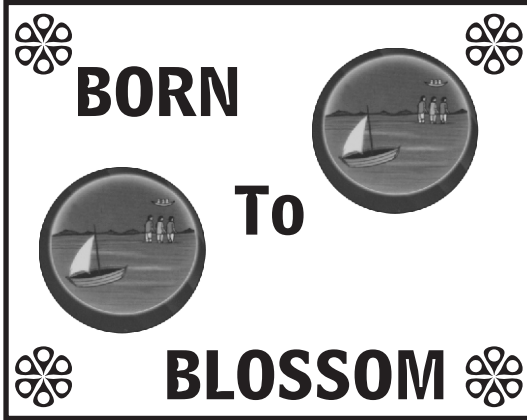


JAINAM JAYATI SHASANAM
LABDHI BAAL VAARTA Series

Part - 7



: COMPILED BY :

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2

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. Specially Yashovarm Surijii, Muni Chandra Surijee and Shailesh Sagparia. Our appreciation to Poojya **Acharya Sri Raj-Yash Sooreeshwarjee M.S.** and his disciple Upadhyaya Vishrutiyash Vijayaji Gani (Prof. M.S.), Satish Mardia from Chennai & Ahd. for Assisting in compiling and editing, and all the donors and printers for their monetary & physical support.

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FOREWORD

DOES RE-BIRTH EXIST ?

Now-A-Days Children Want to know Everything with Logic. If we tell them Anything to do, they will ask, why ? So, if we give them hundreds of Examples which happened with law of cause and effects like why Sitajee kidnapped by Ravan ? Why Draupadi Married with Five Husbands ? They will understand the matter and will do accordingly. So to bring them on the Right path it is the easiest way. What one gives that only one Receives. This is the Law of Nature. The western Authors also like arther c. Klarke and Dr. Brian weiss have given many examples which prove the existence of soul. Here the Lots of Examples are given of many historical characters with Refernce of the scriptures. (in Part 4) so if one wants to achieve good he will surely do good in this birth i.e. religion. I hope this book will surely make one to walk on the right path i.e. right faith, right knowledge and right conduct which is the way to salvation. **Thus in Book 1 to 6-264 stories are given. Now in Part 7-8-9 New 185 stories all being published.**

Dr. M. M. Begani, Bombay Hospital, Mumbai
12th July 2018

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THE AUTHOR

Acharyadev Shri. Rajyash Sooreeshwarjee Maharaj, exponent of discourses, visionary and promoter of renovation of various temples, the epitome of renunciation and great preacher is blessed by Shri. Labdhi Sooreeshwarjee M.S. & Shri. Vikram Sooreeshwarjee M.S., his Grand Guruji & Guruji respectively. Shri. Vikram Sooreeshwarjee, his Gurudev was very effective in attracting people towards the virtues of Jainism. He was a worshipper of 'BHAKTAMAR MAHASTOTRA', the practitioner of high standards of sadhana, and was a very simpleminded soul.

The Author-Shri Rajyash Sooreeshwarjee, a highly dedicated, courteous disciple of his Guru and lucky enough to serve, care, worship incessantly to such a greatGuru. Being a great personality, his bright and exalted oratory attracts people at the very first instance. Infact, a few seconds in his auspicious company, confers profound happiness and satisfaction.

He is deeply involved in various rites, rituals, disciplines & yet very compassionate towards everyone. He has a heart, very simple like a child and delicate like a flower.

He has suggested many novice ways for the

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propagation of Jainism. It is the outcome of his magnetic personality and devotion to God, that the renovation of temples at Bharuch Teerth, Kulpak Teerth, Uvasaggaharam Teerth, The Great Teerth of Banaras (Birth Kalyanak Place of Lord Parshwanath), Godi Parshwa-Padmavati Teerth at Prerna Teerth, Ahmedabad, jirnoddhar of Simandhar Swami and Jagvallabh Parshwanath Teerth at Vadachowta, Surat were made possible. With his blessings, the following penances were also undertaken,- * Fasting by 237 people for one month continuously (MASAKSHAMAN) and Fasting by 1008 people for 3 days (TELA) at Chennai.

* 360 people undertook the SIDDHITAP at Bangalore.

He organised JAINFAIR at Chennai, in 1999 which was an epoch making event. His dedication, devotion and involvement for the event are beyond words of appreciation. Jirnoddhar of Vanachara Teerth near Baroda, and many new Teerths are being established under the Nishra and guidelines of Shri. Rajyash Soreeshwarjee Maharaj both in India and abroad. For Example - Navkar Dham at Jivapur -Pallitana in India and Sankheshwar Parshwnath temple of Richmand - USA.

- Upadhyaya Vishrutiyash Vijaya Gani
Dt. 30.7.2018 Palitana

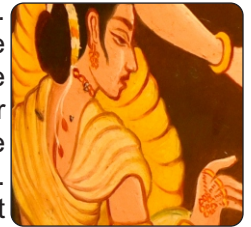
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1. The Real Mother

A merchant had two wives. One wife bore him a son while the other one was childless. However, both the women showered equal love and care upon the child and even the child was unaware of who his real mother was.

The merchant migrated to a foreign country with his family where he passed away after a few days. Now the loving scenario changed. The childless wife claimed to be the mother of the son so that she could claim her husband's property. They went to the royal court to settle their quarrel. The Minister gave the judgement that the two women would get an equal share of both the property and the child. The child would be cut into two.

Upon hearing this, the child's mother was overcome with horror and grief. She gave up her claim on the child and the property. The Minister observed that the other woman had accepted the judgement calmly and happily. He concluded that she was not



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the real mother. The child and the property were handed over to the real mother while the other woman left the court, her head hung down in shame.

MORAL : Uncontrolled Greed is the root of all sins.

(Nandi Sutra Tika)

2. Greed Never Pays

This is the story of a man who gave a bag of gold coins for safe-keeping to a sage whom he considered trustworthy. Then the man departed for his foreign tour.

Upon returning, he went to the sage for his possession. However, greed had captured the sage in its snare. The sage made some excuse and sent back the man empty-handed every time he came.

The man became completely dejected and it was in this mood that he accidentally met some gamblers. He narrated the story of misfortune to them. The gamblers rekindled his hope by promising to help him.

The gamblers disguised themselves as sages

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and approached the hypocritical sage. They told him that they were setting out on a pilgrimage and wanted to give their gold tongs to him for safe-keeping as he was trustworthy.



The greedy sage was extremely pleased. Just then, as pre-planned, the man came for his bag of coins. The greedy sage thought cunningly that if he wanted to maintain his trustworthiness, then he must return the man's possession. By letting go of a bag of gold coins, he stood to gain much more.

The plan was executed successfully. The gamblers then made some excuse and bid him farewell without giving him the gold tongs.

MORAL : Greed never pays. Sooner or later, the greedy person loses his trustworthiness. Greed demoralises a person's character.

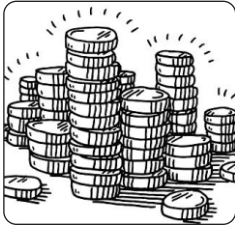
(Nandi Sutra Tika)



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3. Give Me As Much As You Wish

A wealthy man had lent lots of money on interest. He died suddenly. His wife asked his friend to collect the dues from the debtors on her behalf. The friend wanted to know how much share the woman was willing to give him for this work. She told him that after the collection, he could give her as much as he wished out of the collected amount.



The friend managed to collect the dues in a short period of time. However, he was willing to give a very small share to the woman, so she went to the royal court with her grievance.

