

## A Living Example of Personality

# A DEVOTED VOTARY : 'YUVAK RATNA', A JEWEL OF YOUTH, SHRI SOHAN RAJ TATER

Shri Sohan Raj Tater was born at Kanor, a small village in Barmer district on July 5, 1947. He has always been an industrious, studious, simple, humble and soft-spoken. Since his childhood he has been living a detached life. He has always been a brilliant student and a topper. He stood first in class 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and topped the list in the whole of Rajasthan in the higher secondary examination in the year 1964 and thus brought name and fame both to his family and to his Village also. In the year 1965 he was married to Mrs. Laxmidevi. Mrs. Laxmidevi proved the most perfect match to Shri Sohan Raj Tater. She too has been living a detached life since childhood. Both of them being disinterested in enjoying sexual pleasure, they observed celibacy for two years right from the first day of their marriage from 1965 to 1967. They remained in close contact with Munishri Sampatmal Swami, who got shri Sohan Raj to observe penitential retreat, 25 shlokas and to learn 'Jain siddhant deepika' and 'Manonushasan', by heart. He also motivated Shri Sohan Raj Tater and Mrs. Laxmidevi to get initiated as a fair. Both of them were extremely willing to do so but this could not materialize because their destruction-cum-subsidence of the karmas had not yet been complete.

Shri Tater is whole-heartedly devoted to the order of Terapanth and has great respect for both Acharyashri Tulsi and Acharyashri Mahapragya. He had been the secretary of the Terapanth council, Sardaarpura, Jodhpur from 1965 to 1970.

As Shri Tater was a very bright and intelligent student and as he had a great desire of learning, he sought admission in an Engineering college in 1964 and got the degree of B.E. (Mechanical), Honours in the year 1969. He maintained his glorious tradition of standing first and topped the list this time also and became a full-fledged Engineer. In the year 1970, he was selected by

Rajasthan Public Service Commission and was appointed as an Assistant Engineer in the Water Works department. He passed M.E. (Public Health Engineering), being in government service and it goes to his credit that this time also he got the first rank. As he was very prompt and authentic in service, he was honoured as many as four times by the Government of Rajasthan.

- (1) For Bringing water from Mathania to Jodhpur within 90 days in the year 1970,
- (2) For bringing the canal water to Bikaner in the year 1976,
- (3) For implementing Asia's biggest regional water supply project for 300 villages in Churu district in the year 1984 and
- (4) For working very promptly for the prevention of flood in Balotra in the year 1990.

Shri Sohan Raj has always been associated with Terapanth and has worked incessantly and untiringly for its service and development. Because of his great devotion to duty, the order and because of having full faith in and great respect for all the monks and nuns, he was honoured and awarded many times, as is clear from the details given below :

- (1) Nominated as member, Terapanth Amrit Sansad, Churu region (from 1982 to 1987).
- (2) Awarded '**Yuvak Ratna**' in Delhi in the year 1987, by all India Yuvak Parishad in the holy presence of Acharya Shri Tulsi.
- (3) Nominated Vice President, All India Yuvak Parishad (from 1988 to 1990).
- (4) Nominated Member, Executive Council, Jain Vishva Bharati, Ladnun from 1985 to 1990.

It is to be noted that in this period, his role in getting many things in the premises of Jain Vishva Bharati, Ladnun had been very significant. He played an important part in getting a well dug, building an underground water tank, an overhead water tank, pipe-lines, distribution of electricity, and installing electricity generator. He also took an active part in designing, and monitoring the construction of many beautiful buildings like Amritayan and Art Gallery.

Shri Sohan Raj Tater devoted all his time to the independent functioning of ‘Yuva Vahini’, an organization meant for the youths in the year 1989 that had been declared as the Yogakshem year. He performed this job while he was giving his honourary services as Vice-President, All India Terapanth Yuvak Parishad.

During Acharya Mahapragya’s ‘Ahimsa Yatra’, (A march for the cause of non-violence), Shri Sohan Raj Tater, With the inspiration and blessings of Acharya Mahapragya, and with the permission of his family, left the government service, while he was on the post of Superintending Engineer, renounced his well-established cement factory worth crores of rupees and has decided to devote the rest of his life to the self-less service of the order, Terapantha as a life-long volunteer. He formally announced his decision in the proximity of Acharya Mahapragya, in January, 2002. On 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2002 Acharyashri and Yuvacharyashri graced his cement factory located at Boranada (Jodhpur) by their holy presence. On that very day, at the auspicious time of morning, he, with the blessings of Acharyashri and listening to his holy words, started giving his services to Parmarthik Shikshan Sanstha, Ladnun. On February 18, 2002, Shri Sohan Raj Tater was formally nominated the trustee and convener of Parmarthik Shikshan Sanstha by the Trust Board of that institution in the gracious presence of Acharyashri on the occasion of Maryada Mahotsava organized at Pachpadra.

Devotion, dedication, respect for Acharyashri and all the elders, Sadhna, perseverance and the desire of serving the order have always been important parts of his life. **He has followed the maxim of Acharyashri Tulsi : first control yourself; then think of discipline, to the fullest. Simple living and high thinking has been the motto of his life.**

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