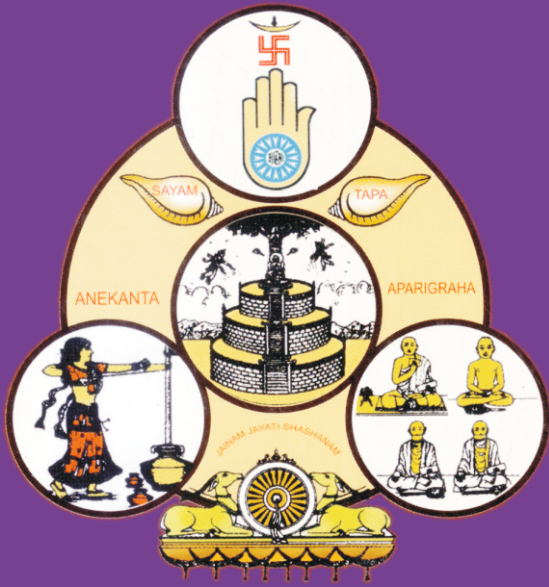
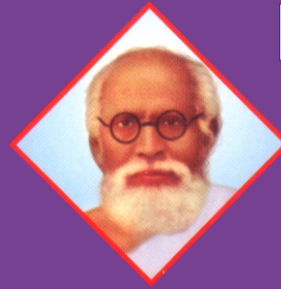


# AHIMSA

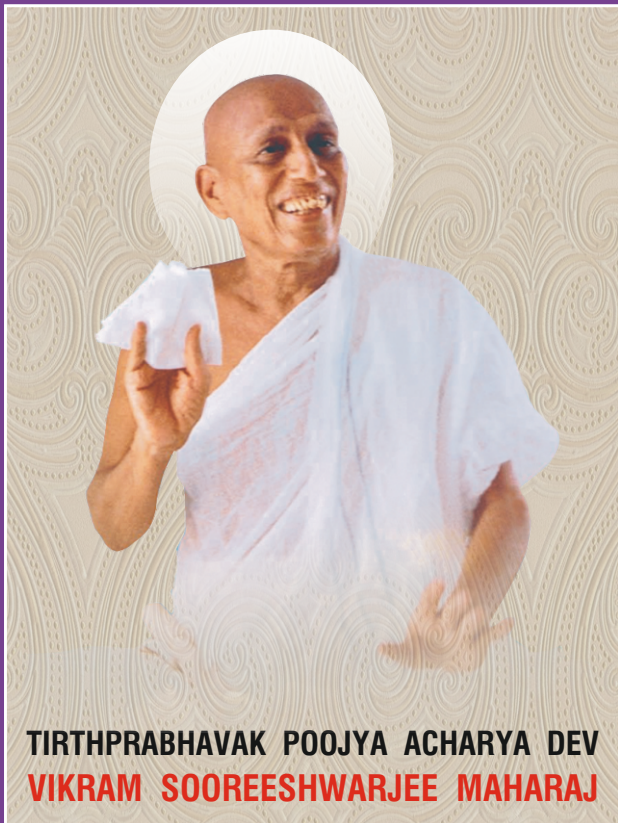


By Acharya Shri Rajyash Sooreeshwarjee Maharaj

# LABDHI BAAL VAARTA



By Acharya Shri Rajyash Sooreeshwarjee Maharaj



**TIRTHPRABHAVAK POOJYA ACHARYA DEV  
VIKRAM SOOREESHWARJEE MAHARAJ**



**HIS HOLINESS POOJYA ACHARYA DEV  
RAJYASH SOOREESHWARJEE MAHARAJ**

P  
A  
R  
T  
3

JAINAM JAYATI SHASANAM

LABDHI BAAL VAARTA Series

Part - III

# BORN TO BLOSSOM

Mobile App : LABDHIVIKRAMRAJ (LVR)

COMPILED BY

**Bharuch Teerthoddhara Marg Darshak**  
Banaras, Kulpakji, Uvasaggaharam,  
Godi Parshwa Teerthoddharak

ACHARYA

RAJYASH SOOREESHWARJEE M.S.

NOT  
FOR  
SALE

- 1 Shantilal Manilal Vohera- Nadiyad
- 2 Late Bhailalbhai Somchand Parivar - Hanshaben - Halol
- 3 Indiraben - Ratilal Shah - Shantinagar (Idarwala)
- 4 Heet Jignesh Narechania - Ahmedabad
- 5 Bhavya-Vipra-Vishal, Arya, Krupali, Jaya, Bhavna, Nitin, Satyavadi - Ahmedabad
- 6 Ranulaljee Rajeshkumar, Kotadia (Varsha, Vineet, Saumya-Rajnandgaon)
- 7 Hiya Kunal Shah, Reedita Saunak Verdia
- 8 Subhadraben Jyantilal Nagardas Shah - Khimmat - Palanpur - Bangalore
- 9 Pushti, Devarsh, Dhruvi, Yashasvi, Samarth, Vinod K. Shah, Mumbai - Palanpur
- 10 Susheela Shantilal Sethia - Bikaner, Vinita Jain - Ahmedabad
- 11 Chetna-Umesh-Manilal-Lodaya-Solapur
- 12 Prithvi Jain - Pernambut T.N.
- 13 Dilipbhai Vadilal Vasa - Jamnagar
- 14 Khyati Chirag Varan - Ahmedabad
- 15 Vruti Atul Shah (Krishil) - Ahmedabad
- 16 Jas, Mohit, Seema, Piyush, Prerna, Tirth - Ahmedabad
- 17 Ramandevi Gyanchand Gandhi - Ahmedabad - Sirohi
- 18 Hitesh Mohanlal Sanghavi (Sushilaben, Paresh, Priti, Kinnari, Mansi - Chennai)
- 19 Disha Bhavin Shah - Ahmedabad
- 20 Shrimati Sukhidevi Sumermalji Vanigotha, Bhinmal-Delhi - Heydrabad
- 21 Dr. Kalpanaben Shah - Seva Rural - Jagadiyaji Dr. Dhara
- 22 Dr. Nirav Dr. Nidhi - Bharuch
- 23 Dr. Samir Shah - Pune
- 24 C.A. Sumit Nirmalbhai Shah - Nagpur
- 25 Dr. Priyank, Dr. Riya Vyara

ॐ साङ्ग ॐ ::

सूज्य पिताश्री आईदानजी लोढा  
के आत्मश्रेयार्थे  
सूज्य मातुश्री आशीबाई लोढा के  
जीवराशि क्षमापना निमित्ते  
ओढा परिवार, धमतरी



स्त्रिचक्षण जैन विद्यापीठ  
सुर्गा-रायपुर रोड,  
कैवल्यधाम तीर्थ के पास,  
कुम्हारी, (छ.ग.) - ४९००९२



Supported by

ON OCCASION OF 100TH  
AAYAMBIL OLI OF VARDHMAN  
TAP BY P.P. TARAKYASHA  
Shreejee M. S - Palitana

1. Shreemati Vimlaben  
Natvarlal Shah Parivar  
Khambhat - Mumbai
2. Shreemati Meenaben Anilbhai Jain  
Nagpur - Bangalore  
Ketan - Vinay - Raakhi - Aarti
3. Parulben Bhadresh Ajitbhai  
Aashvi - Ronish  
(Preksha - Motikkumar)  
(Yashvi - Krishna)
4. Sangita Nilesh Kothari  
Hemangi - Prushti, Sneha - Nagpur

## PUBLISHERS NOTE

"LABDHI BAAL VAARTA" are wonderful short stories collected from various sources which were in different languages. We are grateful to all those authors. Our appreciation to Poojya **Acharya Sri Raj-Yash Sooreeshwarjee M.S.** and his disciples Upadhyaya Vishrutyash Vijayaji Gani, (Hema, Charvi of Walkeshwar, Satish Mardia from Chennai & Ahd, Deshna Shah, Anjali Mehta and Akshi C.A. of Ahd.) for compiling and editing, and all the donors and printers for their monetary & physical support.

1. labdhivikram@gmail.com  
2. profmaharaj@yahoo.co.in  
Visit us at www.labdhivikramraj.com

### Publishers :

**Setu.S.Shah**

C/o L.V.A.Humanitarian  
Charitable Trust,  
Tel-9727764111

Mehul  
9426324200  
Chintan  
9375787857

### **Rajendra A. Dalal**

(Secunderabad) Mo: 9573082751

Shree Labdhi Vikram  
Soreeshwarjee  
Sanskriti Kendra  
T/7/A, Shantinagar, Vikram  
Soreeshwarjee Marg,  
Ashram Road,  
Ahmedabad-380013

Copies : 3500

Not For Sale

...E...

the desert and a heater in the cold. Sometimes in the world, what is not even possible to be done by great Aacharyas, religious preachers & philosophers, could easily be done by a book. They are the best guides and nearest and dearest to the readers. Books have no limitations regarding country, cast & creed. Books can save the culture and help in the upliftment of mankind, remove his cruelty and make him merciful.