The judge acquired details of the matter. Then he called for the entire cash collected and had it divided into shares - one big and the other small. Then he asked the man which share he wished to take. The man replied - the bigger one. The judge justified that since the agreement was that the man would give the woman as much as he wished and

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he had wished for the bigger share, the bigger share must be given to the woman.

MORAL : Think and do better for others.

(Nandi Sutra Tika)

4. Cow Dung Cakes

A skilled archer came wandering to a city. Some rich boys started learning archery from him and gave him a handsome tuition fee. The boys' fathers conspired to kill the archer and retrieve their money.

Fortunately, the archer somehow came to know about this conspiracy and made a counter-plan to save himself and the money. Some relatives of the archer lived in the village on the opposite bank of the river flowing by the city. The archer sent them a message that on a particular night he would set afloat some cow dung cakes in the river and they should collect them.

The archer made cow dung cakes and hid the money



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inside them. He dried the cakes in the sun. He told his students that it was a ritual of his family to bathe in the river on a particular night, chant holy mantras and make an offering of cow dung cakes to the river. The boys agreed to perform the ritual as they were happy to serve their teacher.

The archer's plan was executed successfully. Few days later, having finished the teaching course, the archer departed from the city. He had just a few clothes with him and no money. So, the rich men dropped the idea of killing him.

MORAL : One's intelligence can get one out of any problem. (Nandi Sutra Tika)

5. Five Fathers

Once the King of Ujjain found Rohak to be lost in deep contemplation. The King was curious to know the subject of his contemplation. Rohak replied that he was wondering how many fathers did the King have and the King felt embarrassed upon hearing this. He asked Rohak to clarify.

Rohak replied that the King had five fathers and

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he went on to clarify their identities and his reasons for such a conclusion.

According to Rohak, the King's first father was Kuber, the god of wealth because the King's power of wealth was similar to his. The second father was Chandala because he treated his enemies with as much cruelty. The third father was a washerman because the King could wring out the very existence of a person just like a washerman wrings out every drop of water from wet clothes. The fourth father was a scorpion because just like a scorpion gives a painful sting with his tail, the King had poked Rohak painfully with the end of his stick to wake Rohak from his reverie. The fifth was the King's own biological father from whom he had inherited the virtue of looking after the welfare of his subjects.



The King narrated this incident to his mother who confessed that when she had been pregnant, she used to worship God Kuber and had felt captivated by the idol of Kuber. While returning from the temple,

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she had felt captivated by the sight of a Chandal and a washerman. She had felt thrilled by touching a scorpion made of flour. She concluded that the emotions and thoughts of a pregnant woman had the power to shape the values of the baby in her womb. The King was impressed by Rohak's intelligence. Rohak displayed his super intelligence and wit on several occasions and went to deservedly become the Chief Minister of Ujjain.

MORAL : A man with Presence of wit is incomparable. (Nandi Sutra Tika)

6. The Clever Jester

A king had appointed a court jester for his entertainment. The king used to praise his queen a lot before the jester. The king claimed that the queen was very obedient. The jester raised doubts upon the queen's obedience saying that her behaviour was motivated by selfishness. The debate ended with the jester throwing a challenge before the king to prove that the queen's love was selfless.

The king acted as per the jester's guidance and

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told the queen that he was going to marry again and he would appoint the son of his second wife as his successor. Upon hearing this, the queen did not raise any objection against the king's second marriage but she insisted that the laws of successorship which were being followed since many generations by the royal family would be adhered to. In response, the king smiled. The queen insisted upon knowing the matter. The king related whatever had conspired between him and the jester.



The queen was extremely irked and ordered for the jester to be exiled. The jester was not one to be put on back foot. He put a bundle of shoes on his head and went to bid farewell to the queen. The bundle piqued the queen's curiosity just like the jester had intended.

The jester explained that he would need these many pairs of shoes as he intended to travel far and wide and spread the queen's fame. The queen feared that the jester would discredit her name and

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avenge himself. So, she revoked the sentence of exile.

MORAL : A Man of presence of wit save himself easily. (Nandi Sutra Tika)

7. For The Sake Of Honour

Roopmurti was the court dancer of the city of Occha which was ruled by King Indra. Once Emperor Akbar heard the praises of her beauty and became obsessed about possessing her.

Emperor Akbar penned an authoritative letter to King Indra which said, "A beauty like Roopmurti should grace the court of Delhi. If a cuckoo is placed in the company of a crow, then it is a fall in grace for the cuckoo."

King Indra's sharp and sarcastic retort was, "The air of my garden is filled all day round with the sweet music of the cuckoo which proves that she is not in the company of a crow. For men of our status, matters



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are to be proved and settled on the battlefield and not by finger-pointing."

Now both sides were ready to draw swords. Roopmurti approached King Indra with her anxiety that so many lives would be put at stake just to protect her. King Indra explained that she knew nothing about politics. Along with her honour now his honour was also at stake.

Roopmurti urged King Indra to not resort to war and to let her go to Delhi. If she felt a threat to her honour, then she would prefer to die. King Indra gave in.

Roopmurti was welcomed joyously by Emperor Akbar. When she got the chance to be alone with Emperor Akbar, she sought his permission to have a dialogue with him. Putting her plan into action, Roopmurti asked him, "How many such beings do you think are there in this world who would enjoy off-scourings?"

The Emperor replied, "Two --- a beggar and a dog." Roopmurti's next words pierced the Emperor like an arrow. She asked, "Should I count you among the beggars or the dogs?"

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The Emperor's fury was mounting but Roopmurti quickly continued, "Are you not like a beggar, who is standing with a begging bowl in his hand, begging to devour my beauty? I am not unblemished. I am married. So are you not like a dog who is ready to devour the off-scourings of my husband?"

Emperor Akbar's eyes welled up with tears of remorse. Roopmurti said that if she had unknowingly been discourteous, then the Emperor should forgive her. The Emperor said that forgiveness was necessary only where there was fault. She on the other hand, had done him a favour by enlightening him and stopping him from becoming a beggar and a dog.

When the news of Roopmurti's feat reached King Indra, he realised that it is not necessary to fight an armed war to prove bravery. If the woman, whom he had considered weak and timid, did not have the gallantry of a warrior, would she have undertaken such a risky venture?

MORAL : Courage with Presence of wit saves one easily.

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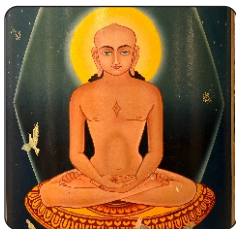
8. The Noblest Repentance

Yograj, the King of Prabhas Patan, was an epitome of virtue and valour. So, it is shocking that his own blood, his heir to the throne, his eldest son, Kshemraj should be plagued by an unvirtuous thought.

Spies had brought the news that foreign ships laden with valuable cargo were sailing by the coast of Prabhas Patan. Kshemraj was struck by a corrupt thought to loot the ships and fill the royal treasury. Moreover, a spy encouraged his mal-intentions by saying that there were a hundred and fifty elephants and innumerable commodities of various countries on those ships.

Kshemraj's two younger brothers agreed to join his campaign. Kshemraj, being an obedient son, went to seek his father's permission for his campaign. Yograj advised him that a truly rich man was one who earned his wealth by honest means. Kshemraj argued that if it was not possible to fill the royal treasury by honest means, then permission should be given to resort to dishonest means. Yograj pointed out that his way of thinking was

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wrong, by making a meaningful statement -- "Fragrance and coolness cannot be obtained by two alternative ways. They can be obtained only by growing a garden, not by lighting a fire."

