

The greatness of any Sadhu Bhagwant is never measured on the basis of how many devotees or disciples he has, as even the Ghoshaalak had more followers than Bhagwaan Mahavir ! It's only determined after investigating his progress on the path of spiritual journey... This book is an effort of belauding the attributes of a legendary saint, who's prolonged practice of Sanyam Jeevan resulted into the minimization of passions and increment of interior grandeur. Read him, know him and try to make yourself like him as the endeavour of writing this book is not done just to provide a readable stuff to the people, but is made so that it offers a perfect guidance to the creatures in developing a good character within themselves...

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Treasure of Qualities

Muni Prashamratnavijay

Treasure of Qualities

An introduction to the inspiring life of
Pujoyapad Yugdivakar Aacharya Vijay *Dharmasurishwarji* Maharaj



Author: Muni Prashamratnavijay



Shri Srimantra Pat of Pujiyapad Yugdivakar Aa. Bh. Shri Dharmasurishwarji Maharaj



Shri Vardhaman Vidhya Pat of Pujoyapad Yugdivakar Aa. Bh. Shri Dharmasurishwarji Maharaj

Treasure Of Qualities

An introduction to the inspiring life of Pujiyapad
Yugdivakar Aacharya Shri Vijay Dharmasurishwarji Maharaj

Divine Blessings

Pujiyapad Darbhavatitirthoddharak
Aacharya Shri Vijay Suryodaysurishwarji Maharaj

Inspiration & Guidance

Pujiyapad Tejaswivakta Aacharya Shri Rajratnasuriji Maharaj
Pujiyapad Yuvapravakta Panyaspravar
Shri Rashmiratnavijayji Gani

Author

Pujya Muni Shri Prashamratnavijayji Maharaj

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Dharmadharma Prakashan

INTRODUCTION



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Shri Lodhan Parshwanath Bhagwaan - Darbhavati Tirth

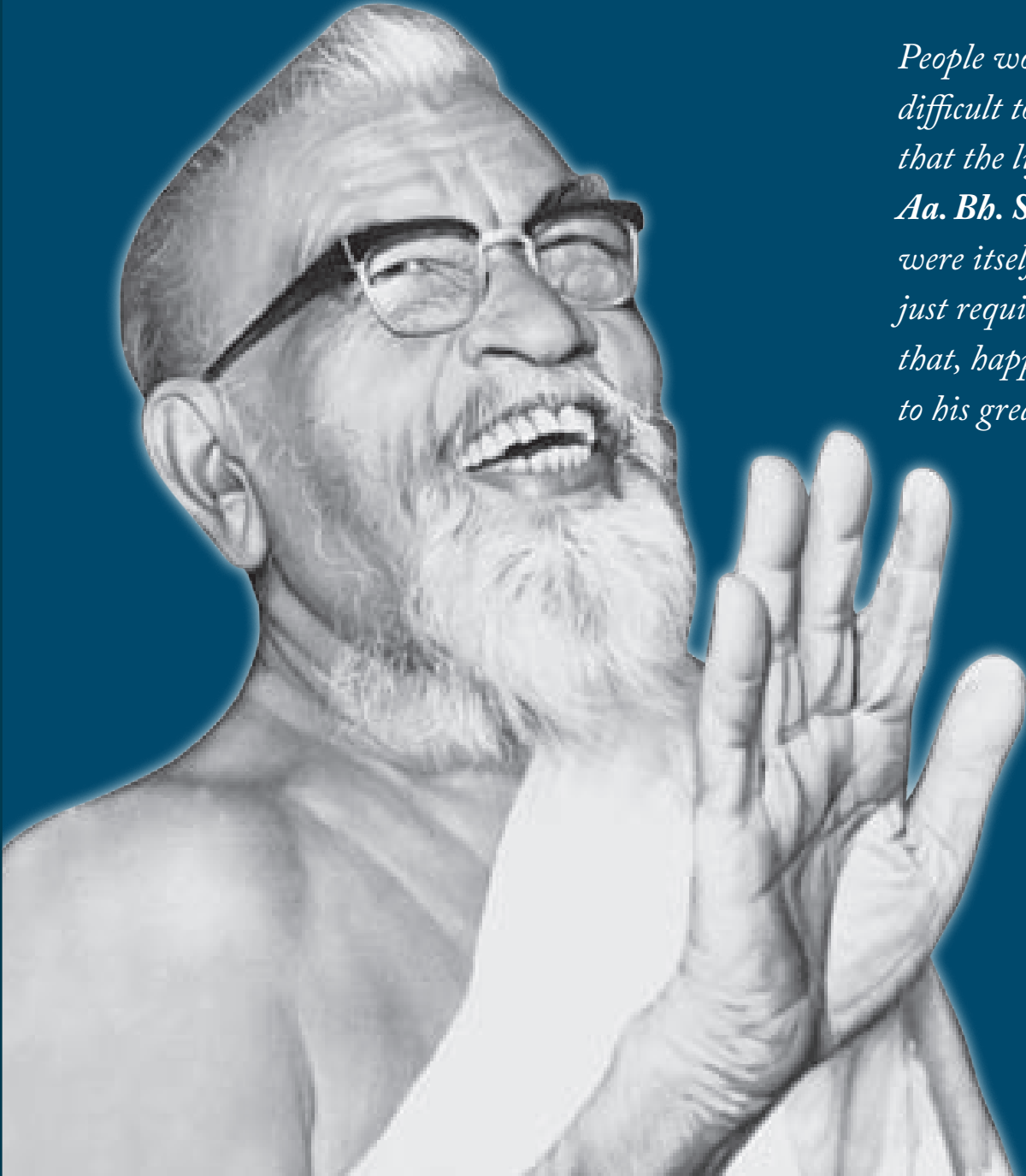


Shri Nageshwar Parshwanath Bhagwaan - Dharmadhaam Tirth, Manor

The Great Saint

*People would claim that I have chosen a difficult topic in my first attempt. But I appeal, that the life-incidents of **Pujyapad Yugdivakar Aa. Bh. Shri Dharmasurishwarji Maharaj** were itself so inspiring & flamboyant, that I just required to hold my pen & everything after that, happened on it's own! This book is a salute to his great life!*

- Muni Prashamratnavijay

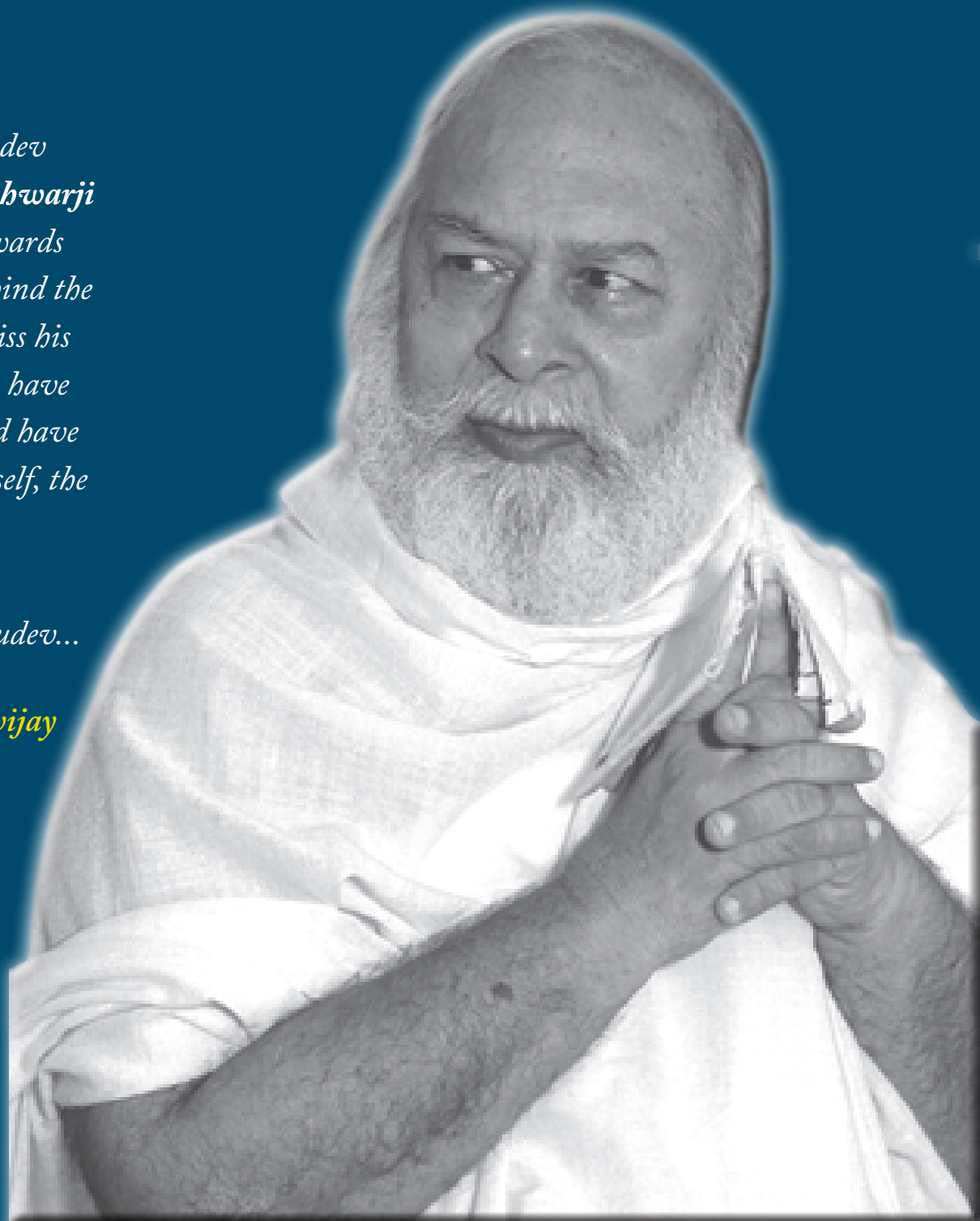


Dedication

*I dedicate this book to my greatgrandgurudev
**Pujyapad Acharya Shri Suryodaysurishwarji
Maharaj**, who's immoderate devotion towards
his gurudev have only been the reason behind the
creation of this volume. Though I badly miss his
presence, I'm sure that his divine blessings have
only emboldened me through the way and have
brought me to a stage, where I believe myself, the
most Fortunate*

*Sadhu, to have got the opportunity of
fulfilling the dream of his greatgrand gurudev...*

- Muni Prashamratnavijay





Gratitude

My grand gurudev, Pujiyapad Tejaswivakta Aa Bh. Shri Rajratna Surishwarji Maharaj have been the founder of this book. His stay with Dharmasuri Maharaj is just of 8 years, but looking upon his egregious devotion, it seems he might have served his grand gurudev for multiple years! I wonder whether this book might have been written, if he would not have shown his trust on me! I accept his gratitude, not just for this book, but for every moment, he guides me to march on the true path of salvation.

- Muni Prashamratnavijay



This book is been sponsored by Shri Shankheshwar Parshwanath Bavan Jinaalay
Tirth Pedhi - Bhayander (W),

In the appreciation of the Anjanshalaka - Pratistha Mahotsav - Diksha -
Aacharya Padpradan, done under the inspiration & Guidance of

Pujyapad ParamShashanprabhavak Aa. Bh. Shri Suryodaysurishwarji Maharaj's
disciple **Pujyapad Tejaswivakta Aa. Bh. Shri Rajratna surishwarji Maharaj.**

It's also the appreciation of the remarkable Aaradha, including 63 Masakshaman Tap - youth
session - Night Session - 45 AagamVachna - Adhariya, done in Chaturmas of VS 2072,
having the sacred presence of **Pujyapad Panyaspravar Shri Rashmiratnavijayaji Gani.**

Foreword



Pujyapad Mahaan Shaashanjyotirdhar Shataadhikjinaalay praneta Yugdivakar Acharya Bhagwant Shree Vijay Dharma Surishwarji Maharaj! His immaculate name is much more than a super - charm for us, whereas his existence is nothing less than a wish-tree! Where his personality is like a blessing, his potential is like the path for our Salvation! When we have directly served him with a divine trust in our childhood days, with full of devotion, we have taken the oath of serving him indirectly throughout our life!

There are 4 books published till date, maybe it might be his entire biography or a simple description written on some selected incidents of his inspiring life: -

- 1) “*Yugdivakar*” - his 700 page - biography
- 2) “*Pyara Guruvār Dharmasurishwar*” - a small version of Yugdivakar
- 3) “*Maara Guruvār Dharmasurishwar*” - a description of selected 52 incidents of his life and
- 4) “*Namami Nityam Guru Dharmasurim*” - a translation of the same topic in Sanskrit.

The most remarkable feature of this publication is that, all these 4 books are scripted by the disciples of benevolent *gurudev* Praudhaprabhaavshaali Param shaashan prabhaavak Acharya Bhagwant Shree Vijay SuryodaySurishwarji Maharaj itself! It signifies what a speechless devotion might have been possessed towards Dharmasuri Maharaj by his disciples!

And I feel that the cardinal factor for it, is none other than Revered *Gurudev* Suryodaysuriji Maharaj itself. The devotion for Dharmasuri Maharaj, attached with his particular breath is very closely witnessed by his descendants and that has only fulfilled the requirement of an ideal for them! Whether it might be the remembrance of Dharmasuri Maharaj ever and anon in his discourses and conversations or the erections of *upaashrays* and temples having the names of *Dharmavihar* - *Dharma Aaradhna bhavan* – *Dharma dhaam* etc., all are the evidences of his speechless devotion! And now, there's a new name added in the list of the disciples performing this devotional exercise, which is of Muni Prashamratna Vijayji Maharaj, through the publication of this English volume named ‘Treasure of Qualities’!

The reason of its generation is somewhat like this.

It was the year of *VS 2070 / 2013*. We had a '*Gunakirtan samaroh*' of my *gurudev* at Chembur - An event framed for appreciating his prolonged practice of Sanyam life and amplifide of qualities developed in due course. Well, we had already tried 3 to 4 times for this purpose before, but every time he used to deny us firmly for doing that. This time, he remained silent in front of our forceful request and we received a 'green signal' for organizing this occasion. His disciples and grand disciples created a mesmerizing effect on the entire locution by offering the discourses and extolling their *gurudev* in the languages of Gujarati - Hindi - Marathi - English and Sanskrit. From this, Muni Prashamratnavijayji Maharaj, who had observed a very small duration of just 4 and a half months of his Sanyam life, eulogized his *gurudev* in English.

Just as a jeweller's expert vision instantly finds out the lustre in the jewel at it's very first appearance and makes it look glamorous with the process of 'Polishing', my *gurudev* with his perfect foresight, learned the brilliance treasured in this newly - renounced *Muni Bhagwant* and for electrifying his potential he instructed me that, "As we have done with the Gujarati and Sanskrit books of Dharmasuri Maharaj, I wish we must make this Prashamratna Vijayji too, script something in the encomium of my dignitary *gurudev*. It will make an auspicious start of his life as a writer and even the world might become introduced with his lingual and writing skills!" Even this Feeling was indirectly exhibiting the immoderate devotion filled in his heart for Dharmasuri Maharaj!

The successful effort of fulfilling the longing of my *gurudev* is what this book is! I'm proud to say that Muni Prashamratnavijayji have written the entire book on his own without taking anyone's assistance, in the time-span of just Four and a half month, whether it might be the tiring *vihar* of 700 Kms. in 34 days from Palitana to Mumbai or he might be surrounded by caboodle of responsibilities related to his *Chaaturmas*. He has managed to complete the process with full of enthusiasm and concern. Prior to this, he have also written a couple of story books in this language, which means that this book is his first standard creation and 3rd literary work in the modicum time-span of his renunciation. We are delighted, observing his uncommon determination of exerting till the last limit and applauding that, at this point we offer him the blessings that he embraces an all - round progress in the fields of knowledge - speech - literature and spiritualism!

And ... last but not the least! Just as a glowing candle is capable for lightening the another one, hope the influent life-incidents stitched in this book, fetches some positive change in the life of the readers...!

*Aaso sud 10, V.S. 2072,
Jawahar Nagar Jain Sangh Upaashray,
Goregaon - Mumbai.*

- Acharya Vijay Rajratnasuri

Preface



We were commanding on towards the accomplishment of our *Navvaanu Yatra*, the first of mine, and one fine day, *Sahebji* (my grand *gurudev* Pujyapad Tejaswivakta Acharya Bhagwant Shri Rajratnasurishwarji Maharaj) convoked me and revealed, “Prasham! As you know, it was our *Sahebji's* (his *gurudev*) wish for you to write something in eulogy of Pu. Dharmasurishwarji Maharaj. Unfortunately, it wasn't possible for you to do that in his presence. Still, it's not too late even by now, if you decide to dedicate the best of your time and potential for changing his dream into a reality. Undertake the responsibility of selecting a modicum of manifold life-incidents related to Dharmasurishwarji Maharaj and script them in your own words. Also see if you can work it out till the 11th of October this year!”

It was the 2nd week of May, *Sahebji* expounded this desire. That meant I had only 4 and a half months for completing the entire process of this book; right from reading the incidents, writing them completely on my own, verifying errors, composing and gathering the sketches and illustrations, typing, designing and printing! It is believed that when an individual is in the form of a *Sadhu*, he has to utilize his intelligence to the best of his knowledge and at the zenith of his limits. But when the same *Sadhu* is playing the role of a disciple, he has to simply surrender his wisdom to the feet of his *gurudev* and apprehend every command even if it indicates to fetch the teeth from the mouth of a surviving snake! Anyways, I believe that I was never a disciple in true sense and hence would always apply my mind in every smallest command of my *gurudev*. Here too my mind suggested me that the new responsibility allotted by *Sahebji* is much greater than my potential and I must humbly speak ‘Sorry’ to him that I cannot execute it. At once, due to such constant objections of my mind, I even stood up from my place to approach Sahebji and request him to withdraw myself from this task. But, as soon as I took some few steps, for the very first time in my life, there was an unknown call from my psyche and it was such a powerful voice that it easily emerged victorious over my mind. It argued, “A vehicle runs with the help of the wheels. But actually, these wheels cannot run the vehicles on their own. They always require the help of a driver

who provides them the energy and direction to move ahead. Similarly, for this book, I am in the place of those wheels and my *gurudev*s are the guides. Instead of believing that I am writing this book, it's easy to cast myself upon them and develop a trust on their blessings. This time, it seems that if I develop any such kind of a trust, I shall surely succeed in my objective."

This was a brand new feeling. *Sahebji* and my *gurudev* used to explain the éclat of gurudev's blessings in their discourses. Prior to this, whenever they would speak about this concept, I would always signify my opposition for it and would classify it as an imaginary concept. But this time it was my personal feeling and I was damn confident that it is a reality. Though *Sahebji* suggested me to commence writing this book from the next day itself, I felt that the 8th of June, my 22nd birthday, would become an auspicious day in my work. So I scripted the very first chapter on that day and my journey started. But seriously I must confess, after that nothing worked according to my plans. Every time I designed a schedule, some or the other hindrances would arrive in between and would ruin my targets. At the time of my birth, astrologers had predicted that I would need to go through extreme struggle for each and every smallest task in my life. Nothing would happen without making extra efforts. So there was never a new story in this, but even after that, if this book is in front of all, I'm seriously overjoyed to experience and convey that the miracle of my *gurudev*'s benediction has worked this time and that's the reason why suddenly in the end, everything started working in my favor and today it has brought me to the position where I can believe myself as the most fortunate *Sadhu* to have got the opportunity of fulfilling the dream of my great grand *gurudev*!

I am wasn't a writer, neither am I now, hadn't read even a single biography or novel either in English or Gujarati and hence, my situation was alike the individual standing in the centre of an unknown town. I never feel upset that I was required to face the impediments, because when I think upon the circumstances which were likely to happen due to the above factors, I feel that the blessings of my gurudev's made me sustain the pain of a sword with a needle!

I have already dedicated the credit of success to my *gurudev*'s blessings and again this time, my intellect suggests, "Even if the driver provides the energy and the direction to the wheels for rotation, it can only happen if they aren't punctured. In the same way *gurudev*'s blessings alone wouldn't have worked, if this story would not have been based on the life of Dharmasuri Maharaj. He personally lived his life in such an innovative way that the incidents were already great in themselves and hence, elaborating those resulted a much easy going for me. As a reference, the 2 volumes already published, '*The Yugdivakar*' and '*Mara Guruvar Dharmasurishwar*' became quite instrumental in guiding me perfectly throughout the way.

And today I confess that the entire period of 5 months have not just been ‘writing a book’, but has especially given me the actual introduction to the grandeur of my clan’s progenitor. Until now, I knew of the activities of Dharmasuri Maharaj concentrated on the inspirations related to the constructions of temples and *upaashrays* at numerous locations. That’s all! There was seriously no place for the instances subjected to his progress on the aspect of spiritualism. But by reading his biography now, I came to know that his character is adorned with so many inherent attributes of generosity, courtesy, foresight, intelligence, dedication etc. And that’s the only reason, why I was always earnest at writing this book in the language of today, for letting the modern generations know about the greatness of this luminary saint.

But I would have never performed this Endeavour without the affection and guidance of my grand gurudev and especially, of my gurudev, **Pujyapad Panyas Pravar Shri Rashmiratnavijayji Gani**. We were having our *Chaturmas* at Baavan Jinalay, Bhayander, where even a regular discourse might witness the presence of more than 1000 laymen and the whole day, they would climb the 1st floor upaashray for *vandan*. Still he himself commanded me to book the corner of the hall, so that I could have the absence of disturbance required for a flexible writing. And along with him, I must surely remind my forever companion as well as elder, **Muni Shri Heetratnavijayji M.S.**, who afforded his maximum time and comfort by reducing my responsibilities and performing my works, even without my request or indication.

And at last, for the readers- This book is a much better option than reading a biography of a political personality or a business tycoon, as they all might work upon your ‘Personality Development’, while this might help you in enhancing your ‘Character Development’. With a good personality, one can prosper in this world but with a good character, one can conquer this world. As though, the sunrays provide the maximum sources of energy requirements of our life, the recognition of being the essential source of survival is always given to the water! Wish this effort fruits in the form of bringing the misguided ones on the right way leading towards salvation...

*Aaso sud 10, V.S. 2072,
Shri Bavanjinalaya Tirth
Bhayandar (W.)*

-Muni Prashamratnavijay

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Rememberance of the Sacred

Pujyapad Yugdivakar Aa. Bh. Shri Vijay Dharmasurishwarji Mahraj

Rememberance of the Gracious

Pujyapad Paramshanprabhavak Aa. Bh. Shri Vijay Suryodaysurishwarji Mahraj

Pujyapad Tejaswivakta Aa. Bh. Shri Vijay Rajratnasurishwarji Mahraj

Pujyapad Yuvapravakta Panyaspravar Shri Rashmiratnavijayaji Gani

Rememberance of the Companions

Pujya Muniraj Shri Aagamratnavijayji M., Pujya Muniraj Shri Dharmaratnavijayji M.,

Pujya Muniraj Shri Heetratnavijayji M., Pujya Muniraj Shri Akshayratnavijayji M.,

Pujya Muniraj Shri Divyaratnavijayji M., Pujya Muniraj Shri Bhavratnavijayji M.,

Munishri Yogratnavijayji M., Munishri Kruparatnavijayji M.,

Munishri Arhamatnavijayji M.

- Muni Prashamratnavijay

Publisher's Note

The joy visible on the face of a fan, who have freshly obtained an autograph of his Favourite celebrity is the resemblance to the exultation we experience, the moment we find some article or a book, written in the tribute of venerable Saint, Pujiyapad Yugdivakar Acharyadev Shri Vijay Dharmasurishwarji Maharaj! The reason is that, he's a sage from whom we have learn't the vital virtues of our life, who have taught us what's right and what's wrong, under who's affectionate shelter, we have played in our childhood days, for what's outlook our parents have made us travel to distant places of Maharashtra and Gujarat, as well as, who's inborn qualities and philanthropical activities, have always made us feel proud of Keeping this gurudev on our heads! We never require the auspices before commencing a good task. We simply close our eyes. Chant his name and experience the triumph of that work, received by his miraculous remembrance

As we have spent our early years of life in his divine presence, From the same period of time, we have been more introduced or attached with his modest disciples Pujiyapad Param Shashanprabhavak Acharyadev Shri Vijay Suryodaysurishwarji Maharaj and Pujiyapad Tejaswivakta Acharyadev Shri Rajratnasurishvarji Maharaj! They have been the inspirational source and guiders of our institution, as well as the true mentors of our life. They have such an egregious devotion in their heart for Dharmasuri Maharaj, that they have written and published more than 30 books single-handed, under the name of the luminary saint.

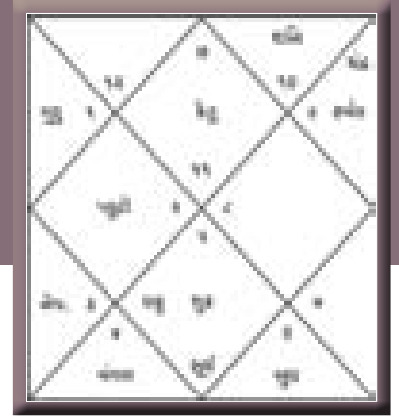
An honour for ourselves that all these remembrances and published by our Trust it self. After them, their erudite disciple, Muni Akshayratnavijayji Maharaj have scripted 2 books, one in gujrati and the another in Sanskrit, based on the same topic and today, their another young disciple, Muni Prashamratnavijayji Maharaj have taken a smart entrance in his devotional exercise undertaken by the Coamenable disciple multitude by writing a wonderful elaboration on some of the Yugdivakar gurudev's life-incidents! The combitation of being a Sadhu and youngster, fills in him the passion of exerting till the last limits, for bringing the modern generations back to the temples and upashrays. Wish, he succeeds in his objective of introducing the youth with the greatness of a Jain Acharya Bhagwant in the Form of Dharmasuri Maharaja and moves ahead on a progressing note of evolving himself as a writer and gracing the generations to arrive, by his influentic creations in English....

-Dharmakrupa Trust

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Birth of Bhaichand Chabalben Gifts a Gem to the Universe!

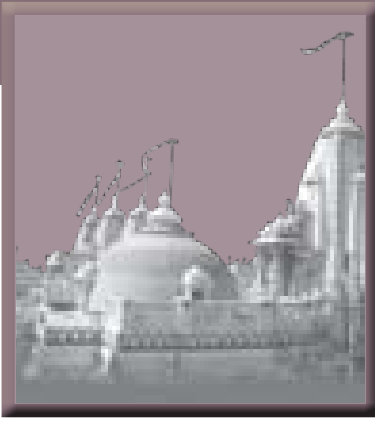


The district of Saurashtra! A region adorned with the presence of the 2 immaculate hills of this world - Shri Shatrunjay & Girnar! It is a region which has a great importance in Gujarat from the historical aspect as it has the existence of manifold ancient Jain temples and idols, having their roots about millions of years ago! It is a region where political boundaries are stretched till such a vast distance, that if we assume the districts of Gujarat as its descendants, then Saurashtra is the eldest of brothers & the rest all are its younger siblings!. The region is also supreme from the political point of view as the pre-eminent ideals of non-violence, King Kumarpal & Shri Mahatma Gandhi are the off - springs of this pious region itself!

Above that, like the fragrance in gold, there's Vadhwaan - The town who's Fame and prosperity spreads throughout the nation from years of generating the dignitaries and reformers that fetch the drastic transformation of the society from bad to good. The '*gadhaiyaa*' currency, extracted beneath

the fields of Vadhwaan, signifies its existence even before the start of the English calendar. The mysterious temple of '*Paaja vasi*' and a good many lakes, amusement parks, mansions etc. appear like the stars studded in the night sky!

And here was the auspicious day of *VS (Vikram Samvat) 1960, Shravan Sud 11*, when the impatient Chabalben was awaiting the appearance of her child, who was accompanying her invisibly from the last few months. There was Hirachandbhai, whose hands were eager to hold his kid, whose birth solemnization was already planned by him, right on the day it shall have arrived in its mother's womb! Here was Dhiraj, the elder son of the family, who had mixed feelings whether the arriving kid would be his brother or sister, as he was sure he would feel delighted with any of the both! Also, there were the residents of Vadhwaan's Lakhupole, who were very zealous to welcome the new member in their locality, especially as they were having a good relation with the noble Hirachandbhai and the religious Chabalben!



*Shree Shantinath Deraaser
Vadhrvanashaher*

*Temples formed with the inspiration of
Dharmasuri Maharaj*

That day of 21-8-1906, was a Sunday on earth and a 'No Sunday' on the sky! Since Saturday night, the dark rainy clouds had occupied the entire portion of the heaven and had made the sun lose its ever

and there were the family members dancing with joy the moment they received the cherishing news of the child's birth! Practically it wasn't the arrival of the very first progeny of the family, but no one knows why...interestingly, the joy which was experienced this time around was much more superior to the birth of previous children. The charm of this newborn baby was making the people get attracted towards him.

Hirachandbhai and Chabalben named their second kid as 'Bhaichand'. Later on, Chabalben gave birth to another male - child and his name was Vrajlal. So, Bhaichand had 2 brothers, elder Dhirajlal and younger Vrajlal! They started growing up with each other. Bhaichand especially had a special love for his god and the religious activities. He would perform the devotion for 2-3 hours daily in the temple, would observe penances on important days and would carry out the compassionate activities at regular intervals...!

Looking upon his pious nature, Chabalben too would cast the eyes upon Bhaichand for nurturing the good religious virtues and teaching him the lessons of humanity and brotherhood. The life of Bhaichand was a life of benevolence, where he kept on gracing the creatures through his elocution and ethics, but his own life commenced with a very sad incident, inform of his father's death. Let's know what happen with him...

domination and visibility on the firmament, marking the 'No Sunday'. On earth, along with the arrival of the week's holiday, it was the moment when the sun of the era, the *Yugdivakar*, was expected to put his first look to the world and was going to deliver the ultimatum to the intact negativities of this world; that the illuminator of people's ignorance was born and would eradicate people's internal troubles and hardships through his stirring discourses!

From the early dawn, the clouds had started pouring heavily, and why shouldn't they? As even the nature would be overjoyed acknowledging the birth of such personality! The cool-pleasant breeze could be felt throughout Vadhrwaan; obviously to pass the message that the sacred period related to the legend's birth had arrived who'd pacify the people's passions through his inspiring principles & teachings!

At 8.15pm, the divine soul treasured by Chabalben from the last few months took the first breath of fresh air on the earth



*A truly Bona fide Mother...
Guides her child on the true way of Life!!*



Bhaichand was maturing up with both the social and religious values under the affectionate shelter of Hirachandbhai and Chabalben. The most awesome Shelter of this world is only that of the parents. The pleasure and divinity which one can find in a mother's lap is simply inexpressible!

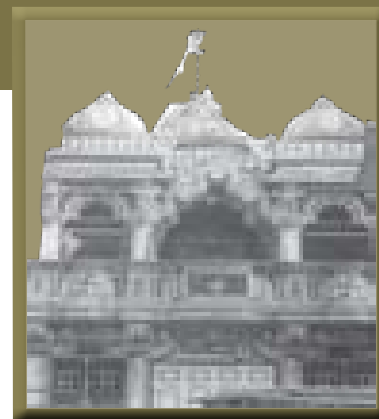
Although a father may behave strictly, no one can possess the true love a father has in his heart for his child! No measurement in this world has the potential to find out the limits to which parents have the attachment with their child! It is possible to measure the broadness of a sea, but estimating the bound of parent's love is simply impossible!

Bhaichand was growing up with great affection of his parents. He had 2 siblings, Dhiraj and Vrajilal, who accompanied him during every stage of his life! This family of 5 was leading a happy and peaceful journey, but as if the destiny had it, one day, turning cruel, it separated one person from this perfect combination forever and the happiness of this family slowly faded along with it!

It happened that...When Bhaichand was 6 years old, which means in *VS 1966/* (Year) 1910 his father, Hirachandbhai got leprosy detected in his body. In those days, the name leprosy used to be in the list of those critical maladies whose cure would become near to impossible and death was inevitable. Only the one on-time provided perfect treatment accompanied by the patient's luck, kept a minor chance with the doctors to treat successfully. Otherwise, there was hardly any possibility for a leprosy patient to survive in those days!