The reader must apply some discretion regarding the choice of books to read. How many books have you read is not important but how you have read it and that also repeatedly, how much you have imbibed from it, mingled with it & absorbed it, is more important and in turn it should create one's character. One must understand that rather than for money-making books are for but man-making and character-making. After all one who can read it and live it is a real reader. This short story book '**Labdhi Baal Varta**' will surely be a turning point towards success for its readers.

**Dr. M. M. Begani**, Bombay Hospital, Mumbai  
11th Aug. 2017

...G...

## PREFACE

Man is a social animal. Not only his physical but his mental needs should also be satisfied. He needs contact of other people by man-to-man relations or by books as a media to create social relationship. The topics of reading are changing according to age and interest of individuals. In childhood we like fairy tales; in youth, we like real stories and in old age, we like stories of the Lords. Books give us real eyes and ears to enjoy the divine bliss along with practical knowledge which bring us on the epitome of knowledge. Books are the safe deposit vaults for the learned. It is told by one of the great philosopher that 'Books are like universities'. Some philosophers have related books to a museum or nectar of the words of great men. According to Ruskin, good books are like the king's treasure in which collection of good thoughts of great men are stored. Books show the magnificent past and teaches us or empowers us how to live in present by the ideals put before us which happened in the past. So books are like a light in the night, island in the ocean, vegetation in

...F...

## FOREWORD

His Holiness Acharya Raj Yash Sooreeshwarjee Maharaj has gone into the very depth of building Life with utmost care and concern. Here in this small book '**Labdhi Baal Vaarta**' one will find stories that are an eye opener.....

My humble pranam to H.H. Acharyaji, Prof. M.S. and all the sadhus who are constantly spreading the message of Peace & Non-violence to one and all, by means of short stories.

I hope that I will be given many chances to serve the religion, Society and the World at large by Gurujee

Raju M. Thakkar

Vimal Teerth, Halol-389350 M: 9426514146

send your feed back / response to.

1. labdhivikram@gmail.com

2. profmaharaj@yahoo.co.in

3. profmaharaj01@gmail.com

Visit us at www.labdhivikramraj.com

Books available from:-

**Dr.M.M.Begani Mumbai - 9820038850**

**Adv. Sangeetaben Kamrej - 9374665523**

...H...

## INDEX

Sr.	Particulars	Page No.
1.	BAHUBALI	02
2.	KING SHRENIK	05
3.	VAJRASWAMI	07
4.	ARYARAKSHIT	10
5.	ARDRAKUMAR	13
6.	SANATKUMAR	16
7.	KSHULLAKKUMAR	18
8.	PRESANNACHANDRA	22
9.	ATIMUKTA	26
10.	VALKALCHIRI	29
11.	VANKACHULA	31
12.	KAPIL	36
13.	THAVACCHAPUTRA	39
14.	MEGHAKUMAR	41
15.	VASURAJA	45
16.	SHETHSUDRASHAN	48
17.	NAMIRAJARSHI	52
18.	ROHINIYA-THE THIEF	57
19.	QUICKWITTED ROHAK	62

...01...

## 1. BAHUBALI

Lord Rishabhdeo had a son named Bharat. He wanted to establish his sovereignty over all kings. He returned home after conquering all the kings of India. He soon realized that his younger brother Bahubali was not under his suzerainty. Hence, he sent a messenger to Bahubali, the king of Takshashila, to surrender to him. But Bahubali was not prepared to surrender to his brother. Bharat, therefore, ordered his army to march and invade Takshashila.

A long battle followed. Many people were killed but there was no decisive outcome. Then Bharat suggested to Bahubali to stop the war and proposed a duel between the two. Bahubali agreed to this. They decided to wage five kinds of duels. In four of the duels, Bharat was defeated. There remained only one duel to be fought by fists. Bahubali asked his brother to attack him first for he feared that his brother would not be able to bear the blow of

...02...

his fist. Realizing his weakness, Bharat struck the first blow. This blow made Bahubali falter on the ground. Then he soon got up and regained his poise.

Now it was Bahubali's turn. Bharat became fearful when he saw his brother aiming a blow. So ignoring the canons of war, he threw his lightning disc (also known as chakra). But the disc returned to Bharat, for it would not kill a relative. Seeing this unfair play, Bahubali got very angry. So, he again aimed a blow at Bharat. But lo! A miracle happened. He stopped mid-way. He thought, "Why should I kill my brother?" He began to shed tears. He told Bharat, "Take my kingdom of Takshashila. I am not going to gain anything by this kingdom as the kingdom will only give external happiness."

Then Bahubali became a monk and began to practice hard penance. Creepers grew round him and entwined his body. Birds built their nests in his matted hair and beard.

...03...

Lord Rishabhdeo had two daughters named Brahmi and Sundari. They had become nuns. Shallow pride worked as an obstacle in Bahubali's case for the attainment of highest knowledge- i.e. Kevalgyan. His younger brothers who had embraced monkhood prior to him were senior to him in position. He was required to offer his salutations and obeisance to monks senior to him. But he did not want to do this. Both the nuns went to the place where their brother Bahubali was meditating. They began to recite hymns before him. They asked their brother to get down from the elephant he was mounted upon. They sang this throughout the day and even in the night.

Bahubali at last happened to hear them. His consciousness was slowly returning to him. He began to think, 'Am I riding an elephant? Where is that elephant? The nuns can't be wrong.' He then looked within. **He rooted out his pride.** He now had self realization. He regretted the pride that had blurred his vision. Then giving up his pride, he stepped out to see

...04...

Lord Rishabhdeo. All the obstacles blocking the eternal light vanished and he attained Kevalgyan.

Moral - Pride never lets one rise above oneself.

## 2. KING SHRENİK

King Shrenik of Magadh, a very powerful king, became a good devotee of Lord Mahaveer. One day, upon his inquiry, the Lord forecast that he would go to hell in his next birth on account of his violent deeds and this shocked him. He asked the Lord the way out of his evil future. So Lord Mahaveer told him to do the following:-

- (1) Ask your maid servant Kapila to willingly give alms to Jain monks.
- (2) Convince Kalsaukrīc, the butcher, to observe non-violence mentally, physically and in speech for one day.
- (3) Let Puniya, the holy Bania give his merit of one samayik to you.

The above three things would stop him from going to hell.

...05...

The next day he asked his maid servant to give alms to the monks. So she began to give alms to the Sadhu but all the while uttered that the alms were being given not by her but the ladle of the King. The King heard her words and felt that it was an exercise in vain. Then the King dropped the butcher into an old waterless well so that the latter would refrain from slaughtering animals. But the butcher drew pictures of buffaloes and slaughtered them with the tip of his fingers. Hearing this account, the King was disappointed.

In order to fulfill the third condition, the King went to Puniya and demanded from him the merit of one samayik. The King was prepared to offer half of his kingdom to the Bania. But then, how can one's merit be transferred to others? One must earn one's own merit. Hence, this attempt also resulted in failure. However, all the three failures opened the King's eyes to the fact that one must account for one's deeds whether good or bad.

**Moral** - As you sow, so you reap.

...06...

## 3. VAJRASWAMI

Dhanagiri was a Brahmin who lived in Tumbivan. He had a beautiful wife named Sunanda. Once her husband saw a Jain monk called Sinhgiri. He was so impressed by the monk's words that Dhanagiri left his pregnant wife and became a Sadhu.

In course of time, Sunanda gave birth to a lovely boy. On seeing the boy, a woman of Sunanda's neighbourhood remarked, "Had Dhanagiri not been a monk, he would have celebrated the birth of this child with great enthusiasm." The child heard these remarks. Specially the word monkhood which he recited in his last birth for crores of times. and was so agitated that he began to cry. Thereafter, he used to cry very often and this troubled his mother.

After some time passed, Arya Sinhgiri visited the town with his disciples including Dhanagiri. Dhanagiri went to Sunanda's house (to beg) for food. The child was crying then. Sunanda said to her former husband, "Look at

...07...

this child, I am so much troubled by this child. Why don't you relieve me by taking him with you?" The Sadhu said, "I am prepared to take him away, but you will not ask for him again." Thus, the monk duly accepted the child and took him away with him. His Guru found the child rather heavy and hence, he was named Vajrakumar.

Ashravika (female devotee) agreed to bring up this child. She was a religious minded woman and would recite religious hymns and songs as lullabies to the child. He used to listen to these words and grasp them very quickly. He was now three years old and spoke words full of wisdom.

Sunanda came to know of the progress of her child and yearned for him. She then decided to take him back from his foster mother. She demanded him from Arya Sinhgiri but he refused to do so. Having failed, she went to the king to get the custody of her child.

The king was a little puzzled at her claim. So, he ordered the child to be placed in a

...08...

corner and his father Dhangiri and his mother Sunanda to be seated in front of the child. The child was then asked to select one of them. Vajrakumar approached his father, though Sunanda had placed toys and sweets near her to attract the child. The child at once picked up the Rajoharan the monk's broom. Hence, the king duly handed over the boy to Dhangiri.

