter to Tulas■d■sa thanking him for the opportunity to be of service.

Tulas■d■sa wrote him back:

■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■
■■■■ ■■■ ■■■
■■■■■ ■■■■■ ■■ ■■■ ■■■
■■■■■ ■■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■?

3/n

(From where did our Rah■m ji learn such way of giving? As his arms rise in charity, his gaze turns lower in humility?)

To which Rah■m wrote back to Tulas■d■sa:

■■■■■■ ■■■ ■■ ■■
■■■ ■■■ ■■■ ■■■
■■■ ■■■ ■■ ■■ ■■■
■■ ■■■ ■■■■ ■■■!

4/n

(The provider is someone else, who keeps providing for all beings, day and night! But when people call me the provider and donor etc, my eyes are naturally set down in shame and embarrassment)

This is the only way of real service. With humility, away from PR.

5/n

One who RECEIVES the service is doing a favour upon you by taking your service.

You by doing the service are not doing any favours to the world! It is God who has provided for everyone - who the heck are you!?

If this silent humility is missing, langar is PR not seva.

6/n

For centuries, countless Hindu temples have been operating annasatra and sad■vartas, round the year, 7 days a week, where any hungry irrespective of j■ti or samprad■ya can receive free food.

Here is just one such annasatra from Ayodhya. No j■ti vich■ra as you can see.

7/n https://t.co/ICiFFXST6Y

\u201cSocial improvement\u201d presumes there was some issue that has been addressed.

If Langar claims to solve for \u201ccharitable food distribution\u201d or \u201ccommunity eats together\u201d, neither of the two was missing in the first place.

An annasatra in ayodhyA I and @vvaayu visited a while back pic.twitter.com/kZlkP9W0bz

— Sarvesh Tiwari (@bhAratenduH) February 5, 2020

But we don't tom-tom it!

Because we are taught that seva must be performed silently.

A dharma done by the right hand must not come to the knowledge of even the left!

It is to emphasize this silent humility that we are told by sh■stra-a that a puNya greatly reduces

8/n

if it becomes known! And that puNya of silent sev■ lasts for ever.

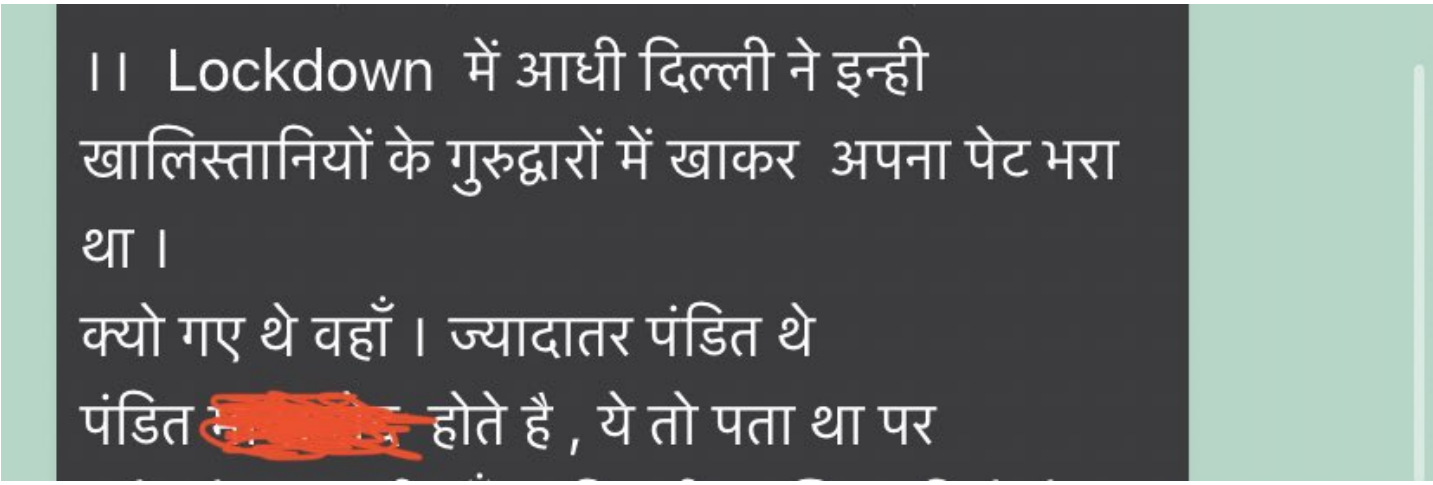
This Langar ho-hall■ may make for a good PR and marketing. But it is no sev■. As useless for dharma as crying in araNya. Not an iota of Punya. In fact it is dangerous- as it fills the heads with false pride.

9/n

And then the pride of "we have fed you beggars" and "you should be in our debt" is also quite commonplace.

The food served with such pride is sinful food, p■p■nna. And one who eats it will also verily accrue that guNa, not to mention the debt of a proud person.

10/n



But to close with the anecdote mentioned with the beginning, there is one doh■ in Tulas■d■sa Ji's doh■val■ collection of doh■-s, that is written by Rah■m.

Including a Rah■m’s doh■ in his work is a way of Tulas■d■sa perhaps to pay Rah■m’s a tribute of friendship.