

THE DAY THE DAM BROKE

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It was not the Bakra-Nangal for the Hirakud. But it was one that I had built with the greatest effort across the vale of tears. It was also more important to me than all the concrete and masonry I could visualise.

Last year, I was struck down by a bone disease. My knee was punctured and the fluid drained off. But I did not shed a single tear. Later the doctors violent disagreed with each other, but I did not panic. Then my leg was put in plaster. I swallowed the pain and kept my eyes dry. I decided to build a dam to stop the surging tears of sorrow. Many have once in their life, suffered was worse privations. Whatever might happen, I will not cry, I decided. For months I did not play any game. The Annual Sports Meet came and went without me. But the dam had been built by then. I hope it's brink, shut away the joyful life of many companions.

The world outside my shell changed from day to day. Boys started having their morning and evening preparation in their own classes. Till then, it had been in the dormitories where I could also share their attempts and hope against hope that my academic growth would not get stunted. But now the fact that my classmates where going away for their studies prevented me from joining them. For I was an invalid, with one leg as stiff and heavy as concrete.



(NJ Nair Performing a Skit at SSKZM)

Then the dam broke suddenly and my wet cheeks told me of the disaster. Whatever I had built by painful effort during the past eight months had crashed. I wept profusely. With the tension gone, I seemed to see light again. Whatever cannot be cured must be endured. I started to rebuild the dam. I decided to make it stronger to withstand greater stresses and strains.

By the time Dam was ready, my knee started healing. The plaster was taken off. Kind hands full with the warmth of love massaged it back to health and strength. I offered my dam to God above and the good doctors around. Time healed all the wounds of my heart. Very soon I joined my friends in PT, games and NCC parades. I hope and pray to God to keep my dam safe and sound against the ravages of time.