Kshemraj did not like his father's idealistic views. He announced his determination to carry out his plan with or without Yograj's permission. His decision caused great misery to Yograj that if the future ruler of Prabhas Patan was unvirtuous, then what kind of an example he would set for his subjects. If he had foreseen how his children would be, then he would have preferred monkhood to marriage. Kshemraj did not revert his decision even though his father pleaded that his act would prove fatal for his father.

The captain, the crew and the owners of the cargo abandoned the ships and the cargo when Kshemraj, his brothers and their regiment attacked. Kshemraj placed the booty at Yograj's feet but Yograj could not bear to even glance at this wealth of sin. Yograj thought he must absolve the sin of his

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sons with his own blood. He must keep the torch of ideals lighted even if he had to immolate himself or else, Gujarat would become a den of thieves.

Yograj conveyed his decision to Kshemraj. No amount of convincing could make Yograj turn back on his decision. Yograj called for the minister to order him to make preparations for Yograj's self-immolation. Turning a blind eye and deaf ear to the tears and pleas of his subjects, at the ripe old age of 120 years, Yograj made the ultimate sacrifice and the smoke and the ash which the wind carried from his funeral pyre seemed to spread the fragrance of his virtues and ideals all over the world.

MORAL: There is no Compromise with the principles.

9. Inspiring Generosity

The reign of King Vaajsur Khanchar was a glorious one because it was a period of peace and prosperity for the people of Jasdan whose welfare was foremost at the heart of the King. It was also a glorious period for two pilgrimage centres of Saurashtra - the Jain pilgrimage centre, Siddhachal

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in Palitana and the Hindu pilgrimage centre, Somnath Patan.

Somnath Patan was a part of Vaajsur's kingdom and he was a devout worshipper of Lord Shiva. Once Vaajsur saw a Brahmin devotee worshipping devoutly in Somnath Temple. He found out upon making an enquiry that the Brahmin was fasting to win the benevolence of Lord Shiva. Vaajsur asked the Brahmin, whose name was Bhudev, what he expected to receive as the fruit of his devotion.



The Brahmin said that he had utmost faith in Lord Shiva who had solved the biggest of problems of his devotees. His problem was small but Lord Shiva was biding his time to test his faith and patience. His fate was in Lord Shiva's hands and he had vowed not to step out of Somnath till the Lord cast his benevolent eye upon him.

Vaajsur asked the Brahmin what problem he was facing and the Brahmin said he needed seven

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hundred rupees for the expense of his daughter's wedding. One who puts faith in the Lord need not fear. He could not doubt the Lord even in his dreams. The One who had accepted Narsaiya's promissory note would not reject his plea.

Vaajsur advised the Brahmin that he was not in the league of Narsaiya so he should not put to test his faith or the Lord's grace. If he extended his hand for help, then many would readily give him the paltry sum of seven hundred rupees.

The Brahmin retorted that he may not be like Narsaiya but he had inherited the legacy of devotion to Lord Shiva from Narsaiya. Also, the Lord was only concerned with solving the devotee's problem and not the size of the problem.

Vaajsur's inner voice inspired him to help the Brahmin to upkeep his faith in the Lord and to upkeep the glory of Somnath. He requested the Brahmin to believe that the Lord had chosen Vaajsur as the medium to help him.

Vaajsur started to give the Brahmin one thousand rupees but he accepted only seven hundred rupees, explaining that his necessity was

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only that much and if he took more, then it would be an immoral and greedy act. Vaajsur also thought if he took back the amount that the Brahmin had refused to take, then it would be an immoral and greedy act on his part. So, he offered the three hundred rupees in the temple.

Is it not difficult to find such a dutiful and generous ruler and such moralistic subjects in the present time?

MORAL : First deserve then desire.

10. Satan Turns Into Saint

The notorious dacoit Namdev's activities were as dark as a black cloud and the silver lining in that cloud was his faith in the Bhagvad Gita. His cultured and spiritual mother cursed herself for having borne such a devil.

His mother had lost all hope of reforming him but she asked him to promise to completely immerse himself in prayer for some time before starting the day's work. Namdev promised to fulfill his mother's wish at any cost.

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Namdev's oath was put to test soon thereafter. He was in the temple for his morning prayer but his mind kept wandering. In the temple, a child was crying loudly because his mother was not allowing him to eat the sweets that some devotee had offered to God. Namdev told the mother that the noise was distracting him and advised her to take the child to a confectionary and fulfill his demand to stop his crying. The child's mother sighed that she had been a rich man's wife and could have afforded to fulfill the child's demand, but that was in the past.

Namdev's interest was aroused. He asked her to narrate her story of woe. She clenched her teeth in fury and said the cause of her family's downfall was dacoit Namdev. Not only did he loot their wealth, but also murdered her husband who was the sole earning member. She and her child were now living a hand-to-mouth existence.

Upon hearing her words, Namdev's heart became heavy with pain and grief. He was filled with remorse for the heinous crimes he had committed, the



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countless women he had widowed and the children he had orphaned. He had done the unforgivable act of looting the most precious wealth of all -- life.

Namdev felt that even the holiest waters could not wash away his deplorable sins. He felt grateful to his mother who had made him promise to carry out the daily ritual of morning prayer. He felt inspired by the reformation of Vaaliya Bheel to sage Valmiki and the lusty Bilvamandal to Saint Surdas. He felt that like them he must embrace monkhood to leave his blemished past behind and absolve his sins.

Namdev's mother gave her consent happily and said that now she could take pride in Namdev being her son. She blessed him that he should shed the worldly pleasures just like a snake sheds its skin and embark upon his new journey.

MORAL : " No Pain no gain."

11. Die and Let Live

This is the story of a compassionate king who surpasses the popular adage 'Live and let live' and establishes an exemplary ideal of 'Die and let live.'

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Rana Vikramsingh became terminally ill. No cure or treatment proved successful. He insisted that the doctors should not use any method of cure which involved violence to any living being or death of any living being.

Rana's pain became so acute that he became unconscious due to weakness. A doctor claimed that there was a cure for Rana's illness in the Ayurveda system of medicine. Although the Ayurveda system favoured only non-violent means of preparation of medicines, using plants and herbs, in extreme cases there were certain medicines which when mixed with the flesh or blood of certain animals or birds could cure certain terminal diseases. The doctor said that he would need to mix a pigeon's blood in the medicine.

The Prime Minister wanted to save Rana's life at any cost so he went against Rana's instructions and gave permission to the doctor.

The cure worked. When Rana regained consciousness, he remembered about his illness and sought confirmation from his Prime Minister that no living being had been killed to give him life.

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The Prime Minister lied to assure Rana.

Rana could not be assured. He was feeling restless. Even in his weak state, he attempted to get out of his bed and his sharp eyes and mind registered the colour of the medicine in the bowl kept beside his bed. His heart skipped a few beats. He wanted to know why the colour of the medicine was red. Then his glance fell upon the feathers lying in one corner of his chamber. It became now impossible to conceal the truth from Rana.

Rana was overcome by grief and remorse. He felt he must repent for the pigeon's death. He called for the religious priest and asked him to look up the Vedic scriptures and find out the mode of punishment suggested for the killing of a bird. The punishment for the sinner was to drink hot molten lead.

Rana did not heed to the tearful pleas of all and underwent the punishment. The Gujarati term for lead is 'Sisu' and the future generations of Rana



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came to be known as 'Sisodiya' thereafter.