One day when all the monks had gone out, Vajramuni was practicing giving sermons from a raised seat. His Guru returned and was wonder-struck to hear the excellent speech. So at a very young age, he was made Acharya. Vajraswami breathed his last on Rathavart mountain by resorting to fasting.

**Moral** - Always speak good words before the children.

Recitation for 100 times is upto mouth.

Recitation for 1000 times is upto mind.

Recitation for Lakhs of times is upto heart.

Recitation for Crores of times goes to memory in next birth so varjraswamijii got Diksha in very childhood.

...09...

#### 4. ARYA RAKSHIT

A rich Brahmin named Somadeo lived in Dashapur. He married Rudrasoma. They had two children. The elder was called Aryarakshit, while the younger was Aryafalgun. The elder son was very clever. He was sent to Patliputra (Patna) at the age of eight years in order to study in a Gurukul. Aryarakshit learnt all the four Vedas and the six Angas, and became highly expert in the fourteen vidhyas in just twelve years.

The king welcomed the learned boy and led him to the town on an elephant. On reaching home, Aryarakshit asked his younger brother, Falgun, where their mother was. He asked his mother why she was not glad at his home-coming. His mother replied. "Well, you have learnt things that help in earning bread. This helps one only in increasing the bonds of this world." Then Aryarakshit asked his mother, "What do you want me to learn?" Immediately came her response, "Drashtivada" and the boy

...10...

agreed to learn Drashtivada.

Aryarakshit, went to Tosaliputra, a great Jain Acharya living in a nearby town. On the way, he was given some sugarcane by a friend's father. This friend then delivered the sugarcane to Aryarakshit's mother. On counting the number of canes, she found they were 9½ in all. This meant that he was sure to learn the 9½ Purvas (scriptures).

When Aryarakshit met Acharya Tosaliputra, the former was introduced, as the boy Aryarakshit, who had recently been honoured by the king. The Acharya said that the boy would have to become a monk before he could be taught Drashtivada. The boy agreed and was duly initiated as a Jain monk. In a few years this young Sadhu learnt all that his Guru knew. Then, Acharya Tosaliputra sent him to Vajraswami, residing in Ujjain, for further study of the scriptures.

While learning the tenth Purva, Aryarakshit asked his Guru how much was left to be studied by him. There upon, he was told that he

...11...

had learnt only a drop in the ocean. Mean while, Aryarakshit's parents sent their son Falgun to tell Aryarakshit to visit their home at Dashapur. After initiating his brother Falgun as a monk, Aryarakshit left for Dashapur. The party was warmly received. After a few days, Aryarakshit's parents and others embraced monkhood.

Once, Saudharmendra went to Mahavideh to salute Simandharswami and heard the description of Nigod. Indra came to know that Aryarakshit was a very learned monk. Indra assumed (took) the form of an old Brahmin to test him. He approached the Acharya and was pleased by the description of Nigod given by him. Then Indra went away after sprinkling scented powder (Vasakshep). The visit of Indra to Aryarakshit impressed the Sadhus very much. They soon realized that the Guru was indeed a great personality.

Then Aryarakshit left Mathura with the band of his disciples and Durbalikapuspamitra was made his chief successor.

...12...

One should salute this great Acharya.

**Moral** - Everyday one should bow down to his parents and follow their advices.

## 5. ARDRAKUMAR

Once upon a time, nearly 2550 years before, Abhaykumar, the Minister of King Shrenik sent one present to Prince Ardrakumar (prince of present day Eden). He examined the present. He could not understand what to do with it. He wondered whether it was a kind of ornament to be worn on his body... and, if so, what part of the body could be adorned by it? While thinking thus, he stared at the image and a sudden thought flashed in his mind. He realized that his inner being was in unison with the image, and he felt very happy.

This experience left him agitated, and therefore he decided to visit India, the land of the Aryans, and to embrace monkhood. But his visit required permission from his father, the

...13...

king.

One day, he stealthily set out on his sojourn to India, and succeeded in reaching Vasantpur. Here, he found the daughter of the Nagarsheth playing with her friends in the garden. She and her companions began to play a game of choosing things. Some of them chose a creeper, others chose green vegetation, while the daughter of the Nagarsheth chose Ardrakumar, whereupon Ardrakumar was freed from his dreamworld. Ardrakumar took the Monastic order.

When the girl grew up, her family approached her with a proposal for marriage. She warned her father not to betroth her to anyone as she was already married for all intents and purposes. But her father only laughed at her assertions. She averred that Aryan girls did not remarry.

Seeing her father deeply anxious, she advised him not to worry, but to open an inn (Serai). She said, "I marked lotus signs on his soles while choosing him. I shall, therefore, be

...14...

able to recognize him when he comes here." Her father then opened an inn. After a few days, Ardrakumar put up at that inn. She saw the signs and cried out, "Well! I have found him!" Ardrakumar had forgotten the girl. But, soon, the garden-incident flashed in his mind. All his dreams about monkhood evaporated and he yearned for her, and took her as his wife.

After a few years, he found that his world was meaningless for him and yet he could not give up his wife. When she came to know that her husband was desirous of leaving her, she took to spinning yarn on a spinning wheel. Seeing his mother spinning, her little son asked her, "Why do you spin, mother?" " Since your father is leaving us, this is the only means of our support." she said. Hearing this, the little boy said, "Mother, don't worry. I shall keep him with this yarn, however weak it may be." And indeed that is what happened. Ardrakumar could not loosen himself from the filial bond.

...15...

Hence, he decided to be with his family for 12 years more.

After this period he left home to walk on the path of renunciation, just as a serpent sheds his skin.

**Moral** - One should leave the worldly affairs immediately when one gets the chance.

## 6. SANATKUMAR

Sanatkumar was a very strict ruler. He made many kings his vassals and they had to obey and serve him. His beauty was matchless. People were wonder-struck by the beauty of his form. Once, Lord Indra began to praise his handsomeness. Two angels heard this and were curious to see him. Hence, they descended to the earth.

There they found Sanatkumar bathing. They stared at the King's naked body and cried out, "What a beautiful body!" They found it like the golden rays of the Sun at dawn.

...16...

King Sanatkumar realized that the visitors were highly impressed by his beautiful form. So out of vanity, he said to them, "You have seen only my naked body. See me sitting on my throne." Sanatkumar found that the angels were somewhat agitated to hear him boast in this manner. Then, the king was surprised to hear the angels talk of the bad smell emitted from the body. He said, "Well, I don't experience any smell coming out of it."

Now, the king felt uneasy. His pride had been dashed to the ground. He took Monkhood. He began to practice severe austerities and penance. Then those two angels turned up again to see King Sanatkumar. They were sorry to see his body reduced to a mere skeleton.

The ascetic laughed at this. Then he pushed his right thumb into his mouth and when he pulled it out, it shone with red lustre. From his thumb, emanated light, never seen before. The physical beauty that had struck them with wonder had now assumed another beautiful

...17...

form. A smile flickered on his lips. He said gently, "Beauty! Yes, I had that beautiful form. But now I want formlessness.

**Moral** - One should not boast of either his beauty or other virtues and power.

## 7. KSHULLAK KUMAR

King Pundarik, who ruled over the city of Saket, was fond of luxuries. He was love-blind and began to eye Yashodhara, the wife of his own brother. In order to get her, he got his brother murdered. Yashodhara was shocked at his sinful conduct and left the city stealthily at night.

She was a pregnant widow and it was difficult for her to get nourishment for herself and her child. So, she embraced nunhood. In course of time, she gave birth to a child who was named Kshullak kumar.

When the child was eight years old, he was initiated as a monk. He began to learn at the

...18...

feet of his preceptors but, in course of time, his detachment and indifference to the world became weak. He became a victim of carnal desires. Yashodhara advised him to continue the discipline for a further period of 12 years. He told his Guru of his mental uneasiness and the Guru also advised him to continue in monkhood for a period of 12 years more. In this way, he lived the life of a monk for 48 years in great uneasiness. Being agitated sexually, he gave up monkhood in the end. His mother presented him with a gem-studded shawl and a royal coin, and also narrated to him the story of his past life.

Kshullak then went to the royal court of Saket. Here, he saw the royal courtesan dancing and was very much charmed by the graceful movements of the dancer. Having danced for long, the courtesan began to feel weary. So, her mother quoted a verse and warned her not to be slack. It meant, "You have danced well, sung well and, thus, a fairly long night is drawing to an end. Then why not

...19...

continue a little longer! Avoid being lazy for just a little longer." On hearing this piece of advice, she determinedly overcame her drowsiness and became agile and active again. She began to sing and dance better and was livelier.

