

On being caught without ticket

I had taken an oath never to travel without ticket in a bus or train and I always adhered to my oath.

Only yesterday, I had to violate the oath taken by me. It so happened that I received a telephonic call from my brother who lives in Kolkata. I was told that my mother was seriously ill.

I at once rushed out of my house and forgot to take any money with me. I reached the station and realized my own omission. There could be no going back now as the Brahmaputra Express was just reaching the platform.

Hardly had the train covered a few kilometers when the Travelling Ticket Examiner (TTE) came, finding me without ticket, he imposed a heavy fine on me. On my telling him that I had no money on me he handed me over to the duty magistrate.

All my pleading failed to convince the duty magistrate that I was not a habitual traveler without ticket but was under the stress of circumstances.

I was sent behind the gas for a fortnight and as I came out, I learnt that my poor mother had expired in the meantime. What a tragedy!

I do not exactly know what I did was right or wrong but the loss of my mother to me will ever remain unforgettable and irreparable.