Unfortunately, Hirachandbhai was also one of those patients who had failed to receive the required treatment on time. As a result, the illness kept on growing perniciously day by day and finally, it resulted into the death of Hirachandbhai! A person, who seemed to be completely fit and healthy a few days ago, suddenly was no more in this world!

The news of his death was so lugubrious that each and every Family of Vadhwaan felt like if some huge bale had



attacked their town. A huge stream of relatives and town-mates started pouring in Chabalben's house, they pouring tears of sorrow. Every corner of the house was witnessing the cries of lamentation and obviously, the most horrible condition was that of Chabalben, who had lost her life-partner permanently in a very young age! She was bemoaning too badly out of grief!

This environment held its guard continuously for 3 days. Although everyone was drowning in sorrow, there was one person who was busy or what I would say was disturbed with some completely different matter. Our bantling Bhaichand, aged 6, was observing all the scenes of Hirachandbhai's final ritual for the very 1st time ever and his mind was generating bunch of queries related to it. He was in the hunt of a perfect individual who could provide the answers to his queries. He found a man standing beside him and as a temporary source, he started questioning that person, "Uncle! Can you please inform me, why are these people bewailing so much and why are these 4 people carrying my father on their shoulders? The man answered, "Dear! These people are weeping because your father has died and these people are carrying him outside the village." Bhaichand asked, So, when will he return back again?" Man replied, "Dead people never arrive again." Bhaichand continued, "Oh! So will he stay there itself or will go somewhere else?" The man now became silent as he had no answer for this question. As he found that man turning

answerless, Bhaichand had to cut off his series of question-answers. He understood that none other than his mother only had the capacity to solve his queries, but observing the sad condition of Chabalben, he wasn't able to convoke her.

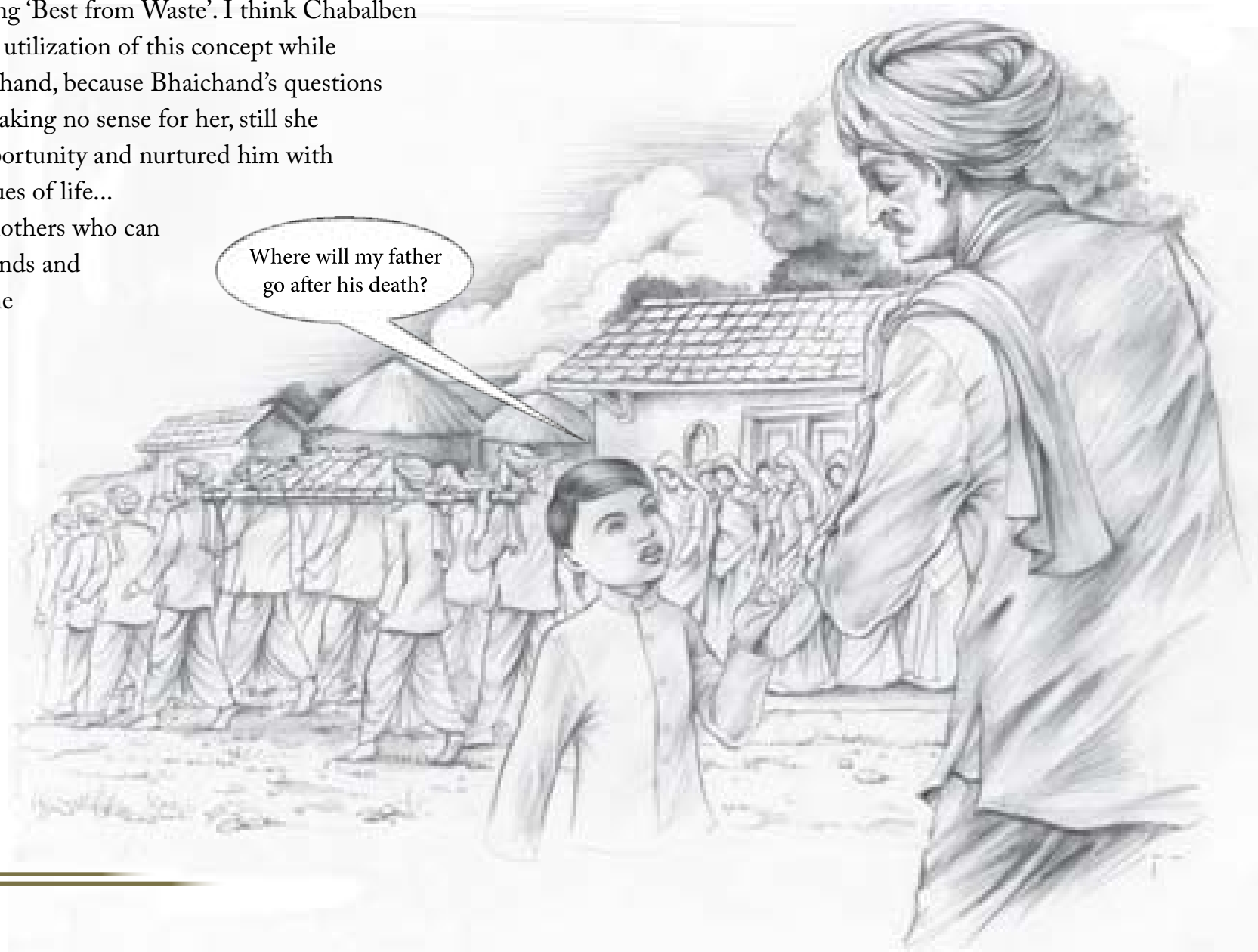
But after 3 days, when everyone left the house, he approached Chabalben and unearthed his buried curiosity, "Mother! Can you please say, where have father gone after his death?"

If this would have been a scene from a Bollywood movie, the typical answer of each and every mother would have been, "Dear! Your father, after dying has become a star in the sky. Look... there's your father in the form of a glowing star... He's saying hi to you..." The small child, not having much maturity would trust her mother and believing the star as his own father, would keep on chatting with it for a long time! And that's all! He would just become a fool and nothing else!

But here, Chabalben was conscious that along with the fulfillment of her child's curiosity, it was her due responsibility to teach those golden Values of life which would become much useful to him in his future life. She replied, "My dear! It's believed that the creatures that perform good deeds in

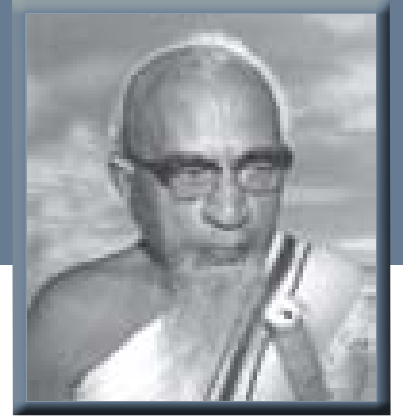
their life either go to heaven or *Moksh* and the one, who perform sins, receive hell. Your father did plenty of religious activities in his life and I Feel; he must have gone to the heaven. Practicing religion is the main factor of happiness.”

What an awesome reply! Today’s generation believes in the concept of making ‘Best from Waste’. I think Chabalben also adopted the utilization of this concept while answering Bhaichand, because Bhaichand’s questions surely seemed making no sense for her, still she grabbed this opportunity and nurtured him with the cardinal virtues of life... It is only such mothers who can produce the legends and dignitaries for the world.



The First Samwatsari at Lakhtar...

A Pathshala becomes helpful to the nescient-residents!



Chabalben was the head of Vadhwaan *Pathshala*. She herself had a very deep relation with the vast knowledge of Jainism, right from the memorization of manifold *gatha*, its meanings and a good many general knowledge related to its historical, geographical, biological, scientific and literary aspect. Also, it wasn't just limited to grasping and preservation of knowledge, but extended even to the prosecution of the same in her practical life. Drinking the boiled water, observing *Chauvihar* on regular days and some of the other penance on *Parva-tithi*, making good *Ashtaprakari pooja* every day, *guru-vandan*, *pratikraman*, *samayik*, *14 Niyams* etc. were the part of her daily routine. It's said that more than the elocution, one's self-practice of a principle puts up a better éclat on the opposite person, and this was the reason, why without performing any kind of an elbow-grease from her side, the students studying under her observation and guidance, would easily become attached with the religious values in their lives and would adorn their personality with the feelings of humanity and generosity.

Bhaichand was the apple of her mother's eye. After losing her husband at a very young age, Chabalben's closeness with Bhaichand increased more than before. She would take care of each and every smallest requirement of Bhaichand. She would also drive him to her *Pathshala* and take special care of making him utilize the best of his time in dealing with the numerous concepts of Jainism. Generally, when we have a greater affection for someone, we always behave with a casual behavior with him/her. We ignore their faults, provide more liberty to them than others and praise their smallest of qualities. But here, instead of pampering Bhaichand, Chabalben would behave more strictly with him, scold him for his every minor error, and would never extol his attributes in front of him. The simplest reason was that she wanted his Bhaichand to achieve the top-most level of perfection and hence, at the very small age of just 9 years, he had memorized the *2* and *5 pratikraman sutra* with ample of *stuti*, *stavan*, *chaityavandan*, *thoy* and *sajzay* (devotional verses and poetries)!



There was a village named Lakhtar near Vadhwaan. It was a remote area having the residence of a Few Jain Families. They weren't blessed the consumption of luxuries and pleasures as generally, the citizens do. They had to simply take the meal depending on the income they earn for the day and live the entire life with immoderate satisfaction and peace. A millionaire businessman of Valkeshwar had once said, "*Sahebji*, my company has an annual turnover of millions of rupees and the land of thousands of acres is under my name. Knowing this, people speak that I live a comfortable life, but seriously I wonder on their claim, because according to me, the actual comfortable life is enjoyed just by you people. Although you have nothing with us, you still comprise some unique element, which we can possess by no means and that's the tremendous satisfaction for all what you receive." The words of this gentleman came from the bottom of his heart and were significant that though it isn't possible to pull him back from the self-generated gamble, he's highly got tired from it!

Well even though these villagers were having a good lifestyle, there was a major problem they were forced to endure every year due to their short -comings. As it was a remote village, no *Sadhu Bhagwant* was ever found spending

a *Chaturmas* here; also there was no *Shravak/Shravika* in the village who was having even a basic knowledge about the rituals of Jainism. Even in the auspicious days, they had no opportunity of linking them with the religious activities as to from where would they bring an individual who could guide them perfectly for this purpose.

The days of *Paryushana* arrived in this way. Just as they might do every year, the initial days went by just as one drives the vehicle with broken wheels. But this time, they felt that it's essential for them now, to find some solution for this problem. One of them suggested that the best way was to request the nearby Vadhwaan Sangh, for sending someone to at least assure that they follow the rituals on the last day of *Samvatsari*. It was a good idea and everyone agreed to it. As a result, the request was sent to the temple of Vadhwaan.

Here, as soon as they received the proposal of Lakhtar, the Trustee adopted their mission of finding the 'Mr. Perfect' for the position of *Sangh's* representative. Meanwhile, Bhaichand came to know about this and he voluntarily approached the Trustees and showed the will of visiting Lakhtar on *Samvatsari*. The trustees were already introduced with the child's brilliance and they felt relieved that the pride of the *Sangh* was finally in the hands of a trust-worthy person.

On Samvatsari, he reached Lakhtar and accepted the *Paushad* joining 3-4 villagers with his inspiration. He even

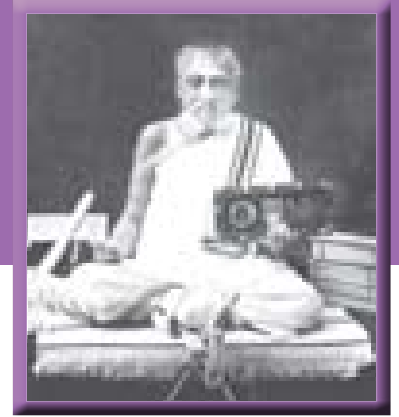
gave a small discourse for 15 mins. based on the story of Gajasukumal. The *pratikraman* started in the late afternoon and his intelligence was manifested in front of all. Everyone at once wondered they were performing the *Pratikraman* with a small *Shravak* or *Sadhu*. At the end, they announced rewards for Bhaichand and he was back home the next day in the affectionate shelter of Chabalben, who was delighted to observe her kid earning huge respect in front of the unknown villagers.

Concluding, I would not say that Bhaichand did anything special by this act of successful guidance. We haven't yet concentrated on his attributes. We may do it from the next chapter. But before that, I wish to highlight on the point that his grandeur wasn't just developed through his own *endeavor*, there was a contribution of 2 powerful sources, which made his life innovative, special and great than others and that was, his mother, Chabalben and the *pathshala* run by her... This *Pathshala* taught him what to do and Chabalben taught him 'how to do' and then it was Bhaichand who decided 'I can do'...

Let's see what and how he did.



A touch of the Pious...
Marching towards the new direction in Life!!



The Jain Temple of Ranpur had organized a grand procession from the Town Gate. Ranpur is a small town located in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat. Pujiyapad Panyas Shri Mohanvijayji Maharaj's name had become pre-eminent in that area. People were fond of his profound knowledge and elocution. His Sermons had brought a turning point in the life of plenty of individuals and hence, he had become their beloved *Gurudev*. Today he was visiting Ranpur after a lot of requests and thus the welcome procession was organized.

It happened so, that Chabalben's paternal family used to reside in Ranpur. Whenever there would be a vacation, Bhaichand used to arrive here with his mother to spend the holidays. Co-incidentally, when the procession was on, he was present in Ranpur itself. Actually, not being a regular town-member of Ranpur, he was unaware about who was Panyas Mohanvijayji Maharaj, but just as he saw a huge crowd heading out for the procession, he too felt like joining. Nowadays, parents have to literally push off their kids to visit

the temple but in those days, children personally used to take interest in joining such religious processions! As this was one of the most vital events for Ranpur, the temple officials had left nothing in the grandeur for its preparation! The procession commenced on the desired time and with a huge stream of people surrounded around, Panyas Mohanvijayji Maharaj entered the Temple-Hall, where he was expected to deliver his sermon.

During the on-going procession, Bhaichand had come to know of a lot about Panyas Mohanvijayji Maharaj from the people talking throughout the way. Some were praising his knowledge, some his wisdom, some about his obedience, some about his elocution and some about his patience and prowess. It felt as though, instead of observing the procession, people were just engaged in extolling the qualities of Mohanvijayji Maharaj! An obvious curiosity was generated in Bhaichand's mind to get introduced with the specialties of Panyas Mohanvijayji Maharaj and hence, he continued



with the crowd for he could become a part of Mohanvijayji discourse. That day, Panyas Mohanvijayji focused on the description of 14 *Niyams* (vows), a *Shravak* is desired to observe. He proficiently elaborated the meanings of each and every term associated with it and emphasized that this 14 vows have the most importance in a *Shravak's* life. As always, his inspirational speech did mesmerize the people and his magic of words worked as plenty of them got eager to accept those 14 vows for their whole lifetime. Our Bhaichand too, was highly touched by his teachings and accepted the same.

In the afternoon, he arrived back in the *upaashray* to have a personal interaction with the *Gurudev*. The morning discourse had created an unknown attraction in Bhaichand's mind towards the great saint and this was the only reason why he had arrived to meet him. His desire surely was to commence a conversation with *Panyasji Maharaj* but he found him busy in an important meeting with the Temple Trustees. So, to utilize his visit, he went on to worship one of his disciples, Muni Pratapvijayji. This *Sadhu Bhagwant* was also a noteworthy erudite and had several vows and strict practices to be adhered regularly. He had personally decided that till the moment he finishes up with the revision of 700 verses of *Nandi Sutra* (an auspicious scripture) in the dawn, he won't drink even a single drop of water! In the morning itself, he would accept 2 kinds of *Maunvrat*, each of 30 minutes. In the 1st part, he would just maintain the *Maunvrat* of not

speaking any word from his mouth but in the second one, he would completely forsake performing all the kind of movements, actions and gestures.

Bhaichand commenced the conversation with Muni Pratapvijayji, in which, he asked plenty of queries that had remained reserved in his mind from many days. Providing answers to those questions wasn't an easy task, but having an extremely palpable presence of mind, Muni Pratapvijayji dealt it with ease. Along with that, he also narrated the stirring fate of the nearest progenitors of his clan.

Bhaichand experienced a high exultation talking with Muni Pratapvijayji Maharaj. Their stay in Ranpur was for 3 days and Bhaichand visited the *upaashray* daily. It was for the 1st time, Bhaichand was undergoing a personal interaction with any *gurudev*, but he felt like if this *gurudev* were familiar with him since generations! An unknown attraction started developing in his mind towards the attributes of this *gurudev* and the ancestors of his tradition. And as the inherent sweetness of milk widens by adding sugar in it, one practical incident, related to the one of the most prodigious quality of this *gurudev* took place, which printed the marks of great respect in his mind forever. It befell that while they both were busy in their conversation, all of a sudden in the

between Mohanvijayji Maharaj convoked Muni Pratapvijayji for some urgent task. Bhaichand was visualizing them both from his own place. He noticed that the discussion of both the *gurudev* ran continuously for 15-20 minutes and in that whole span, Muni Pratapvijayji kept on speaking with his *gurudev* standing in front of his paat. Not even for second did he sit on his *aasan*! Bhaichand was simply amazed at it! When Pratapvijayji Maharaj returned back to him, he asked, “*Gurudev*! I noticed that the conversation with your *gurudev* ran continuously for a quarter of an hour and in that intact

period, you didn’t sit even for a second on your toes! Is this your forever practice? How do you manage it?” With a smile on his face, Muni Pratapvijayji replied, “My dear! Not just at this moment, even if I had to speak with my *gurudev* for 5 long hours, I wouldn’t have even thought of talking my seat! If the holder of 4 super knowledge’s and the master of 50,000 disciples revered *Gautam Swami Maharaj* can implement this piece of modesty throughout his life in front of *Bhagwaan Mahavir Swami*, why can’t I execute this activity in my life being a normal *Sadhu*, who has not even an inch of propriety like him?”.

Bhaichand was impressed with this reply. At the end of these days, he was strongly attached with the *Gurudev* and was willing to remain connected with them further. Also as the vacation was still far away from completion, Chabalben granted the permission to her kid for joining the *gurudev* in their further *vihaar* route.

During the 3 days in Ranpur, the *gurudev*, Panyas Mohanvijayji and Muni Pratapvijayji had learnt that Bhaichand definitely held the propriety to arrive on their way. All that was needed was, to extract that hidden ability. Hence, willing to grab the opportunity, they started



nurturing the values of asceticism in Bhaichand's mind. They purported him the meanings of sutra named *VairagyaShatak* and *IndriyaParajayShatak*. These 2 *sutras* show us the reality of this world and signify the reason for leading an ascetic life.

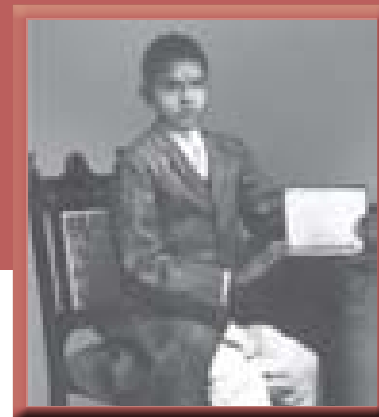
This collectively gave birth to the desire of *diksha* in Bhaichand's mind. The vacation had come to an end, but his attachment with the *gurudev* was now in a completely new direction. Bhaichand manifested his desire in front of his mother. Right from the day, Bhaichand had arrived in her womb, Chabalben's ultimate wish was to observe her child dress himself in the pious white attire of *Bhagwaan Mahavir* and when Bhaichand was willing himself to make her dreams come true, the joy in her heart was simply unmatched to anything else in the world.

But everyone is not fortunate enough to get their pious desires be fulfilled easily? They have to give harsh tests even for the good sake. When Chabalben was ready for *diksha*, it was an easy-going for Bhaichand to move ahead, but needlessly, his cousin Naanuben, jumped in between and instructed Chabalben to call Bhaichand back.

Those were the days when an Indian woman had to remain poisoned between massive family bondages. They couldn't speak even a single word against the commands of family members. Chabalben had to bring Bhaichand back, although she wasn't willing to do. The opposition of family members seemed extremely powerful and there was hardly any possibility that they would likely permit Bhaichand for renunciation. Hence, Chabalben, Bhaichand and Panyas Mohanvijayji, together decided to organize a secret *diksha*, as early as possible.

This was simply a great effort and a big dare for all the 3; to plan for a secret *diksha* against the opposition of the whole family. But they didn't have any other option! On the desired day, Bhaichand left the home forever and arrived in Baroda where Panyas Mohanvijayji was present with his disciples. There was still a month left for *diksha* and to remain on a safer side Bhaichand was instructed to hide himself in the basement of a *Shravak* named Virchandbhai Savla. These were the last days of his materialistic life, after which, he had to bedeck himself with the most sacred title of this world, which is of a *Sadhu*... All the best, Bhaichand!

A Test for himself...
Am I ready to remain unchanged in every situation?



Bhaichand was hidden in the basement of Virchandbhai's home. He had to spend a complete month there. Virchandbhai was a great devotee of Panyas Mohanvijayji Maharaj and a strong supporter of *diksha*, but at the same time, he was of the belief that adopting a spiritual practice is not an easy job for everyone and hence, only the worthy ones must receive the appreciation to proceed further. To test whether it was Bhaichand's firm decision for *diksha* or an emotional burden of his mother and *Gurudev*, once suddenly he started demanding the replies to his series of tough questions. He asked, "Bhaichand, we have learnt till now that one should accept the *diksha* only with the confirmation of his family. Don't you think, you have organized it secretly, without taking this point in account?" Bhaichand instantly replied, "No uncle, not at all! Because I believe that the only elder or the person who arrives under my definition of 'a family member' is only my mother and she is extremely eager to see me proceeding on this path. So there's not even an inch of a doubt that I have ignored that point anyway.

Virchandbhai continued, "Ok! I believe that even if you are doing a valid job, don't you think that by becoming a *Sadhu*, you are burdening your responsibility on the society? Why don't you practice the religion standing on your own Feet?" Bhaichand replied, "Uncle, there isn't an issue in living a life as a *Sadhu*, because we meet with our requirements from plenty of different families and it creates no trouble to any single individual. Also, by our principles and teachings we direct the society on the right way and return their gratitude back. Living a non-renounced life comprises abundant violence and sins. Instead of standing on our feet, and incurring the non-required sins, don't you feel it's better to support one another and easily grasp our objectives?" Virchandbhai was simply pleased with these couple of answers. The relationship of a *Sadhu* and the community is perfectly like a blind and a disabled person stuck in a forest. Both are unable to proceed further alone, but if they get ready to assist each other, they can easily reach their destination.



Virchandbhai was confident that Bhaichand was completely worthy for *diksha*. He was rejoiced to find that Bhaichand's mind was capable to deal with this difficult concept at such a small age. His attachment with Bhaichand grew stronger and he started feeling as though if his own kid was willing to march on the spiritual way.

Bhaichand used to have the meals along with Virchandbhai's family. Once, it happened so, that due to some reason, everyone had to take the lunch late than the regular time. Instead of needlessly disturbing Bhaichand's schedule for that, they advised him to accept the meal alone. Bhaichand followed the advice, quietly took the meal and returned back to his place.

Later on, the whole family sat on the table and the lunch was served. As it was too late, everyone was extremely hungry and was willing to relish the lunch, as early as they could but there wasn't even a pinch of salt in the *dal*. By mistake, the servants forgot to do so when the meal was served, which made it completely tasteless! How could they continue their lunch in such a situation? The salt was instantly bought and added, only after which, everyone got ready to continue their meal. It was difficult for them to proceed eating without the salt!





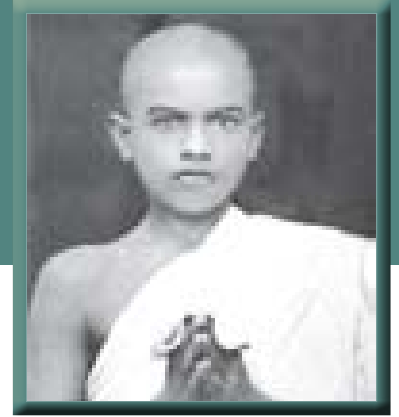
But after the completion of the meal, Virchandbhai seemed to have got lost in some thought. He wondered that today, Bhaichand had done with his lunch before them; still he uttered not even a single word of complaint about the *dal*. Why? Was he experiencing hesitation in demanding the salt for the *dal*?

To inquire, he directly reached Bhaichand's room and with lot of affection, he said, "My dear! It's your own house. Never feel shy in displaying your problems or demanding for your requirements. Today, why didn't you asked for the salt and consumed the tasteless *dal*?" Bhaichand wasn't stuck in any kind of shyness, but he had done that as he was having a different idea in his mind. He clarified, "Uncle! Don't think either. Actually, today I was wishing to examine till what extent am I ready to deal with the unfavorable condition that arrives on my way. Many a times after my *diksha*, it may happen that I will have to compulsorily consume the food items, even if they are tasteless, and then why not prepare my mind for that purpose from the very moment?"

After hearing this, Virchandbhai was overjoyed and he took Bhaichand in his arms. He felt that he was the most fortunate individual of the world to have received the opportunity to provide shelter to a *diksharthi*, whose signs of being a legend in the future were visible in such a minor age of 16 years! Just imagine how simple it becomes for a person to deal with the future hardships, who has such a strong positive approach towards life!

Saanganpur transmutes to Shramanpur...

Travels Mehsana for the journey of monkhood to moksh!



The longing for *diksha* in Bhaichand's heart was identical to the desire for rain which we find in the person, troubled from the burning heat of summer. The thirst which we find for water, in the person passing a dry desert and the hunger we find in the person for food, trapped in the vexatious days of famine! He was badly waiting for the moment Panyas Mohanvijayji Maharaj declares the auspicious day for his *diksha*. It was the completion of 30 days, he had left his home and accommodated in the basement of Virchandbhai's house! And there arrived Mohanvijayji Maharaj's letter; unfolding the day of *VS 1976/1920, Maha Sud 11*, worthy for Bhaichand's *diksha*! The moment he came to know about this news, his heart and not just that, but every part of his body filled with intense excitement and joy, as the dream nourished from years was now confirmed to become a reality! He had abdicated Virchandbhai's house, the previous day and reached Mehsana, where Panyas Mohanvijayji Maharaj was present with his disciples. In the early dawn itself, he touched the feet

of Virchandbhai to acquire his blessings, not for the journey of Baroda to Mehsana, but for his spiritual journey from monkhood to *Moksh* (salvation)! It was the forever separation of both, after staying for a month together and hence, Virchandbhai lost his control over the emotions and started weeping heavily with the grief like if his own child would never return back to him, although he was extremely rejoiced for Bhaichand's renunciation! With the augury of *Kumkum, Shrifal* and coins of Rs. 1.25/-, the family said a good bye to Bhaichand, blessing him for having an awesome experience of asceticism and wishing that his strict practices become fruitful to him inform of early salvation!

Leaving back Baroda, First of all, he visited the temple of Bhoyani, that has the ancient idol of *Shri Mallinath Bhagwaan*. It was the anniversary of that temple today, and Bhaichand paid a great devotion to the idol and prayed for making his spiritual journey, bright and incorrupt! Then he



left for Mehsana and reached there by late evening. As soon as he entered the *upaashray*, all the *Sadhus* arrived to greet him with extreme affection and took him to meet Mohanvijayji Maharaj. If you wish to know,

what exactly a true love is, anytime visit the *upaashray* and you will mostly find the *Sadhus* fighting with each other not for the consumption of their rights, not even just for the execution of their duties, but for decreasing the work load of their companions by sharing their responsibilities! He provided him the essential instructions for the next day and there was Bhaichand fast asleep, jubilantly dreaming for a good tomorrow!

It was a secret *diksha*, obviously unknown to his whole family and to maintain its secrecy, the rituals were held in Saanganpur village, instead of Mehsana. Muni Pratapvijayji and Bhaichand left for Saanganpur and instantaneously commenced the rituals as they had no time to waste! Right from the yester - morning, Bhaichand had travelled for a long-long time and was extremely tormented, but still the enthusiasm filled in his heart was making his face sparkle with happiness. At the desired time, Pratapvijayji Maharaj

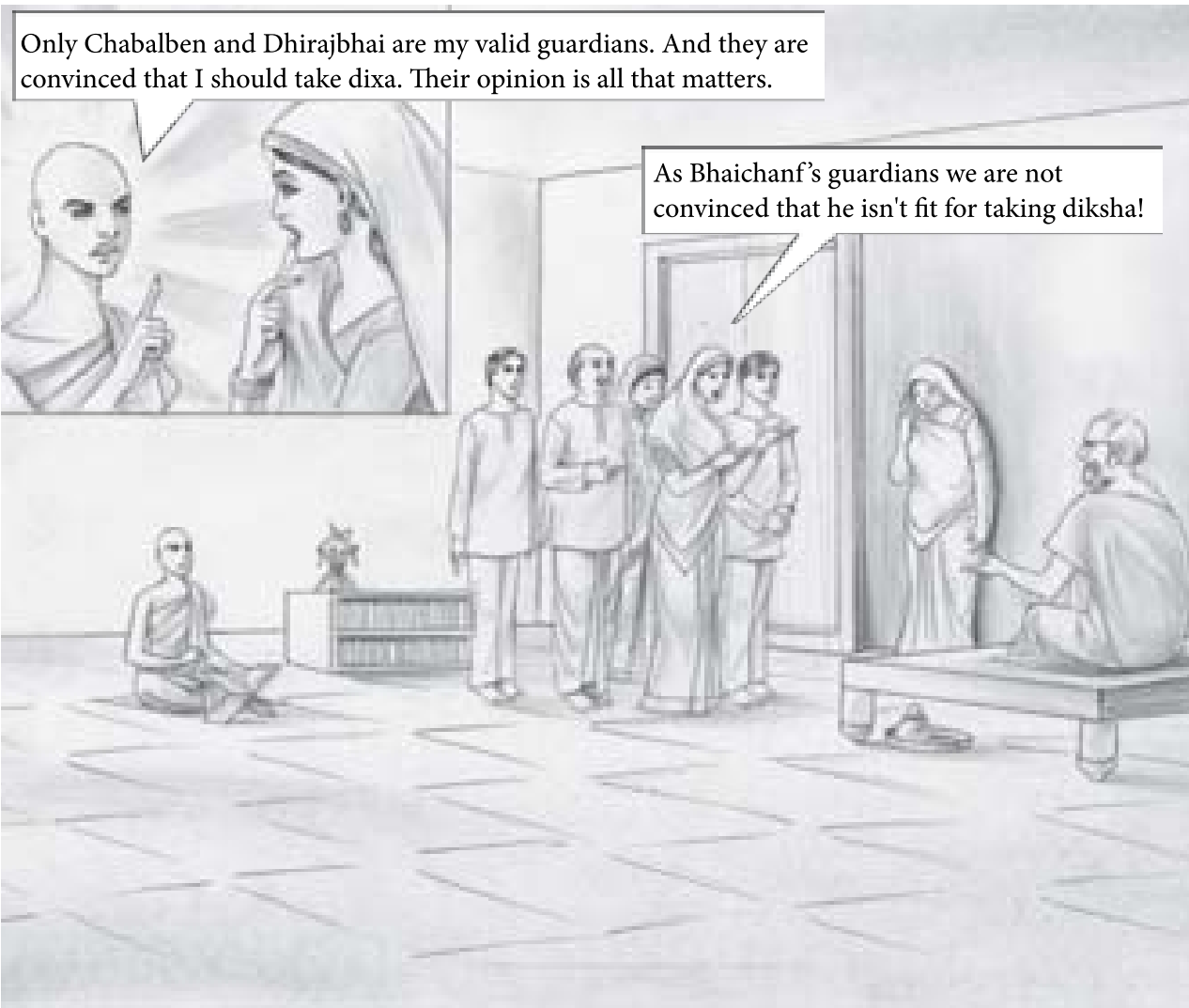
granted the immaculate *Rajoharan* (*Ogho*) to Bhaichand, and touching it to his forehead he started dancing round the *trigadu*, as an indication of the over joy, he was experiencing this unbelievable achievement. He was named Muni Dharmavijayji, as the disciple of Muni Pratapvijayji Maharaj. The remaining rituals were accomplished and they became ready to reach under the pleasant shelter of Panyas Mohanvijayji.