Rana Vikramsingh's repentance is an exemplary act of courage and fear of sin.

MORAL : There is no compromise in Principles.

12. Attachment and Detachment

Jinpaalit and Jinrakshit were sons of rich merchants, Makandi and Bhadra. Despite their parents warning they set out on a business voyage from their city, Champanagari.

When they were travelling across Lavan Ocean, they were shipwrecked due to a terrible storm. They managed to stay afloat with the help of a big log. They reached an island named Ratnadweep.

The goddess of the island threatened them that if they acted according to her commands then she would not kill them and she would give them a life of luxury.

Once Shakrendra commanded the goddess to purify the Lavan Ocean. Before departing, she instructed the two brothers that they must not

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wander towards the southern forest because a lethally poisonous snake lived there. However, the two brothers did not obey her since it is human nature to desire the forbidden fruit.

In the southern forest, they saw a man hanging from the crucible. He blamed the goddess for his miserable condition. He had reached the island in the same manner as the two brothers and his one mistake had invited the goddess's wrath. He also gave the two brothers the idea to get back their freedom.

Both the brothers went to the eastern forest and prayed to Shailak Dev to help them. Shailak Dev agreed to take them across the Lavan Ocean on his back but warned them that the goddess would create many temptations for them and if they gave in, then he would shake them off his back. The brothers agreed.

Shailak Dev's warning proved true. Jinrakshit could not resist when the goddess took the most

beautiful form. Shailak Dev threw him off and Jinarakshit was cut into pieces by the goddess' sword and devoured by the marine creatures. Jinpaalit could reach home safely because he could resist the temptations.

MORAL : Attachment to worldly pleasures results in downfall

13. The Tale of Arjunmaali

Lord Mahaveer Swami once came to Rajodyan Gunsheelak Chaitya of Rajgrahi city for preaching. But no one dared to go, except Sudarshan Sheth. Everyone warned him against going because a murderer named Arjunmaali had spread terror on that route. It was said that he was possessed by a violent Yaksha and he committed atleast seven murders daily.

Sudarshan Sheth had full faith in lord Mahaveer and said that he was willing to face any obstacle fearlessly to meet his Lord who practiced non-violence and freed all living



beings from fear of death.

Arjunmali was surprised to see Sudarshan Sheth approaching so fearlessly. When he aggressively stood in Sudarshan Sheth's way, Sudarshan Sheth calmly continued to chant the holy Navkaar Mantra. He told Arjunmaali in a friendly voice that violence was the worst kind of sin which would only bring him misery and infinite cycles of birth and death.

Sudarshan Sheth's peaceful and harmonious disposition calmed Arjunmaali's aggressiveness and the Yaksha dispossessed him. Arjunmaali agreed to go with Surdarshan Sheth and embraced monkhood after listening to lord Mahaveer's sermon.

Arjunmaali tolerated the rejection and hatred that he received from the families of his victims. He absolved his sins and his soul attained salvation.

MORAL : Penance with deep meditation is sure to success.

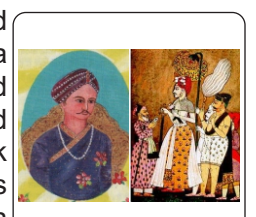
14. Value of Heart-felt Obeisance

Paalak and Saamb were the princes of Dwarka.

One night Saamb was sleeping soundly but Paalak did not sleep a wink. Sri Krishna had announced that he would give a handsome reward to the first person who would pay obeisance to Lord Neminath. Paalak felt disturbed that Saamb would reach before him and take the reward. Next morning, Paalak got up earlier than usual and rode his horse at flying speed to reach before Saamb.

Saamb, who had no greed for the reward, woke up at his usual time. With his thoughts, he paid heartfelt obeisance to Lord Neminath and praised his virtues. Then he got ready and left to pay obeisance to the Lord in person.

Paalak was happy that he had overtaken Saamb and asked his father, Sri Krishna to give him a horse named Darpak as his reward. Sri Krishna said that he would get confirmation from Lord Neminath that who deserved the reward. When Sri Krishna asked the Lord who had paid first obeisance to him, the Lord replied that in person Paalak had been first but with thoughts and feelings Saamb had been



first. Lord Neminath also said that the value of Saamb's obeisance was greater. In the kind of obeisance paid by Paalak, the strain is put only on the physical body, whereas in the kind of obeisance paid by Saamb, the act is done with a pious and devoted heart.

Thus, Prince Saamb was deservedly rewarded.

MORAL: Devotion with inner voice is always successful.

15. The Compassionate Monk

In the city of Champa, there lived an affluent family of the three brothers - Som, Somdutt and Sombhuti and their wives - Naagshree, Bhootshree and Yakshshree respectively.

Once Naagshree realized that the gourd curry cooked by her was extremely bitter and poisonous. So, she put it out of sight of her family, lest anyone should scold her for the wastage, and cooked another



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curry.

After lunch all except Naagshree, were taking afternoon nap. At that time, with the permission of his guru Shree Dharmaghoshsureeji, his disciple, Shree Dharmaruchi Angaar, who had done the fast of thirty days, had set out to collect alms to break his fast.

Unfortunately Naagshree, in order to save herself from her family's rebuke, showed no consideration or care for Shree Dharmaruchi and served him the entire poisonous curry.

Gurushree perceived the poisonous nature of the curry from its smell and instructed Shree Dharmaruchi to bury it in a place where it would not harm any living being. On the way, a drop of curry fell down and killed several ants which were drawn and tempted to eat it.

Shree Dharmaruchi thought compassionately that the safest and the most harmless place to bury the curry would be his own stomach. By consuming the curry himself, he would also be obeying his guru's order to not let any living being harmed by the curry.

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Being aware of his fate, he consumed the curry and sat down on dry grass, detaching himself from all his worldly ties, his body and doing repentance for any sin or wrong doing committed and his soul departed from his body. Shree Dharmagoshsureeji bowed to his disciple's penance, sacrifice and tolerance.

MORAL : Self-Sacrifice is the best way of religion.

16. A Cascade of Devotion

Goshaalak abhorred Lord Mahaveer and he started bad-mouthing the Lord among his disciples. If any disciple would try to advise him against doing so, he would flash fire like lightning from his eyes and burn the disciple to death. A few disciples started bowing before Goshaalak after this. To quell his disciples fear, Lord Mahaveer stepped forward to shield them.



This was a big opportunity for the Goshaalak to remove the Lord from his path forever. But behold! The flash of lightning

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revolved round the Lord and struck Goshaalak himself, deforming him.

Lord Mahaveer compassionately told Goshaalak that once he had developed blind attachment to the Lord which had eventually culminated into abhorrence because attachment and abhorrence are two sides of the same coin. The Lord also told him to forget everything, calm down and think about the welfare of his soul.

Goshaalak died on the seventh day. He had predicted that the Lord would not live for more than six months.

As a result of the flash of lightning emitted by Goshaalak towards the Lord, the Lord suffered from dysfunctional bile gland and lost a lot of weight. A wave of concern spread among the Lord's disciples and followers, including a monk named Simha.

Simha pleaded to the Lord to give the solution. The Lord told him to go to a village named Mendhiya and meet Revati, the wife of Gaathapati. Revati had prepared two medicines - one specially for the Lord and the second, an ordinary one. The Lord instructed Simha to get the ordinary medicine.

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Simha felt blessed to do this and so did Revati who attained salvation as a consequence.

After consuming the medicine, the Lord's complexion became as lustrous as gold. Tears of devotion cascaded from Simha's eyes.