Kshullak heard the verse and was pleased by the last part of the rhyme. He mused over the words, "Avoid being lazy for just a little longer!" He presented his gem studded shawl to the dancer's mother and a pair of diamond earrings to the dancer. A diamond ring was gifted by the minister to the dancer. In this way, many gifts were showered on her. Seeing this, the king asked why all of them were so eager to felicitate the dancer before the king could give anything. So Kshullak said, "O King, I am the son of your younger brother. I observed monkhood for sixty years. But feeling agitated sexually, I gave it up. I had come to you to ask for your kingdom in order to live luxuriously and to satisfy my carnal instincts. But when I heard the verse uttered by the mother of the

...20...



courtesan, I became disillusioned by worldly pleasures. I don't want to be back in luxuries. I consider the courtesan's mother my new teacher. Hence, I have presented the gem-studded shawl. I also present you with this diamond ring."

Hearing this wonderful story, King Pundrik said, "O Kshullak, please forgive me. I was also overpowered by sexual instinct in the past, and killed your father. You have opened my eyes. I entrust this kingdom to you. May you be happy. Then Kshullak said to the king, "Uncle, I don't want the kingdom. I want the real kingdom that I had earlier. Our soul's kingdom is better than any other earthly kingdom. **I shall rule over the kingdom of the self.**"

Then the king's son also confessed, "Father, I was trying to murder you out of my lust for the kingdom. This verse has opened my eyes also. You are not going to live long. Why should I then kill you?"

The minister then said, "I had gone over to

...21...

your enemies. This verse has also warned me against betrayal. Why should I betray you now, after I have served you long so faithfully?"

The woman from the audience said, "My husband is abroad and I have been waiting for him for the last 12 years. I was tired of this long separation from him and wanted to seek another man. The verse has warned me. Since I have waited for 12 years, why then not wait for a few years more? Why should I be unchaste?"

The elephant driver confessed, "Sir, I resolved today to get rid of you by throwing you from the elephant's back, having been enticed to do so by your enemies. But this verse saved me from sin. Hence, I gave a gift to the courtesan before you could."

All were surprised to hear the different confessions. Kshullak had really opened their eyes. Thereafter, all of them embraced monkhood together.

**Moral** - Haste make waste. Wait, Watch and Proceed.

## 8. PRASANNACHANDRA

...22...

Once when Lord Mahaveer was put up in the Gunashil temple, King Shrenik went with a royal retinue to offer his salutations.

On the way, King Shrenik saw King Prasannachandra of Potanpur, meditating under a tree outside the town. King Shrenik was filled with devotion when he saw Prasannachandra's benign countenance full of bliss and beatitude and wondered at his deep penance and meditation.

King Shrenik said, "Lord, I saw Prasannachandra in deep meditation on the way, I have hardly seen such deep meditation. Hence, I would like to know something about him." The king then asked, "Where would have he been reincarnated, if he had died at that time?"

The Lord said, "To the seventh hell." All the people there were aghast at this reply. Then King Shrenik asked, "Suppose he dies at this moment?"

...23...

"Well, he will go to the sixth hell," replied the Lord. Then the king asked where he would go if he were to die that very moment.

"To the fifth hell," answered Lord Mahaveer. Then the king went on asking "This time?" And each time Mahaveer replied, The fourth, the third, the second and finally the first hell. Then he again asked, "If he were to die now?" The reply was "The first heaven." Then as the same question was asked repeatedly, the Lord went on saying, "The second, the third, the fifth and finally the highest paradise." At that very moment there wafted in a fragrant breeze. Drums were heard beating in the sky. The Lord said, "Prasannachandra has cut down all the bonds of Karma. He is emancipated."

The king thought, "How wonderful! The fate of Seventh hell has been replaced by eternal bliss!" "King Prasannachandra was in an agitated state when you saw him for the first time. He was thinking of the trouble that would befall his son as he had heard that the king of Magadh had besieged his Kingdom of

...24...

Potanpur and it was difficult to save the kingdom from falling into the enemy's hands. So Prasannachandra mentally took up arms on behalf of his son when he was in meditation under that tree." Lord Mahaveer said, "We cannot concentrate if our problems remain unsolved. Prasannachandra momentarily thought that he ought to have embraced monkhood after getting rid of the troubles facing the prince. He was indifferent to the world when he renounced it. But he had created another for himself while in meditation. This disturbed his balance of mind, and he could not concentrate in his meditation."

"What happened next?" asked King Shrenik.

"Well, his sword broke down while fighting and he could not find another weapon. So, he tried to touch his crown to throw it at the enemy. But, as soon as he touched his head, he found that there was no crown. He then realized that there was no enemy before him. He was in meditation and everything else was an illusion. He soon realized that outward abandonment is

...25...

meaningless, if one has not controlled one's self. After all, this world is also our own creation. This realization helped him to go to the highest heaven in the end as he succeeded in cutting off all the bonds that had obstructed eternal light.

**Moral** - One should try to make the mind pure. Mind is the ultimate authority to bring you heaven or hell.

## 9. ATIMUKTA

Once, Gautam, the disciple of Lord Mahaveer, was passing by the royal palace of the city of Polaspur. Prince Atimukta was playing with his friends when suddenly, he happened to see Gautam. He forgot to play with his playmates as he was so much impressed by the gentle figure of Gautam.

Gautam introduced himself briefly by saying that he was a Shraman-Sadhu. But Atimukta was not satisfied with this information. He began to ask all kinds of questions like "Where

...26...

do you live? What do you do? How do you earn your bread? Where do you come from? And where are you going?"

Gautam said with a little smile, "We are Sadhus. Introspection is our aim. As for residence, we wander everywhere. To get bread is not a problem for us. We eat whatever pure food we get. I have come just now from the garden outside the town. Our Guru is staying there. I will go back there."

Atimukta was much pleased and followed Gautam a long way in order to see the Guruji. Here, he saw Lord Mahaveer preaching to the people gathered there. The words, as sweet as nectar, had great effect on him. He then presented himself to Lord Mahaveer at the end of the sermon. The prince said, "O Lord! I seek your shelter. Please initiate me as your disciple. After getting the necessary permission of his parents, Atimukta approached the Guru, and was accepted. It was now the rainy season. It had rained heavily some time earlier. Water was flowing

...27...

through the channels in the corn fields. This attracted the young Sadhu and he stood there. Atimukta was, perhaps lost in his reverie. He came to the running brook very slowly and he put his wooden begging bowl into the water. His fellow disciples were wonder-struck at this. They left him there. The monks were now full of doubt. They began to wonder why the Guruji had initiated such a child into monkhood. They thought, "We have no right to ask the Lord in this respect." Yet they scolded the child monk. Lord Mahaveer denied to under count the child monk.

Atimukta started coming out of his reverie. He thought, "What have I done? I have sought the Lord's shelter to lead my life-boat to its haven. What boat am I now trying to sail in these waters? How stupid of me! I was engrossed in the play and turned a deaf ear to my fellow monks.

As a result of this repentance, Atimukta got the inner light. He was instantly liberated from this world. He became Omniscient and

...28...

Omnipotent.

**Moral** - Last birth's Aradhana helps us in the next birth. Don't abuse anybody from present situation.

## 10. VALKALCHIRI

King Somachandra lived with his wife Dharini in the city of Potanpur. One day while brushing the King's hair, she showed her husband with a grey hair and cried out, "Look here, a messenger has come!" The king could not understand and, the queen explained that his grey hair was the messenger of death. In ancient times, there was a tradition to renounce the world before one's hair starts greying.

Then the King enthroned his son Prasannachandra and became a monk. His wife was pregnant and yet she too became a nun. In course of time she gave birth to a child but died during the delivery. The child was wrapped up in the bark of trees and, therefore,

...29...

was named Valkalchiri. The child grew up and though he was sixteen years old, he was ignorant of the world and its ways. He passed his life in serving his father in the forest by gathering fruits, etc.

One day, King Prasannachandra wanted to see his brother. He asked four courtesans to bring Valkalchiri from the forest to the palace. They assumed the form of nuns and went to the hermitage of Somachandra. Here, Valkalchiri welcomed the nuns and offered them fruits. They asked him to visit their place. The charioteer left Valkalchiri in the market square. Here, a harlot carried him to her residence and he was then married to her daughter amidst songs and dances. The king found out that the boy who had married the harlot's daughter, was his own brother Valkalchiri. So, he brought his brother and his bride to the palace. Here the boy soon got familiar with the sophisticated and royal life. Nearly 12 years passed away while Valkalchiri lived and enjoyed the palace life.

...30...

One day, Valkalchiri expressed his desire to go to the forest to see his old father. King Prasannachandra also accompanied him. Somachandra was suffering from poor eyesight but on seeing the lost boy, he got back his vision. Then Valakalchiri saw his old begging bowl and other belongings in the hermitage. On seeing the begging bowl, he recollected his past life. He was sorry about marrying a courtesan's daughter. On account of his repentance, Valkalchiri realized his true self and got Kevalgnana i.e. the highest knowledge. He went to Lord Mahaveer and got the final emancipation from his worldly life.