This erudite Master was continuously casting his eyes on the doors of the upaashray, to twig his newly - renounced grand disciple, approach him in the sacred garments of *Bhagwaan Mahavir Swami* and there was he, immediately placing his head in the lap of Mohanvijayji Maharaj, at the very moment he entered the *upaashray*. Mohanvijayji Maharaj moved his gentle hands over his head and soaked it with his affection. In his later years, he used to recollect this scene in front of his disciples and would say that those were the best seconds of his life, when his grand *gurudev* was rolling his hands, lovingly on his head!

As the intact rituals of *Diksha* were completed without any sort of hindrances, Mohanvijayji Maharaj impelled his devotees to hold a festival in the temple of Linch. The initial 3 days passed with tremendous pleasure, but the 4th day, arose with the bombardment of the furious relatives who

arrived from Ahmedabad and Vadhwaan. As soon as they entered the *upaashray*, they started screaming on Mohanvijayji Maharaj, with, the accusation of admitting a forceful *diksha* on Bhaichand. They blamed that Mohanvijayji Maharaj had applied the formula of emotionally blackmailing Bhaichand, when they were not at all willing to observe him live the life of an ascetic. They were in a full mood of fetching him back,

but our Bhaichand transformed as Muni Dharmavijayji, Firmly confessed that he might never suspend his *diksha* at any cost as he had chosen this path after an appropriate will and understanding. Also, he ensured that his *diksha* was organized only after the confirmation of his mother and his elder-sibling, Dhirajlal, who were the only authorized guardians of his.



Learning about the rigid decision on of Dharmavijayji Maharaj, as a final option, they decided to admit a court case with the claim of a forced - minor *diksha*! But the fortune of Muni Dharmavijayji was with him, and he even emerged victorious in this stage. Extremely disappointed, the relatives returned back home and here our Muni Dharmavijayji immersed himself into the studies of profound concepts related to the scriptures.

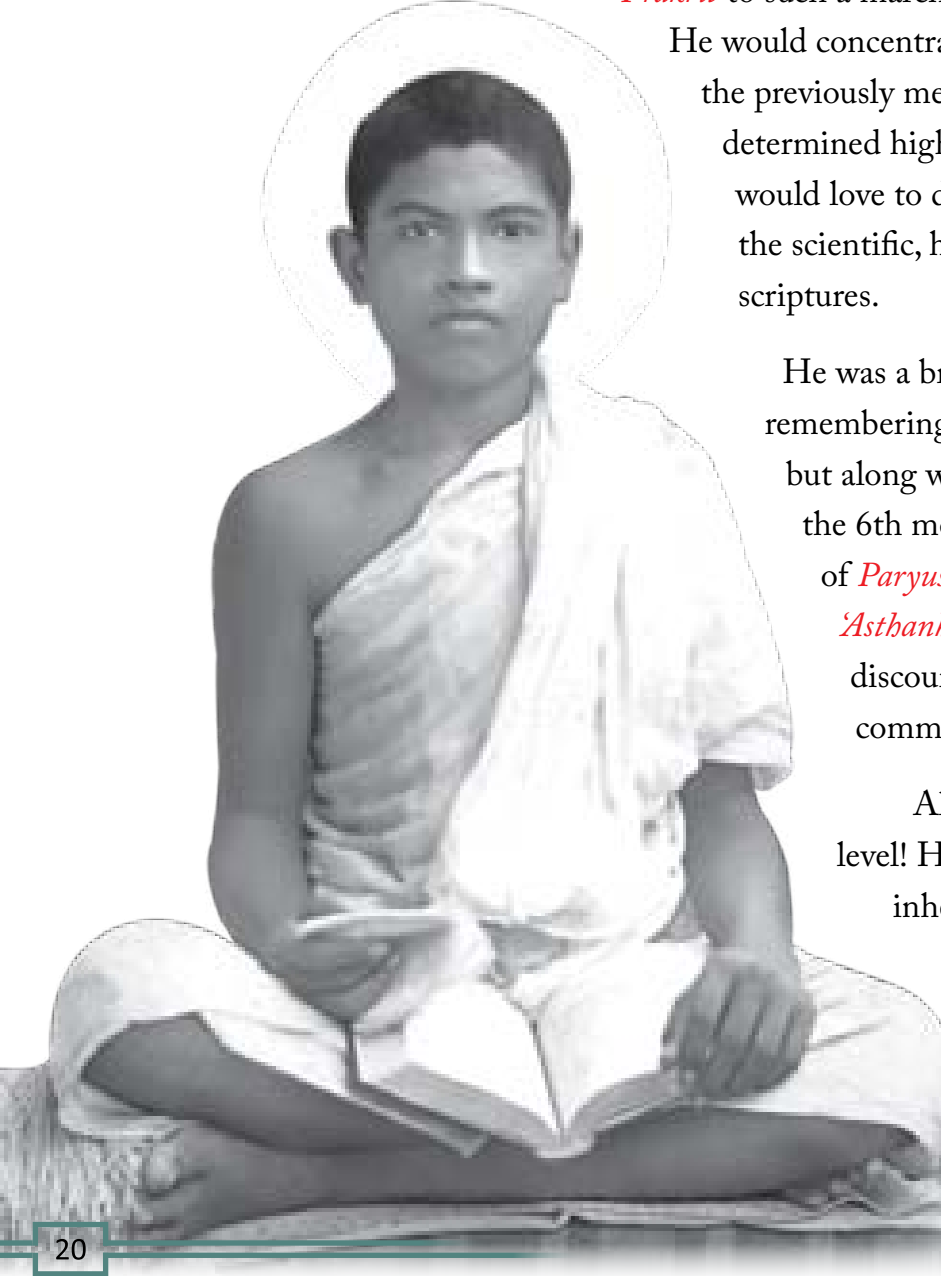
Both the *gurudev* instructed him to book the corner of *upaashray* for studying, so that the host of devotees arriving throughout the day for worshipping his grand - *gurudev*, doesn't create a disturbance to him. He would dedicatedly

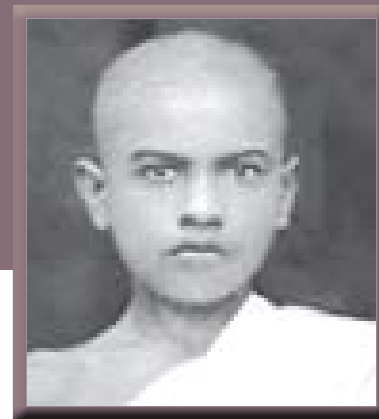
study for 10-14 hours a day! Within a very short span, he achieved excellence in *Sanskrit* and *Prakrit* to such a march, that he could fluently chat for an hour in this 2 languages!

He would concentrate on the new topics throughout the day and would revise the previously memorized verses and concepts at night! Looking upon his self - determined high exertions for the acquirement of knowledge, both the *gurudev* would love to dedicate their maximum time in providing him lectures related to the scientific, historical and geographical details of this world, preached in the scriptures.

He was a brilliant *Sadhu* and no doubt, his potential of memorizing and remembering a particular matter was surely superior than his rest co-mates, but along with that, he was due smart at delivering discourses, even at the 6th month of his *diksha* and 16 1/2 years of his life! On the 2nd day of *Paryushana* in his 1st *Chaturmas* itself, he delivered the sermon on '*Asthanhika Pravachan*', the lectures specially formed to offer in the discourses in the initial 3 days of *Paryushana*, on the spot, he was commanded by his grand- *gurudev* to do so!

Along with a high intellect, his courtesy was also of a surpassing level! His *gurudev* were highly content towards his behavior and inherent attributes and they were glad that they have received a master of future, who was surely expected to make an increment in the renown of his tradition and especially of our religion's glory and fame...





Panyas Mohanvijayji Maharaj was in Talaja town during the *Chaturmas* of VS 1982. It was the 6th monsoon by now for our Muni Dharmavijayji after he took the courageous step of renouncing the world between a strong family opposition at the younger age of 16! He had acquired an enormous stock of knowledge in all the topics during this year, delicately studying in a single position for hours and hours without even taking a rest for 10-15 minutes in between! Looking upon the long list of chapters he had learnt in 6 years, one might surely doubt, whether he might have afforded his time for gochri and sleep or might have just kept on memorizing the verses and its meaning throughout day and night!

In this *Chaturmas* he had undertaken the penance of '*Mahaanishit Sutra Yog*'. A '*Yog*' is one kind of a training session for *Sadhus*, who wish to put their feet in the world of memorizing the scriptures. You might have noticed the training sessions of military forces, performing various kinds

of disciplined physical exertions before joining the National army department to fight a battle. In the same way, there are numerous rituals and technique in this '*Yog*' that improve the concentration level of a *Sadhu Bhagwant*, so that he can study that particular scripture more easily in a shorter period of time! The second important reason for adjoining this process of '*Yog*' before studying every scripture is to verify the propriety of a *Sadhu Bhagwant* and letting him know the value for knowledge. Our scriptures believe that offering the powers to the non-worthy creatures always result harmful for the society, just as feeding milk to the snake result in the generation of poison! Also at the same time, bestowing the same powers to the creatures in their pre-matured stage, also become a wastage of effort and hence, the creatures, before bestowing the power, must be trained till the limit, they become worthy for that! The '*Yog*' does the job of sticking the label of qualification on the *Sadhu Bhagwant* that he's eligible for the memorization of that particular scripture. And



especially this was the most difficult ‘Yog’ amongst others, as the *Sadhu Bhagwant* had to observe 52 *aayambil* in a series, along with double of rituals that the rest!

It’s obvious that he might become extremely tired at night and might feel sleepy. But even in such circumstances; he had voluntarily decided that he might not spread his *santhaara* at night until and unless he presses the feet of his grand *gurudev* Panyas Mohanvijayji Maharaj, as a symbol of courtesy. Implementing this self-determined norm in the regular days was still easy, but doing the same during the ‘Yog’ was a matter to applause as it might happen that if some *Shravak* arrive in the night to have a religious discussion with his grand *gurudev* or even if he himself might remain busy in his responsibilities, it might become late for him to rest and even Muni Dharmavijayji Maharaj would require to remain awake for no reason. But he had no worries for it! On the contrary, he had also decided that he might not take a leave, until his grand *gurudev* permits him to go! This means unlimited services, without the clause of ‘Terms & Conditions apply’!

And once, it was the time for his examination. It was around 9.30 p.m. in the night, he started pressing the feet. Generally, it might happen that after 15-20 minutes, Mohanvijayji Maharaj himself might command him to stop his activity and take rest, but tonight unknowingly he felt asleep and became unable to permit Dharmavijayji Maharaj return back to his place. As he received no instruction for retiring his activity, Dharmavijayji Maharaj kept on pressing the legs continuously. He began it at 9.30 and continued it till 11 pm. It was an hour and a half since Mohanvijayji Maharaj had slept and Dharmavijayji Maharaj was pressing the feet. All of a sudden, Mohanvijayji Maharaj awoke and was amazed to find his grand-disciple still pressing his feet! He immediately ordered him to stop and questioned, “Dhammu (as he would call him with affection)! Why were you pressing my feet when I was sleeping? You might have left!” Dharmavijayji Maharaj replied with a smile, “*Gurudev*! Have you ever found me leaving until you command me to go? Then how could I do tonight?” Mohanvijayji Maharaj became highly exulted with this reply. He took him in his arms and blessed, “Dhammu, it’s a sign of good fortune for *gurudev* like us, when they have the disciples like you. Always embrace success in your life and increase the renown and glory of our religion in the society!”



Here, some might argue that although Mohanvijayji Maharaj became pleased with that, what was the use of exerting for such a long time, when he was sleeping? Just as someone was striving to book his seat in the train declared to depart in yard for service, doesn't it seem that Dharmavijayji Maharaj was performing a meaningless effort? But there could be no replies for those arguments as for him, devoting the gurudev was the most important medium of acquiring pleasure and comfort, which the rest might give him never!



Guru Se sacche aur guru se acche, koi dost nahi hote hai, Jo shishya ke dosho ko jhamindost kar dete hai!” I was going through an awesome article of my grandgurudev, Pujiyapad Aacharya Shri Rajratnasuri M.S. written in Gujarat Samachar, for Pujiyapad Shri Suryodayasuri Maharaj (his *gurudev*) just a week later he attained *Kaal dharma* (Death) In Andheri. And these were the lines in Hindi, the article was concluded with. The topic moved around the point to signify that he had all the qualities, a mentor is expected to possess. There were quite a few 7-8 instances of his life recorded in the article that were collectively trying to prove him a successful *gurudev*. Some where he was found as emotional as a mother, somewhere he was strict as a father, sometimes helpful as a friend and sometimes generous to neglect some small faults and short- comings of his disciples! But especially when I came across the incident regarding his strictness as a *gurudev*, I was reminded of the famous Gujrati proverb, “*vad evaa tetaa ne baap evaa beta!*” Just as the banyan - fruits are identical to the banyan-trees, sons mostly receive everything in heritage form their fathers! His *gurudev*, Dharmasuri Maharaj would also implement this strictness on him in his early childhood

days, obviously due to which he evolved out as a pre-eminent great *Aacharya* of 21st Century!

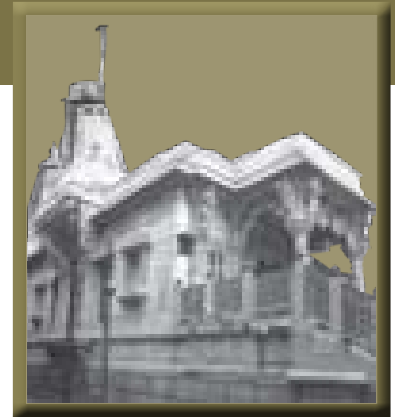
He actually achieved *Kaal dharma* on *VS 2071, Jeth Sud 3*, dated 05-06-2015, Saturday at the age of 84. Perfectly 70 years ago, in *VS 2001*, and he was with Panyas Dharmavijayji Maharaj in the form of a small child named ‘Sevanti’. He had accompanied Dharmavijayji Maharaj for acquiring the guidelines and information required to prepare his mind for renouncing this world. He was a sharp- minded child and hence, his *gurudev* had framed several subjects and verses for him to be memorized in the shortest period of time, he had the propriety to do! Dharmavijayji Maharaj had advised him to memorize at least 5 *gatha* (verses) in the early dawn, before having the *Navkarshi* (Breakfast). Although, I used the word ‘advice’, in reality, it wasn’t just a mere advice, it was an unchangeable norm, he wasn’t just expected, but had to compulsorily follow it any how! Anyways, Sevanti was so obedient, brilliant and systematic boy, that he would carry on this task with consistency in such a way, that he would never feel, it was a rule for him! As he was obeying his *gurudev’s* command devotionally without any issue, Dharmavijayji

Maharaj was rejoiced and would always behave affectionately with him!

But there arrived a problematic situation for him one day. According to his daily routine, he sat for memorizing the *gatha* after sunrise, but don't know why there was something wrong that day...the *gatha* which required the effort of just 30 minutes for him daily, wasn't fetching the result even after striving for more than 90 minutes! He thought he might have lost his concentration but he wasn't succeeding today as he would do regularly! It was over-time now and stomach had started raising its demand! What to do now? After following his *gurudev's* command regularly, how shameful it would seem to face him unsuccessfully, without memorizing even a single *gatha*? And even how could he assuage the hunger that was growing stronger with every passing minute? He was badly puzzled! Still the hunger emerged victorious and he was forced to approach his *gurudev* for obtaining the permission for having the breakfast before memorizing the *gatha*. He revealed his desire in front of Dharmavijayji Maharaj, with tremendous hesitation but promising that it might happen never for a single time in future. He was of the opinion that his obedience of so many days might become instrumental in bringing him out of this trouble, but no! Under his astonishment, the always calm *gurudev* of his, got annoyed hearing his request and strictly ordered, "Don't you feel shy presenting such demands in front of me? Go back again and resume your studies. Don't even dream that you are going to receive your meal until you memorize all the *gathas* for the day!" Sevanti was extremely shocked by this irregular behavior

of his *gurudev* with him. For the very first time ever, he had witnessed tones of anger and his *gurudev* upset! But he had a deep respect for him in his heart and hence, instead of binding any negative opinion for him, he started feeling bad, that he was unable to act according to the expectations of his mentor. Yes, that's the true characteristic of a perfect disciple! He never points out the mistakes of his elders, instead during every incident; he tries to find out his own faults and to eradicate those! He commenced studying again with a hope to succeed this time but no! His destiny didn't wish to make him does that! His concentration was breaking on continuously as the delicious food items of breakfast were taking the visits in his thought every now and then.

Meanwhile, it was 8.45 am in the clock and Dharmavijayji Maharaj got ready to depart for his discourse. He walked towards Pratapsuri Maharaj's room to acquire his blessing, as he did it regularly, but before reaching there, he went near the window of the room where Sevanti was studying. He peeped inside and a smile burst out on his face observing the dejected face of Sevanti! He visited his *gurudev's* room from there and told him something pointing out towards Sevanti. As soon as he left, Pratapsuri Maharaj asked Sevanti to arrive in his room and said, "Look Sevanti, your *gurudev* is not at all wrong in making you follow the rule strictly, as even I would do the same with him in his childhood days, but as you are my most



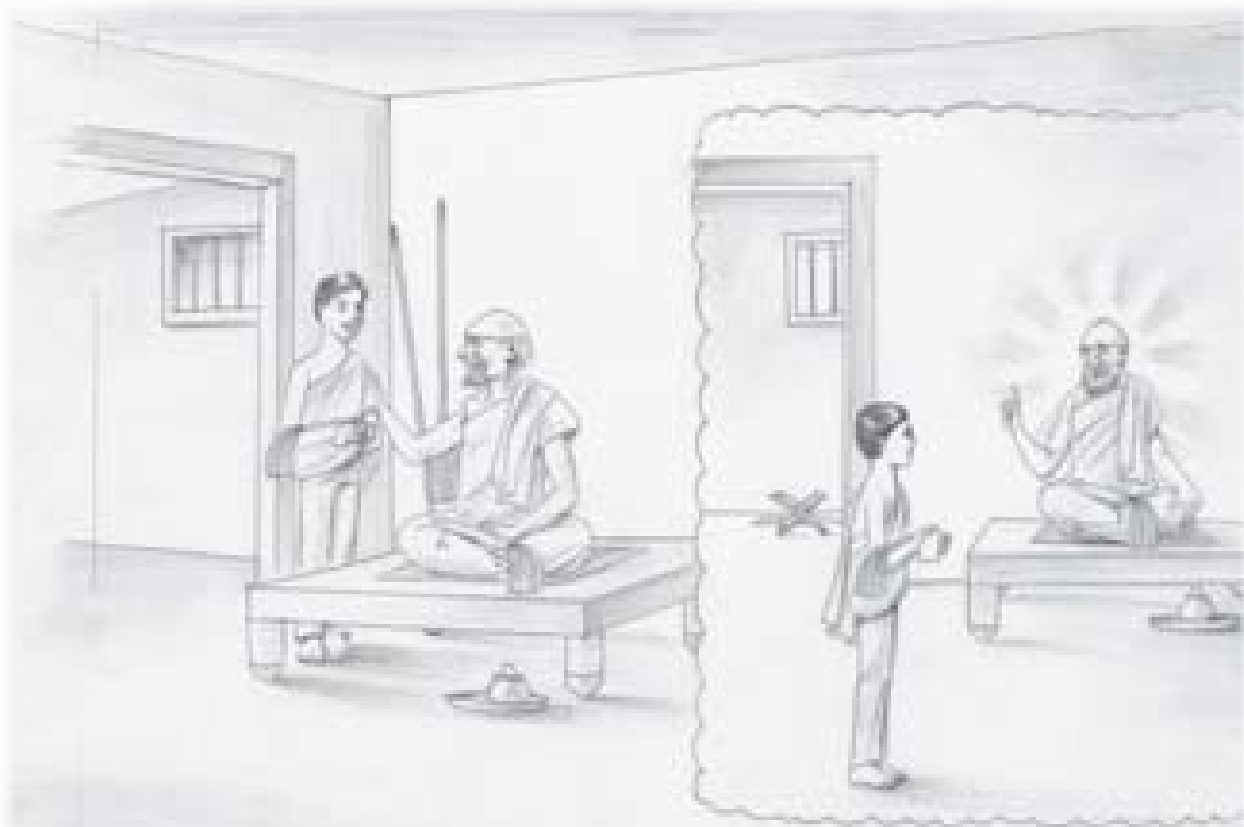
favorite disciple, as an exception, I permit you only for today to have your breakfast now, but promise me that you will memorize 10 *gatha* after that as your punishment!”

What else was required? Sevanti was rejoiced with that. It was like if someone was making him sustain the same punishment of sword with a needle! Where’s a great deal for a millionaire to afford Rs. 100 as punishment? Sevanti was so brilliant that memorizing 10 *gatha* wasn’t so difficult for him. He instantly ran off for his breakfast and quickly memorized all the *gatha* even in a lesser period of time proportionately he used to do the same every day! After Dharmavijayji Maharaj returned back from his discourse, he recited all the 10 *gatha* in front of him without making a single error! Dharmavijayji Maharaj was so overjoyed with it that he took him in his hands and soaked him with extreme affection! He was glad that his Sevanti was back and that also, with twice a result than before!

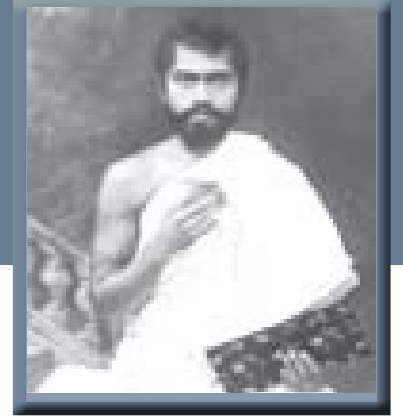
Here someone might argue that instead of giving the instructions to his *gurudev*, what would have happened if Dharmasuri Maharaj himself would grant him the consent for breakfast? Sevanti would have felt so good for him? But although we believe this from the reader’s point of view, what he did was suitable to a responsible mentor. Always pampering the disciple, never makes him progress in a systematic way. He must always have a

fear that his *gurudev* might not entertain even the smallest of his faults and mistakes, which means to face him, he might require abolishing his short-comings and trying to become perfect! And that would unknowingly push him miles and miles ahead on the path of all-round progress and in true sense, the spiritual journey!

I think we must move towards the accomplishment, with one more epigram of ancient Hindi used by my grand*gurudev* in the same article, “*Guru Mohe maare shabda ki laathi, Chele ri mati aparaadhi ki naathi!*” – ‘I wonder that when my gurudev beats his disciple with the stick of his harsh words, instead of getting hurt on any part of the body, his short - comings and faults takes a leave from him forever!’



Modesty of Panyas Dharmavijayji... Secret of Sagarji Maharaj's affection!

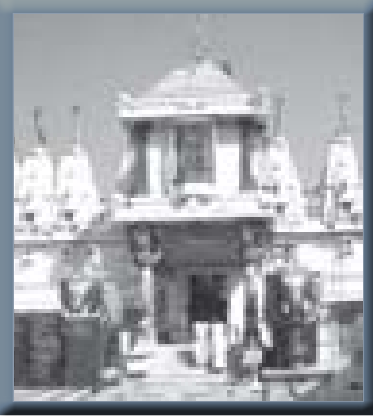


Even after the completion of 14 years of his *Sanyam* practice, the love and enthusiasm of Panyas Dharmavijayji Maharaj, towards the acquisition of knowledge was simply indefinable! This is the only reason why he used to walk 6 miles per day from Jain Merchant society to Panjrapole *Upaashray* in Ahmedabad just to attend a single-hour lecture delivered by P. Pu. Aa. Vijay Sagarandansurishwarji Maharaj! Just imagine the limits his devotion for scriptures would have crossed, when he was ready to sweat for its acquisition in the flaming hot summer noon! And this wasn't the scene only in the 14th-15th year of *diksha*, even after weighing a caboodle of responsibilities being *Panyas*, his passion and hunger for knowledge was still the same! But, more than this passion, the praise-worthy matter was his obedience and humility.

There is a very inspiring incident related to this. Pujiyapad Sagarandansurishwarji Maharaj, with his disciples, was present in one of the *upaashray* of Palitana town. Panyas

Dharmavijayji Maharaj used to arrive daily from sahitya Mandir to attend his one-hour lecture from 2 to 3 pm in the afternoon! Pujiyapad Sagarandansuri Maharaj was deeply touched with the obedience of Dharmavijayji Maharaj and hence, he had become his most favorite student. It would be clearly seen that the pleasure, which he would experience teaching Dharmavijayji Maharaj would be extremely different than teaching others!

But this would create a pinch in his own disciple's minds as to what was so special in the meekness of Dharmavijayji Maharaj that their 'all time strict' mentor was so attracted towards him! They would continuously keep a watch throughout the session to find how wonderfully their *gurudev* would simplify the toughest of topics and teach Dharmavijayji Maharaj, which would never happen to such a level in their own sessions! Count it as a part of jealousy or a mere curiosity, this question had gained the 1st preference in their minds



and it had become difficult for them to treasure it! The pinnacle of maintaining patience finally came to an end and one fine day, they finally questioned their master, “*Gurudev!* Can you

please just inform us as to what’s so note-worthy in Panyas Dharmavijayji Maharaj that you donate him your most valuable knowledge with utmost pleasure and affection?”

The question wasn’t an irregular one. Providing a reply to it was compulsory. Pujoyapad Sagarandansuri Maharaj felt that providing a theoretical answer is not a good option at this moment and so he let his disciples themselves know the mystery with a practical instance. So, he said, “My dear followers! Panyas Dharmavijayji is extremely modest. I will surely display you some day and then, it wouldn’t give you an opportunity to ask such questions.

And one day, exactly 10-12 minute before 2 pm, he covered himself with the *kamadi* and fell asleep. 5 minutes before 2 pm, Panyas Dharmavijayji Maharaj arrived in the *upaashray* and found *Aacharya Maharaj* resting. Without showing even a single sign of being upset on his face, he sat down on his *aasan* near the *paat* of *Aacharya Maharaj*.

Obviously, this was a surprise examination hour for Dharmavijayji Maharaj and the supervisors, I mean, the disciples were dedicatedly executing their duty! Their curious eyes had no job but to keep a watch on the movements made in the whole hour by Dharmavijayji Maharaj!

Perfectly at 3 in the clock, Pujoyapad Sagarandansuri Maharaj woke up and announced that no sessions shall be held today! I observe, if I would have been present at that moment, although I wouldn’t have spoken anything, my mind would have surely started thinking in the negative direction, and those emotions would have become reflective on my face and activities, but even after wasting an hour, our Panyas Dharmavijayji Maharaj’s expressions adopted not even a single inch of change! With the same smile on his face, he said, “As you command, *Gurudev!*” And with the formal queries related to health, he returned back to Sahitya Mandir in the service of his Gurudev!

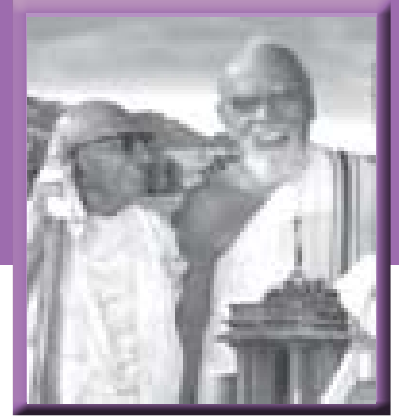
Alas! I did a huge mistake by naming that hour of him as ‘wastage’, because he was not at all unconcerned to waste even a single second of his working time! Even in that span, he utilized his free time in revising with his done syllabus and investigating the press proofs related to the compilation of scriptures done by the *Aacharya Maharaj*! He was in no mood

of destroying his time in chatting with the disciples of *Aacharya Maharaj!*

There is no need to mention, that the disciples astonishment had reached the zenith! They understood that forget proceeding forward, even it was difficult for them to compete with the modesty and timidity of Panyas Dharmavijayji Maharaj! And like if Pujoyapad Sagaranandsuri Maharaj was handing a 'Man of the tournament' trophy to Dharmavijayji Maharaj, he said to his disciples that, "Till now, plenty of *Sadhu* have gained lectures from me, but what Dharmavijayji has imbibed from it never been done by anyone else...!"

Let's speak the truth. Is it possible for me and you to possess such speechless respect and humbleness? No, not at all! The only thing which we can do is fold our hands and pay the curtsy in his feet....





Imagine if a person is in an extreme hurry to catch a train. He runs to the platform, somehow reaches on time, gets into the position to get in the train. It arrives, he gets it, gets a window seat and feels relaxed. And at this very moment, there arrives a heart-breaking announcement, “Passengers please get informed that the train in which you are travelling has technical problem. We request all the passengers to quickly get off from the train.”

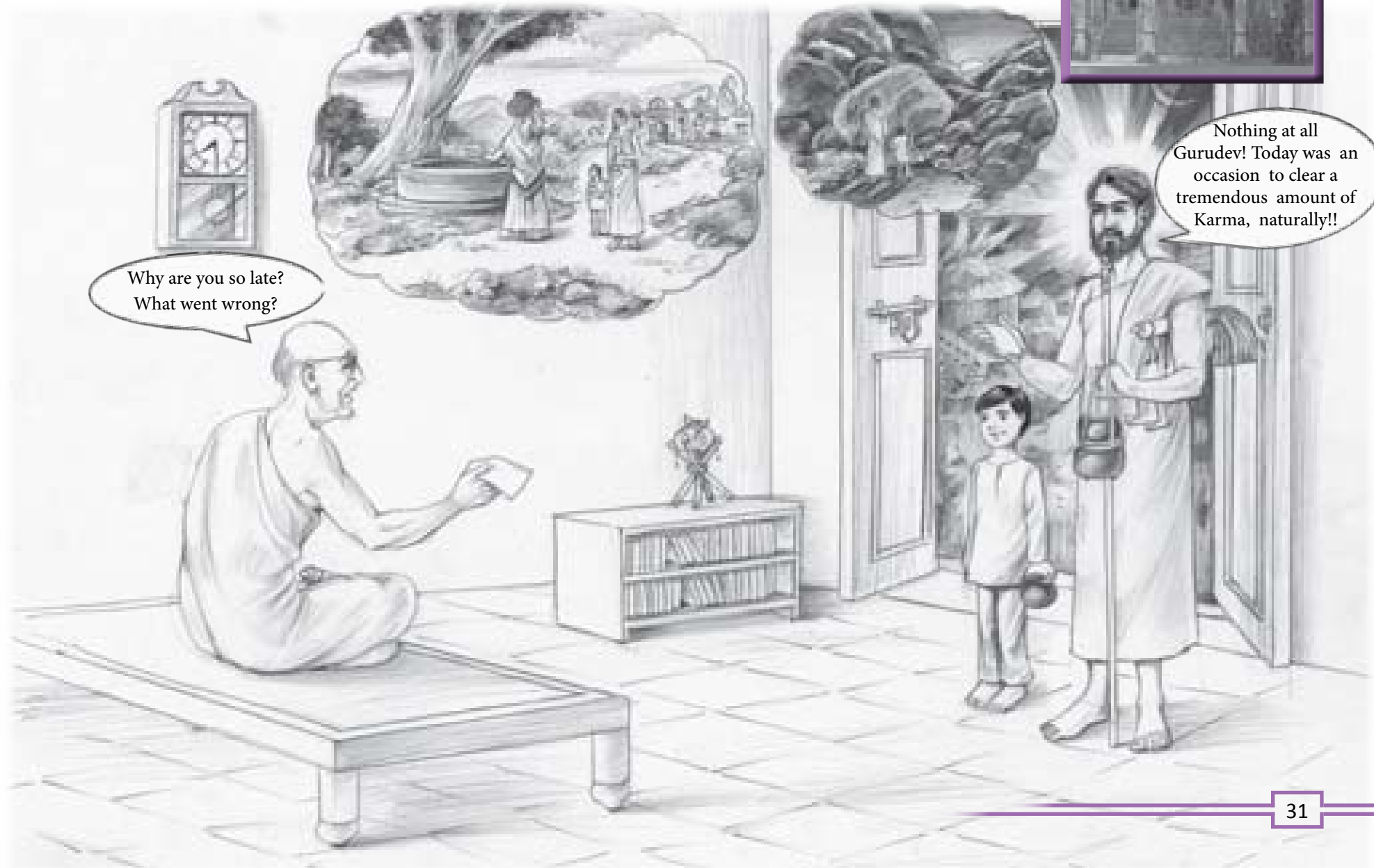
Just imagine the state of the person! Just a few moments ago, he rushed to get in the train and after exerting so much, when he gets to know that his effort has become a total waste, it's obvious he might get angry and would start criticizing the Rail Department for providing poor services. Patience is much difficult to be maintained in such situations and the one who succeeds in doing it, is surely praiseworthy. I hope you understand that this anecdote is a way to present you an incident of Dharmasuri Maharaj that would be indicating his note-worthy patience, when trapped in unpleasant circumstances:

It was about *VS 2003*, when Dharmasuri Maharaj was Panyas Dharmavijayji. Accompanied by *gurudev* P. Pratapsuri Maharaj and the obedient disciples, Panyas Dharmavijayji was on the pilgrimage of the wonderful ancient temples of Kutch. It was a time-consuming process and hence they had taken their legs on charge and were rapidly commanding from one place to another. As the vihar was too lengthy, *Sadhu* use to commence their *vihar* separately according to their walking speeds. Dharmavijayji along with a small child ‘Sevanti Kumar’ (Now, my grand gurudev Pujyapad Acharya Vijay Suryodayasuri Maharaj) Was the speediest of all and hence, although they would leave the *upaashray* after every one, they would reach the destination first. Once, their journey of Kutch was advancing from Mothra to Sanosara. As always, this pair started their *vihar* after others. They reached to the outskirts of village and there arrived 2 ways to go. Now which was the actual way? They were puzzled. Soon, they found a lady filling water from the nearby well.