MORAL : Self less devotion is always successful.

17. Dismount the Elephant of Pride

Chakravarti Bharat and King Baahubali, the sons of first Teerthankar Rushabhdev and the world's most valiant people came face to face on the battlefield.

Fortunately, Baahubali's good sense and conscience made him realize the gravity of his action. He diverted the hand which he had raised to give a blow on his brother's head to his own head to pluck out his hair and embrace monkhood.

He started going to Ashtaapad to pay his obeisance to Lord Rushabhdev but



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stopped mid track because he was unwilling to pay obeisance to his brothers who were junior to him in age but senior to him in monkhood. He decided that to avoid this situation he would do penance and meditation by himself in the jungle and attain Kevalgyaan (The Supreme Knowledge).

Quite a long time passed but Baahubali could not attain Kevalgyaan. His two sisters, Brahmi and Sundari who were nuns in the congregations of their father, Lord Rushabhdev, asked the Lord the reason for this.

The Lord instructed them to go to Baahubali and tell him to dismount the elephant of pride and he would surely attain Kevalgyaan. Brahmi and Sundari obeyed him.

Their voices pierced through Baahubali's state of meditation and he contemplated that his sisters would never lie, although he failed to understand their words.

Like a flash of lightning, realization dawned upon him. He shed his pride and made a move to pay obeisance to his younger brothers. At that moment Baahubali attained Kevalgyaan. The

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angels in heaven played celebratory music.

MORAL : Proud is the Speed-breaker. of all types of religious rituals.

18. Anger Results in Loss

Once, a monk came across a man troubled by poverty. The monk took him to a mountain filled with greenery and told him that he could obtain liquid gold if he performed the rites as instructed by the monk without being deterred by the vagaries of weather, hunger or thirst and being celibate.



The man obeyed the monk and succeeded. He and the monk left the mountain. The monk warned him never to lose his temper nor drop the liquid gold. The monk then reminded him after intervals of time that he had become rich because of the monk. The repeated reminders irritated the man and he threw the liquid gold to the ground in a fit of temper. The man was back to his former state of poverty.

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MORAL : The monk rebuked the man that no one ever profits from anger.

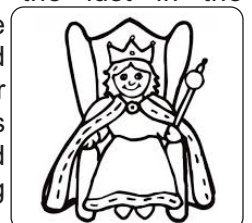
19. Mahaa Sati Dhaarini

King Dadhivaahan of Kaushambi had been defeated in battle and Queen Dhaarini and Princess Vasumati fled to avoid falling in enemy hands.

After driving the chariot at full speed the entire night, the charioteer suddenly stopped. It was the first time that he was observing the Queen at such close quarters and he was attracted to her beauty.

The Queen told the charioteer that the enemy could catch up with them any time and they could not afford to stop. The charioteer said that the horses needed rest.

The Queen recognized the lust in the charioteer's eyes. When he tried to get closer, she pleaded to him that he was like a brother but she could not stop him. As quick as lightning, she removed the knife hidden in her clothing



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and stabbed herself with it.

Queen Dhaarini sacrificed her life to protect her chastity and so she has been given the title of Mahaa sati. Her daughter Vasumati grew up and became the head of nuns in the congregation of Lord Mahaveer Swami. Vasumati became known as Chandanbala.

MORAL : Celibecy is the best religion

20. Dissolution of False Pride

This is the story of King Dashaarnabhadra who was a devout follower of Shree Mahaveer Swami.

Once Lord Mahaveer was going to come to his city and King Dashaarnabhadra decided to give the Lord the grandest welcome anyone had ever seen.

Hundreds of elephants, thousands of horses, a huge army, countless prosperous kings and their most beautiful queens joined the welcoming procession.



King Dashaarnabhadra

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showered precious stones from his seat on the elephant. The King started swelling with pride. The Indra named Shakrendra descended on Earth and humbled the King by displaying splendour that was countless times more.

King Dashaarnabhadra wanted to outdo Shakrendra in his devotion to the Lord so he embraced monkhood which the heavenly gods can never do. Shakrendra bowed to the King.

MORAL : True achievement is renouncing the material wealth and attaining salvation.

21. Worldly Pleasures are an Illusion

A young monk named Arnik was wandering for alms on a very hot summer afternoon. His father who had been a monk in the same congregation passed away a few days ago. But life has to go on. His mother who was a nun advised him to become self-reliant.

The monk lost his tolerance and felt depressed about the vagaries that a monk has to face. A rich young woman got attracted to the handsome monk

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and invited him to her house. Arnik was tempted by the thought of a pleasure filled and comfortable life. He gave up his monkhood.

Here, Arnik was lost in worldly pleasures with the young woman and there, his mother was anxiously searching for her lost son, wandering about in the streets, shouting his name. People assumed her to be mad and made fun of her.

One day, Arnik came into the balcony of the mansion where he was staying. When he saw his mother, he was filled with self-disgust. He fell at his mother's feet, begging for forgiveness and pleading to bestow monkhood upon him again which he promised he would fulfill flawlessly in his remaining life.



With his mother's forgiveness and blessings, this time Arnak did severe penance to fulfill the vows of monkhood, absolved his sins and purified his soul. After death his soul ascended to heaven.

MORAL : To free the soul from the darkness of

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sorrow, sickness, old age and death, the only true path is renouncing the world and embracing monkhood or nunhood.

22. Father against Son

The King of Champanagari, Dadhivaahan and the King of Kalinga, Karkandu were standing face-to-face on the battlefield with their huge armies. Just then both the kings were astounded by the sight of a nun walking serenely and fearlessly in the space between the two armies. The radiance of penance shone upon her face.

She first went to King Karkandu and told him that King Dadhivaahan was his biological father and she was his mother. She had come to stop a huge catastrophe. The war would result in the death of either the father or the son and also the death of thousands of innocent soldiers. King Karkandu's foster father confirmed that he was not his biological father. The nun whose name was Padmavati, said that when she was pregnant, she had felt the desire to disguise as a man, mount an elephant and give charity. The elephant suddenly became mad and

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ran towards the jungle. She was separated from her husband and was also forced by circumstances to give up her child.



Nun Padmavati then approached King Dadhivaahan and gave him the identity of his son. Nun Padmavati had renounced the world and she had no interest in returning to it. She succeeded in stopping a war. Father and son hugged each other lovingly. King Dadhivaahan handed over his kingdom to his son and embraced monkhood. Both Nun Padmavati and Monk Dadhivaahan attained salvation.

MORAL: The desire for worldly achievements brings only destruction. The true achievement and the real battle which one must fight is conquering all worldly desires.

23. Our deeds create our Obstacles

Dhandhan Muni was the son of King of Dwaarika, Krishna and his queen, Dhandhanaa. Dhandhan Muni had been bestowed with

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monkhood by Lord Shree Arishtanemi.

It so happened that Dhandhan Muni had to extend his fast for six days because he couldn't get alms suitable for consumption.

Dhandhan Muni felt that it was surely some bad deed done by him in the past that was creating this obstacle.

He politely asked the Lord, the reason for this. The Lord said that in his birth before 99,99,999 Purvas, he was a prosperous farmer by the name of Sovir in the village of Hundak in Vindhyachal region. King Girisen had given him the responsibility of cultivating the agricultural lands of his entire kingdom. It was extremely hot and he was a hard taskmaster. He prevented the hungry labourers from eating and ordered that they could eat only after completing certain amount of work. Dhandhan Muni had never performed repentance for his sin and it was now being an obstacle for him in obtaining alms. In his birth of Sovir, he had met a monk whose preaching had helped him to attain the right belief in teachings of the Lord. Sovir had embraced monkhood, then his soul had ascended

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to heaven from where he had been conceived in the womb of Queen Dhandhanaa.