**Moral** - Straight forward and innocent persons can get the emancipation easily.

## 11. VANKACHULA

King Vimalayash of Dhinpuri had two children. One of them was a boy called Pushpachula and the other was a girl called

...31...

Pushpachulaa. Both the brother and sister loved each other very intensely. But the boy was rather naughty. He would resort to eve-teasing. Hence, he was named Vankchula instead of Pushpachula.

Then the king got him married hoping that his son's naughtiness would thereby disappear. But to no avail. Hence, the king had to banish him from the kingdom. He left with his sister and his wife. On the way, he was besieged by a gang of robbers. Vankchula fought and resisted bravely. Therefore, the chief of the robbers was pleased and invited him to be a member of his band of the robbers. He soon became a principal member of the band. He used to get large booties for them.

Meanwhile, the chief of the robbers died and Vankchula became the Chief in his place. He continued to live in the lion's den, originally built for him. Once, a Jain Muni visited Vankchula's place. The monsoon was near and the Sadhu expressed the desire to live in his residence.

...32...

When the monsoon was over, the Sadhu prepared to leave. Vankchula with his band of robbers went to give a send off to the Sadhu. He told Vankchula to accept four vows which would help him in life, namely (i) Not to eat unknown fruits, (ii) To retrace a few steps before attacking any one. (iii) Not to have carnal relations with the Queen. (iv) Not to eat crow's flesh. Vankchula agreed to observe these vows.

One day, Vankchula was returning home with his companions after a big robbery. All of them were tired and hungry. Some of them brought some fruits from the forest. But since the fruits were unknown, Vankchula refused to eat them. And all of them except Vankchula died as the fruits were poisonous.

Once, at late night Vankchula returned home and found his wife sharing her bed with another person, Vankchula was enraged and immediately drew out his sword to kill them. Then, he remembered the vow he had undertaken. So he retraced a few steps. While

...33...

doing this, he struck himself against a wall behind him. His sword and shield fell down with a clang. The sound awoke the sleeping couple.

He saw his sister Pushpachulaa in the guise of a man. He then realized how wise it was that he had retraced his steps. This had saved his sister from being killed. Vankchula's wife and Pushpachulaa had gone to the neighbouring village to see a drama at night. His sister had dressed herself like a male, lest she should be molested. All of them went to bed expressing their gratitude to the **Acharya**.

One day Vankchula went, at night, into the palace of the King of Ujjaini, to steal. He entered the harem very stealthily but the Queen happened to see the thief. On seeing the beautiful physique of Vankchula, she at once felt attracted to him and expressed her desire to have carnal relations with him. When he came to know that the woman was the Queen, he addressed her as his mother, and remained firm in his vow not to have any sexual relations with the Queen inspite of her threats

...34...

to have him killed. She hurt herself by scratching her body with her own nails and teeth and shouted and raised an alarm. "Thief, thief." Soon the guards came in and arrested Vankchula. They tied him and carried him to the king. But Vankchula did not think it fit to narrate the true episode. The King, however, was aware of the encounter of the Queen with the thief and had heard the evil demand made by the Queen, as he had been standing behind a curtain at that time.

The King was pleased with the right conduct of the thief, and therefore, he set him free. He then made him one of his courtiers. One day an enemy attacked Ujjain. Vankchula marched with an army to defend the kingdom. He defeated the enemy but was badly wounded in the battle. The wounded Vankchula was treated by the doctor who prescribed eating of crow's flesh. But he flatly refused to eat it. So, the king sent for Jinadas, a friend of Vankchula, hoping that he would persuade

...35...

Vankchula to partake of the crow's flesh.

When Jinadas set out for Ujjaini two beautiful goddesses were seen sitting across the road, sad at heart. They hoped to marry Vankchula who would become an angel after his death, if he did not touch the flesh. "We fear losing him as our husband if he eats the flesh." Jinadas assured them that their fear was unfounded and that he would ask him to stick to his vow.

Jinadas reached the king's palace and found Vankchula in great agony. Here the king appraised Jinadas of his mission but he refused to do what he was told. He advised his friend Vankchula to be firm in his vow. Then Vankchula died with the words "**Jineshwar**" in his mouth and was born in the twelfth heaven.

**Moral** - One must stick to the vows, one has taken. even at the cost of life.

## 12. KAPIL

...36...

There lived a young boy called Kapil in the city of Koshambi. One day he saw his mother shedding tears on seeing the royal purohit (priest) riding in a palanquin on the main road. Seeing his mother crying, Kapil asked why she was unhappy. His mother then said, "My son, you would have been riding in this palanquin but you did not study and you remained an ignorant fool. Hence, this learned priest has the good luck to ride in a palanquin." Hearing his mother's words, Kapil felt ashamed.

Kapil began to make good progress in his studies in the beginning. But afterwards, his progress gradually deteriorated. Unfortunately, he fell in love with a girl. His teacher soon noticed the flagging attention of his pupil. The girl expected Kapil to present her with a golden necklace, anklets and a silken saree. Poor Kapil used to go out and work hard to earn a living, but he could not earn enough to buy the gifts she wanted.

Then Kapil came to know that there was a

...37...

king in the town, who used to give, in charity, two grams of gold to the person who went to him for alms early in the morning. He was the only traveller on the dark road. Finding Kapil alone, loitering on the road, the city guardsman arrested him and took him to the King's court.

Kapil told the King the reason for his going out at night. The king was convinced of his innocence.

He asked him what he wanted. At first Kapil wanted to ask for a necklace, anklets etc. Then he changed his mind and wished to ask for the kingdom so that he would no longer be in want. But then all of a sudden, the scales fell from his greedy eyes and he thought, "Desires are a source of all our unhappiness. Then why not give up desires? Desirelessness brings eternal bliss." Seeing him lost in thought, the king again asked him to express his desire. Kapil stared at the king blankly and said "Your Majesty, I want nothing!" Kapil did not return to his house and the girl. He took the road that led into the forest. Now he was omniscient and

...38...

omnipotent.

Oh! What a transformation!

**Moral** - While studying be engrossed in the studies whole heartedly .

### 13. THAVACCHAPUTRA

Flocks of birds were returning to their nests. And then slowly darkness covered the earth. Soon the moon peeped out from the darkness.

Then Thavacchaputra heard sweet strains of music. He heard a chorus being sung and was charmed with its sweetness. Hearing it, he ran to his mother. He asked who were singing and why.

His mother said, "You know, Sushma lives in the next street. A child is born to her and they are celebrating the event." The boy was pleased to hear this and exclaimed. "Oh, people sing when a child is born." He then asked her. "Was a song sung at the time of my birth also?" "Yes," replied his mother and

...39...

added, "Far better songs were sung. There was great merriment, too."

Then, after some time, Thavacchaputra went up to the terrace of his house and heard a song that was tragic and sad. He went down and asked his mother, who was also full of tears, "Why are you crying?" His mother tried to evade his question but in the end she had to explain, "Well, Sushma's son is dead. Death has snatched him from his mother. He won't come back." Thavacchaputra was bewildered and sad to hear this news. Then he asked with tears in his eyes. "Do all people die?" He again asked, "Am I also to die?" She was much perplexed at this query. She replied hesitatingly. "Yes, my son. All have to die. I, too, won't be here for ever."

When the boy heard of death and transitional nature of life, he began to think that the world was meaningless. He was eager to know, "Is there no means by which man may remain immortal?"

...40...

Thereafter, Thavacchaputra began to remain indifferent to the world. He happened to learn about the road to eternity from Lord Arishthanemi and he took to the forest. He left the world to become a monk to seek freedom from death.

**Moral** - Charitra (Right conduct) is the only way to immortality.

## 14. MEGHAKUMAR

In ancient times King Shrenik ruled in Rajgrihi. He had a son named Abhaykumar. The Prince was very clever and a good politician.



...41...

King Shrenik had a wife called Dharini. She was chaste and faithful to her husband. One day, the Queen was fortunate to give birth to a son. Being born during monsoon, he was named Meghakumar.

In course of time, the Prince was imparted good education and skills in arts. As he grew up he was married to eight beautiful and worthy girls.

One day, Lord Mahaveer visited Rajagrihi where King Shrenik ruled. Prince Meghakumar also went to hear the discourse of the Lord. He was impressed by the words of the Lord, and therefore, he asked his parents to allow him to become a monk. Though they were unwilling, they allowed the Prince to accept monkhood. Lord Mahaveer duly initiated him.

The Prince then began to pass his days with

...42...

other fellow-monks. At night he had to sleep on a mat spread near the door of the monastery. During the night, some monks passed by the place where Meghakumar lay asleep. Consequently, dust from their feet used to trouble the sleeping monk. Hence, he thought, "How bad! These Sadhus don't allow me to have an undisturbed sleep!" He, therefore, thought of giving up his initiated life. He went to the Lord to narrate his troubles. But the Lord had known before hand what was in Meghakumar's mind and told him that in his previous birth he had suffered for the sake of the happiness of others.