Nothing at all
Gurudev! Today was an
occasion to clear a
tremendous amount of
Karma, naturally!!

Why are you so late?
What went wrong?



He addressed that woman and asked her to direct the way to Sanosara. She pointed out towards one of them, on which Dharmavijayji continued. But after travelling approx, 5.5 Kms. the road started disappearing and there arrived the series of mountains and grasslands. Dharmavijayji now understood that he was on the wrong way. At that very moment, a farmer from the nearby field arrived and informed that it was the wrong way, and to reach Sanosara, it was compulsory for them to return back the whole distance and then re-continue their *vihar* on the 2nd way they had observed. OMG! What an irritating news it was! If it would have been a vehicle-journey, it wasn't a big issue as such. But he had to return back and reach Sanosara with his own feet when he had already walked a long distance that morning and had to continue the same next day. It's genuinely impossible for a person to maintain his tolerance in such a situation. At once, confidently, one would get annoyed on that miscreant lady for needlessly misguiding them on the wrong way. But oh! I forgot, was Dharmasuri Maharaj a regular human like us? His patience was matchless and it wasn't an easy job for anyone to break it. Without losing even an inch of hope, he re-commenced his journey with an increased his speed than.

Today, for the very first time, Pujiyapad Pratapsuri Maharaj had reached on the opposite side before Dharmavijayji. When he came to know that his disciple hadn't arrived still, he became worried and sent some *Shravak* from Sanosara to investigate about the problem. They took their horses and went off for Mothara, but they met Dharmavijayji on the way itself. In the early sunset evenings of winter, Panyas Dharmavijayji reached Sanosara at 7.30 pm. That evening he had to perform the *vihar* of 19 Kms! Carrying out such long *vihar* regularly, I know how much tired we feel after walking 19 kms. in the morning. Opine, how much lassitude, he might have experienced after doing the same thing in the evening and knowing that 55% (11kms) of his *vihar* was in fact useless! But, during the *vihar* and even after, not for a single second, he uttered even a single word for the criticism of the troubling misdemeanor of that woman. Instead, he said, "Maybe, today was the day for shedding extreme *karma* from my soul". And he smiled.

I think this incident is self-sufficient to interpret how great he was. Scripting words over it would prove my activity foolish... The one and only thing which is better for me is to speak those two words, that are always instrumental in hiding my lack of smartness of truly extoling this legend...



In the morning, probably at 8, two gentlemen, one elder and one younger, approached me in the silent *upaashray*, to perform the obeisance as they would do daily. The *upaashray* was mute as there was no one except me, to make it noisy and even I was lost in my studies, till the moment, this pair created a disturbance in my concentration. After performing the *Guruvandan*, a disciplined ritual signified by the scriptures, they both folded their legs on the ground, obviously seeming in a mood to have a chat with me. Mostly, *Shravak* don't take such positions in front of me and surely, if they do like such, I get scared, as I can seriously imbibe nothing useful for myself from their talks and the time gets wasted! But as soon as they took their seat, the elder - most human from the both appealed, "*Sahebji*, As you know, tomorrow I'm completing my *Maasakshaman* (30 fasts continuously) and I wish that in my gift, he (pointing towards the younger individual accompanying him) must at least accept 2 vows to be followed for the span of an year :-

- Not consuming anything after midnight
- Observing *Chauvihar* at least for 5 days per month.

That person's face grew more and more serious, as he proceeded further, manifesting his desire!

But such cases are not so new for us. Regularly elders arrive and complain that their descendants don't follow religious principles and rituals, and easily absorb the bad virtues from their friend circle. Even we experience a boredom hearing their typical claims every now and then. But in my early years, I use to have a great enthusiasm in inducing and even forcing the youngsters to follow the religious ethics and activities, where as inductively now, I have stopped practicing such unnecessary toil. I have arrived to the conclusion that religion is not a thing to make someone observe forcefully, as at last, only the good or bad emotions of an individual will make him lay himself open to good or bad *Karma*. Jain religion is like a GPS, if you approach, it will guide you the right way, and if you don't, waste your valuable time and



energy, searching for the true path and till you get it, roam foolishly, enduring unwanted troubles and hardship. But do you know why do Jains ignore, insult and forsake their religion and its norms, more easily than

the Non - Jains? Because

- Their majesty has exerted till last limit, delivering sermons 6 hours a day to educate them as much as he could do and hence, it's found everywhere that at any time a person possesses something in excess, he mostly has no value for it! Also as they know that their scriptures are filled with mighty concepts, they keep on raising wanted and unwanted questions related to every smallest of matter. Where, as Non - Jains have nothing much with them, their followers don't expect much explanations for their queries and better, don't wish to raise a query!

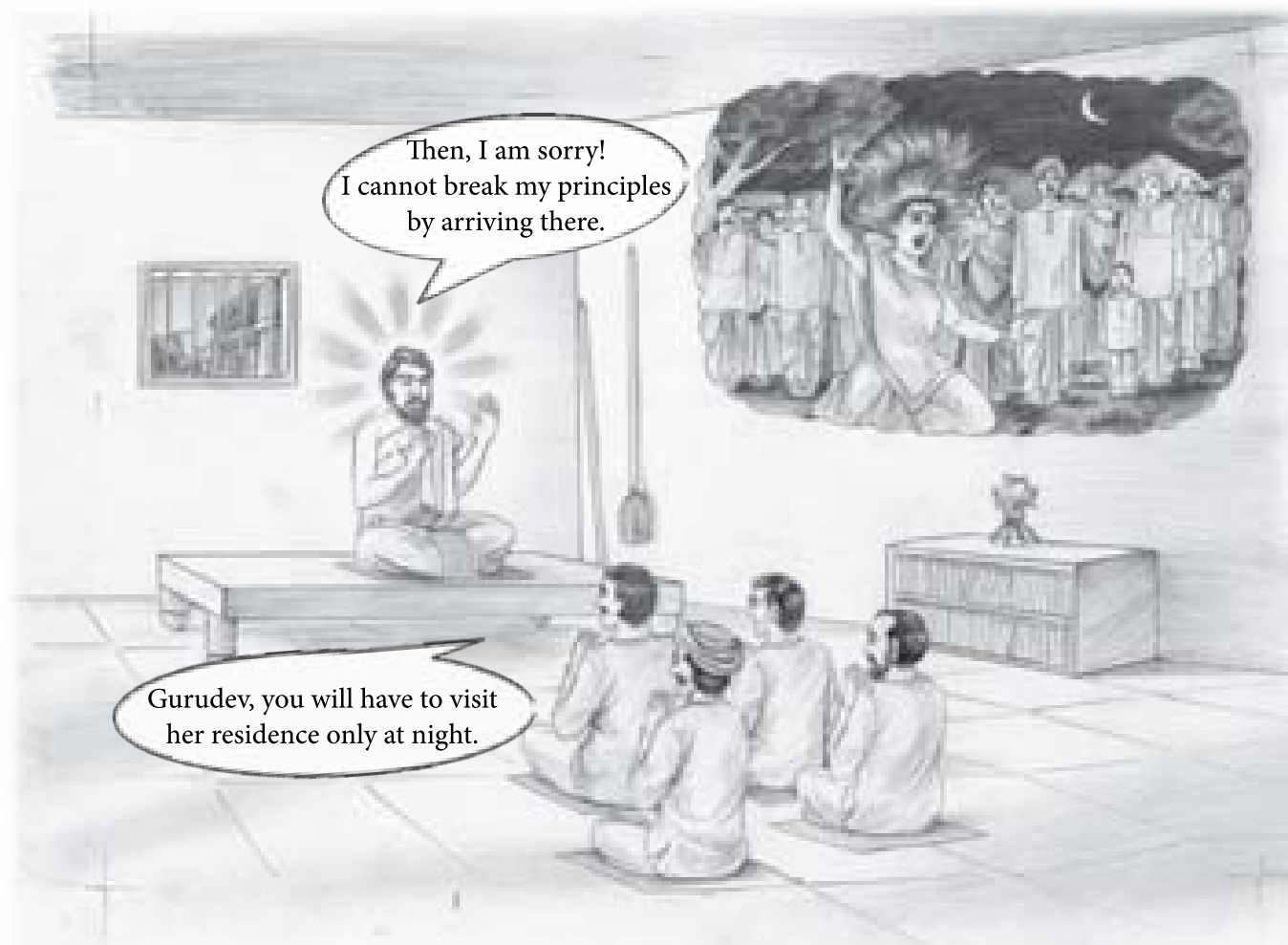
- Many Jains don't have a feeling for their religion. If the time and situations become favorable to them, they might pay attention towards the religious activities, otherwise forget! A Muslim never requires an instruction to visit his mosque neither a Christian is ever advised by someone before he visits the church, but the parents and *Sadhu Bhagwants* have to literally provide long descriptions and plenty of logics to

emphasize that worshipping a temple is a must for every Jain, without a guarantee that the listener might get convinced through it or remain stuck on his own notion!

The moment this same individual comes to know that his house has set on fire, he might run as fast as he could as he believes that protecting his life is 'essential' for him! If he's hungry and finds no option around him, he might even become ready to consume the food items he never likes to eat in the regular days, because he feels that satisfying his hunger at that moment is 'crucial' for him! But what if the newly joined office timings are of the pattern that surely makes an obstruction for him in practicing the *Chauvihar* or performing the *pooja* in the temple? He might surely speak 'sorry' to the religious activities for pampering his profession, as religion is not so 'compulsory' for him! If the examinations arrive in the *Paryushana*, postpone the penances to the next year, as they are not so 'vital' for him! And where am I speaking about such extreme conditions because even if a friend's birth-day party arrives on the day of *Tithi*, better have a finding the middle ground with the latter, as following a *Tithi* is not much 'essential' for him! Well, that's the reason, why we observe all the Muslims paying '*Namaaz*' on *Eid* and there are the Jains, who don't perform the pratikraman even on the sanctified day of *Samwatsari*!

But Dharmasuri Maharaj was having no such attitude towards his principles and norms; instead he would always provide a 1st preference to them, even if he requires sustaining severe hardships for that!

He was at Morbi in Kutch, for the *Chaturmas* of *VS 2002*. It was the first and last pilgrimage for him of the Gujarat desert and he had arrived here after worshipping several ancient temples and idols of Kutch in a very short period of time.



The *Chaturmas*, in the meaning of both monsoon and religious season, was well set in Morbi and the way Dharmasuri Maharaj had started sweating to his last limit for educating the nescient Morbi folks, it seemed like if he had purposely arrived here to satisfy the thirst for knowledge, the populace was having in their minds from years! If he wished he might have chosen the simple topics for his discourses so that it requires less effort, but he was sure that it was near to impossible for any other capable *Sadhu Bhagwant* to organize a *Chaturmas* in near future as he did this time and hence he had kept nothing less in his efforts for simplifying the profound concepts of a scripture named '*Bhagwati Sutra*' and explaining it to the

general public in a language that becomes equally comfortable for the individuals! The inhabitants for whom, 'religion' only meant worshipping the idols in temple, were found spending hours and hours in the *upaashray*, hunting for the secrets hidden in the scriptures, Dharmasuri Maharaj was eager to unmask! Even after speaking 2½ hours in the morning, when he must reach to the end of his discourse, people would literally experience a pain, that they might have to return back home and get immersed in the sinful activities, after spending the time in great pleasure, listening to the blissful teachings of Dharmasuri Maharaj.

But slowly, some strange rumors started spreading throughout Morbi! Dahyabhai, a resident of Palasva village of the Kutch, was appointed as the head - priest of Morbi temple. Nocturnally, his wife would behave strangely, like if some negative divine power has possessed her body! Haven't you observed some folks swinging their heads with strange noises, pretending of having the presence of some celestial element, in their bodies? Exactly similar to that, this woman might claim of having the presence of some roaming *dev* in her body and might also interpret the future by providing answer to the questions, asked by the people arrived curiously to watch her stunt!

Gradually, this show became so popular that some *Shravak* even gave this news to Dharmasuri Maharaj and insisted him to visit her house at night and investigate whether it's a truth or just an illusion! Dharmasuri Maharaj was surely having no such lease time to waste on these illogical investigations, but even if he does that for people's Satisfaction, it was creating a direct disturbance to his principles, which he not at all ready to endure! He straightly confessed that, "It's not possible for me to go there, as we can't go for more than 100 steps in all directions after sunset and even observing or having a conversation with a female at night is strictly restricted for a *Sadhu*! But even without verification I can conclude that it's not much useful for us. When we have the *Arihant Bhagwan* as our majesty why to waste our time in those skits, with whom we have no relation whatsoever from any aspect?

If he liked he might have taken a visit to that woman's house under the name of 'exception', but no! He was a person who always gave a principle priority to his principles, no matter however crucial, essential or vital, the other situation is...

A Principal of Principles...

Sets up a new Jain nursery in Baroda

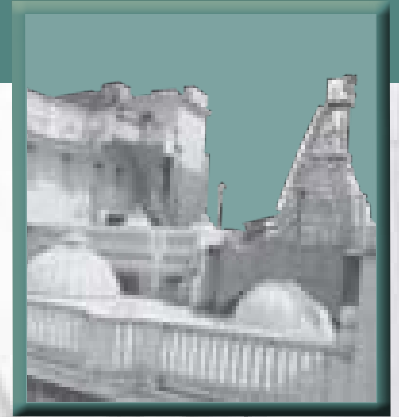


Although Dharmasuri Maharaj was born in Vadhwaan and would have spent his early years of life in Gujarat, people still call him as a “Mumbaikar”, as he passed the next half of his life here and graced the city in such a way, which even the Marathi politicians couldn’t do! But this time in *VS 2005*, he was at Baroda for the *Chaturmas*, as the trustees of Ghadiyaadi pole had put up back to back request from the last many years! The *upaashray* was undergoing a renovation, whose inauguration ceremony, was organized under the presence and guidance of Dharmasuri Maharaj. As a substitute, Dharmasuri Maharaj and his disciples had stayed in a *Dharmashaala*, owned by the same trust of the temple.

In the free time after *gochri*, Dharmasuri Maharaj had put up a habit of taking 15-20 turns round the Hall for proper digestion. But don’t think that even these 10-15 minutes were wastage of time as even in this lease time, he would revise more than 200 *gatha* orally! Even at the age of 78, if someone would ask him to speak the *gatha* from any of the 7000-8000

ones, he had memorized throughout his life, he could recite them all without making a single error! The cardinal reason was this effort of revising the studies everybody even in his middle and older years!

Once in the same way, after completing the afternoon *gochri*, he was roaming in the balcony of the 1st floor Hall, when he noticed the small kids of nursery consuming the potato wafers! Mostly 70% of the kids were having the Kesar tilak on their forehead, which means, they were Jain and still they were eating the snacks made from potatoes! Dharmasuri Maharaj was astonished to observe this! He wondered why the parents would be making their kids consume the food items that is strictly restricted in our religions? But later on, he came to know, that the nursery in which the kids use to study, had itself taken the responsibility of providing the snacks to its students and hence, the teacher himself would offer this potato wafers to both Jain and Non-Jain Kids! It was useless to directly talk to the teachers and hence,



Dharmasuri Maharaj, instructed the *Shravak* to take care of this! The *Shravak* replied that, “Many a times in the past, we have informed the teacher for this, but every time he gives us a common answer that this is not a Jain institution which would run on our principles! There are even many non-Jain kids studying in this nursery and hence, they would provide the potato wafers also at regular intervals. There’s only 1 nursery in this entire area and therefore, parents also have no option but admitting their kids in this nursery!”

Dharmasuri Maharaj understood that the parents had to forcefully axe their own legs, as there was no alternative for them beside this nursery! It’s not that our community isn’t capable of erecting a school or college. They quickly get ready to spend hundreds of crores of rupees on marriages or temples and show disregard towards opening a single school! A Jain progeny would know about other religions very easily but I don’t think it’d be the same for their own. If someone asks him about a simplest details related to *Bhagwaan Mahavir*, he would require fetching the answer from his parents!

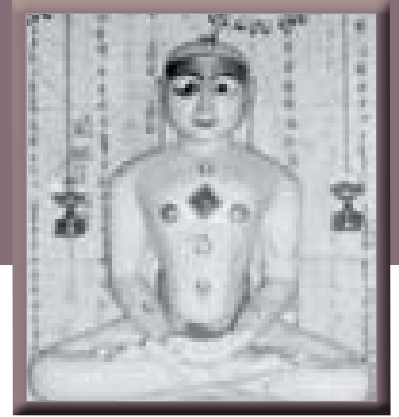
Dharmasuri Maharaj knew that if these Children are allowed to eat the potato wafers for the span of a year, they would become addicted towards it to such an extent, that the parents would have to face the troubles in restricting them for continuing its consumption further! Also, the owner

of this Non- Jain nursery would not work according to his commands. Hence, there was no option except opening up our own Jain nursery that would also nurture the religious and social virtues in the kid’s mind, along with the academic education!

He held an urgent meeting with the Trustees and put forth his claim, “Gentlemen!! We have already discussed about the nursery running in the ground floor of this *Dharmashaala*. It’s shameful for us that on one side, we are classifying this building as *Dharmashaala*, and we are only ignoring the nourishment of ‘*Adharma*’ (non-religious activity) happening in it! I can never witness in front of me, the abolishment of religious values in the Jainism’s generation next! Politely, say a ‘Good bye’ to the present Non-Jain institution and put up ‘*Shree Veer Jain Baalmandir*’ in its place!”

Dharmasuri Maharaj took up the entire financial responsibility of the new nursery and held its inauguration on an auspicious day in his presence itself. No one would have ever thought that a Jain Nursery with the blessings of the *Gurudev* himself would be established to make the Jain Children comfortable to study and move ahead towards the path of Jainism without having to let go the rituals that is required to be done while practicing Jainism.

An Adventure at Aabhampur... Fetches the Ancient Idols from the Dense Forest...!



There was a *padyaatra Sangh* (a pilgrimage walking bare feet) organized from kesariyaji to Himmatnagar under the inspiration and guidance of Dharmasuri Maharaj. The organizers had chosen a quite different route from the regular one, purposely for making the pilgrimages worship the ancient temple situated in the interior regions of the state. Commencing from Kesariyaji, one fine day, the *Sangh* arrived in a village name Aabhampur. There were plenty of *Digambar* (a sect) Jain residents here and they affectionately took care of each and every smallest requirement of the *Sangh*. A discourse was held daily in the afternoon time from 3 to 4 pm. Usually it would happen that the marquee would comprise only the pilgrimages in this discourses, but today even the *Digambar* residents gathered in great numbers in the sermon for the hearing the stirring speech of Dharmasuri Maharaj. At 3 in the clock, he got up from his place and walked out towards the marquee, when suddenly some Adivasi folks stopped him in between and paying the homage in his feet, they said, “*Baavsi* (as they would call the *Sadhu*), there’s a Jain temple in

the center of our dense forest. It comprises even some idols of your *Bhagwaan* placed inside. We Adivasi classify it as ‘*Laakha Mandir*’. Many dangerous wild animals arrive in the temple. It’s presently in a very bad condition and hence, we wish that you arrive there, worship the idols and make some proper arrangements to protect your heritage! The best point is that no one except us knows about this temple and hence, you are on a safer side!”

The moment Dharmasuri Maharaj heard about the existence of an ancient temple in the forest, his devotional heart became eager to visit there and acquire the details related to it. But it was the time for his discourse now and hence, instructing the Adivasi to arrive back again after an hour, he left for the marquee. The discourse was concluded at 4 pm and he returned back to his tent. The organizers were quickly convoked and he manifested his desire, “Gentlemen! This Adivasi informed me about the presence of an ancient temple in the center of dense forest. I feel we must accompany

them to their indicated location and discover our ancient religious heritage!”

Although Dharmasuri Maharaj was showing a great enthusiasm for it, the organizers were having no interest at all. They were having a valid reason with them that it would seriously make no sense in trusting the words of those who were suspected for creating out a robbery or murder after bringing the unknown pilgrims in their forest areas.

They humbly requested Dharmasuri Maharaj for preventing himself from borrowing the unnecessary troubles by believing on the claim of Adivasi! But Dharmasuri Maharaj wasn't ready to accept their advice. He remained firm on his decision that he'll surely march on towards the forest and if required, the organizers can make the arrangements for security guards to accompany him for protection. The organizers had no option whatsoever except working according to the commands of Dharmasuri Maharaj. At 4.30 pm, Dharmasuri Maharaj, 2-3 disciples, 5-6 *Shrawak* (organizers) and Watchmen left for the dense forest according to the guidance of Adivasi. They reached in the center of the jungle after walking for half an hour, but still nothing was visible to them except the trees and plants. The threatening roars of lion and tigers could be heard from all the directions! Everyone felt that Dharmasuri Maharaj had taken a wrong decision today, but slowly, there appeared some figure in the

dark grayish colored stones, almost around 100 feet tall! Everyone understood that it was the temple, the Adivasi were signifying about! They were highly delighted observing the giant temple having all the elements described in our scriptures! Dharmasuri Maharaj entered the temple for the investigation of the idols. There were around 15-16 ones placed inside it, but only 5 out of them were in a reasonable state. The rest were all disfigured. Although Dharmasuri Maharaj was exulted to find the temple between the woods, he was feeling bad to observe the worst condition of the idols! Tears filled in his eyes, while paying the homage in front of the idols!

They were in the mid of a dense forest and the day was rapidly moving on towards sunset. One *Shrawak* suggested Dharmasuri Maharaj that it's better to stop his investigation now it and return back as early as possible, before they become the prey to any wild animal! It was an appropriate advice and Dharmasuri Maharaj agreed but he also knew that he's never going to arrive back here in future and after performing such a great exertion, even he would feel bad if he returns back without making a proper arrangement for the idols! He framed a plan and addressed his companions, “Do you see how marvelously this temple is standing in this





Look there...

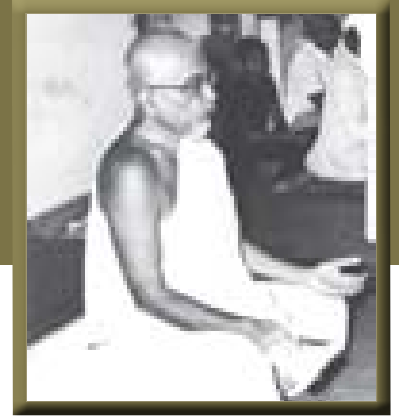
forest. Although it's not possible for us to do anything for it at present, we must surely try to shift the idols in the safest location anywhere in our country. 'Safest', especially for the reason that if the idols end up in the wrong hands, it would definitely result in the further deterioration and the entire efforts taken by everyone present here shall be futile."

The *Shravak*, accompanying him were the residents of Himmatnagar. They requested Dharmasuri Maharaj to shift those 5 idols to their town. Dharmasuri Maharaj liked this proposal as he had to himself visit Himmatnagar in a very shorter period of time at the end of the on-going *Sangh*. He gave a 'green signal' to them and returned back to their tents before the sunset. Nocturnally, he convoked the organizers again and they collectively planned for the arrangements of the following day. Dharmasuri Maharaj strictly instructed the organizers, not to leak this information anywhere between the pilgrimages or the villagers!!

In the Early morning next day, the idols were transferred successfully to Himmatnagar and were placed in a room of the already - existing main temple of the town. After some days, the *Sangh* reached Himmatnagar and instantly after the arrival discourse, Dharmasuri Maharaj visited the room for worshipping and along with that, acquiring the smallest of the details related to the idols available in the inscription engraved in the plate at the bottom.

After the investigation, he came to know that only 2 of the 5 idols were having readable inscription and it stated that the idols were around 500 and 600 years ago respectively. Dharmasuri Maharaj instructed to make the required arrangements of the idols and left for executing his further responsibilities waiting for him in Ahmedabad.

This, I believe, is an adventurous incident. Some Adivasi was arriving at the spot and taking about the existence of the Jain temple in the dense forest, Dharmasuri Maharaj showing the will to approach the jungle by keeping a trust on the Adivasi. After reaching there they genuinely find an ancient temple and idols in the mid-forest and transfer them to Himmatnagar. And the main point...that they perform all these activities without even letting the pilgrims know, what is happening! The creatures who are fond of such adventures would love to do it, but he was a *Sadhu*, not an adventurer and hence it was a risky task for him more than an enrapturing experience! Still, if he did that, it proves that his devotion towards the *Arihant Bhagwaan* was more superior to his comforts and precautions of protecting his life! If he would not have shown the determination of approaching the forest, it's doubtful to say whether we would have received those 5 ancient idols or not! Just for information, that those idols are still placed in the same room of the temple even today!



A Jain *Sadhu*! He's a person who displays an incredible courage by adopting the strict lifestyle of asceticism, while staying between the people, whose life is dominated all around by the mediums of pleasures and luxury. He's the person for whom, it's possible to receive the best of leisure's he wishes for, and still he has no attraction towards it! He has so many physical hardships to meet throughout the day, but still he deals them with such an ease, thanks to his mental strength, that not even a single emotion of grief or uneasiness is ever found on his face! Even if he's thirsty and doesn't get the water for a long time, he's satiated! Even if he fails to receive the *gochri* after sweating a lot, he's never upset! Although, he finds a spacious or congested, airy or suffocating, clean or unclean, illuminated or darkened place to accommodate, he's always happy with every one! Even if he's having a fever or cold or any other critical malady in his body, his patience and peace are always immoderate! Everyone has a deep respect for him as he follows the 5 great vows, framed for him by the scriptures. Along with the development of

a good character, by following these vows, he indirectly becomes helpful to each and every creature surviving around him. Due to his practice of absolute non-violence, even the mosquitoes present around his *upaashray* are ensured that they would easily receive the stomach fare for the day, by approaching his body after the sunset! As he never speaks falsehood, people trust his statements more confidently than their own family member! As he never even touches someone's belongings without permission, the dogs never require following him for investigation! As he has forsaken intact sexual activities, the breeze roams freely in his dwelling without any hesitation and as he has no possessions what so ever, even if the doors remain wide open, the thieves never arrive in the *upaashray* for the reason that there's not even a coin of rupee for them to steal! The life of a Jain *Sadhu* is quite uncommon to that of the other monks! A Jain *Sadhu* has to walk everywhere throughout the life with bare feet, drink the boiled water itself, never use any kind of electronic appliances, perform the rituals like *pratikraman*, *padilehan* etc.



that demand high efforts and even after having a tiring day, have no Dunlop's for comfortable sleep! They have to rest the whole night having just layers of 2 thin clothes between the floor and their body! Adopting a lifestyle of a Non - Jain monk is still easy, but it's not the play of effeminate to practice the ethics of a *Sadhu's* life! Dharmasuri Maharaj was one of those strongly determined Jain *Sadhu*...

In *VS 2011* / 1945, Dharmasuri Maharaj was concluding his *vihar* from Vadodara to Mumbai, passing by the interior regions of Southern Gujarat. Crossing the villages of Paadra-Karjan and Paalej, he reached Nikora, which was linked with the history of Jainism, as, an enormous amount of ancient literature was scripted here some around 500 years ago, by a pre-eminent saint Pujya Mahopaadhyay Shri Yasho Vijayji Maharaj. But in the late afternoon, both the *gurudev*, Pu-Pratapsuri Maharaj and Dharmasuri Maharaj noticed the *poojari* of the temple lifting a heavy bag of papers on his back. He was carrying it off to dump in the Narmada River. They stopped the *poojari* in between and commenced investigating the bag to verify, whether there's any valuable page on matter choked up between the useless stuff or not! And they were amazed to find that there, were some 3 - 4 manuscript pages of Pu. Yashovijayji Maharaj in it! They scolded the *poojari* for carelessly dumping such valuable pages without any sort of prior inquiry. The old *poojari* was a noble ignorant village. He confessed, "*Gurudev*! I apologize for my mistake, but to inform you, such pages are being already dumped in great

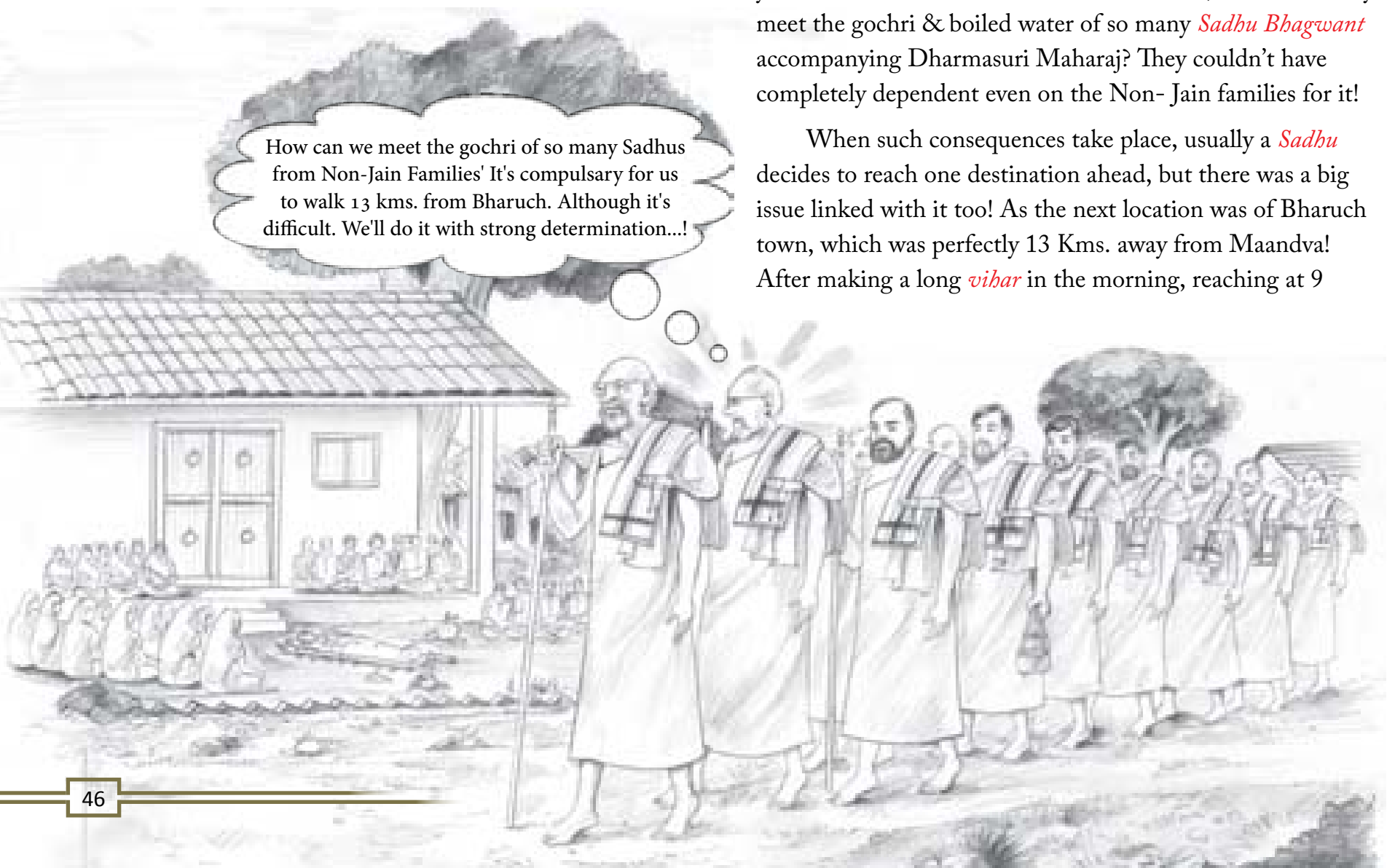
numbers in Narmada, some years ago. That room which you see empty was filled with dumpable stuff before. Don't know how much literature you might have lost of that dignity!" Both the *gurudev's* eyes were filled with tears out of sorrow, hearing the painful details from the *poojari*! They provided some necessary instructions to the *Shravak* to take care for this in the future...