To absolve his sin, Dhandhan Muni took an oath that he will not accept any gain for which someone else is instrumental. Dhandhan Muni's fast got prolonged for six months.

When Shree Krishna came to know from Lord Neminath that Dhandhan Muni would be the first soul to attain salvation from his congregation, Shree Krishna went to pay obeisance to Dhandhan Muni.

A merchant thought that if Shree Krishna was bowing to the monk, then he must be a great monk. The merchant invited Dhandhan Muni for alms and served modak.

However, the notion of Dhandhan Muni that the modak was suitable for consumption was broken by Lord Neminath. The Lord said that he had got the modak because of Shree Krishna.

Dhandhan Muni went to bury the modak because he wanted to uphold his oath. During his

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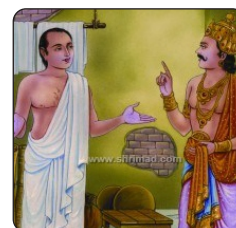
act of burial, Dhandhan Muni's sins were absolved and he attained Kevalgyaan (The complete knowledge).

MORAL: Whatever good or bad happens with us, happens only because of our good or bad deeds in the past.

24. King or Monk - Who Is The Orphan ?

Once King Shrenik saw a handsome monk meditating in the garden of Mundik-kukshi. The curious King wanted to know why he had renounced the world in the prime of his youth. The monk replied that he had chosen this path because he was an orphan.

King Shrenik offered to be his sire and told him to give up his monkhood and enjoy the worldly pleasures. The monk replied that when the King himself was an orphan, how could he be anyone's sire. Then the monk narrated his life story to make the king understand his statement.



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The monk had been the son of the wealthy merchant, Dhanvaah Shreshthi of Kaushambi city and had been blessed with such worldly pleasures that he had no inkling of any pain or sorrow.

Unfortunately, he had been caught in the grip of an incurable and painful disease. His family, his wives, his wealth, which had given him such pleasure at one time, proved futile to cure him of his pain and disease and in spite of all his possessions, for the first time in his life he felt that he was an orphan. He took an oath that if he got cured, then he would embrace monkhood. When he got cured, he fulfilled his oath.

King Shrenik agreed with the monk.

MORAL : We waste our life in seeking worldly pleasures. The true use of our life is in imbibing the virtues of our soul and emancipating our soul.

25. A True Jain

Kartik Sheth of Hastinapur had pledged the twelve vows which a Jain householder must observe. It was the time when the 20th Teerthankar

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Shree Munisuvrat Swami was present on this Earth.

Once a hermit came to Hastinapur and gathered a big following by performing miracles. However, Kartik Sheth , who was a devout follower of Jain Teerthankars, Jain monks and Jain philosophy, did not go to pay obeisance to the hermit.



The hermit was aware of this so he undertook a fast and took an oath that he would break his fast only when Kartik Sheth would serve him. The King of Hastinapur felt scared that the hermit might curse Hastinapur, so he invited the hermit to his palace to break his fast and requested Kartik Sheth to serve the hermit.

Kartik Sheth felt that it was first and foremost the duty of every Jain to be a good and respectful human being. However, Kartik Sheth's humanitarian act was misunderstood. The hermit felt proud that he had humbled Kartik Sheth. Kartik Sheth felt it was his own mistake. If he had been a

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monk, then he would not have to do such slavery. So, he embraced monkhood.

MORAL: A person who is attached to the world is like a slave. One can be independent only after detaching oneself from the world.

26. Nothing is Permanent

Once King Jeetshatru of Champanagari arranged a grand feast. Everyone was singing the praises of the feast but Minister Subuddhi was silent. When the King asked the reason of his silence, the Minister said that it is the nature of matter to keep changing. Nothing is permanent. Today, we may like one form of a matter and when it changes its form, we may dislike the same matter in its new form. The Minister could not make the King and the others understand his viewpoint.

Once the King, the Minister and the other officers were riding by an open, foul-smelling drain. The King and the officers



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felt repelled by the stinking water while the Minister observed silently and did not join the criticism. When the King asked the reason of his silence, the Minister once again explained the temporary nature of matter as he had done during the feast. This time also, he could not convince the King and the others. The King asked him to prove his point.

The Minister collected the sewage water in a pot, added ash to it and covered the mouth of the pot. After every one week, he kept adding ash to the water till the water was purified. Then he added aromatic materials to the water and made the water sweet and fragrant. He sent the water to the King who was all praises for it.

When the Minister told the King, how the water had been obtained, the King thought it incredible! The Minister conducted the entire experiment again to show the King. The King was now convinced about the changing forms of matter and was impressed to know that this was taught by Jain philosophy. King Jeetshatru embraced Jainism. Later on, the King and the Minister also embraced monkhood. They undertook to fast unto death and

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attained salvation.

MORAL : all Physical matters have power to change with change of time.

27. Choose Your Friends Carefully

Poet Dalpat has said, "**A generous enemy is better than a selfish friend.**" Great men have advised that make such friends who are not afraid of telling you the truth and give you right advice.

There were two friends, of whom one was a non-believer. Once the non-believer went to a Jain temple with his friend who had kept an eight days' fast. The non-believer was awestruck by the Shanti Snatra Pooja being performed in the temple and he decided to attend 108 such pooja. The person who never used to go to a Jain temple, started going to the temple daily.

Once he attended a Shanti Snatra Pooja being performed by a young man who was going to embrace monkhood. He decided to attend 108



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ceremonies of conferring of monkhood / nunhood. At one such ceremony, he cried remorsefully that he did not have the good fortune to renounce the world. Then he took the most astounding step. He took the vow of celibacy for lifetime.

The non-believer transformed into a believer only because of his friendship with a person whose faith was strong.

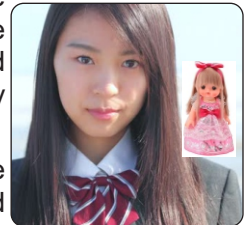
MORAL : Always keep good friends.

28. The Power of Prayer

A Japanese teenage girl had kept an idol of her Goddess on her bedside table. She used to talk to her Goddess daily and the girl was emotionally attached to her.

Once the girl became critically ill. She did not have the strength to talk but she would stare at her Goddess and pray silently.

After a few days a miracle happened. Tears started



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flowing from the Goddess' eyes and the girl started recovering. The tears stopped once she had fully recovered. Many times where medical science fails, the power of prayer performs miracles.

MORAL : The Power of Prayer is invisible and unpredictable.

29. Whatever Happens, Happens For The Best

'Whatever happens, happens for the best' - if you firmly believe this, then your mind will always be joyous and stress-free.

An intelligent minister of a king had made it the motto of his life. Once the King, mistakenly, rubbed his finger on the sharp blade of a sword due to which he got a cut on his finger. The Minister commented, "Whatever happens, happens for the best." The King disliked his comment and ordered that the Minister should be jailed.

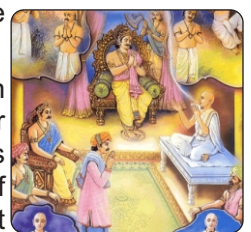
The King was feeling stress, so another minister took him for an outing. Suddenly the King's horse started galloping wildly and reached a dense forest with the King on its back. When the horse stopped to rest, the King dismounted. Just then a

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gang of 10-12 hunters captured the King and took him to a temple where they wanted to please the deity by offering the sacrifice of a perfect man with all 32 virtues. However, when the gangleader saw the wounded finger of the King, he rejected the King as a candidate for the sacrifice. The King was set free.

