**ACHAR (SUPERSTITIONS)**

On this prestigious newspaper “CHABUK” I am publishing My queries will be answered by my readers I am hoping Please show me the way to comprehend

As with endless thoughts and worries I am burdened.

Married to a girl who passed her matriculation And piety remains her strong attribution But now superstitions have gripped her mind Seeing a black cat, she returns home leaving everything behind.

Lost her precious ring a few days ago Was prompt to bring the “Mhar’s limbi” But when the black magic desperately failed She lit two candles to St. Anthony and fervently prayed.

A slightly cracked mirror in the house disturbs her night and day

She continuously nags me to throw it away. Broken things bring ill luck is her strong belief I don’t know what to do looking at my educated wife.

In my neighbourhood I observe behaviour strange and odd Sacrifices of goats, cocks are offered to false gods.

But, without fail they attend church every day What a tragedy! Children too will learn the same ways.

Seeing my wife’s ridiculous deeds my heart cries Same superstitious ways are also practiced by the neighbouring wives Whole world is progressing day by day

But alas! Goa is gripped with superstitious ways.

**December 10,1949 Melquiades Rodrigues**

“Chabuk” => A newspaper of that time

“Mhar’s limbi” => An item of black magic