With a heavy heart, they resumed their vihar in which they crossed Mangleshwar- Shuklatirth-Zagadiyathirth and reached Maandva. The village clock showed the time of 9 am in the month of Mid-May, when it seemed like if the sun had turned furious on the earth and was showering the hot burning rays like Fire! The weather forecast of Gujarat had named it the record breaking hottest day as according to them; there was the temperature of 47 Celsius, Which was found for the very first time till then in the state of good Virtues! Imagine what difficulty they might have experienced creating out such a great exertion in the early morning without taking even a drop of water in the killing temperature of hot summer! And in those days, it wasn't possible for a *Sadhu* to send prior messages of his arrival in the forward locations and hence it was near to impossible for him to receive the boiled water as soon as he reaches! He had to wait at least 1-30-2 hours for drinking water even after reaching

at his destination! My goodness, how would one get ready to endure such hardships along with a smiling face? Even Dharmasuri Maharaj, along with his *gurudev* and disciples, was Implementing this astonishing practice.

As soon as they reached Maandva, a new trouble was awaiting doorsteps. In the early morning the same day, the elder-most lady of Maandva's only Jain family expired and the time when they reached there, the old women's Funeral was yet to be commenced! In such circumstances, how could they meet the gochri & boiled water of so many *Sadhu Bhagwant* accompanying Dharmasuri Maharaj? They couldn't have completely dependent even on the Non- Jain families for it!

When such consequences take place, usually a *Sadhu* decides to reach one destination ahead, but there was a big issue linked with it too! As the next location was of Bharuch town, which was perfectly 13 Kms. away from Maandva! After making a long *vihar* in the morning, reaching at 9



How can we meet the gochri of so many Sadhus from Non-Jain Families' It's compulsory for us to walk 13 kms. from Bharuch. Although it's difficult. We'll do it with strong determination...!



am in hot burning sun during mid-May and then, without drinking even a drop of water, again performing the *vihar* for 13 Kms. at the time when sun arrives in its glorious youth and heats the most! Impossible! How can one get ready for doing that?

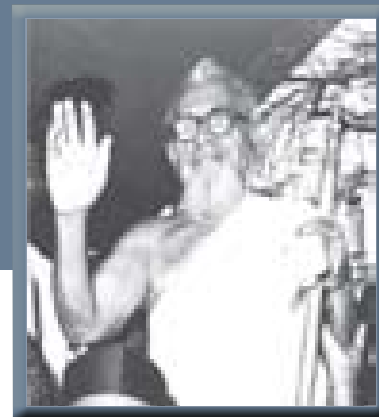
But please! Such question had no place in Dharmasuri Maharaj's life. He knew that he hasn't renounced this world

to live a comfortable life; instead he is expected to borrow the hardships himself. But if he doesn't work over it, at least he must endure the same that arrive intrinsically in his way! He firmly decided to resume his *vihar* for Bharuch leaving his *gurudev* Pu. Pratapsuri Maharaj and 3-4 disciples in his services.

With an extremely thirsty throat, tired body but strong determination, they finally reached Bharuch at 11 am before noon! Awesome courage! But I feel that we must even give a similar applause to his

disciples that without raising even a single objection, they just apprehended their *Gurudev's* command and made unbelievable job with a strong wit and mental force!

Well, that's what actually a *sadhu's* life means! The one who scares to face a trouble is a layman & the one who dares to face a trouble is a Jain *Sadhu*... Hats off to the strict practices of a *Sadhu*...!



Pen is a small village located near the Pune city of Maharashtra. A century ago, it was quite a distant place from the Highway and hence was a part of the interior remote areas of the state. In *VS 2006*, when Pratapsuri Maharaj had arrived here for the very 1st time, the villagers use to say that they hadn't noticed even single *Sadhu Bhagwant* in their area from the last 100 years! There were a few Jain residents in Pen surrounded all around by the Maharashtra and Adivasi rural tribes. During his *vihar*, Pratapsuri Maharaj inspired the Jain *Shravak* of Pen to construct a Jain Temple in the village and held '*Pratistha*' (stationing an idol) ceremony of the *Aadinath Bhagwaan* and other 2-3 idols. The festival was solemnized with extreme joy and day by day, the villagers started witnessing their prosperity and all round upliftment. The arrival of god's idols lead to the peace and progress of a particular area. The devotees would spend 2-3 hours daily in the morning devoting in front of the wonderful idol placed in the temple by the guidance of Pratapsuri Maharaj. But

once after 11 years, the position of idol was shaken a devotee by mistake. There was a need of a new *Pratistha* again and the ceremonies related to that were organized by the temple Trustees. Dharmasuri Maharaj was requested to provide his convivial presence for the occasion. Hence in *VS 2017/1961*, he visited Pen again, this time not as a small Maharaj, but as the director of the *Pratistha* ceremony! *Shravak* organized a grand procession for his welcome. Everyone was trying to grab his attention towards him for receiving his blessings, but he was busy looking for the person who was missing between the crowd and he was, a *Rajasthani Shravak* belonging to the Shivganj village. People had already informed Dharmasuri Maharaj that this gentleman might take no part in any of the functions related to the temple, but still Dharmasuri Maharaj was having sight of hope in the heart that at least, today in his shame, he might arrive today. But no! As people had predicted he was absent! Alas, Not only the functions, but also the Temple itself was never visited by the *Rajasthani Shravak*

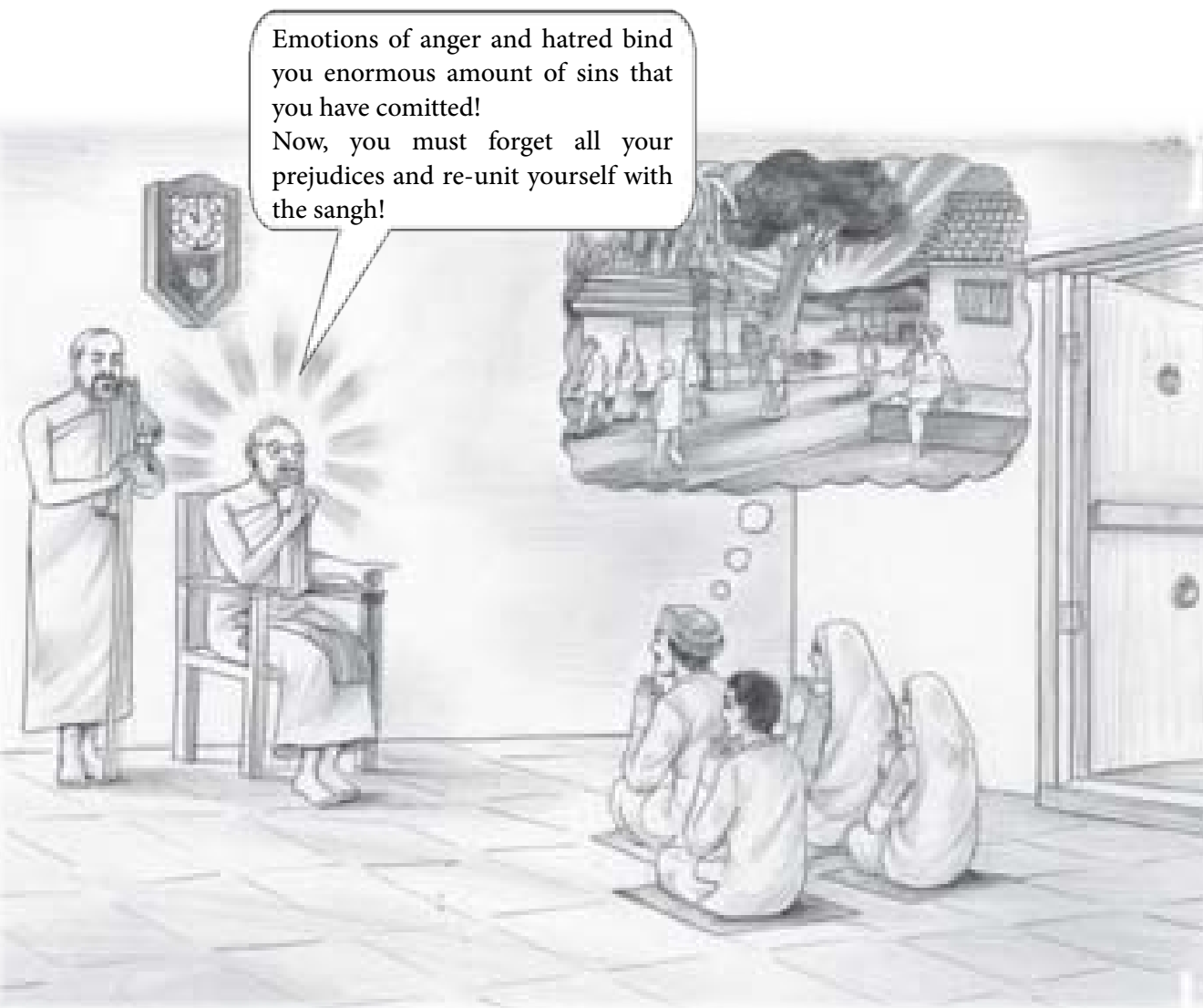


since the last 11 years, in spite of his house being just 10 – 15 steps away from the Temple premises.

What was wrong with that individual? Wasn't he nurtured with the virtues of worshipping the temple since his childhood or was there a completely different reason for his contradiction with the temple elements. Actually, on the last nocturnal function of the 1st ceremony, the said *Shravak* clashed with some members of the temple and although, the reason for the clash was much inferior in nature, he took it on his heart, deciding that he might break his relations with the temple and would not worship the idols as an outcome of it!

Such a strange decision! Even if there are blasts in Mumbai locals, no passengers decides that he shall forsake travelling in the train forever and how come just due to a small conflict's that individual decided of suspending his entire relation with the activities of the temple? Also it seems so foolish of displaying the reaction of his anger on the *Arihant Bhagwaan* who has done nothing bad of him! A Temple is a place where one has to arrive for minimizing his emotions of anger, greed, deceit, pride, attachments etc. but here, he tried to prove his short comings at the temple itself! Dharmasuri Maharaj, was well aware for it. Practically, that person was having not much important from the administrative aspect of the temple, but for Dharmasuri

Maharaj, each and every small or big member of the *sangh* was equally important and hence, without thinking much about his prestige, he visited the residence of that individual with his disciple, quickly as soon as he concluded with his arrival discourse of course with the motive of teaching him an essential lesson of life. Observing a revered *Aacharya Maharaj* entering his house all of a sudden, that gentleman got up with wonder & respect and paid the obeisance to his feet. Dharmasuri Maharaj recited the augury verses initially and then started describing him the dangerous effects of insulting the temple-elements out of anger. He narrated him tales related to the bitter experiences the individuals had received in the past years. He explicated his points so effectively, that the individual literally started crying out of regret. He accepted his mistake and criticized himself for behaving inept for such a long period of time. Dharmasuri Maharaj consoled him with the famous Gujarati proverb '*Jaagya tyarthi sawaar*' ('its dawn from the moment you are awake'), insisted him to remain present in *Chadaarva* (auction) function held on the same night and affectionately took him the next day for worshipping the temple for the very 1st time after 11 years.



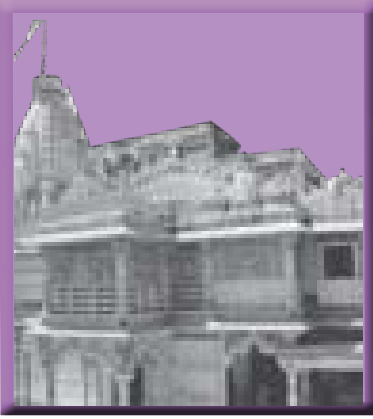
Just imagine how iron-hearted that person might have been when he never even put his eyes on the temple from the last 11 years. Although he would brush his teeth every morning in the balcony of his house that was just at a distance of steps countable on the fingertips. And imagine how shrill would have been the expounding speech of Dharmasuri Maharaj that it successfully brought the desired change in that strong-minded person and even more than that how great would have been his feeling to care about the bliss and spiritual progress of each and every member of the temple no matter whether he comprised more or less importance in the institution! He was a *Sadhu* which means friend of all and the true implementer of friendship always sweats to bring the mis-guided and neiscents on the right path of salvation.



‘When you assist someone at the time of his requirement, your grace comes back to you in the form of assistance done by someone in the period of your requirements!’ - This was the concluding line of the emotional and practical story; I came across, the moment I hold the pen, willing to write this chapter. I am fond of reading such stuffs which are based on some real occasions of life and pass out practical inspiration that become useful to me and others. The story, titled ‘Goodness’, moves around the topic that signifies about the fruit one receives by helping someone generously in the time of his need. I don’t know, whether always the second half of the above concluding line shapes in to a reality or not, but I feel that the first part of this line is surely an ultimate message, one must try to adopt and implement in their own lives, lease bothering about that second half! I know that it isn’t possible for everyone to afford millions of rupees to donate, but at least they must have the feeling of utilizing their maximum potential for the good of someone! I feel that life is wastage for those people who can’t help others! The

moment our eyes find a blind or disable person crossing, our legs must run to hold his hand and provide the help. The moment we observe a beggar crying of hunger, our heart must command us to offer him something to consume and the moment we get ready to switch on an electronic device, our brain must warn us that plenty of creatures might get killed in a fraction of seconds we press the switch and hence if it’s not so necessary, I must protect the lives of those innocent creatures! When Vinoba Bhave, a centenarian, was asked to display the secret of his intact fitness even at the completion of his 100, he had dedicated the credit to the blessing he had received in his childhood days by helping a poor woman!

There’s special ritual held everywhere after the completion of the 8 auspicious day of *Paryushana*. It’s the *Chaityaparipaati*. It’s a small pilgrimage of worshiping several temples located in a particular region. Dharmasuri Maharaj was dominating one such *Chaityaparipaati* commenced from Godiji. He was accompanied by his disciples and some 700-



800 *Shravak*, while they were heading on towards Colaba from churchgate; Dharmasuri Maharaj saw a vast campus having hundreds of simplistic villas, hospitals, school and other buildings. A *Shravak* informed

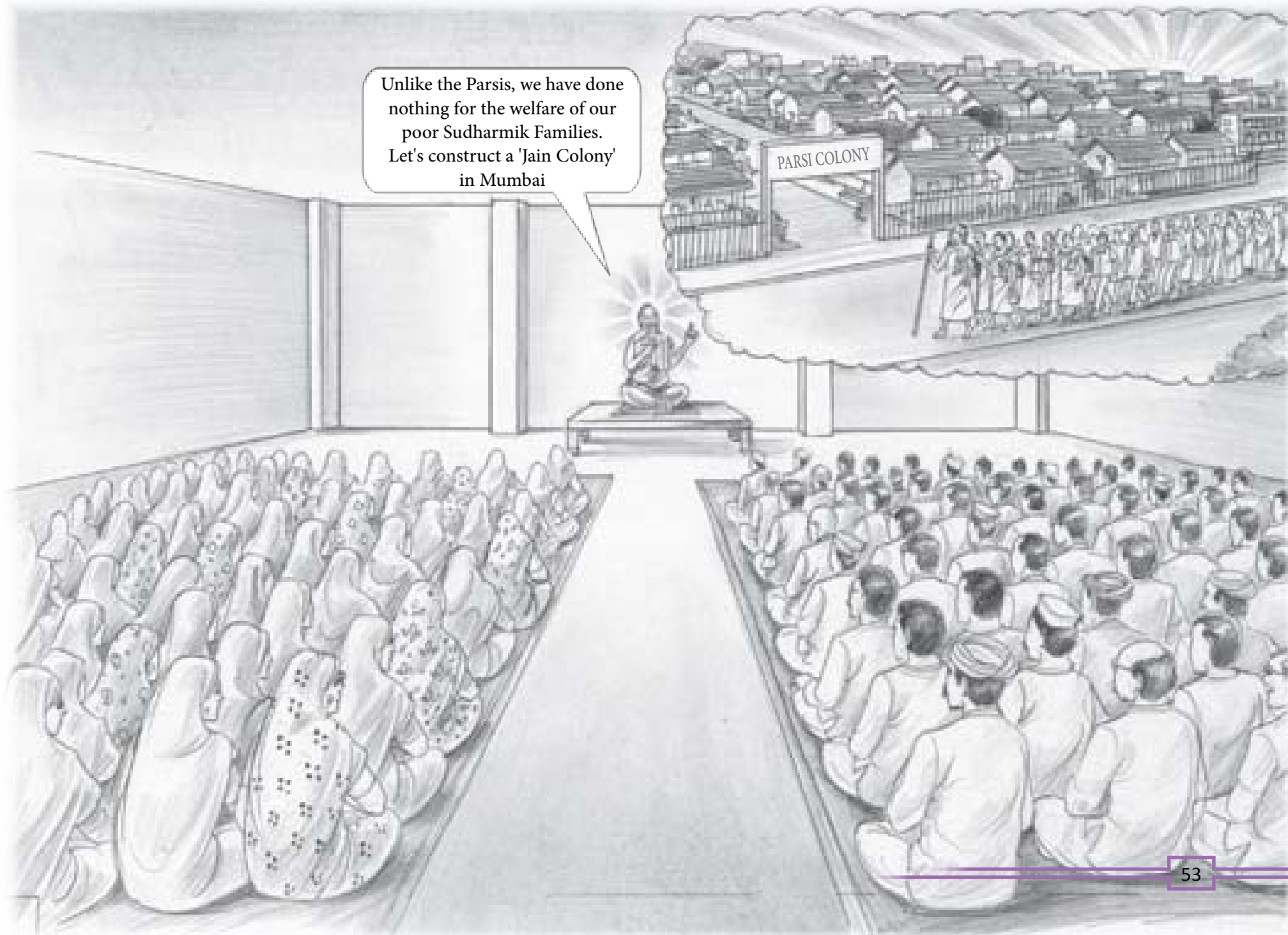
that it was the colony where 400-500 medium-class Parsi families were made to reside with a low rent of just RS.20 per month. They were provided all the required amenities in the campus itself. Dharmasuri Maharaj was rejoiced to find the foresight and affection of the Parsis for the people of their community, but at the same time, he too felt bad for the inattention we show towards the terrible condition of our own poor *Sadharmik*. An aspiration arose in his mind to implant a typical “Jain Colony” Somewhere in Mumbai to improve the condition of 400 - 500 *Sadharmik* families as the Parsis had done. He decided to choose this topic in the nearest discourse he delivers and impel the *Shravak* to utilize their wealth in the upliftment process of the needy Jains. But, interim this 2 events, he came across the painful tale of an individual who came to invite him for taking a visit to his house. Usually, Jains have certain kind of trust in their mind that if a *Guru Bhagwant* arrives in their residence, they get protected from the cruel sight of negativities and peace remains maintained in the family. Dharmasuri Maharaj agreed to visit his house and

questioned about its perfect location. The individual replied, “In the Sanatorium!” and he continued, “But *Gurudev*! Please arrive within 3-4 days itself, as after that, we will be shifted somewhere else!” Dharmasuri Maharaj was puzzled with this reply. He asked, “Why so? Don’t you possess your own permanent house?” That man replied, “No *Sahebji*! My monthly income hardly reaches Rs. 250. We are 6 members in the family, from which, one study in the college. Say, how is it possible for me to own a house of mine? Unfortunately, even affording the monthly rent of Rs. 40 per month for this current house is a huge matter for me to worry!”

Dharmasuri Maharaj felt extremely pity for the sad condition of that person. With a wish to know, what measures he might take ahead, he put up the final question of their conversation, “So gentleman! Where have you planned to go from here?” The man answered, “In some another sanatorium like this! We are trying to book a rent house elsewhere and if it’s confirmed, we will shift there after 3-4 days. *Sahebji*, from the last 12 months, we are borrowing this and many more such hardships incessantly and god knows, when he will free us from this life of an infernal!”

This last words of that individual melted Dharmasuri Maharaj’s heart. His desire of launching a ‘Jain Colony’ got strengthen by this and in the nearest discourse; he gave a stirring presentation based on the struggles and dilemma of

Unlike the Parsis, we have done
nothing for the welfare of our
poor Sudharmik Families.
Let's construct a 'Jain Colony'
in Mumbai



the *Sadharmik*. This incident became the foundation of his incentive speech and in the interlocution itself; the donors started showering massive funds for the purpose!

The incorrupt concern for the *Sadharmik* which was in the heart of Dharmasuri Maharaj only did the incantation on the donors, that they got ready to contribute a lot from their possessions!

But if someone questions me that whether such kind of a colony exists currently in Mumbai or not, I would have to sadly turn my head down and answer them... No! There's no existence of any such kind of an area in our city. You know, which is the biggest deficiency in our community? It's the dedication! We are clever at accumulating crores of funds and clapping for someone's good activities but when it comes to dedicate our self and workout for something, we get ready to take the back steps. I feel hurt to say that even today we meet our *Sadharmik* who either don't have a proper house to stay or who are troubled every month by the rent-collectors or who don't get a proper food to eat and need to consume

the chapattis dipped in the oil, just once in 3 days! There are still some young *Sadharmik* girls who have to undertake the profession of prostitution, as they can't get the required amount to meet their family expenditures!

I can't imagine how bad Dharmasuri Maharaj would have felt that just due to the lack of proper execution of his superb Planning, his dream always remained fruitless like an imaginary concept! Well, but instead of losing hope, at least we must appreciate his desire and the effort he took for the *Sadharmik*! History claims that Pu. Vallabhsuri Maharaj had dedicated his whole life only for the mounting of *Sadharmik*. Observing the initiatives of Dharmasuri Maharaj in this field, he had once told his followers that, "I surely feel that by exerting for the *Sadharmik*, Dharmasuri Maharaj has taken my inheritance and is making myself alive in Mumbai..."

A last pray... Please *Gurudev*! Endow the powers and blessings on me so that I can fulfill your dreams and transform your longing into the form of a wonderful reality...!



Godiji is one of the most ancient temples of Mumbai, built more than 200 years ago! It's a mansion of extreme devotion paid by the devotees! It's a place where every pious wish of creatures gets fulfilled more than they are assumed and at the same time, it's a dwelling cum palace of those idols which were the most favorite of Dharmasuri Maharaj! He was fond of this temple so much that he would hardly miss an opportunity of arriving here while roaming in South Mumbai! And ... Why shouldn't it be? His every part of the soul was attached with this region as he had played a great role in its development and prosperity... Especially, when he would be present there, the whole *upaashray* would become charged as an inspirational field... Some *Sadhu* would be seen busy murmuring the verses of scriptures, while some imbibing the lectures from their elders. Some would be seen performing various types of *Aaradhna* like chants, *kausagga-khamasamana*, penances etc. When a *Shravak* enters the *Upaashray* and observes this environment, automatically good emotions start developing in his mind and it wasn't the scene that only

Sadhu were a part of this background, but even Dharmasuri Maharaj, in spite of having ample of responsibilities would be seen performing some or the other task continuously. Groundless talks and needless rest weren't his interest! He would be seen writing a book or solving a scripture's meaning or else, simply rotating a *Navkarvali*...

Once, he was present in Godiji's *Upaashray*. A *Shravak* named Girishbhai was passing by the temple. He was accompanied by his Muslim friend Hasan Ali Noor Mohammad. Girishbhai was a big devotee of Dharmasuri Maharaj. He desired to climb up the *upaashray* and pay reverence in his Feet. Girishbhai instructed Hasan Ali to wait for him downstairs, but even he was eager to get introduced with the *Gurudev* of his friend. Hence, both together went upstairs to worship Dharmasuri Maharaj. As always, Dharmasuri Maharaj was busy in his job. They both bowed to Dharmasuri Maharaj and Girishbhai started some basic talks. At the end, Dharmasuri Maharaj raised his right hand to



offer blessing to both the friends. They took a leave from the *upaashray* and started climbing downstairs.

Is there anything so special in this story? No, not at all!

It's a simple incident in which two individuals arrive in the *upaashray*, worship their *Gurudev* and leave. Then why am I presenting it to you? Because, there's one person who is uncommon in our regular religious environment... who is Hasan Ali! While they were climbing the steps down, he said to Girishbhai, "Dear! The hand-lines of your *Gurudev* are simply unique! I'm sure he must be a holder of a giant empire and a bounteous of crores of rupees!"

Hasan Ali was a scholar in astrology. Although he was an examiner of plenty of hand-lines, he hadn't come across such special one. Knowing his friend's attraction towards his *Gurudev*, Girishbhai clarified, "Dear! You are absolutely correct! Although he owns not even a single coin of paisa, he inspires and makes people donate crores of rupees!" Hearing this, Hasan Ali re-arrived in the *upaashray* to have a special examination of Dharmasuri Maharaj's hands. Practically, Dharmasuri Maharaj was having no curiosity in it, but if by doing that, a person gets attracted towards Jainism, and then nothing is wrong. With a will to fulfill Hasan Ali's desire,

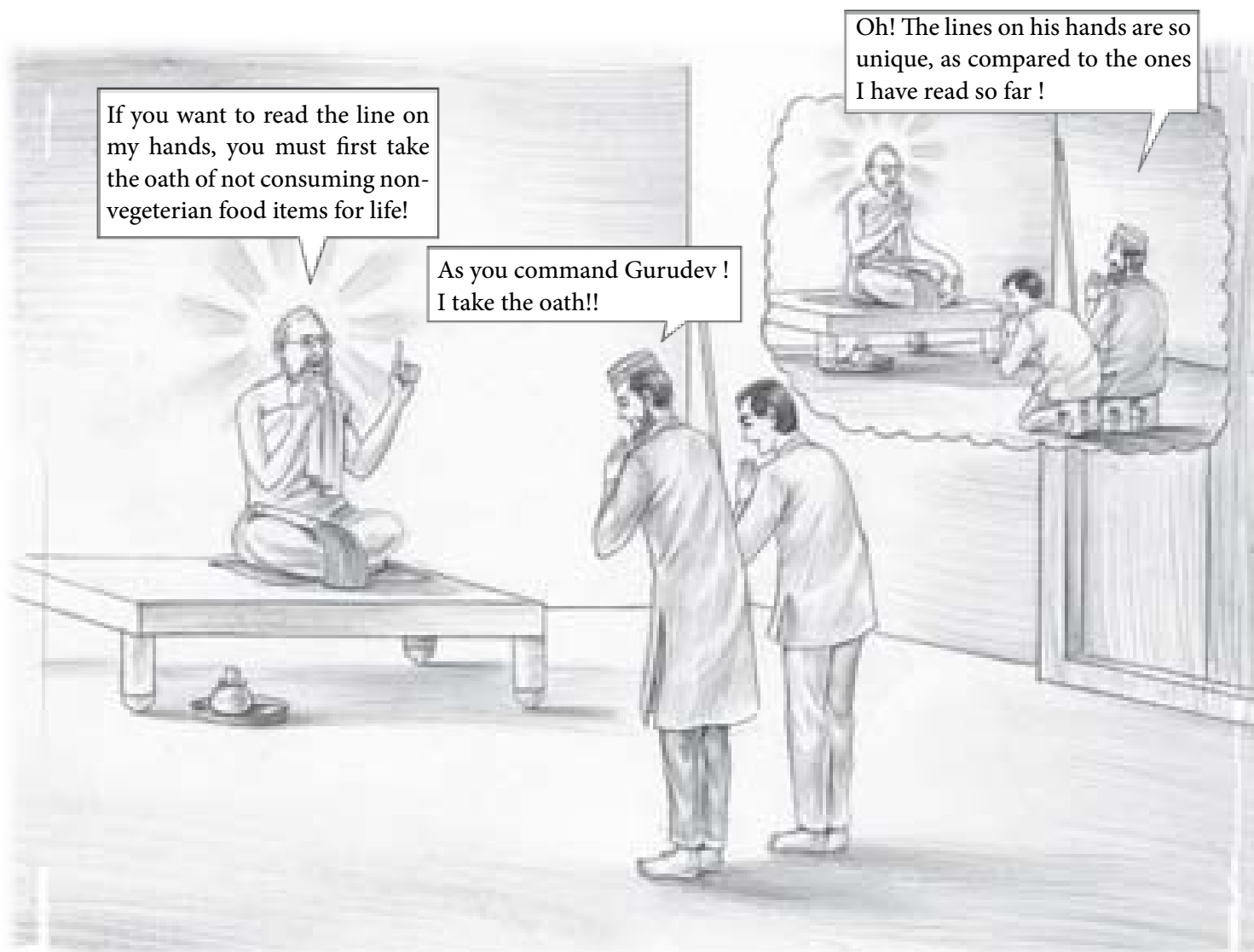
he said, "Hasan! I have no problem in displaying my hand to you, but even you are liable to fulfill my wish." He had spoken those words with extreme politeness and affection.

His immaculate words did the miracle on Hasan Ali. He instantly replied, "Surely *Gurudev*! This Hasan is zealous to accept any of the vows you offer." Dharmasuri Maharaj replied, "Ok then! Get ready to accept the vow of not consuming non-vegetarian food items for life-time!"

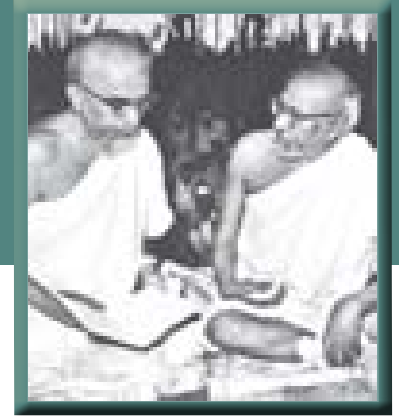
Is he serious? Is he 100% sure that he is commanding these words to a Muslim individual? My goodness, even after we provide a long-logical introduction, The Jains itself don't get ready to bate the consumption of *kandmul*. They keep on demanding concessions and give excuses if they are purposely made to accept the vow! Just imagine, if the Jains aren't ready to forsake the food items strictly prohibited in their religion, how would a Muslim individual, with an impromptu, would get ready to abandon non-veg food for lifetime?