The Lord began to narrate the story Meghakumar's past birth and said, "You were an elephant in the past life. A large area was cleared of the trees. Fire broke out in the forest. So many small animals took shelter in the clearing. A frightened rabbit also arrived there

...43...

to seek protection from the fire. Meanwhile, as your skin was itching you raised your foot to scratch the itching part. And that rabbit settled itself in the vacant space under your foot. Seeing the poor animal, you did not put down your foot but kept it raised out of pity for it. The fire lasted for more than two days. Consequently, your foot got swollen and you collapsed and died on the spot. After death, you were born as the son of King Shrenik and now you are here as a monk."

The narration of the story of his past birth opened his eyes and he regretted the idea of giving up his monkhood. Now, he decided to serve his fellow-monks more devotedly. He



...44...

then began to lead the life of an ideal Sadhu. He devoted his time in securing sacred knowledge and practicing austerities.

He did very hard penances and gave up his life after observing a fast for a month. He was then born as Ahamendra Indra. He would be emancipated in course of time.

**Moral** - Compassion towards all is a great force. This is exemplified in Meghakumar's life.

## 15. VASURAJA

A learned pandit (teacher) named Kshirkadambak conducted a school. Many students came to him to learn. Among them were Parvat, the son of a pandit, Prince Vasu and Narad, the son of a Brahmin.

When these pupils were lying on the terrace of the house of their preceptor, they heard two

...45...

charan munis (monks) saying that among these pupils one would go to heaven while other two would go to hell. Pandit Kshirkadambak heard this and his curiosity was aroused. Hence, he prepared three cocks out of flour and gave each of them a cock, asking them to kill it in an unknown, deserted place.

Now those pupils went out to do as told. Vasu and Parvat killed their cocks. But Narad, the Brahmin boy did not kill it. He thought: "After all, God does see what we do." The preceptor asked the Brahmin boy why he had disobeyed him. The boy replied that "There is no place unknown to God." The teacher was pleased by the reply. He concluded that there was heaven for this Brahmin boy.

In course of time, Parvat succeeded Kshirkadambak as a teacher while Prince

...46...

Vasu inherited the throne of King Abhichandra.

Once, Narad went to the school to see his former colleague Parvat. Parvat was teaching that a goat is sacrificed in a yagna or fire sacrifice. Narad told him that the true meaning of the word "aja" was old paddy and not a goat. A thing which does not grow is 'aja'.

When Parvat felt that his prestige was being lowered in the presence of his pupils, he lay a bet that the one who was declared wrong by King Vasu would have his tongue cut. When



Meditation

...47...

Parvat's mother came to know of the bet, she was full of dismay. She approached the King to spare her son as she was sure that the meaning given by her son was wrong. The King then agreed to declare her son Parvat correct. He asserted that 'aja' means a goat.

A miracle happened. A big noise was heard before Narad could refute the King's decision. An unknown angel had caused that miracle. The crystal slab and the throne broke with a great outburst. The king, being fatally injured, died and reaped the fruits of his untruthfulness.

**Moral** – Ego of one can take away many lives, as in this case the endless goats are cruelly sacrificed.

## 16. SHETH SUDARSHAN

...48...

Here is a story that takes us back to the times of Lord Mahaveer. There lived a couple in the city of Champa. A child named Sudarshan was born to them. He was well nourished and nurtured in a religious and cultured atmosphere. He was married to a good girl named Manorama. Both of them led an ideal life of good householders.

Sudarshan had a Brahmin friend. Both these friends passed their time either in religious discussions or in good company. The Brahmin used to speak well of his friend to his own wife. Hence, she felt inclined to love Sudarshan.

One day when her husband was out, the Brahmin's wife visited Sudarshan and said to him, "Your friend is ill and he wants to see you." Hearing this Sudarshan immediately went to the place of his Brahmin friend. As soon as Sudarshan entered the house, she closed the

...49...

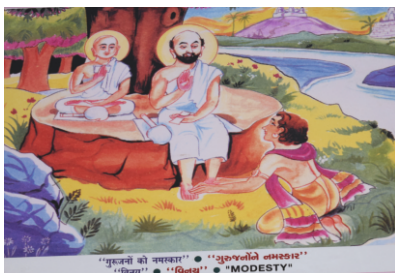
room and demanded of him that he should share the bed with her. He said to her, "Look here, I am impotent and therefore, I am not able to carry out your wish." In this way, Sudarshan cleverly extracted himself from a difficult situation.

Soon spring came. Both the friends were taking a stroll with the King in the royal garden. Meanwhile, Sudarshan's wife arrived there with her beautiful children. The Brahmin's wife wanted to know who the new comers were. The Queen, thereupon, introduced Sudarshan's wife to her. The Brahmin's wife revealed to the Queen how Sudarshan had refused her offer of sexual enjoyment with her.

Queen Abhaya decided to test Sudarshan. She vowed that she would die if she failed to pollute him. On a certain day, the King held festivities in the royal garden. Sudarshan did not attend this festivity as it was a holy day.

...50...

Queen Abhaya, too refrained from going there under the pretext of suffering from a severe headache and stayed back in the palace. Knowing that Sudarshan was at home, the Queen caused Sudarshan to be brought to her in a palanquin. Proving unsuccessful in tempting Sudarshan, she scratched her body, tore her clothes and appeared disturbed and dishevelled. Then she shouted out, "Save me, save me." The palace guards rushed into the palace and reported to the King that Sudarshan had been found in the Queen's room. Sudarshan preferred to keep silent. So,



"सुदरशी की शरणा" • "अपराधी शरणा" • "शिव" • "शिव" • "MODESTY"

...51...

the King thought that he was guilty and ordered him to be executed on the gallows.

Sudarshan's wife Manorama came to know of the order of her husband's execution. She considered that her past deeds or sins were responsible for her husband's evil fate. But then a miracle happened. The gallows turned into a throne. Angels bowed down their heads to Sudarshan. When the King came to know of this miracle, he asked for Sudarshan's forgiveness and got angry with his unfaithful Queen. Sudarshan then placated the angry King and requested him to spare the Queen's life. The King honoured Sudarshan.

**Moral** - Your action speaks louder than your words. celibacy is the great religion.

## 17. NAMIRAJARSHI

...52...



In the city of Sudarshan of Malva, there lived a king called Manirath. His brother Yugabahu was the heir-apparent. Prince Yugabahu's wife was the very beautiful Named Madanrekha. King Manirath desired his younger brother's wife. Since she did not yield to the King's desire, King Manirath decided to kill his younger brother in order to get her.

One night, both Yugabahu and his wife Madanrekha were sleeping in a garden. King Manirath went there in disguise. He killed his sleeping brother and ran away. Madanrekha noticed it. She Preached the forgiveness towards elder brother. As a result. Yugabahu was born as one of the angels in the fifth heaven after his death.

Madanrekha feared that she would be molested by King Manirath. So she left the city all alone at night and entered a forest. There

...53...

she gave birth to a child. She wrapped the baby in a shawl and put it on the bank of a lake which she entered to bathe. She was dragged into the water by an elephant, who then tossed her high up in the sky. Fortunately, a Vidyadhar (angel) passing by that place, rescued her and took her to Nandishwar Island. Here she met Manichud, a Vidyadhar monk, and embraced the life of a nun. Her dead husband, who was now an angel, also appeared there. He bowed to Madanrekha at first and then to the monk Manichud.

The child was rescued by King Padmarath of Mathura and named Namikumar. The wicked Manirath died of a snake bite and was born in hell. Manirath had died childless. Yugabahu's son Chandrayasha was made the king. One day King Namiraj's chief elephant became wild and entered the kingdom of Chandrayasha, who refused to hand over the

...54...

elephant to Namiraj. Hence, Namiraj attacked King Chandrayasha. Meanwhile a man came there in the battle field. When Nami come to know that the nun was his mother, he gave up fighting. Then he went to see his elder brother Chandrayasha and both the brothers went to bow to their mother, Madanrekha. Chandrayasha then became a monk.

Now King Nami began enjoying life with his numerous queens. One day he became ill with fever. To soothe the burning sensation, his queens applied sandal-wood paste to his body. The King's illness lasted more than six months. He was troubled by the tinkling sound of his queens' bangles. So they took off their bangles while making the paste. When the King did not hear the tinkling of their bangles, he wondered why it was so. A single bangle on each hand made no sound. The king

...55...

concluded that possessiveness creates trouble. Hence, he considered singleness more welcome. He then resolved to become a monk on recovery from his illness. After taking this decision, he fell into deep sleep and began to dream, wherein he remembered that he had been a monk in his past life.