The King wandered about to find the way out. His soldiers soon found him. Upon reaching the palace, the King set the Minister free and called him to the court honourfully. The King embraced the Minister and accepted that he was right. The King was however puzzled as to what good had come out of the Minister's imprisonment. The Minister explained that if he had not been imprisoned, then he would have been with the King when he was captured by the gang and the gang would have offered the Minister's life instead of the King's.

A congregation of Jain monks had a similar experience. When the monks sought the permission of Acharya Bhagwant to set out



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the following day for their next destination, Acharyajee stopped them. The monks treated their Gurudev's wish as their command. The congregation was staying on a hill and that very night there was a downpour of torrential rain. The congregation unanimously felt that obeying Gurudev's instruction to stay back had worked in their favour.

MORAL : Even when a situation does not seem to be in your favour, do not stress over it. Eventually, in the long run, you may realise that some good has come out of it.

30. Jains By Birth, Not By Action

The Annual Seminar of Baroda J. C. Club was held in a five-star hotel at 8 p.m. Dinner too was arranged for the members. The President of J. C. Club had invited a Muslim poet for poetry recital because the themes of his poems were moral values like truth, non-violence and so on.

The poet was expected to reach the venue by 7:50 p.m. The President himself waited at the door

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to receive him but the poet did not arrive at the appointed time. When the President went outside to check, he saw the poet standing in a corner. When the President asked why he had not come inside, the poet replied that he saw people eating inside and thought he had come to the wrong place because the members of J. C. Club are Jains and the Jains do not eat after sunset.

The words of the poet raised turbulent thoughts in the President's mind. He thought that a certain image of Jains is imprinted upon the minds of non-Jains and we, Jains, are distorting that image by our actions.

The next day, the President went to pay obeisance to a Jain monk. Co-incidentally, the Jain monk pointed to the sandalwood Tilak on the President's forehead and explained that it is the symbol of our acceptance of Teerthankar Bhagwan's wish as His command and so we should obey Him and not eat after sunset. The Jain monk's words added to the impact that the poet's words had made and the President resolved never to eat after sunset.

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MORAL : Many incidents occur in our life that call for self-introspection and change. They help to improve our life but only if we choose to give a positive response.

31. Compensation For Injustice

The famous industrialist Jamshedji Tata was walking pensively along a Mumbai road. He failed to see a labourer who had come in his path. The labourer was carrying a big heavy sack on his shoulder. Jamshedji got a jab of the sack and stumbled down. His turban rolled off into a drain.

Jamshedji's retinue of servants knocked down the labourer's sack and started beating him black and blue. Jamshedji stopped them. He said to the labourer that he was not at fault. His head was bent due to the weight of the sack, then how he could have seen that somebody was in his path. Jamshedji accepted that he should have watched where he was going. Then he gave compensation to the labourer for the unjust behaviour of his servants.

MORAL: The greatness of a person is not

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measured by his success but by his behaviour towards other people after achieving success.

32. Real Jewellery

Ishwarchandra Vidyasaagar of Bengal was a great man known for his generosity and benevolence.

One day, a poor man came to Ishwarchandra's house for monetary help, but there was no cash in the house. So he requested his mother to give one of her gold bangles so that he could sell it and arrange some money.

In the beginning, his mother objected saying that she did not own any jewellery apart from her bangles; also, since Ishwarchandra's father was no more, who would buy jewellery for her now. Ishwarchandra promised that when he grew up, he would buy lots of jewellery for her. Finally, Ishwarchandra's mother had to give in to his insistence and gave him the gold bangle.

Many years passed. Ishwarchandra completed his education and became successful. One day, he

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reminded his mother of the gold bangle incident. He asked her what kind of and how much jewellery he should buy for her. He also asked her not to worry about the cost.

Ishwarchandra's mother calmly said, " My dear son! I do not want any gold or silver jewellery because it causes rift in relations. However, I do want three kinds of jewellery from you, namely **knowledge, service and life**. Start schools to educate the crores of illiterate children of our country. Start free healthcare centres to save the poor people of our country who die of various diseases due to lack of medical treatment. Food is the basic necessity of life. Start free mealhouses for thousands of people of our country who do not get even two square meals a day. If you give me these three jewels, then I will be content. "

MORAL : Every mother should teach her children to serve their country and countrymen. If the wealthy people minimize their expenditure on luxury items and use the money to help the poor and needy people, we can develop a happy and prosperous nation.

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33. Nothing Can Be Gained Without Effort

A British orphan boy earned his living by doing odd labour jobs. Once he took up a job on a ship sailing to America. When the ship anchored at New York Harbour, the boy decided to stay on in the grand city.

The boy then went to a hotel and asked the manager for a job. The manager scoffed that there was no job for him. The boy said that he couldn't do without a job and requested the manager to give him one chance. The boy lay a condition that if he succeeded in bringing forty customers for the hotel that day, then the manager should hire him for a month. The manager accepted but expressed his doubts that it seemed impossible to get forty customers in one day and that too for a newcomer in the town.

The boy put his luggage in a corner of the hotel and hurried towards the harbour. He started praising the hotel and more than forty people went with him to the hotel.

This industrious boy was **Thomas Lipton** who earned a big name in the tea industry. 'Lipton Tea' is

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a very famous brand of tea all over the world.

MORAL : The word 'impossible' does not exist in the dictionary of a person who is industrious, optimistic and persevering.

34. Giving Life To Save A Life

The 'Titanic' was the biggest steamer of its time and in 1912, it got submerged in the ocean on its very first trip.

When the Titanic struck against an iceberg and started sinking, panic spread among the passengers. One passenger was Mr. William Stead, the editor of a British monthly magazine named 'Review of Reviews'.

William Stead had a life jacket which he could have used to stay afloat in water and save his life. However, when he saw that a woman did not have a life jacket and was saying her prayers and preparing for death, he gave his life jacket to the woman. When the woman refused, he insisted and saw to it that she wore it and was safely seated in the life-boat.

Then he stood on the deck, joined his hands in

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prayer and sank to the bottom of the ocean with the steamer.

We bow respectfully to this selfless man who sacrificed his own life to save another.

MORAL : We must all develop the virtue of humanity. Even if we cannot sacrifice our life for someone, we can atleast not harm the life or welfare of other living beings for our selfish motives.

35. A Village For Children

The Second World War was fought between 1939 and 1944 and as the name suggests all the countries of the world were directly or indirectly involved.

The war caused mass scale devastation and loss. Thousands of children became orphaned and homeless. A Swiss writer Robert Walter Korti thought of building a village where such children from all over the world could be settled. They would be educated and taught job skills. When children from different countries would live and interact with each other, they would develop a bond of friendship and brotherhood. They would become world

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citizens.

Robert Walter Korti persevered to fulfil his vision. He raised the necessary funds and established such a village by the beginning of 1945, in Appenzell District of Switzerland. The village was named after Professor Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi, also a writer and social reformer of Switzerland (1746-1827), whose vision was to establish a society which was free of enmity and discrimination.

Today, hundreds of children from eleven countries of Europe as well as from Tibet are rehabilitated here. After receiving education and job skills, they will return to their own country or settle in another country, equipped to become self-reliant.