Although it looks impossible, that Muslim Hasan Ali got ready to accept the vow in just a fraction of seconds! What a splendid daring and flabbergasted success! Even Hasan Ali would have not expected that he would perform this impossible fate in his life with such a rapid decision! He too accepted Dharmasuri Maharaj as his *Gurudev* for lifetime like Girishbhai and kept worshipping him once in every *Chaturmas* no matter wherever he would be.

Today, we observe plenty of Jain youth moving far away from the religion. Why? Because their friends corrupt their mind, filling rubbish against Jainism. In such a circumstance, don't you think that Dharmasuri Maharaj did a splendid job by sowing the seeds of non-violence in the mind of a person who had seen nothing else except cruelty from his birth? Wish that even I get that wisdom and power to drive myself and others only on the right way...



Incredible devotion of disciple Inimitable generosity of Gurudev...



It was the time to solemnize for the residents of Navroji lane, Ghatkopar as their longing of years was finally indicating the possibility of gaining existence. Yes, the dignity's foresight which had been the foundation in the implantation of numerous religious places throughout Mumbai had reached Ghatkopar as well and the proposal related to the formation of a Jain Temple in that area was passed out. The ever incrementing population of Jain community had boosted the desire in Dharmasuri Maharaj's mind to bring up the touch of divinity in that region too. But those weren't the days when the general public was as wealthy and habituated towards donation of high funds as it happens at present. My great grand *Gurudev* use to tell us that Dharmasuri Maharaj accompanied by one of his disciple use to take the *tarapani, dando and vasakshep* in his hand and would make the visit of each and every house of Jain laymen of Navroji Lane. Visiting the houses, he would inspire them to contribute the best of amount they could do depending on their potential for the development of the temple!

Opine, how much effort he might have taken, throughout the day, roaming from one house to the other in the entire Navroji lane, just for the betterment of the public residing there! He was having no self-objective what so ever behind doing this all, and still if he was making an elbow grease, it's my belief that the immaculate Feeling of serving the Jain community was flowing in every vein of his body! Anyways, the temple, proposed to be constructed wasn't a talk of hundreds or thousands, that, would get satisfied just wandering from one place to another and also at the same time, Dharmasuri Maharaj wasn't ready to celebrate this auspicious occasion in a simplistic manner! The arrival of *Arihant Bhagwaan* in a particular region in an inimitable event, as it becomes the cardinal cause of its upliftment and prosperity. Dharmasuri Maharaj made the common people utilize the best of their capabilities and now, it was the responsibility of the wealthy and capable laymen to take their part in the play and shower the donation required! On a good



day, the Trustees organized a *Chadaava* (auction) ceremony and invited the renowned Jain merchants to remain present in the occasion.

Although each and every member of the committee was working with intense enthusiasm and devotion, somewhere in some corner of their heart, there was still a worry that how they would meet the construction expenses of the temple, in case they remain unsuccessful in accumulating the funds! But, none of the *Gurudev* was even taking an effort of thinking over that topic! They were highly ensured that any mission related to our religion can never meet failure! Well, the day of *Chadaava* arrived and here were the *Shravak* gathered in numbers to invite their gracious *Gurudev* to arrive and invigorate the ceremony. Both the *Gurudev*, Pu. Pratapsuri Maharaj and Dharmasuri Maharaj got ready to depart with the disciples surrounded around. They reached to the main entrance of the upaashray and suddenly, Pratapsuri Maharaj took a pause. Turning towards Dharmasuri Maharaj, he passed out a strange injunction, “Dear! I wish that you take the very first step out today, as it’s a very special and intrinsic occasion for the temple.” Dharmasuri Maharaj was amazed listening this from his *Gurudev*. He gently contradicted his *gurudev’s* command by saying, “*Gurudev*! You are our elder and we are beneath your shelter! It’s obvious that never mind, what importance an event comprises, the first step of good

fortune is undoubtedly only of yours! How can we even think of such inept?” Pratapsuri Maharaj seemed in a different mood today. He replied, “Although I’m elder, today is the occasion, when these residents of Navroji lane are in a hunt of a tremendous quantity of fund, which requires the presence and blessing of such an individual, who is the most providential. At the current moment, your stars are sparkling bright and I wish it must be used for this devoted *Shravak*!”

These were truly the words which were coming from the bottom of his heart. Imagine what respect Pratapsuri Maharaj would be having for him that ingenuously these words came away from his mouth! Unsmooth, this were the words of praise, but still it brought tears in the eyes of Dharmasuri Maharaj and he became loose. The reason was that never he had even dreamed of the matter, his *Gurudev* was saying. He had always believed that every success which he achieves is thanks to his *gurudev’s* blessing and nothing else than that! He gained some courage and willing to change his *Gurudev’s* decision, he said, “*Gurudev*, please tell, if we find a piece of glass shining brightly in the sunlight, is it the specialty of that glass piece or the sunrays? In the same way, if a disciple’s

Today this Sangh requires the support of
your extreme punya!
Please step first....!

Gurudev! How can I do it!? You are the power
house of my Punya! Please step first!

શ્રી ઘાટકોપર શ્વે. મૂ. તપા. જૈન સંઘ

fortune is signifying superior somewhere, is it an attribute of the disciple or *gurudev's* blessing? If we assume fortune as water, then *Gurudev* is the reservoir and disciple is the water tap! When a person is in search of enormous requirement, it's wiser to depend directly on the reservoir, than on the tap! Hence, it's an inevitable matter, that you only should place your step ahead...!

My goodness, when we people quarrel to grasp the credit for every smallest of success, these luminaries are discussing so long to offer the credit mutually! I'm not at all worthy to decide whether whose fortune was more superior between the two, but I can surely claim that the *Shravak* who had received the opportunity to witness this sacred scene were surely fortunate! Pratapsuri Maharaj seemed to be in the climax of intractability today and wasn't interested in presenting a counterblast to his disciple's argument! He simply fired the momentum to Dharmasuri Maharaj, "I'm, not at all interested to discuss ahead on this subject. Till now, I was just showing

my desire, but now I command that you have to surely put your step forward, outside the door!" When the desire had transformed into a command, Dharmasuri Maharaj had no option except implementing it. Although he wasn't willing, he had to place his fortunate foot step outside the entrance, before his *Gurudev* does!

And it's not require to say that the ceremony turned out to be a super - successful event as it crossed the limits of the temple's requirement and accumulated funds which could become useful for the future maintenance and service!

Here, there are two points. Where on one side you find the *gurudev's* incredible generosity, on the other side you notice the disciple's magnificent modesty. Do you think I should make the mistake of figuring out which is superior between the two? Should I reach to any conclusion? No... Not at all! Its better I close my eyes, fold my hands and invoke my majesty to nurture the qualities of both these dignitaries of my tradition in me!



There's a gentleman named Kanubhai residing with his family in Santacruz, Mumbai. I'm talking about his condition around *VS 2018*. He was in a very big dilemma those days. Forget about enjoying the leisure, he was in such a poor plight, where even meeting his basic life necessities was a tough job for him to do. He had to manage his source of revenue with such a low income, in which, thinking for savings was alike having the desire of observing the stars in daytime. I don't say that everyone must get a chance of residing in a high-profile society or sleeping on a Dunlop bed or driving a Mercedes, but at least he must have the ability of easily receiving the facility of food, clothing and shelter! Truly I believe that life becomes a curse for the humans who survive beneath the poverty line, to which Kanubhai belonged. Already he was experiencing a trouble dealing with his daily outlay! And like an additional month in famine, his destiny poisoned him in a new problem! His body adopted the life taking disease of leprosy and like if any mountain had collapsed on his head; Kanubhai's depression grew wilder

than before. If it would have been a fever or cold, he might have cured it with ample of household remedies, but from where to bring the amount required for satisfying the plump bills of hospitals? He was badly worried!

But it's said that ("God is always for the one who has no one".) Someone gave the news to Kanubhai that K.E.M. Hospital of Mumbai had a special ward for curing the leprosy of poor people in an affordable charge. He was quickly admitted there. Co-incidentally, A Jain doctor accepted the responsibility of curing him. Belonging to the same religion, the doctor started taking a keen interest to eradicate Kanubhai's leprosy. But Kanubhai himself got fed up observing the patients lying on the bed all around. Their cries of pain were threatening Kanubhai's heart! Already he was feeling suffocated in this environment and once suddenly, there was a loud scream of pain from a woman sleeping nearby! It was all over! He escaped from the Hospital and decided never to return back at any cost!

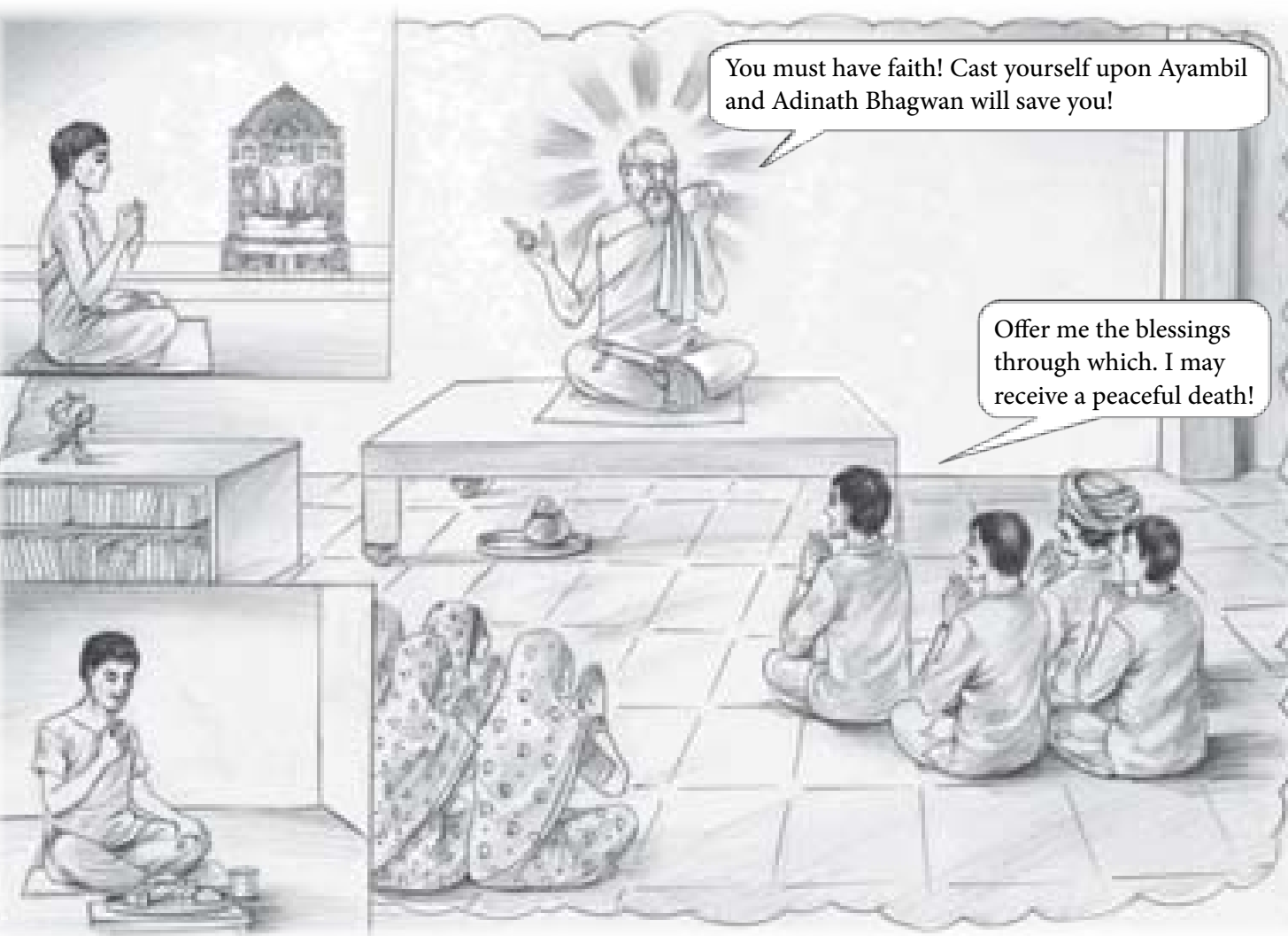


The results arrived as expected. Day after the other, his health started weakening and the illness reached to its apex level. Now, even the Jain doctor refused to take the case back in hand and advised Kanubhai to spend his last 10-15 days with his family. Extremely dejected, he was returning back home, when he felt to worship the *Aadinath Bhagwaan* of Chembur arriving mid-way. As there was nothing else for him to demand, Kanubhai prayed for a peaceful death in front of the lord. Later on, He came to know that Dharmasuri Maharaj was present in the *upaashray*. He went and paid obeisance in the feet of that great saint. With a desire to receive the consolation from the dignity, Kanubhai commenced, “*Gurudev*! Please offer me the blessings through which I could die peacefully!” and his voice broke.

Dharmasuri Maharaj was extremely shocked with Kanubhai's urge. He wondered why this individual was talking like this. He demanded explanation for this. Kanubhai gave the up to end details related to his disease. Hearing the painful story, Dharmasuri Maharaj Felt extremely hurt but Instead of just becoming sad, Dharmasuri Maharaj started thinking for some solution about this problem. When you are stuck in any problem, some people try to share your grief, while some try to find its solution. Dharmasuri Maharaj was one of the people who come up with a solution. He fetched up a perfect way for Kanubhai. He said, “Hey! Don't become hopeless! Even though the doctors have failed, I'm damn

sure, that *Aadinath Bhagwaan* never does! Act according to my direction and look how your problem gets solved...!” Kanubhai had already set his mind that he was witnessing the last few days of survival and has to die in the nearest possible time and hence, implementing *M.S.'s* command wasn't a bad option for him. He started imitating *M.S.'s* advice from the very next day. He had to perform the penance of *Vardhamaan Tap* along with chants of *Aadinath Bhagwaan* in front of his idol. *Vardhamaan Tap* is a special penance in which an individual has to observe one *upwaas* after the no. of Aayambil, that keep on increasing in an ascending order from 1 to 100. Means *1 Aayambil, 1 upwaas, 2 Aayambil 1 upwaas* and so on... till *100 Aayambil 1 upwaas*. Each section is classified as ‘*Oli*’.

Believe it as a miracle or the power of his words, the patient who was going to die in 10-15 days, completed *5 Oli of Vardhamaan Tap* continuously and his disease got completely cured. The constant chants of *Aadinath Bhagwaan* gave him a new life. An ultimate trust developed in his mind towards all the 3 elements and he becomes a devotee of them for lifetime. In 2014, he visited my Great Grand *Gurudev* Pujiyapad. Vijay Suryodaysurishwarji Maharaj and till that moment, he had completed *79-79 Oli of Vardhamaan Tap*!



Which means a person for whom, performing even one *Aayambil* was impossible to think, observed more than 3230 *Aayambil* till his age of 74 years!

His every good task after that always starts with the chant of this 3 names only and why shouldn't it be, they have only assisted him in protecting himself from the snatch of death... Instead of opening the web of astrology, Dharmasuri Maharaj simply guided Kanubhai to accept the shelter of *Aadinath Bhagwaan* and *Aayambil* and I'm sure it's because of his blind trust on these pious elements that helped Kanubhai cure his critical illness with such an ease!



Whenever you visit a hospital/School/mall/theatre/restaurant or any other kind of public places, you might have noticed that there are any / both of the 2 small boxes placed in the exterior region of that institution- the very 1st titled as 'The Complaint Box' and the other one as 'The Suggestion Box'! But have you ever come across any 3rd such type of a bank named 'The appreciation Box', at any site from the names listed above? No... mostly nowhere! Do you know why? Because the owners / maintainers are damn confident that even if they exert and try to provide the touch of perfection to their respective institutions, the visitors might still emerge victorious in pointing out a caboodle of complaints related to their dissatisfaction and poor services! They would receive numerous suggestions related to its improvement and surely there would not be even a double digit of visitors who would wish to text even 2 words of appreciation for the effort they have taken to provide best of the facilities they could do! There's not even a single person or a single good activity in this world, which's never opposed by anyone! There's always a group of individuals who have no job except figuring out the mistakes of every new invention that comes

out in the society. They are absolutely worthy to be ignored, because if we start paying attention to those senseless activities, it might give birth to useless hindrances and disturbances in our perfect decision and creation! Anyways, it's easy to write such philosophies on the paper, but when one has to face it in reality, it surely demands his incommensurable patience and courage. You might have observed a lamp with and without a glass covering. Do you know, what's the difference between the both? When a strong breeze is commanding towards its direction the Flame of the lamp without the covering would get extinguished instantly where as it might not happen with the other one, which is protected all around by the wall of glass! In the same way, when there's a useless condemn done by some over - smart individuals, the person who have a weak determination to face the opposition, might attain a downfall whereas the one who has the potential to endure all such hardships might reign Supreme and would move forward on the progressing note and come out with something innovative and beneficial for the society. Dharmasuri Maharaj was one of those lamps who were always surrounded by the strong protection of positive thinking that



*Shree Shankeshwar Parshvnath Deraaser
Chunnabhat-Kurla*

*Temples formed with the inspiration of
Dharmasuri Maharaj*

never let his flame of progress get extinguish at any stage...! For the one, who have done a reasonable study of his life knows very well that his attributes, his nature, his behavior and his spiritual progress was clearly indistinguishable

with a dignity. Looking upon his generosity, his compassion, his foresight and his way of thinking, even the earth beneath might have been feeling itself the most fortunate to have received the opportunity for providing the support to an incompatible legend of the era.

He was surely not a person for whom anyone might even think to criticize, but still an individual, who might have incurred heavy sins in the past, disparaged him for an insensible reason in the mass media. Actually the story behind the scene or the point of his claim was that Dharmasuri Maharaj had done 16 *Chaturmas* continuously in the same city of Mumbai. Right from the year of *VS 2016 to 2032*/ 1960 to 1976, he had spent a series of 16 monsoons in a row in a single location of the dream city...! So what? Even we find the people spending 40-50 years in a single area... if they aren't censured, why was Dharmasuri Maharaj? The people, who are not so familiar with the ethics of a *Sadhu's* life, might surely raise this question...

But our scriptures say, "*Samvaccharam vaa vi param pamaanam, biyam cha vaasam na tahim vasijjaa...*" The life of a *Sadhu* is a life of non- attachment. He remains away from his family, from the comforts, from the leisure, just to become free

from the attachment of the materialism as it's the only way for achieving salvation. Just as the water that remains still for a long time becomes distilled, if a *Sadhu* stations in a particular area without reason for more than a year, there's a possibility that he might get attached with the locality and favorable mediums of comfort and pleasures available there... Hence, our scriptures have advised the *Sadhu* to roam continuously from one place to another, and keep on changing the location so that he remains unattached and pure just like the flowing water of the river!

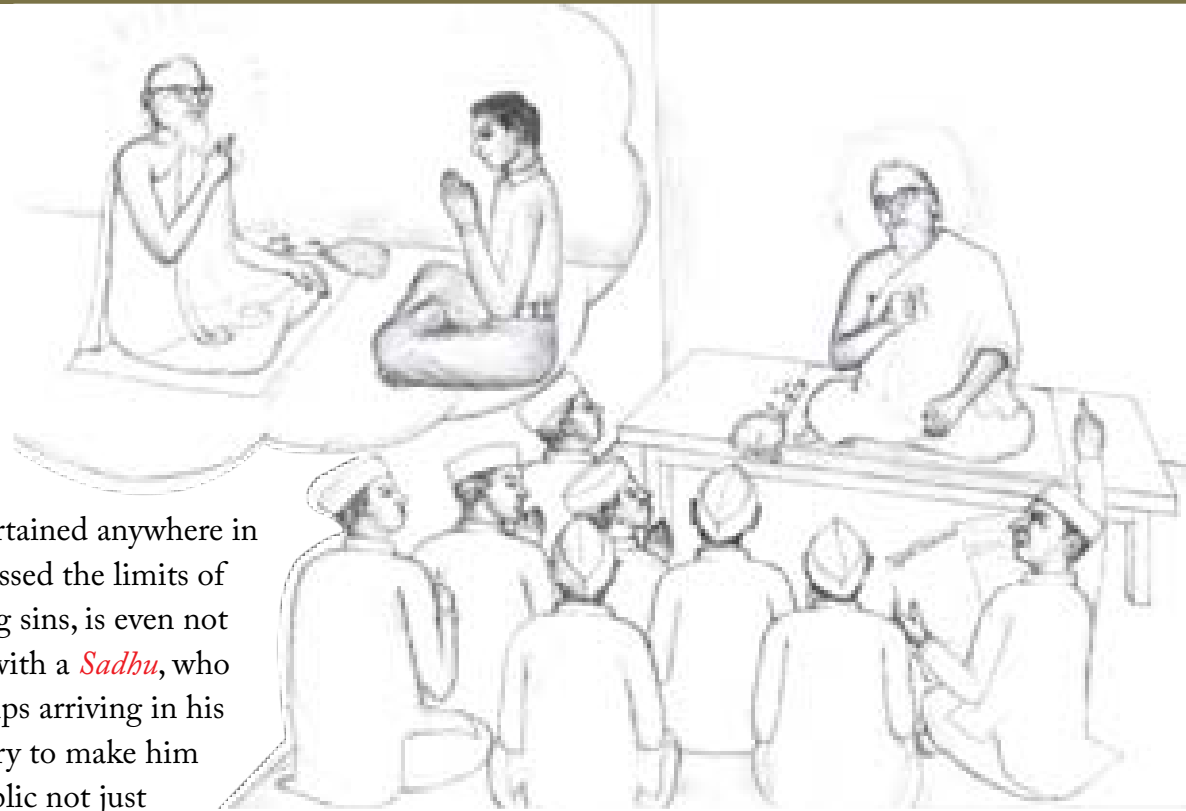
After reading this content, don't you feel that our ancestors who drafted these scriptures, possessed such a great Foresight that their assumption and prescriptions always remain practical, no matter in which ever age we belong to? And just imagine, how bad it feels when the generation of today names its principles and statements as illogical / impractical /false, just for the reason that they fail to receive satisfactory answers to their queries? Being a youngster, even my mind raises plenty of questions towards numerous aspects of Jainism, but if sometimes I don't receive a reasonable answer, I always maintain the trust in my mind that whatever is written in the scriptures is always the truth and if it's signified in it, one day I may even receive a meaningful explanation over it!

Well! We were discussing about the norms framed by our scriptures for an ascetic that he must not remain in a particular place, without reason, for more than the desired time. So, after looking at this, don't you feel that the individual had done no mistake what so ever by carping Dharmasuri Maharaj who stayed for such a long time in the capital city of Maharashtra

State? Whether he might be a *Sadhu* or a *Shravak*, the one who reacts against the advices and rules of the scriptures is must to be criticized right? No... Not at all! Till Now, I presented the arguments from the side of the individual who utilized the mass - media for criticizing Dharmasuri Maharaj, but now, it's my time to present the counter – blasts, not from the side of Dharmasuri Maharaj, but from the side of absolute truth and nobility to the scriptures!

My very first point is that criticism is never entertained anywhere in the Jain religion. When even the people who have crossed the limits of violence or insulting the god and *Gurudev* or incurring sins, is even not worthy to be criticized, how come one could do that with a *Sadhu*, who follows these great vows and sustains so many hardships arriving in his way! Even if he's committing any mistake, one must try to make him aware of the truth, but criticizing him in the open public not just degrades the value of that *Sadhu*, but of the entire community of asceticism in the minds of those people who already have a feeling of hatred for them! Also, I don't feel that the insulted *Sadhu* arrives on the right way by such sort of criticism; instead it's possible that after such outcomes, he might even loose his previous goodness and set his life on the wrong way!

And now! From the side of Dharmasuri Maharaj. If you could recollect, while scripting the claim of that individual, I had mentioned 2 clauses between the lines which are the new tools of my cross arguments. The very first of, '**in a particular area**' and the second one of '**without reason**'. If you can't relate, I won't feel bad if you jump 2 paragraphs in the reverse direction and hunt out for this, after which, you may proceed further. Although he had spent 16 seasons of rain in a single location of Mumbai, his sub - locations had always kept of changing from suburbs to the town and vice versa and even in the different areas of the both. Neither he had done a pair of *Chaturmas* in a single place ever in the 16 years and also in the another 8 months of summer and winter he might travel to distant cities of Maharashtra and Gujarat that collectively signify that he never created a disturbance to the first clause of,



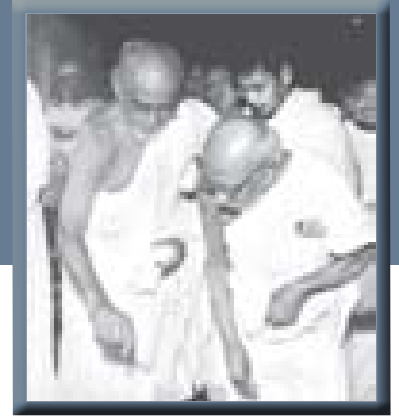
‘in a particular area’! Also, he hadn’t remained in Mumbai for such a mighty span so that he could be served by the circle of devotees or could live a luxurious life, but in that complete period, he inspired the *Shravaks* to construct more than a half - century of temple and *upaashray* in *Aamchi Mumbai*. When he had arrived for the very 1st time in Mumbai with his grand *Gurudev*, he had found only a single temple of Malad between Virar and Santacruz. And today? There are more than 100 temples in a single region of Malad! I think that if he might not had taken the initiative of constructing the very 1st temple in every area, it’s for sure that we might not have received the chance of possessing more than 700 temples in our city ! And it’s obvious that to implant those temples, he would also have to remain present in Mumbai for donation and other issues related to it! Hence, he even doesn’t break the 2nd clause of **‘without reason’!** Also, he himself use to say that thrice a time in between, he had tried to plan his *Chaturmas* outside Mumbai, but the responsibilities always revolving around him., never let him implement his plan! Hence, although his activity looks wrong, his intention was never faulty! Still, that individual did the inept activity by criticizing him in the newspaper.

When the devotees of Dharmasuri Maharaj read this article in the newspaper, they became furious and decided to provide a retort to that individual in the same newspaper next day. They planned to insult that person till such a limit that he never dares to do some activity like this in future. They visited Dharmasuri Maharaj to consulate him for this mis - behavior done by some non-sense human and inform him about their

decision for the next day. They had expected that Dharmasuri Maharaj himself would only start talking about the day’s insult and the reply for tomorrow but to their wondering, he drew the topic completely on the opposite direction. Instead of emboldening his devotees to give the reply to that individual, he advised them to ignore that. He said, “Whenever someone tries to criticize me, I divide it into 2 parts: True and False. If the person, who’s accusing me, is speaking the truth, I try to find my mistake and take the effort to eradicate it, and if the person is falsely accusing me, I simply pay no attention and ignore it. The society knows very well what I have done for them in these 16 years. Such needless stuffs can never spoil my image in their minds and hence, if we give a reply to it that may prove that we have given value to such wastages! I think we must maintain our patience and neglect that condemn!”

The Devotees bowed down in the feet of their *Gurudev*, who showed such a positive attitude towards a negative incident which might surely create a disturbance to a regular person’s patience! And this also emanated a miraculous effect! Actually, mouth to mouth, this reply of Dharmasuri Maharaj reached till the person who had criticized and after hearing the fact, he felt regretted to have insulted such a saint who was an idol of peace and patience!

Later on, he himself visited Dharmasuri Maharaj and censured for his mistake in front of him! Like if he is teaching us a wonderful message that, **“Offence is just not the way for winning a battle, if you have the mastery to just defend yourself, victory is eager to embrace you...”**



Usually, we believe that an elder is a person who always keeps on railing us for every of our inferior mistakes or keeps on interdicting in fulfilling our desires or advises us forever to adopt the practices that are always a boredom for us. But in reality, the definition of an elder is quite different from what we ideate. In Gujarati language, a lawyer is known as *Vakil* and an elder is known as *Vadil*. Gujarati proverb stats that *Vakil* is a person who fights for your case whereas a *Vadil* is a person who never puts you in the circumstances when you need to fight a case... An elder binds you in the boundary of good virtues so that you can protect yourself from the harmful elements of this world. Due to the lack of experience and maturity, we are highly suspected to make plenty of wrong decision related to our lives, which can lead to plenty of troubles in future. If we are under the shelter of an elder, his guidance and teachings prove instrumental in pulling ourselves from those troubles. One may surely live a luxurious life without an elder, but can't receive the internal peace and happiness, which are the crucial factors of enjoying a true

life. One must dedicate his every wish and the credit of every small or big success to his elder.

Dharmasuri Maharaj had always adopted the gratitude for the benevolence; his *Gurudev* had done on him, right from giving him the *diksha* to the generation of each and every skill or qualities in him. And, that's the reason why he would never miss any occasion in handing over the distinction to his *Gurudev* for every of his attainment and prosperous task. And not just he had dedicated the credits of his successes, his devotion was of such a great extent, that perhaps he had the propriety of framing a perfect plan and decision is any of the consequence, he would never proceed further until he provides the up to end information to his *Gurudev*.

It's believed that 'Where there are dense trees, rains shower the most'; when a disciple is filled with extreme modesty, elders easily get attracted towards him. Pu. Pratapsuri Maharaj would also never remain back in appreciating his disciple's inherent qualities and for asking



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his suggestions in every smallest of the decisions. There are immoderate number of remarkable instances of Dharmasuri Maharaj that arrive under the section of his

inimitable devotion, his love for serving the mankind, his feeling of compassion and mercy, his attribute of modesty and obedience, his generosity and his intensive patience and calamity.

There are many notable incidents just based on his single attribute of humility. And even these are the only recorded incidents, which were witnessed either by his companions or disciples. Otherwise who knows how many such occasions would have taken place in his life, in the absence of those people? And even who guarantees that all the incidents witnessed by them would have surely been recorded?

In *VS 2032/1976*, Dharmasuri Maharaj had inspired the *Shravak* to organize a '*Chari Paalak Sangh*' of 72 days from Mumbai to Palitana. It's a unique concept of our religion in which a congregation or group of *Sadhu-Sadhviji*, *Shravak* and *Shravika* (monks, nuns, laymen, laywomen) carry out a pilgrimage to a certain place, walking bare feet and follow the specific 6 principles ending with the letters 'RI' (1) *Paadchaari* :- Walking bare feet (2) *Bhumi Santhaari* :- Resting on the

ground. (3) *Aavashyakkari* :- Performing essential rituals like *pratikraman*. (4) *Ekalaahari* :- consuming the food only once in a day, (5) *Brahmachari* :- Forsaking sexual activities and (6) *Sacchittaparihaari* :- Using only the required non - living objects. It was a gigantic event and a perfect management + execution and incommensurable donations were the intrinsic requirements. It wasn't easy to even think of putting this plan on the paper, but Dharmasuri Maharaj kept all eyes on it and successfully designed the huge occasion in an innovative manner. The people who were linked with this *Sangh* from any aspect recollect that there were so enormous number of laymen & laywomen willing to become a part of it that after a certain limit, the managers and organizers had to literally reject the admissions of pilgrimages further.

The most noteworthy feature of this *Sangh* was the compassionate activity which ran for intact 72 days in evening. At 4 p.m. in the clock, Dharmasuri Maharaj would come out from his tent and rest on a chair for being a spectator of the wonderful heart - touching activity carried out by the laymen under his own influence and guidance. All the Non-Jain tribes residing in the nearby villages of the *Sangh* camp would be invited by the organizers and at this time, they would offer them numerous objects like food grains, utensils, clothes, house wares etc. in a systematic and respectful manner. Those poor and ignorant humans would instantly pay their obeisance in Dharmasuri Maharaj's feet

when they would come to know that he was only the founder of this initiative. They would return back with a high regard for him and his generous devotees for making a provision even for humanism along with the devotion of god. They would feel so thankful towards them for gifting them the objects which would have demanded high exertions for them to earn on their own. They would keep on appreciating this deed ever and anon in front of their friends and relatives.