Namiraja embraced monkhood. Lord Indra appeared before Namiraja in the form of a Brahmin to test him. He said, "O King! Why are you so weak? Don't you see your city of Mithila is on fire? You have no pity for the people. Turn back and save them." Indra had created an illusion of a burning city. The king replied, "I don't feel any uneasiness. Nothing belongs to me. The burning city does not grieve me." Indra then said, "People will die. Palaces and treasures will be reduced to ash. Why don't you go and rescue them?" King Nami replied, "No amount of worldly possessions

...56...

give happiness. Desire is immortal.” Finding him firm, Indra bowed to Namirajarshi.

**Moral :** Worldly pleasures are uncertain and transitional.

## 18. ROHINIYA - THE THIEF

Lohkhur was a very sly robber, who lived with his wife Rohini and a son, at the foothills of the Vaibhargiri situated near Rajgrihi. Lohkhur named his son Rohiniya after his wife. He wished to make Rohiniya an able robber like him. So, he was systematically trained in the art of robbery.

Once Lohkhur said to his son, “Please heard my words. A yogi (sage) named Mahaveer has come to Rajgrihi. He is a magician. People are charmed by his words. Kings and pandits have been influenced by him. Don’t ever listen to what he says.”

...57...

Lohkhur feared that his son Rohiniya would stop robbing if he heard Lord Mahaveer’s sermons. Rohiniya pledged not to listen to Lord Mahaveer’s sermons. Lohkhur died in course of time and his son moved on in life, robbing people.

Once again, Lord Mahaveer visited Rajgrihi. Many people gathered to hear his words of wisdom. Rohiniya happened to pass by the place where Lord Mahaveer was preaching. To avoid hearing Lord Mahaveer’s preaching, he put his fingers into his ears to plug them and walked on. After he had gone a little distance, a thorn pricked his foot. He removed his finger from his ear to remove the thorn and he heard few words. Lord Mahaveer say, “Angels don’t blink. Their garlands do not wither. They remain four inches above the ground and they do not prespire.” Meanwhile, he pulled out the thorn but the words began to haunt him.

...58...

One night, Rohiniya was caught stealing by the Kotwal (police officer). He was brought to the king who ordered him to be punished severely.

Abhaykumar, the king’s chief minister, intervened and gave Rohiniya a chance to prove his innocence. Rohiniya was clever. He identified himself as Durgachand, a resident of Shaligram. He said he was arrested while he was asleep in a temple.

Upon inquiry, the robber’s statement was found to be true. In order to ascertain the facts, Abhaykumar put this robber in a palace where



...59...

courtesans sang and tried to tempt him. The palace looked like the residence of angels. He was intoxicated by alcoholic drinks. He was pleased to be among the courtesans. They said that Rohiniya was born there, as an angel, and he was requested to enjoy himself with them. Meanwhile, a servant stopped them from accepting him as an angel. He told them to find out from the newcomer the story of his past life.

At this development, Rohiniya wondered if all this was not a plan to trap him as a robber. He then recollected the description of angels given by Lord Mahaveer in his sermon. He found the courtesans quite human, for their eyes were blinking and their garlands were withered.

So, Rohiniya thought it fit not to reveal his past. He professed before them to be a good citizen and said that he had indulged in no

...60...

sinful activities.

Then Rohiniya sought refuge with Lord Mahaveer, and expressed his desire to become a monk.

When Abhaykumar found it difficult to identify the real robber, he went to Lord Mahaveer and asked him about the captured man. Abhaykumar was told that Rohiniya was a thief but he had become a monk now. So, instead of being punished, Rohiniya, was set free by King Shrenik before whom Rohiniya revealed his past history and agreed to return the stolen goods. A few words heard from Lord



...61...

Mahaveer had saved the robber from being killed. Hence, Rohiniya duly embraced monkhood.

**Moral** - A little time passed with the saint is a good saviour.

## 19. QUICK WITTED ROHAK

Bharat was an acrobat who lived in a small village near the city of Avanti. His wife died after giving birth to a son named Rohak. Then he married another woman, who showed a step-motherly attitude to the little boy and did not feed him properly. The boy had a ready wit. Once he told his step mother, "You don't look after me. So I shall teach you a lesson in the future."

One night, Rohak got up from his bed and shouted. "Look there, some person is running away from our house." These words poisoned

...62...

his father's mind and he concluded that his wife was unfaithful and he ceased to love her. The woman realized that her step-son must be at the root of her husband's indifference to her. So, she begged of her son Rohak to pardon her and the boy did so as he did not wish his father to be devoid of affection for his mother.

On a moonlit night he cried out, pointing to his shadow, "Father, look here, some person is going out." Hearing these words, Bharat asked the boy, "Where?" The boy then pointed out to the shadow and said, "I have caught him here." Seeing the shadow, the acrobat got wild and concluded that there had been no real man going out of his house on the previous occasion also. He was sorry for believing that his wife was unfaithful. He began to be kind and caring towards her again.

One day, Rohak went to the city of Ujjain

...63...

with his father. After moving about in the city, Bharat went back leaving his son on the banks of the river. The boy started drawing there. He drew a picture of the city in the sands of the river bank with his fingers. The King saw the picture drawn by the boy and was highly impressed by his skill. The King wanted to test the boy as he wanted a clever minister. He, therefore, called for all the acrobats of his kingdom and said, "There is a big slab of stone outside your village. I want you to convert it into a throne for me without displacing it." All the acrobats were puzzled by this difficult task, Rohak heard of the King's order and asked the people to dig under the slab and plant pillars under the slab to support it. The king was pleased to note that Rohak had created a wonderful throne with his ingenuity.

Once the King send one goat and asked the

...64...

people to see that the goat given to them should neither gain nor lose weight after a fortnight. Rohak tied the goat to a tree near a wolf. The goat was fed daily and at the end of the fortnight, the goat was found to be exactly of the same weight as before.

Then the King asked people to conduct a fight between a cock sent by him with an imaginary cock. At Rohak's instance a mirror was placed in front of the cock and the cock began to peck at its own reflection very violently.

The King then asked the people to make ropes from the sands of the river. Rohak asked the King to send old models as specimens for making ropes. Hearing this message, the king acknowledged defeat.

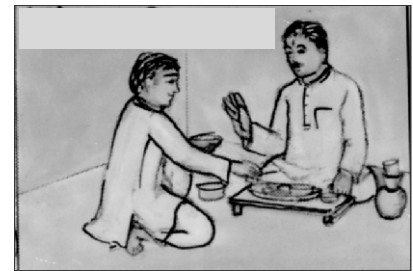
Then the King sent an old elephant on the brink of death to the people and told them to inform him of the state of the elephant without

...65...

using words such as, "The elephant is dead." When the elephant died Rohak sent a message saying "Your elephant neither sits, nor gets up, nor eats, nor moves!"

The King asked acrobats to send the well of their village to the court, as its water was very sweet and potable. Thereupon, the people asked the king to send them a well of his city so that the rural well could accompany it.

Then the King asked them to cook porridge without the aid of fire. Rohak put the rice in a pot full of water and milk and kept it in the sun. By noon the porridge was ready. Rohak told



...66...

## WHILE GOING ABROAD

-BY MAHATMA GANDHI

Mother was not ready to send me abroad as she feared that I would turn to alcohol, consume meat and seek female company. I promised to abstain from these vices. Although she believed my promise, she did not feel assured that I would be able to adhere to it due to the bad influence of western culture. She agreed to give me permission only after consulting Becharjee Swami, a Jain ascetic. I finally secured my mother's permission after taking a vow before *swamijee*. Such was my mother's care and concern about upholding my character.



...67...

## AN ODE TO PARENTS

Those who love their mother,  
Are different from others.  
Those who receive their mother's blessings  
Will find their luck favouring.  
You may worship God a lakh times  
Or go a thousand times on pilgrimage,  
If you reject your parents,  
Then all of it is just a waste....  
If you don't listen to your mother,  
Who will listen to you?  
If you push away your mother,  
Who will give shelter to you?  
A mother brings up her seven sons without any  
tension,  
But the seven sons together cannot give place  
to their  
One mother in their palatial mansion.  
A son who doesn't look after his mother well,  
Is undeserving of heaven and finds a place in  
hell.

...68...

To a son who disrespects his mother, God is unforgiving  
He will go straight to heaven who receives his mother's blessing.

### **GREATNESS OF MOTHERHOOD**

An ocean of nectar pales in comparison to a drop of mother's love.

The world will remain eternally grateful to those mothers who have given such sons to the earth who have persevered and sacrificed for the welfare of their country and the entire world.

"O young man! The first step towards achieving God is 'mother'. If you ignore the foothill, how can you conquer the peak? You cannot ignore and hurt your mother and hope to achieve salvation." The entire world worships motherhood. Mother's lap is the safest and happiest heaven for childhood.

...69...

It is a true of every caste, religion, state and era that a man becomes a type of man which his/her mother wants him to be. E.g. Shivajee and Jeejamata.

God cannot be present bodily everywhere, so he created Mother. The university of humanity and culture is at Mother's feet.

### **Are they donors?**

He, who doesn't feed his parents when they are alive and after their death feeds sweets to all.