Taking a visit from plenty of villages, towns, cities and religious places, this *Sangh* once arrived in the temple - town of Khambhat. There's a specialty of this region that there are so many temples in a zig-zag pattern, that as soon as you take an exit from a particular temple, you see the another one, standing on the opposite side of the road. Again, when you come out after worshipping the idol of the temple, here's an another one on the opposite side, just 2-3 buildings away from the previous one you had observed! It requires the complete day to worship each and every temple of Khambhat! But from the last 700 years approx, there were so many clashes between the various sects of Jainism that it had become impossible for them to gather at a single place and organize some event combine. When Dharmasuri Maharaj came to know about it, 3-4 days prior the *Sangh's* arrival in Khambhat, he convoked the Trustees of the town-temples and convinced them to forget their prejudicing mutually and organize a combined *Navkarshi* (breakfast) of each and every

Jain resident of Khambhat on the day of his arrival. We are already introduced with the eclat of his words! The trustees agreed and the common Jain *Navkarshi* for the very 1st time in Khambhat was held.

Everyone was overjoyed with this miraculous result in Khambhat and was earnest to frame a ceremony for welcoming their *Gurudev* who brought an unexpected change after such a long time. Dharmasuri Maharaj visited Khambhat, surrounded by a huge tide of pilgrimagers and devotees present in the early - morning welcome procession. After reaching the Main Temple, he offered a stirring discourse in which he also accommodated the appreciation of the combined *Navkarshi* and procession. At the end, Bansilalbhai, a local singer, took the guard and recited a song which was the most favorite of everyone. The lines were in Gujarati, "*Jinshaashan ni mahaa prabhavana aajivan karnaara...*" and the moment, he sung the next line, Dharmasuri Maharaj got annoyed and immediately instructed Bansilalbhai to improve his mistake. The second line was "*Evaa guru Shri Dharmasuriji ne koti vandan amara!*"

Doesn't it puzzle as to what was so wrong with this line that he got annoyed on the singer? Let me declare. At the moment when this song was been recited. Pu. Pratapsuri Maharaj was also present, along with Dharmasuri Maharaj; it would create an insult to his *gurudev* if his name taken

in front of him. Hence, he quickly instructed, “Bansilalbhai! How can you make a mistake in taking my name when my great *gurudev* is sitting in the centre of this elocation as our elder? Continue your song ahead with his name, instead of mine...!”

Although, Bansilal had no option, else surrendering in front of his commands, everyone standing there felt that Dharmasuri Maharaj needlessly rectified the singer’s line. Also, even Pu. Pratapsuri Maharaj wouldn’t have minded anything for that, as they knew that every successful event was thanks to his superb planning and incredible effort! But where Dharmasuri Maharaj would think anything like that? He was firm in his belief that, **“The moment When I get the desire of fetching a credit under my name, it’s for sure, I must have died...!”**





Pujya Abhyudaysagarji Maharaj, a renowned saint belonging to the *Sagar* clan, had inspired the Shravaks to erect an '*Aagam Mandir*' - The temple of scripture's in Shankheshwar Tirth. Its development was demanding a tremendous amount of fund. Pu. Abhyudaysagarji Maharaj advised the trustees to take a visit of Walkeshwar area of Mumbai, so that it would become easy for them to fetch the massive finance they needed for the new creation.

Anyways, Mumbai is the only city in the whole nation where the public own the highest possessions with them and at the same time, have the highest daring and generosity to donate for the good! But without comprising any sort of prior recognition, who would get ready to offer them the huge donations they were hunting for? This question puzzled the Trustee's minds as they were in any contact or relation with none in the dream city. How foolish it would seem to roam here and there for accumulating funds as strangers in such a vast region of Mumbai? Also at the same time, they knew that no city except Mumbai had the capability to assist them

in their giant project! They finally decided to invoke their inspiration, Pu. Abhyudaysagarji Maharaj, to provide them a perfect guidance and pull them out of this intricacy. Pu. Abhyudaysagarji Maharaj used his foresight and indicated them the way through which achieving the objective would become a simple task for them. Actually when the Trustees were planning to have a tour of Walkeshwar, co-incidentally, our Dharmasuri Maharaj was present in the Babu Amichand Temple of Walkeshwar itself. It was one the most prime locations for Dharmasuri Maharaj, where everyone were so devotionally attached with him that they were zealous to apprehend each and every word or command uttered by him. Pu. Abhyudaysagarji Maharaj was well introduced with his éclat and the formations of landmarks that had gained existence due to his influence and teachings. He suggested the Trustees to directly visit and cast themselves upon Dharmasuri Maharaj. He would only incur the responsibility to fulfill their mission, due to which, there would not remain any necessity of contacting the temple officials. The trustees



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accepted the commands and left for Mumbai.

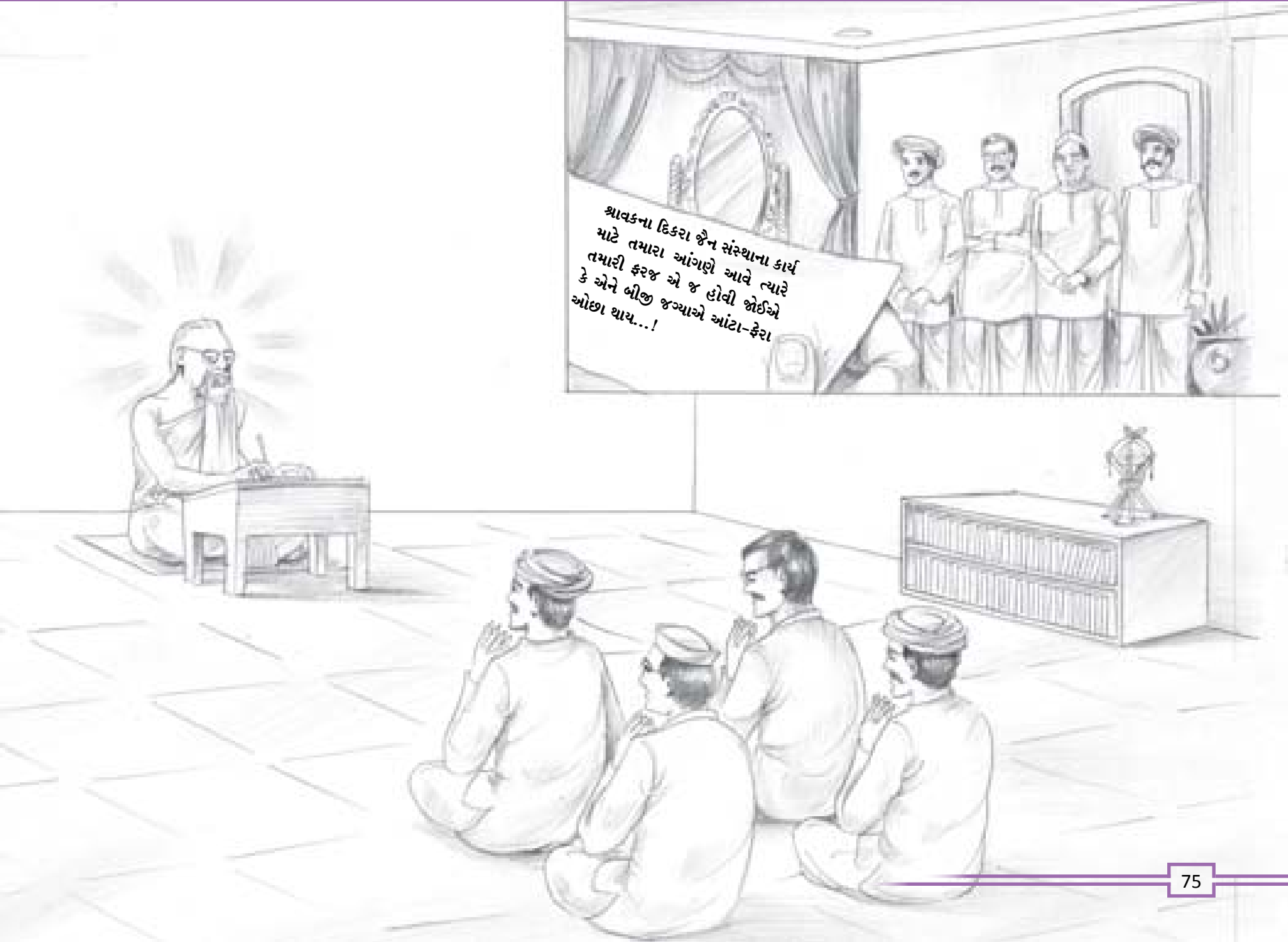
We have come across some 'over-smart' individuals who have the mis-belief in their mind that they are the only ones having advanced knowledge related to the characteristics of this world and can deal with any creature that comes their way!

Just ideate, why didn't Pu. Abhyudaysagarji Maharaj implied any other name instead of Dharmasuri Maharaj? Because, he knew that Dharmasuri Maharaj only had the potential to meet their lavish requirement. Along with that, he had an unmatched generosity to help every organism of this world, the moment it arrives under his merciful eyesight! Still, instead of getting satiated under his shelter, the trustees directly thought of meeting Babu Sitapchandji, the then Managing trustee of Babu Amichand Temple. But do you know, what was the reason for doing this? It was just their wrong interpretation that *Sadhu* belonging to a particular clan don't take much interest generally in assisting other *Sadhu's* initiatives and hence, even Dharmasuri Maharaj wouldn't take much effort in helping them. Instead of pleading him, why not directly establish a contact with Sitapchandji and make our work? They decided firmly and reached Sitapchandji's house.

This is a very troubling tendency of our minds. If we come across one or two instances of negativities, we forecast it common for the integral community. For a Jain *Sadhu*, each and every living being of this universe is his own and it's impossible that he may even think of making any differentiation between them as his own and others. And it's impossible he might do that with the one who's practicing the same principles of *Bhagwaan Mahavir*.

Never in the past, nor in the future and neither at present, is a *Sadhu* detected creating any such kind of a bias. His co-operation and support is always identical for everyone! But the delusion had reigned supreme in their minds and they were forced to take the improper step.

The trustees had framed various types of schemes or options for the donors to overcome the total expenditure collectively. They presented it to Sitapchandji but emphasized to choose the scheme of Main Interior part of the temple which was been expected to allot them the donation of Rs. 81,000/-. Sitapchandji showed his willingness for that, but he wasn't ready to pay even a single paisa beyond of Rs. 51,000/-. The trustees tried to ingeminate their requirement of extensive fund, but Sitapchandji had no change. The trustees were put in a do or die condition, where they couldn't even reject Sitapchandji's claim, nor could they bear such a great loss of Rs. 30,000/- in such circumstances. Now, what to do? When they found themselves stuck between the well and the valley,



શ્રાવકના ટિકરા જેન સંસ્થાના કાર્ય
માટે તમારા આંગણે આવે ત્યારે
તમારી ફરજ એ જ હોવી જોઈએ
કે એને બીજી જગ્યાએ આંટા-ફેરા
ઓછા થાય...!

our 'erudite' or in genuine meaning, the people who realize late, finally got the realization of approaching Dharmasuri Maharaj. They adjourned their conversation with Sitapchandji and started towards the *upaashray* to worship Dharmasuri Maharaj. They confessed about their inept behavior towards him and requested to solve their problem.

I doubt whether I would have helped those people after knowing their misbehavior or not, but without even speaking a single word, Dharmasuri Maharaj instantly took the pen and a piece of paper and scripted some words in it. Handing the folded paper-piece, he instructed the Trustees to re-visit Sitapchandji's house. They followed his instruction and handed the hidden message to Sitapchandji. Don't know what happened but after reading the words written by Dharmasuri Maharaj, Sitapchandji, the same person, who wasn't ready to even give one rupee in excess, gave the earnest and owned the scheme of intact Rs. 81,000/- The trustees were left wondering as to which magical words were written in that paper-piece that Sitapchandji got ready to do this? They requested him to speak out the words. They were, **"When the Followers of your religion, the *Sadharmik*, arrive on your doorsteps with some hope, it's your initiate duty to take their care in such a way, that doesn't require them facing intense hardships!"**

These words weren't any type of an incantation, but even if it created a miraculous effect on Sitapchandji, the cardinal

reason was his immaculate feeling of reducing the pains of *Sadharmiks*. The trustees, accompanied by Sitapchandji, arrived in the *upaashray* to give this good news to Dharmasuri Maharaj. But as soon as they arrived there, Dharmasuri Maharaj presented a new demand in front of Sitapchandji. He said, "Gentleman", By confirming to pay Rs. 81,000/- you just fulfilled their desired requirement, but if you have arrived here to worship me, I wish you extend your donation to Rs. 91,000.

Again an impossible demand of the respected soul and unexpected acceptance of the follower! The trustees returned back deeply impressed with the victorious-commands and generosity of Dharmasuri Maharaj...

In the later years, Ramanlal Dalichand Shah, a trustee from that group, had narrated this incident to my great grand *gurudev* in his Ahmedabad *Chaturmas* and at the end, he had concluded, "After doing our job, we had expected that he might questions us about how, where and when his name would be engraved in the inscription as the inspiration of this huge donation, but under our astonishment, he didn't even speak a single word related to this topic, neither at that moment, nor in the later period! Hat's off to his incredible generosity and unpredictable affection towards the *Sadharmiks*!"

As Ramanlal told this story, his eyes started pouring with tears that had burst out due to the re-collection of those pious moments he had witnessed...



A small child, aged 9, was memorizing some verses with a loud voice and full of concentration in the interior balcony of the *Sabitya Mandir*. Although the market area of Palitana is adorned nowadays with the stalls of Pav- Bhajis, Pizzas, Frankies, Palitana Bhel, Goti Soda, South Indian dishes, Fruits, juices and sharbats, in those days, the temple of *Saacha Sumtinath Bhagwaan*, the Anandji Kalyanji Pedhi and *Sabitya Mandir* were believed as its ornaments! There were quite a few *Dharmashaala* in Palitana around 79 years ago and hence Mohansuri Maharaj had inspired the *Shravaks* to build up an upaashray cum library of religious books, known as *Sabitya Mandir*- “The Temple of literature”.

That kid was extremely brilliant and more than that was as much sincere at studies. No matter, even if there's an interesting conversation going on besides him it might never break his attention from the studies! He was memorizing the *gatha* with the same dedication that day. His name was Raju and was a resident of a village named Dabhoi, near

Baroda. He was with Dharmasuri Maharaj for acquiring the experience about how a life of an anchorite is lived. His 2 elder sisters were already renounced in *VS 2032* and now, it was his desire for doing the same. He was the favorite of all and very cute at appearance.

All of a sudden, someone arrived and placed the hands on his eyes. Raju's attention was broken and his face turned red with anger! It was around 4.45pm in the clock while he was memorizing. There were just 3 members present in the main hall. Dharmasuri Maharaj and his own parents. With firing words, he shouted, “Who's this over smart person who have shown the courage of performing the mischief with me? Instantly withdraw your hand otherwise...!”

The person who had done this fun with him got shocked with this furious reaction from Raju. He hadn't expected this from a small boy of just 9 years, but instead to taking back his hands, he continued his fun with Raju, now tightening his grip with an additional force than before! Raju's anger also



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grew ahead with this and he got ready to take some action that person, but before he could do that, something happened that made him turn his head down with shame!

this and with a laughter, he said, “Raju! You were presently under my examination related to your attentiveness in the studies. I conclude that you passed this test with the grade of A, but along with that, take care next time of reducing your anger!” and pampering Raju affectionately, he left towards the room for having his *gochri*!

Actually, after uttering the intense words, his parents started laughing loudly standing beside him. He understood that he had surely acted foolishly this time. To check whether whose hands were on his eyes, he touched them with his own hands, and came to know that the hands were of none other than Dharmasuri Maharaj himself! Imagine how shameful it would seem of have spoken such words, to a renowned *Aacharya Bhagwant* of Jainism! He turned silent as it wasn't possible for him to even speak anything for even apologizing his mistake!

Dharmasuri Maharaj took off his hands with

Our scriptures preach that one must experience pleasure in first finding out and later, extolling the smallest of the qualities of the creatures residing in our surrounding. It's



known as the feeling of appreciation - “*The Pramod Bhaavna*”. It signifies that there is no living being in this world that doesn’t have even a single quality in him, Just we need to have an eagerness of finding it out! In schools, the students are given the initiative of creating “**The Best from Waste**”. Our scriptures also suggest us to detect the quality in a particular organism, even if, he has plenty of faults or defects in him! While I was writing this chapter, one youngster informed me that a GPS based game named “**Pokemon Go**” has become popular these days! People lose their wisdom and crazily keep on roaming from one place to another for finding out the Pokémon located at various spots! Our scriptures have also taught us to play such a game named ‘**Qualities go**’! Stop searching the short-comings of others and just concentrate on their attributes! This Pramod *Bhaavna* was running in every vein of Dharmasuri Maharaj’s body and hence, he would never miss even a single occasion of appreciating the most minute positivity of anyone!

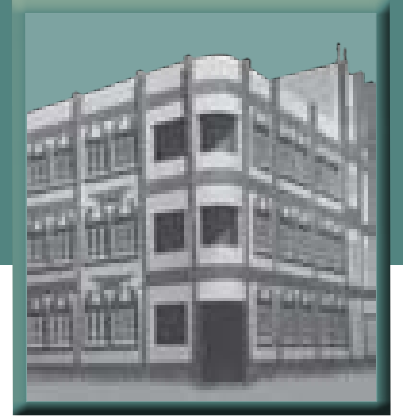
This Raju was having a special skill or intelligence with him. He might remember the verses of a particular sutra, not just in an ascending order, but by numbers. Imagine, if you ask him randomly to speak the 34th *Gatha* of *Vandittu Sutra*, he might instantly recite, “*Kaayena Kaaiyassa, padikkame Vaaiyassa...*” When Dharmasuri Maharaj came to know about

it, he got delighted and took up a new job in hand. Whenever any devotee would arrive to meet him, he might convoke Raju and make him recite the *gatha* orally on the numbers asked by those devotees according to their wish! The rejoiced *Shravak* might instantly announce the rewards for Raju and in this way; he had collected more than Rs. 800 just in a span of 10 days! The readers might experience exultation after knowing that this same Raju is now a pre-eminent *Aacharya Bhagwant* of Jainism- **Pujyapad Aacharya Shree Rajratnasurishwarji Maharaj**, whose articles are published in Gujarat Samachar every Monday in Mumbai from the last 25 years!

A mango seed can pass through any of the 3 circumstances - 1) Thrown in the dustbin, 2) Added some elements and made it worthy to be eaten and 3) Sowed beneath the earth. The first one results as a wastage, the second one as consumption and the last one as utilization and multiplication. A small child is perfectly like this mango seed. If you remain careless, it becomes of no use in future, but if take a smart care of him, the same child turns out to become a legend of future...

If sevanti became Suryodaysuri Maharaj or Raju became Rajratnasuri Maharaj, the credit must be given surely to the care of Dharmasuri Maharaj, for both interior and exterior well- being of the disciples!

The Erection of Shatrunjay Hospital... The Significance of his foresight!



‘Being Human’ - An initiative of Salman Khan, A bollywood actor, but a concept that has its roots in the realm of Jainism from eternal years! I had come across a very wonderful fact that Jain religion always adopts the activity of searching, while the world always adopts the activity of re-searching. Insooth, the very first edition of every good concept is always premeditated by Jainism, and later on, the rest elements of the world publish it between the public and draw the credit under their name! Open up the *sutra* of *‘Iriyavahiyam’* or *‘Saat Lakh’* or *‘Aayariya Uvajzaye’* or 5th Chapter of *‘Atichaar’*, all are the strict mentors that teach the lessons of humanity to the Jains. Be it the ritual of *‘Samayik’* of *‘Pratikraman’* or *‘Paushad’* or any other activity of charity, celebs or penance, all are the strong supporters of humanity. Be it *Bhagwaan Mahavir Swami, Bhagwaan Neminath*, king Meghrath, King Kumarpal or every *‘Sadhu/Sadhviiji’* currently Surviving in this world, all are the ideals who have/are practicing humanity in their own lives. People always point Fingers against Jainism, that we are ‘smart’ at accumulating

funds and planting up a temple or an *upaashray* costing crores of rupees, but never take part in opening up a school or college or hospital, which are actually essential for the society!

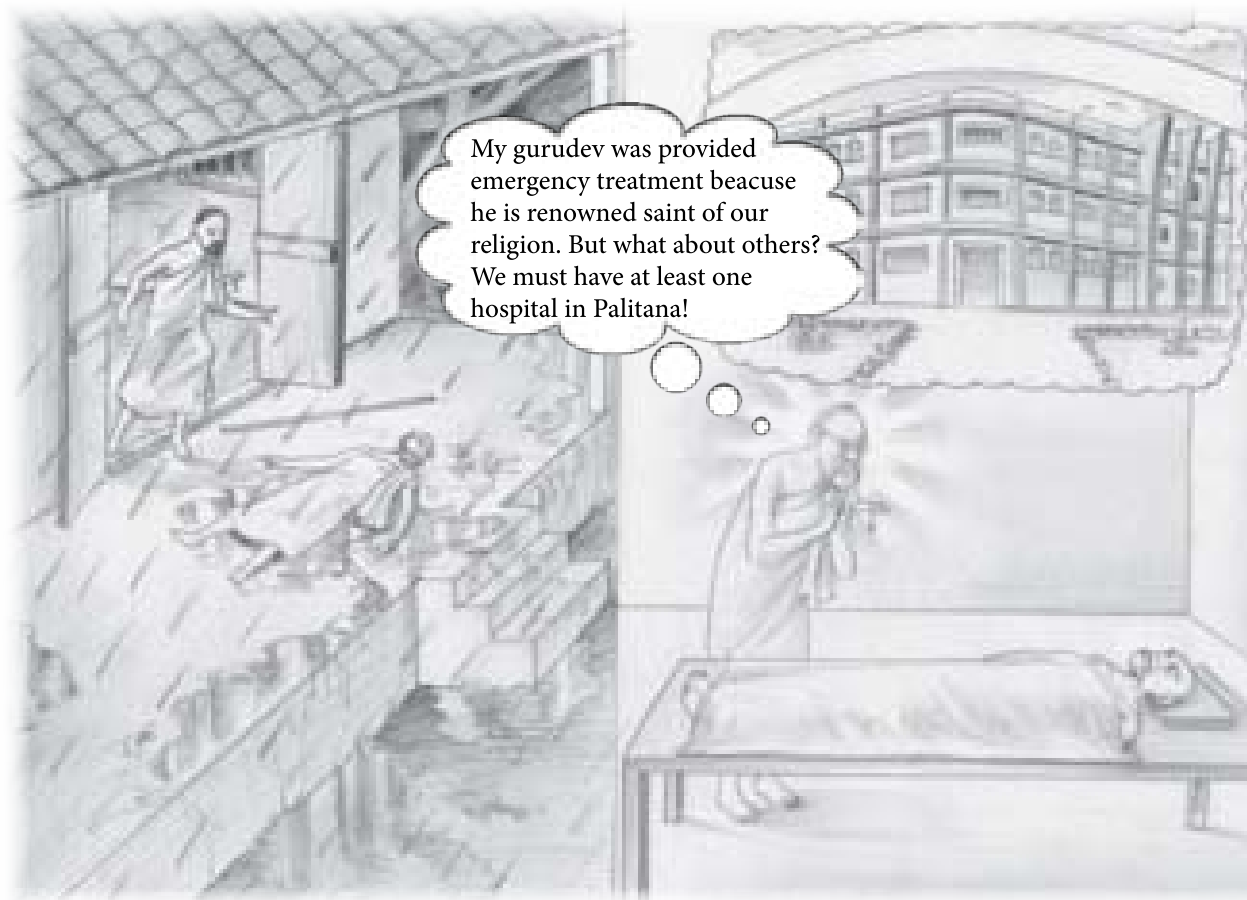
They argue that, “Believe if even there are 15-16 temples in a particular area, what’s the use if a person isn’t capable to even get off from his bed due to illness? Instead of building up temples in increasing numbers, it’s better to open up one hospital that becomes helpful to the public!” Even I’m a strong supporter of this point. I never say that constructing a temple is a wrong activity, but everything in excess is not so beneficial! Even if we stop building temples completely and erect 15-16 hospital in a particular area, it would look foolish. Everything must be done maintaining the balance and proportion with each other. A wise person always works according to the necessity and requirement of a particular time. Our Dharmasuri Maharaj possessed this wisdom and intelligence of diverting the flow of donations on the basis of the urge related to a specific period or location.



In *VS 2032*/1976, Dharmasuri Maharaj along with his *Gurudev* Pu. Pratapsuri Maharaj was in Palitana awaited for the monsoon to pour at its last limits and say 'good bye'. As they had to stay in a single place for more than 120 days, all the '*Sadhu*' were advised to undertake the penances of '*Yog*' which are required prior commencing the study of scriptures. This '*Yog*' required extreme physical exertions, which was not so possible to do, while performing the '*Vihar*' during the rest 8 months. In the early morning, *Sadhu* would break up their sleep and might get engaged in the rituals of their respective

yog. Once, in a similar way, all *Sadhu* were busy in their job at early dawn. When Pu. Pratapsuri Maharaj arose up from his *paat*, to get rid from feeling of urinal. He was at age of 87 and it's obvious his body parts may have turned weak and would not respond as it would do of a youngster. Still he would try his best, not to depend on anyone else and perform his maximum activities on his own. It's

not possible to think in this way without a strong determination and fortitude at the age, when naturally expectations grow wilder for gaining the services from the younger, as the self-potential start minimizing and the working force becomes inadequate! He started climbing down the steps leading to the Freeland in the outskirts of *upaashray*. He was alone, but it wasn't that he was doing that for the very 1st time. As I mentioned ahead, he was familiar to the activities of climbing up and down the stairs without anyone's company. But maybe it might have been written in his fatality today, this daring proved harmful to him. As soon as he climbed initial 2-3 steps, his leg slipped and he



directly fell down with a cracking sound. Actually, it was a considerable noise and in the naturally silent environment of early morning, everyone in the *upaashray* might have heard that, but as the rains were with a great force outside, this sound got accommodated with it. After some time, one of his disciples, Muni Suryodayvijayji (my great grand *gurudev* at present) came out for the same purpose and found him lying on the ground. He instantly convoked everyone and Pu. Pratapsuri Maharaj was lifted and placed on the paat. There was a critical pain on his back and it was crucial to appoint a responsible team of doctors as early as possible. But the area of Palitana was so remote in nature that there wasn't even a single doctor who had the propriety to take this case in hand. At last, the devotees contacted the doctors from Bhavnagar and Mumbai and the treatment was commenced under their presence and guidance. The Measures were taken and Pu. Pratapsuri Maharaj was cured with the restless efforts of the doctor's panel. Basically, if we would have been in the place of Dharmasuri Maharaj, our story might have surely come to an end with this point. But even after receiving the solution of his *gurudev's* problem, a new thought took admission in Dharmasuri Maharaj's mind. He thought, "Today, my *gurudev* was fortunate to have been saved and treated instantly by this skilled board of doctors from Mumbai and Bhavnagar. But the devotees exerted insomuch only for the reason that he was the most elder and pre-eminent *Aacharya* of Jain religion. Whereas, due to the existence of the sacred

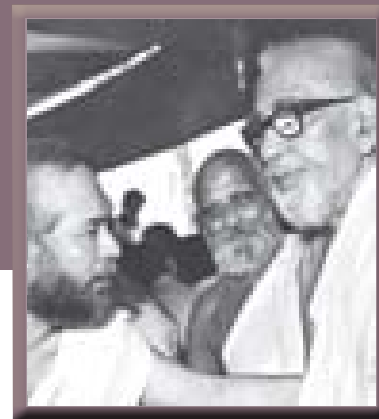
Shatrunjay Hill, there are always abundant *Sadhu-Sadhvi* present in Palitana throughout the year. All aren't Famous or have a group of devotees to serve them like my *gurudev* had! In such consequences, how would that particular *Sadhu/Sadhvi* hunt for an appropriate treatment of their maladies? Also enormous numbers of laymen always keep on arriving in Palitana to worship the idol of *Aadinath Bhagwaan* stationed on the top of the hill. Where would they run in the case of emergency illness? We must have at least one hospital in Palitana with advanced facilities and equipments, so that no one has to become depressed in the town of purity!"

I think, he was '*Aladdin*' and his devotees were like '*Jin*' for him. The moment he manifests his wish, they would instantly apprehend and shape that desire into reality. When Dharmasuri Maharaj displayed his motive of developing a hospital in Palitana, his devotees instantaneously started showering high donations for it and within a very short time, a huge mansion of humanity, I mean '**The Shatrunjay Hospital**', as it was named, stood up with pride near the Town market and is still serving the ill people of Palitana by eradicating their disease with the advanced methods of treatment...

The story of Dharmasuri Maharaj starts at the point, when our story ends...! Because our limits end till selfishness, which he had crossed already on the day he renounced this world...! I am glad to say that my *gurudev* just didn't worked for his religion or its elements, but worked and sweated for the entire society and... For the entire humanity...!

Shramani vihar in Palitana

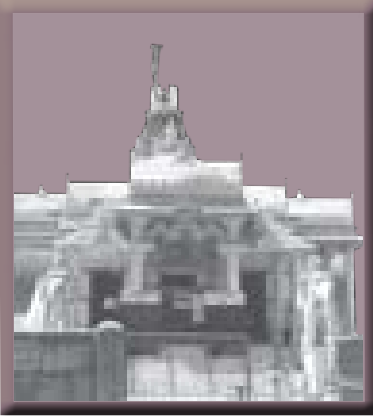
A permanent relief for Sadhviji Bhagwant



The *Charipaalak padyaatra sangh*, inspired by Dharmasuri Maharaj was entering into the final stage of its existence. It had been a long-long journey of 72 days commencing from Mumbai, with the pilgrims moving 10-15 kms a day, walking bare feet. They were now within the 20 km distance from the Palitana town and the immaculate Shatrunjay hill had become clearly visible to everyone. It's a place where our Scriptures signify the liberation of infinite souls at every smallest piece of its rock! The moment devotees find up its smallest of view from anywhere, they stop their vehicles, come out and pay the obeisance, bowing down to their hearts for this hill, what might have been in the heart of the pilgrims, who sweated such a long period of time to reach their destination? They were eager to worship the sacred idol of *Aadinath Bhagwaan*, situated on the top of the hill and make themselves free from the intact impurities, but before they reach the town, their relatives and friends, arrived in great numbers, started rapidly occupying the rooms for their accommodation, they would require during the ceremonial days, organized for the

successfully completion of the *sangh*. The *dharmashalas* weren't so sufficient to accommodate the host of devotees pouring in the town and hence, finding out the extreme demand for their rooms, the owners increased their fares mostly twice times than before! Still, people were found roaming here and there, searching for the vacant rooms available, with a will to pay the desired amount to the owners! The conditions were looking so horrible with everyone fighting just for a single matter and that was to occupy the rooms!

But the whole burden of this gamble fell on the *Sadhviji Bhagwant*, who too had arrived in huge numbers to witness the success solemnization. They were surely having nothing to afford and hence, the *Dharmashaala* owners were puzzled where to allot them the accommodation facility as if they start issuing them the rooms, it would ruin their chance of making big money. There was a serious conflict between the devotion and greed! These owners of dharmashalas weren't the Non-Jain! They were the same *Shravak*, whom you might find in the *upaashray* of their areas, pleadings and requesting



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the *Sadhviji Bhagwant* to grace them by visiting their houses! They were the same *Shravak*, who might never mind, spending thousands of rupees for the requirements and treatment issues of *Sadhviji Bhagwant*,

but here, the greed occupied their devotion and they were forced to refuse the *Sadhviji Bhagwant*. As a result, they had to adjust themselves in the dusty store - rooms, vacant offices or in true words the playground of rats and mice, balconies, open passages etc. Looking upon this situation of *Sadhviji Bhagwant*, this town of respect became the town of insults. The revered soul to whom even the *Dev* bow down to, were not respected today by the people of their own religion!

Whenever my gurudev tried to convince the parents for the permission for renunciation to their daughters, mostly they argue with a common sentence, “*Sahebji!* Our society runs on the concept of ‘*purushpradhaan*’, which means men must only dominate each and every field belonging to the religious and social aspect. Women are always kept behind the screen. But even if we don’t take that in account, at least we must have wisdom, that amongst the female, *Sadhviji Bhagwant* must receive a special consideration as that of a *Sadhu Bhagwant*? That is simply never found in our society! *Sadhu Bhagwant* get a higher respect and *Sadhviji Bhagwant* acquire mostly nothing! In such consequences, how can we

think of allowing our female child accept the practice of asceticism?”

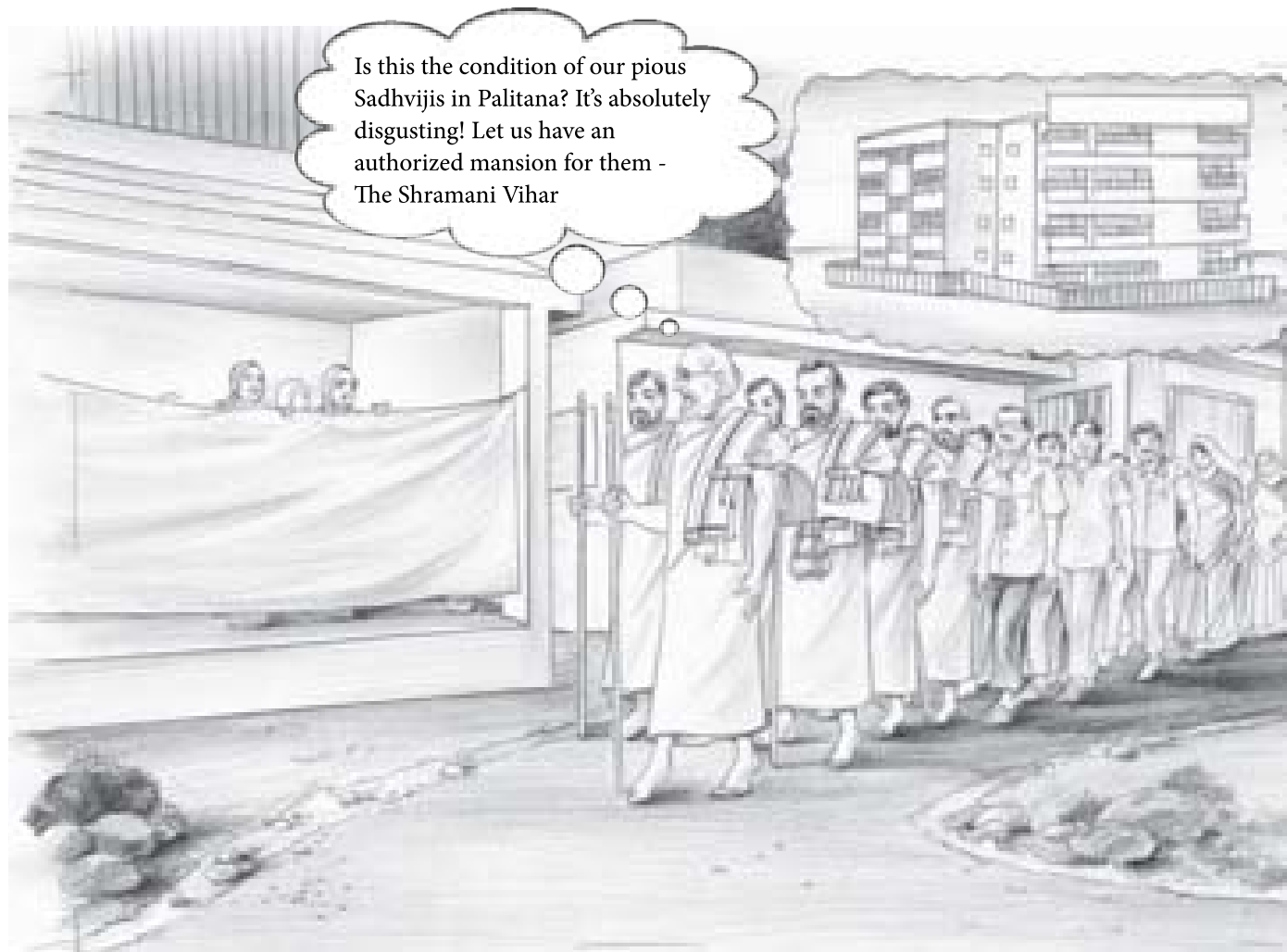
It’s a truth and we can’t debate over it! The *Sadhu Bhagwant* were successful in finding up their location and were relaxed, but the problems were faced by the newly-arrived *Sadhviji Bhagwant*! Dharmasuri maharaj was heading on towards the Taleti, accompanied by a huge wave of disciples and devotees in the welcome procession commenced from the *Digambar Dharmashaala*. They passed the sahitya Mandir and reached Babu Panalal *Dharmashaala*, where he found a group of 7-8 *Sadhviji* residing in the passage outside *Dharmashaala*, covering themselves all around with a cloth. There was such a small piece of land; they had received for carrying out all the activities of *gochri*, *padilehan*, *pratikraman*, *santhaara* etc. How would they manage all this?

Dharmasuri Maharaj, who had an inherent smile on his face till then got lost in worry of this *Sadhviji Bhagwant*’ poor situation! First, when he had learnt about the treatment issues of Palitana, he had inspired the *Shravak* to build Shatrunjay Hospital and now, when he came to know, about the troubles of *Sadhviji Bhagwant*, he desired to construct a *Shramani vihar* in Palitana. ‘**Shramani Vihar**’ - The mansion for *Sadhviji*, where they could stay comfortable in the numbers of 200 to 250 and follow their principles without any issues! He decided to unmask his desire in front of his devotees in his nearest discourse and on the last day of the *Sangh*, when the

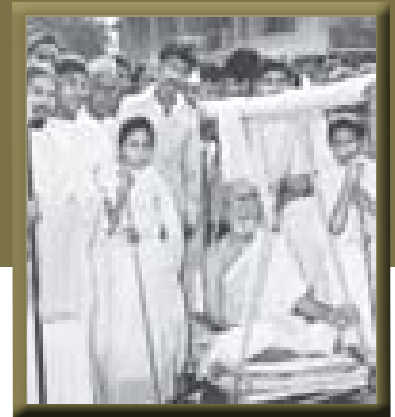
place was full of crowd, he put forth a shrill discourse on his topic and within a fraction of minutes, there were the funds of lakhs of rupees accumulated for *Shramani vihar*! The incorrupt feeling of eradicating the *Sadhvi's* trouble got an extreme response from his devotees! He became famous in Palitana as '*Laakhiyaa Maharaj*'- The saint whose inspiration results in the donation of lakhs of rupees! At the time when it's proposal were out, some people advised him to reserve some rooms in this *Shramani Vihar* permanently for the *Sadhvi Bhagwant* of his own clan. It wasn't wrong if he might have done it, but no! He gave such a wonderful reply, that everyone hearing that, fell in his feet with respect! He said, "No, I'm not at all interested in

reserving the rooms for the *Sadhvi* of my clan, because, for me, each and every *Sadhvi Bhagwant* of *Jinshaashan* are mining itself! This *Shramani vihar* is for all and I will be delighted if they perform their *Aaradhnas* here!"

What a speechless altruism! Although, every *Sadhvi Bhagwant* have their respective *Gacchadhipati* (the head of a clan) by the formation of this *Shramani Vihar* he proved himself as the *Gacchadhipati* of the *Sadhvi Bhagwant* belonging to the entire *Jinshaashan*!



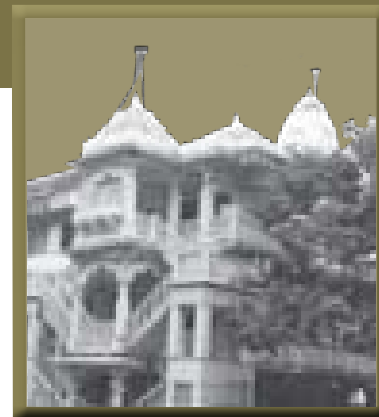
Morbi Flooded with water...
Vadhwaan Flooded with compassion...



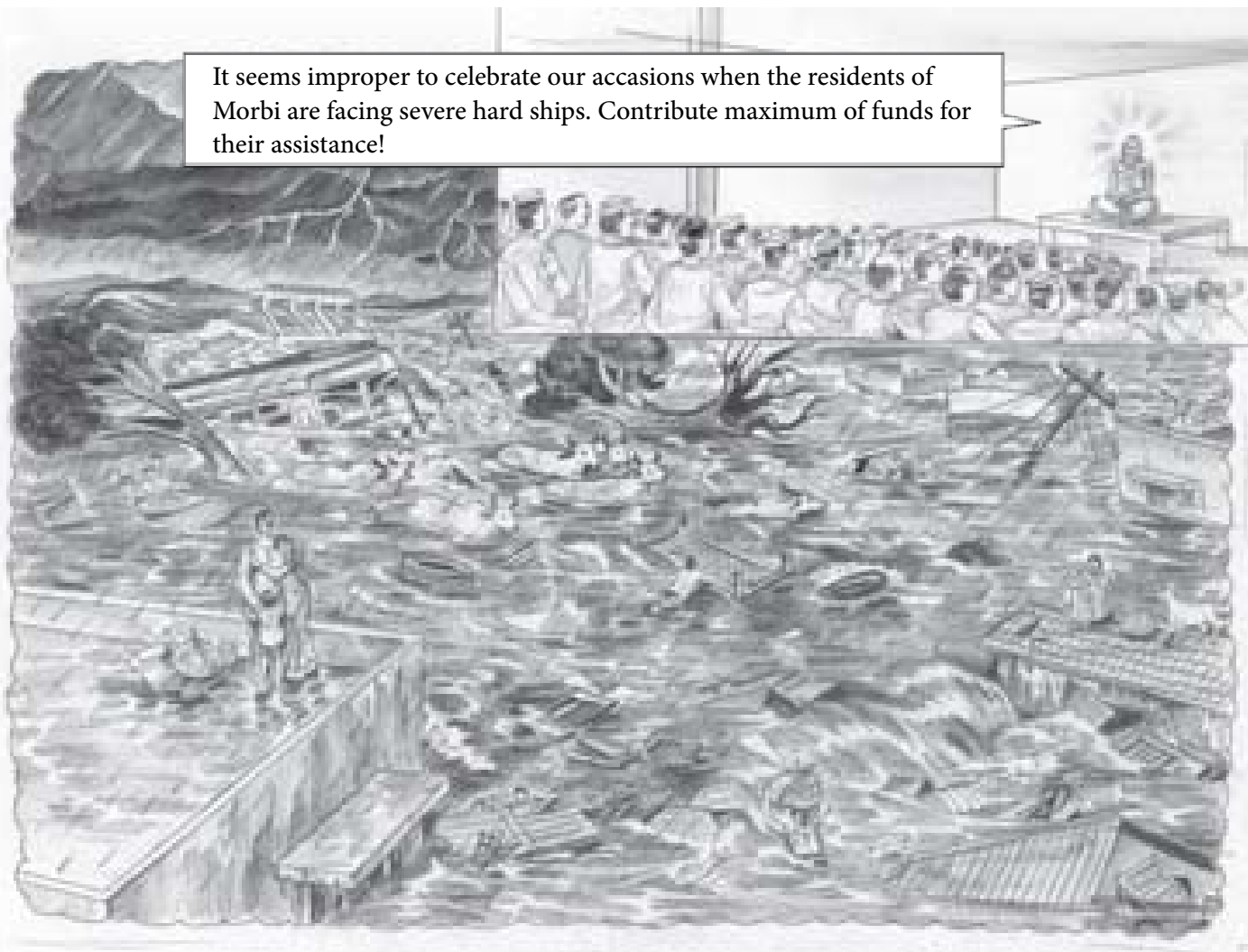
Dharmasuri Maharaj had decided to spend the days of *Chaturmas VS 2035*, in his home-town, Vadhwaan. It was the long-long span of 36 years, after which the residents of Vadhwaan were blessed again to receive the auspicious presence of their beloved *gurudev* for 4 months. Also like a Fragrance in gold, this year was marking the platinum jubilee of his birth and everyone's heart in Vadhwaan was dancing in joy to have received the golden opportunity for witnessing the 2 special occasions related to their dearly loved *gurudev*!! People were having an immoderate respect for his strict practices and the efforts he had taken for the betterment of Jain and non-Jain communities. At this point, some lines turn alive in my memory, which were spoken by Pu. Nandansuri Maharaj, an erudite disciple of Pu. Nemisuri Maharaj, in his discourse in Ahmedabad that, **"Just being fortunate is not an attribute of life. There are many such *Aacharya Bhagwants* existing currently in our society who have a tremendous amount of *punya* with them, but I doubt, whether their good fortune is utilized for the betterment of public or**

not. Whereas, I have fairly noticed how wonderfully the lavish *punya* of Dharmasuri Maharaj is proving beneficial to the creatures, right from the needy individuals to the wealthy ones!! On that basis, I conclude that he's the most fortunate human of this universe!!"

The devotees organized several ceremonies and functions throughout the nation to sanctify the sacred occasion of the august saint. Believers claim that this celebration was planned on such a large scale, that if it might had become a reality, it's recording with golden letters on the pages of history, would have not fetched any kind of astonishment!! But, before it could open up its wings, there arrived a critical moment for the country!! The Macchu river of Kutch lost its bounds and flooded the entire region of Morbi, breaking its dam!! Numerous houses, business parks, offices, shops, hospitals etc. fell to the ground and there was an incommensurable loss of both life and property. Plenty of children became orphans, women turned widows and all turned home-less. The calamity



It seems improper to celebrate our occasions when the residents of Morbi are facing severe hard ships. Contribute maximum of funds for their assistance!



was so terrible that it had caused the highest damage in the last 25 years. Government appointed the rescue measures and the provisions were made to transform the sufferers to a safe location and fulfill their basic necessities... Morbi had suffered the extreme destruction due to this flood... and its intact look has become disgusting...!

In a span of hardly a fraction of seconds, the news spread all around the nation like a fire and even Dharmasuri Maharaj came to know about this inauspicious event. Right from the moment he came to know about it, his

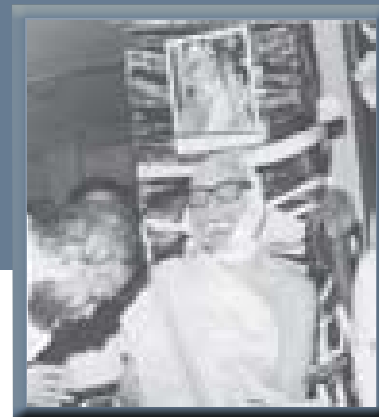
compassionate heart was broken and tears started pouring from his eyes.

Perhaps we come in greater introduction with such disasters daily happening in some corner of the world, by reading the headlines printed on the front page of the newspapers and still, we iron-hearted humans and especially ‘The Jains’ turn off the page without even feeling hurt for the sufferers and praying for their peace!! And here was Dharmasuri Maharaj, who started showering his inner pain in the form of tears! But he didn’t just share the grief by weeping; he instantly raised his voice to assist the people affected by the flood.

He convoked his followers and instructed them to suspend every grand function related to the celebration of platinum birth jubilee. He appealed, “My dear followers, you know that currently, Morbi is drown completely in water and has incurred great destruction of life and wealth. Solemnization of any special event doesn’t seem proper in such consequences. How can we celebrate our occasions at the time, when our own countrymen and more than that, our own brothers and sisters are facing severe hardships in the most critical phase of their life? **Instead of utilizing the amount on ceremonies, I wish, the maximum of it must be donated for the help of the flood-victims!!**”

‘Being helpful to each and every surviving organism of this world is the birth-right of every Jain’. The very first principle taught to us by our *Arihant Bhagwaan* is the principle of friendship. Actually, when an individual gets transformed into a ‘*Sadhu*’, people believe that he has forsaken every relation of this birth, but in reality, he hasn’t cut off his previous relations, he has just widened his range of relationship!! Yes, because till now, only the creatures connected with a blood or emotional or social relationship were termed as his family or friend and he use to take the care of them itself. Whereas now, each and every living being residing in this universe becomes his relative and his responsibility of caring gets extended!! He never breaks any of his previous connections; he just undertakes the renovation to make it large!!

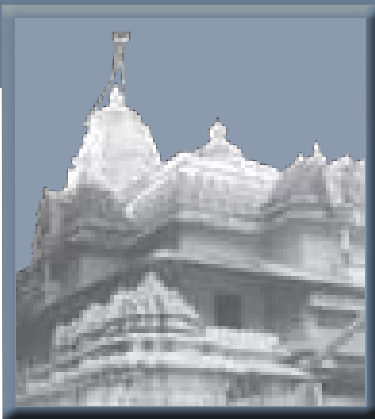
The proportion of mercy and compassion in the heart of Dharmasuri Maharaj was so extreme that at once, it was even difficult for the water bodies of the earth to compete them by their combination!! According to his commands, the Platinum Jubilee was celebrated in a much simplistic manner and the maximum amount was donated for the troubled inhabitants of Morbi disaster...



VS 2034! Dharmasuri Maharaj acquired a paralytic-attack and his entire left part of the body became inactive. He had created prodigious endeavours throughout his life for the betterment of others, and though his soul was still enthusiastic for serving the universe, the potential of his body reached closer to exhaustion. His brain knew that this philanthropic saint might never withdraw himself from the activities of benevolence even at his last breath and hence it purposely ordered all the body parts on the left-side to stop executing their responsibilities and take rest! A *Satyagraha* against Dharmasuri Maharaj's uncommon feeling of gracing others! But if I'm using the adjective of 'uncommon', one can understand that this benevolent personality, might entertain no hindrances even if his own body stands in an opposition against him! Even after being paralyzed, as we saw in the previous chapters, his altruistic deeds never stopped. Instead, it gave the argentous outcomes in the Form of 3 remarkable activities of *Shatrunjay Hospital, Shramani Vihar* and financial help to the Morbi Flood-victims! 4 years after this attack, which means in *V.S 2038 Falgun Sud 11* at 11 pm in the night, his stable health till then, took a drastic transformation and an

unknown pain started developing in his body. His uneasiness kept on increasing with every passing second and hence the panel of expert doctors were immediately convoked by the disciples for the treatment of Dharmasuri Maharaj. After the required check-up, the doctors claimed that it's explicitly essential to admit Dharmasuri Maharaj in the best hospital of Mumbai, as early as possible. According to the opinion of doctors, the health of Dharmasuri Maharaj was weak, that if he's isn't provided the advanced treatment in a short span, they were sorry to say, but it might surely give birth to the inauspicious event of losing the legend forever from this world!

The disciples had to think nothing except saving their Gurudev's life at present. They took a rapid-decision and gave their confirmation to the doctors. But Dharmasuri Maharaj was not at all ready for this and with his gestures; he strongly opposed the suggestion of doctors for taking him to the hospital. The doctors kept on convincing him for more than half an hour, but Dharmasuri Maharaj remained firm on his decision. Doctors understood that if Dharmasuri Maharaj



*Shree Chintamani Parshvanath Deraasar
Sanghani Estate*

*Temples formed with the inspiration of
Dharmasuri Maharaj*

remains awake, he might never become ready for being hospitalized and hence, like it or lump it, they have to inject a syringe and make him go away into a deep sleep. The stretcher was quickly brought about to

the 4th floor *upaashray* of Premsagar apartment in Mazgaon Mumbai. Dharmasuri Maharaj would have surely been driven to the hospital, if it wasn't for the ward boy's mistake bringing the stretcher inside the *upaashray*. While it was arriving, the stretcher's edge struck with the door and Dharmasuri Maharaj woke up with its noise. He quickly identified the consequences and in his objection, he uttered a word triple time, with a broken but powerful voice, "*Abij... Abij... Abij*". My elders use to say that he had spoken those words with such a tremendous force, that each and every one standing there, heard that. Remind you that he was paralyzed since the last 4 years and presently, he was bearing such a terrible pain, in which it was impossible for anyone to even think of speaking something.

But what was the reason he was refusing to visit the hospital? What was the wrong for him to be cured? So many people had an egregious devotion towards him that they might apprehend his each and every command and implement it with full dedication! If he remains alive, so many followers like these people, might remain attached with the religion, through his inspirational teachings.

When I had read this incident for the very first time in *Yugdivakar*, many other questions along with this one, popped up in my mind. But later on, with the passage of time, I started understanding the technical reason why was Dharmasuri Maharaj opposing suggestion of the doctors.

He would always emphasize on the concept of "*Samadhi-Maran*" or peaceful death. He would say that the person, who suffers, the unsustainable pain at his death time, is so much perplexed, that it hardly becomes possible for him to maintain the peace in his mind. In this moment, if he's surrounded by the team of doctors who are proving unsuccessful in curing him or the relatives weeping for his poor condition, his embarrassment adopts an increment and he pails to strengthen his peace and fortitude. But if he's provided the religious atmosphere around him, his attention gets diverted towards the pious elements and automatically receives the positive thoughts for the acquirement of *Samadhi-Maran*. Dharmasuri Maharaj knew that if his fatality possesses the end of his life span, he would have to abdicate this world, no matter, however the doctors sweat to save him at such times his *Samadhi-Maran* might remain ensured. It is between the disciples on providing the desired environment in the *upaashray*. His repetition of words, "*Abij... Abij... Abij...*" were trying to exhibit, "Here... here... here itself. If I require to take my last breath tonight; it might happen here itself!"

His disciples and even the doctors hearing these words bent down in front of his speechless determination. They decided not to hurt his feelings. and let him perform his last

Aaradhna (devotion) with uttermost peace and satiety all the treatments carried over him were completely stopped and the *Shravak* of Mazgaon were all summoned to generate the best religious environment, they could do with the continuous chants of *Navkar Mahamantra*.

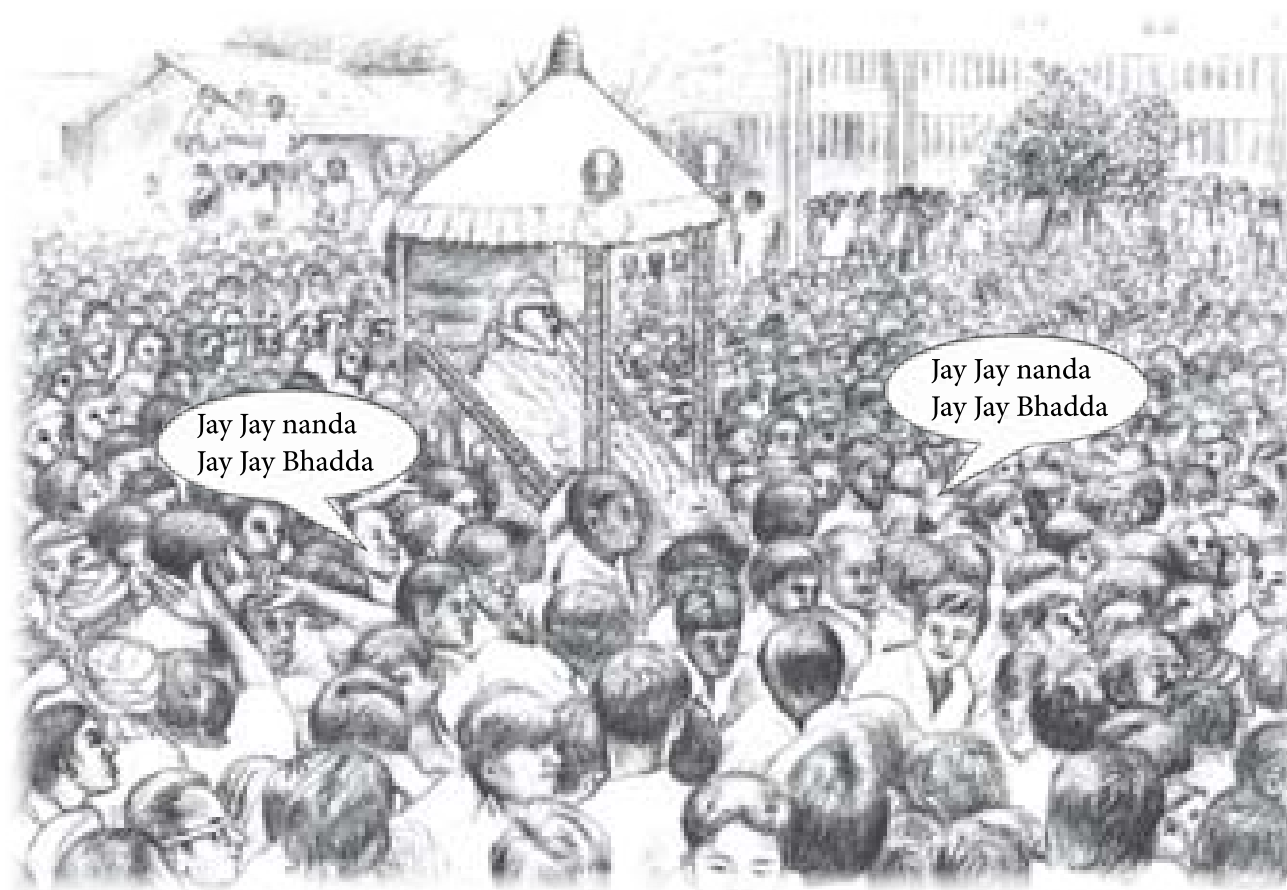
Perfectly in the early morning time of 5.56 am he started moving his vision towards all of his disciples standing around him. The last one on the right side beside him was his forever accompanying disciple Panyas Suryodayvijayji Maharaj (My great grand gurudev). The eyes which were moving gradually from left to right paused on Suryodayvijayji Maharaj and at that very moment when the clock indicated the time of 5.58 am, he closed his eyes forever and left this world. His soul departed for the heaven and with that, it was the end of the physical existence of *YUGDIVAKAR*- the Sun of the Era.

I'm much thankful to my destiny that it didn't keep me present at that time, because, it would have become impossible for a weak-hearted person to have even being present during the *Kaaldharma* of my great grand *GURUDEV*. Anyways, in true sense it wasn't an occasion to weep or regret for his departure instead, it was the occasion to salute the honourable life he had lived and the philanthropic activities he had done in his entire birth. Generally, when some of the greatest world personalities succumb to death, people relate the final journeys with the non-periodic rains of some miraculous incidents, as the emblems of nature grief. But here, there was nothing like such as there was no reason nature had to woe for! It knew that there was never an end of Dharmasuri Maharaj. His

name and fame had already done a permanent reservation in this world at the time when he was engaged in the summit measures related to the betterment of public.

His final rituals were decided to be held on the 2nd Day of *Kaaldharma* so that it becomes comfortable for the devotees arriving from various places. It was decided to bring his corpse to the Godiji *Upaashray* for the Final *darshan* but before he arrives, there was a long-long queue of devotees waiting outside at the all-time busy streets of Pydhunie. The news of his *Kaaldharma* had already reached everywhere by the means of Social Media and hence every hour a host of *Shravak* / *Shravika* joined in and were making the queue unending. The organizers had to create a lot of preparations for the next day, but they were undergoing a serious shortage of place as the temple premises were already choked up by the devotees. Finally, the preparations were made elsewhere and wonderful palanquin was created for the final journey of DHARMASURI Maharaj.

Next day at 8 in the morning, the last journey of Dharmasuri Maharaj was commenced from Godiji temple. As Dharmasuri Maharaj had the highest affection with the *Aadinath Bhagwaan* of Chembur, the funeral was held at Chembur, which means they had to travel 21 Kms., bare feet from Godiji with the Palanquin. History claims that, such a long ending journey of a Jain Saint was organized for the very first time. Passing from various regions of Western and Central Mumbai, they reached Chembur at 2 pm in the burning afternoon. One strange point to know after this is



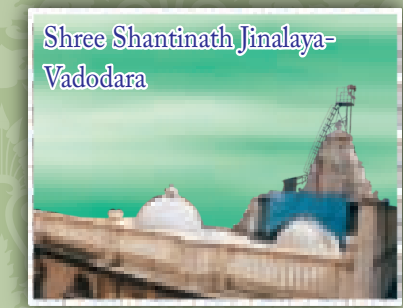
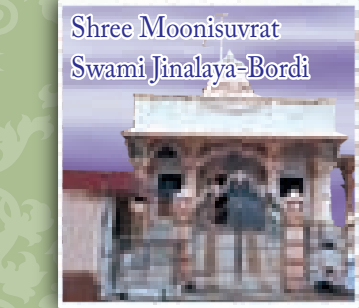
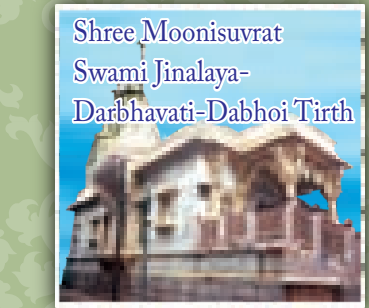
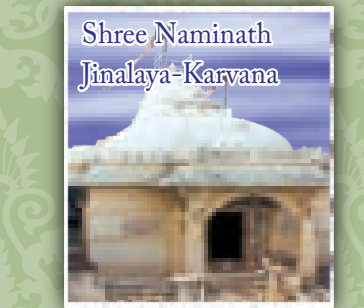
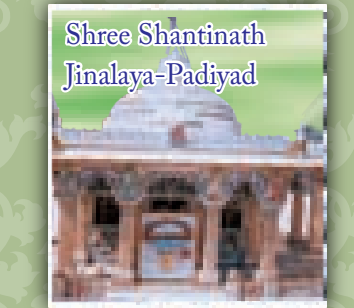
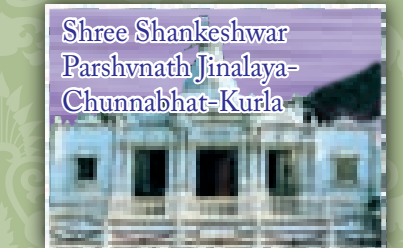
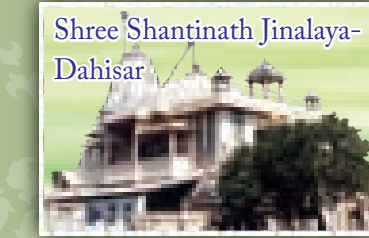
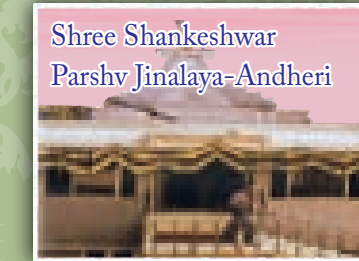
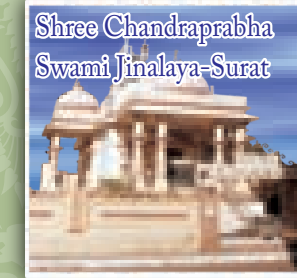
that, they required 6 hours to travel 21 Kms. And it took 45 mins, just to reach the position of *Antimsanskar* from the Main Gate! The devotees gathered in Chembur never let the palanquin go inside the premises of temple. The auction for the *Antimsanskar* was started and a Palanpuri-Zaveri family grabbed the opportunity of kindling the funeral pyre of Dharmasuri Maharaj's corpse. The flames converted the transitory body into ashes.

With this, I don't say that it brought the end to the golden era of *Jinshaashan*, because no matter in whichever age it is, there's always a golden era of *Jinshaashan*. What we lost by the *Kaaldharma* of this saint, is expounded in the Gujarati lines ahead that, "*Ghanaa evu jeevan jeevi jaay ke loko eni 'fariyaad' kare, ane Ghana evu jeevan jeevi jaane, ke loko emne 'fari' yaad kare!*" – Some people live their life in such a horrible way, that people always complain about their way of survival, whereas some manage it in such an awesome manner, that they are reminded once more by the people of this world...

And especially, for Dharmasuri Maharaj, people don't wish to make him arrive just once instead, he would be desired to take birth ever and anon, so that the increasing negativities of proceeding years, don't become harmful to the innocent creatures. Salute to his resplendent personality and a tribute in the feet of the saint, who was the '**Treasure of Qualities**'!



The divine temples constructed by the inspiration of Shataadhik Jinalaypraneta Pujyapad Yugdivakar Aa. Bh. Shri Vijay Dharmasurishwarji Maharaj



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