He, who doesn't quench his parents thirst and sets up drinking water booths after their death.

He, who hasn't talked to his parents sheds tears upon their death.

He, who hasn't served his parents, serves the society.

He, who hasn't clothed his parents,

...70...

donates costly shawls.

He, who hasn't taken his parents to the doctor, sets up a hospital for the poor.

He, who hasn't spent money on his parents, donates a large sum of money.

### **A son has no time for his ailing parents,**

But flies by aeroplane to meet his wife's parents.

If there's still some shame left in you,  
Recognize the value of your mother.  
Introspect that for your selfishness, you've forgotten your own mother,  
Whether you go to Pavapurijee,  
Whether you go to Sammetshikharjee,  
You can't win God, if you can't win your mother.....

A son may treat his parents worse,  
But they won't give him contempt or curse.

...71...

Mother's tears are real pearls, her love - the light of life,

If you upset her heart, you will never be set in your life

Your car and bungalow will stay right here,

Keep your parents near,

Bring happiness into your life by winning their blessings,

Or you will be left repenting .....

In old-age homes, your parents meet their end,

You don't even cremate them with your hand.

However, a prayer meeting is called,

And in the newspaper, an obituary is printed.

The photographs of parents are beautifully garlanded,

A lamp is lit, an incense stick is burned,

A cascade of crocodile-tears are shed,

...72...

## NAVAKAR MANTRA

**Tune :** ત્યારે તમોને જેમણે જોયા હશે

Take the refuge of Navakar, In your sickness or disease  
It has cured hundreds of patients, but never asked for any fee.  
It has cured Cancer and T.B., it has given life to many.  
It has wiped the tears of many, without taking a single penny.

Navakar is always on the rise, make a deal if you are wise.  
Neither has it faced a break-down, nor has ever lost its price,  
it has filled the bags of many, it has raised the stars of many,  
it has solved the problems of many, it has given hope to many.

Bow before Arihant Prabhu. He is the Lord of the Universe.  
Siddha Acharya Upadhyay, Sadhu possess unseen force,  
chant the Navakar day and night, wash all sins in no time,  
end the vicious circle for ever, reach the Param Pad in no time.

Navakar is a safe deposit, it can't be stolen with deceit,  
It is a blank cheque in your hand, since ages it is in demand,  
keep it always by your side, you won't be taken for a ride,  
It shall help you in future, take its name ever with pride.

Navkar is a shashwat Mantra. It is chanted since ancient times,  
First and fore-most is Namu, bereft of ego, knot and ties,  
Bow down and you gain the virtues, of Parameshti in future.  
This World would be a better place, if ego is not in picture

...73...

**Tune :** યાહુ ! યાહે કોઈ મુઝે જંગલી કહે

Arihant ! Arihant is a Super Man,  
He takes care of every one,  
All you have to do is take his name,  
He is with you.

1. Chandakoshik, vicious serpent, he had poison in his eyes,  
Mahaveer Swamy, bestowed mercy, and cooled it in no time,  
Neither ate, nor it drank, it took Anashan,  
it reached the eighth Devlok.
2. Chandanbala charming princess, she was forced to be a slave,  
Mahaveer swamy, rescued her, she became the first Sadhvi,  
She offered Bakula, and took Kevalajnana,  
Learn to make a deal like her.
3. Indrabhuti, famous brahmin, he was proud of his brains  
in his ego, he came storming, to fight with Lord Mahaveer,  
He was impressed, he became most devoted,  
He was declared first Ganadhar.
4. Wicked sangam, cruel vyantari, treacherous goshala,  
They came to trouble veer, but he kept his cool,  
you too spread love but, never take revenge,  
its the essence of Jin Dharma.

...74...

## અષ્ટપ્રકારી પૂજા

**Tune :** Twinkle Twinkle

1. Jal Puja  
As you take bath every day,  
So do Jal Puja every day,  
As you wash the dirt by bath,  
So you wash the sins of past.
2. Pushpa Puja  
Offer flowers before God,  
Make your nature fresh and top,  
Do always good to other,  
you never have to bother.
3. Chandan Puja  
Do નવ અંગ Chandan Puja,  
Without break do good seva,  
Keep aside anger and pride,  
smile in all time and tide.
4. Dhoop Puja  
Light Dhoop stick in the temple,  
Spread good smell in the temple,  
Let out મિથ્યાત્વ from your life,  
Bring in સમકિત live good life
5. Deepak Puja  
Deepak Puja brings brightness,  
it removes all darkness,  
Light the candle of wisdom,  
Reach early God's kingdom.

...75...

## **6. Naivedya Puja**

offer sweets fresh and good.  
To do puja don't look mood,  
Earn a good name in this world,  
Become pure just like gold.

## **7. Akshat Puja**

Draw a Swastik with good rice,  
Never coommit a mistake twice,  
Take God's name in every breath,  
Ask for end of Birth and death

## **8. Phal Puja**

Offer fruits ripe and fresh  
Always try to give the best,  
Pray for મોક્ષ ફલ seriously,  
End the births easily.

## ૧૨ ભાવનાની સ્તુતિઓ

**Tune :** Twinkle Twinkle

## **1. અનિત્ય ભાવના**

Health and wealth is not for ever,  
your name and fame is not for ever,  
Do that will go with you,  
Good deeds and words will come with you.,

## **2. અશરણ ભાવના**

Who is yours in this world?  
Who will save you in this crowd?  
Who can ever change the fate?  
Who can change the time of death?

...76...

3. **સંસાર ભાવના**

World is an open ground of sin,  
your sorrow is ever fresh and green,  
Though you invest time and money,  
you don't get back single penny.

4. **એકત્વ ભાવના**

Alone you come and alone you go,  
So you reap as you sow,  
Body serves you in this life,  
Soul is yours in every life.

5. **અન્યત્વ ભાવના**

You care much for your body,  
yet it sheds you in your journey,  
Never worry for the others,  
Care for soul which is yours.

6. **અશુચિ ભાવના**

Body is pretty from outside,  
But its ugly from inside,  
Care for X-rau not for photo copy,  
Care for soul not for body.

7. **આશ્રય ભાવના**

When you think and speak and act,  
Then you bind karamas in fact,  
Give entry to only good,  
Be always in good mood.

8. **સંવર ભાવના**

When you close the door of home,  
In it dust or mud can't come,  
Close the door to bad and evil,  
you'll never fall in peril

...77...

9. **નિર્જરા ભાવના**

When you perform તપ and ત્યાગ,  
When you never think any bad,  
Just as guests leave your home,  
So the karmas leave your soul.

10. **લોક સ્વભાવ ભાવના**

In this World we live and die,  
Less we laugh more we cry,  
How long will we live like this ?  
Do good to gain eternal bliss.

11. **બોધિ દુર્લભ ભાવના**

Human life is very rare,  
Jain dharm is still rare,  
Use your punya in best way,  
Let it not be wasted away.

12. **ધર્મ સ્વાખ્યાત ભાવના**

દાન, શીલ તપ અને ભાવ,  
Put efforts in right path,  
ધર્મ is your inner strength,  
it is your real wealth

**પાઠશાળાની સ્તુતિઓ**

(1) Go to the Pathshala every day,  
It is good place in every way,  
Learn the sutras and listen the stories,  
It will keep you free from worries.

(2) See the life of famous saints,  
They never cried in tough times,  
come what may they say the truth,  
Be a good person in your youth.

...78...

Navakar is a friend in need, Navakar is a friend indeed,  
It helps you in adversity, it brings to you prosperity,  
It keeps you fresh every time, it keeps you smiling all the while,  
Neither shall it turn away, nor will cheat you any time.

Tune : Twinkle Twinkle

Chant the Navakar Every time,  
When you are sick and you are fine,  
Before you sleep and when you wake,  
In this World you are safe.

Navakar is your friend in grief,  
It contains ૧૪ પૂર્વ in brief,  
Take its name with firm belief,  
It brings in instant relief.

Chant the Navakar in any problem,  
It will bring in instant solution,  
Take its name with devotion,  
It will remove inner pollution.

Navakar brightens your fate,  
servant became Surdarshan Sheth,  
Shrimati put her hand in pot,  
Serpent turned garland on spot

...79...

(3) Training ground of various arts,  
Birth place of rising stars,  
Leading centre of good deeds,  
Washing machine of black deeds

**ગીત**

Tune : શ્યામ તેરી બનસી પુકારે રાધા

Come let us visit the holy temple,  
and take the name of Lord Mahaveer,  
He is the Saviour of all creatures,  
He is the scholar of all learnings.

(1) He knows the present, past and future,  
ins and outs of all living beings,  
to him none is big or small,  
He showers love on one and all.

2. You may be depressed, tensed or upset,  
you may be crying in frustration,  
Open your heart before God father,  
it will bring a change for better.

3. What ever may be your problem,  
Hold the hands of Lord Arihant,  
Be sure of its dissolution,  
the only need is your devotion.

...80...