MORAL : We must learn to tolerate our differences and live in harmony with each other because progress and prosperity are possible only in an environment of peace and harmony.

36. Be The Architect Of Your Own Destiny

Babur was the founder of the Mughal Empire in India. He was like a lion, having indomitable physical strength as well as will power.

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After establishing his supremacy over Delhi, he undertook campaigns to conquer the neighbouring kingdoms. His greatest enemy was the Rajput king, Rana Sangramsingh (Rana Sanga).

Rana Sanga was very powerful so Babur collected various weapons and made his army undergo vigorous training for many years.

Only when he was satisfied with the preparations, he decided to challenge Rana Sanga in the battlefield. Just then an obstacle threatened to upset his plan.

The court astrologer, Mohammed Sharif, advised him that it was not an auspicious time to fight a battle. The stars were not in his favour and he would be badly defeated. Babur scoffed at the advice. He not only fought the battle but also won it.

MORAL : We should be the architects of our own destiny. Fortune favours the brave.

37. What Comes First - Financial Security or Country?

This incident occurred during British Raj in India.

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Lala Lajpat Rai was the Chairman of 'The Servants of India Society'. He was one of the activists whom the British police beat with sticks. Unfortunately, he succumbed to his wounds.

Mahatma Gandhi sent a letter to Purushottamdas Tandon requesting him to accept the post of Chairmanship of the Society.

At that time, Purushottamdas was employed as the manager of the Lahore branch of Punjab National Bank at a monthly salary of Rupees Thirteen hundred (a big amount in those days). He would have to give up his job if he accepted the Chairmanship. He had a big family to support so he could not afford to lose his job. However, he honoured Gandhiji's request and committed the rest of his life to the service of his country.

MORAL : Our freedom fighters displayed exemplary patriotism and selflessness for our country. Do we love our country? If yes, then what are we willing to sacrifice for the sake of our country?



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38. The Magnanimous Saint

Sant Tukaram, a famous saint of Maharashtra, owned no wealth or valuable possessions other than a small field.

One year, he grew sugarcane in his field. He harvested the crop, tied a bundle of the sugarcanes and started returning home.

On the way, he met some children who were aware of the goodness of his heart. They requested Sant Tukaram to give them sugarcane and he could not refuse.

Sant Tukaram's wife Rakhumai understood that he must have distributed the sugarcane, when he returned home with a single sugarcane. Rakhumai was a hot-tempered woman. She was frustrated by their poverty and her husband's generous nature, so Sant Tukaram's act added fuel to the fire. She started beating him with the sugarcane. The stem broke into two.

The mild-tempered Sant Tukaram laughed good-humouredly and said, "Rakhu! You are so kind! You saved my effort to break the sugarcane into two pieces for the both of us."

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Rakhumai blushed with embarrassment upon seeing that her husband had maintained self-control even in such circumstances. She asked her husband to forgive her for her behaviour.

MORAL : Maintain your cool when someone is angry with you. This is the best method to calm down the other person and make the situation light.

39. How Do You Hold A Knife ?

Swami Vivekanand's teacher was Guru Ramkrishna Paramhans. Swami Vivekanand had received an invitation to attend the meeting of the All Religions Council which was to be held in Chicago in the United States of America.

Swamiji went to seek the blessings of Maa Shardamani, the wife of his Guru. Maa Shardamani did not give her blessings, instead she told Swami Vivekanand to fetch her a knife which was lying in one corner. Swamiji obeyed. When he held out the knife to give to Maa, he kept the handle of the knife in her direction.

Maa showered her blessings upon him, "Son, I wish you great success. May you progress. May

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you show the entire world the treasure of knowledge that India has." Swamiji then posed a question to satisfy his curiosity, "Maa, why didn't you give your blessings sooner ? Why did you first ask me to fetch the knife?"

Maa replied, "I wanted to see how you hold the knife. The one who holds the handle and points the blade towards the other person is self-centred but you did the opposite which proves that you care about other people's welfare. Therefore, you will succeed in all your endeavors."

MORAL : Swami Vivekanand became a great person due to his virtues. Try to remember when someone asks you for a knife, how do you hold it ?

40. For The Sake Of Friendship

James Forbes and Dalpatram Dahyabhai were the two persons who contributed immensely to the development of the education system in Gujarat. Gujarati language, literature and history evolved under their guidance. Dalpatram Dahyabhai had the backing and inspiration of James Forbes. A strong bond of friendship was forged between the

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two.

James Forbes established the Gujarat Vernacular Society (later it was named Gujarat Education Council). Forbes appointed Dalpatram as its head and he started research work in history, poetry, folk literature and archaeology.

When Forbes returned to England, Dalpatram could not work the way he wanted to. Moreover, he was got another job where his salary would be ten times more. So, he resigned from the Society.

Mr. Curtis, who replaced Mr. Forbes, felt that the Society would come back on track only if Dalpatram took back its reins in his hands. However, Dalpatram refused. Mr. Curtis knew of Forbes and Dalpatram's friendship. So, he wrote a letter to Forbes, requesting him to convince Dalpatram. The idea worked. Dalpatram could not turn a deaf ear to his friend's request. He resigned from his job which paid him rupees two hundred and accepted the job at the Society where his salary would be just rupees twenty.

MORAL : Would you be ready to bear financial loss for the sake of friendship ?

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41. Passion Or Money

A young man was very enthusiastic and hard-working. During the day he worked in a bank and at night he used to pursue his passion. He used to perform experiments to invent a photo-plate which would facilitate easy photography. He would prepare the chemical mixtures for the purpose with his own hands. In the process, his fingers would become stained with the colours of the chemicals.

The bank manager was very particular about cleanliness. He gave an ultimatum to the young man that he should either come to the bank with clean hands or resign from his job.

The young man could not give up his passion, so he resigned. He faced poverty and hunger. But he did not stop experimenting.

Finally, he became wealthy and successful. Britain felicitated this brilliant citizen of hers.

His name was George Eastman.

MORAL : Such stories of success inspire us to not give up on our passion and dream.



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42 Guru Nanak

The great saint Guru Nanak reached a village and as soon as the news of his arrival spread through the village, people started flocking to pay obeisance.

At mealtime, two of his devotees brought Roti and Dal for him, a rich man came with trays laden with dry fruits and sweets and his servants were carrying those trays. A labourer brought a Rotla made of Bajra and a green chilly.

Now Guru Nanak accepted the Roti and Dal. He did not even cast a glance at the dry fruits and sweets and he started eating the Rotla, Dal and chilly.

The rich man felt insulted by this rejection. He asked Guru Nanak why he had rejected his offering.

After a few moments of silence, Guru Nanak held the sweet brought by the rich man in his left hand and in his right hand he held the labourer's Rotla. Then he lightly squeezed both. Blood started dripping from his left hand and milk from his right hand.

Guru Nanak then told the rich man that he had

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seen with his own eyes that the blood of poor people was hidden in his sweets because he earned his wealth by exploiting others. The labourer's dry Rotla was earned by hard and honest work so it was pure. Guru Nanak said that he preferred to eat only such food.



MORAL : Never earn your living by dishonest means or by exploiting anyone.

43. One Spark Is Enough

This is a true incident of the life of Mr. Yashwant Mehta. Once, in the course of conversation, the social reformer, Ravishankar Maharaj narrated an incident of his life to Mr. Mehta. A gentleman had sent grapes to Mahatma Gandhi's hermitage. Gandhiji asked Ravishankarji to wash the grapes. He started washing the grapes under the tap in full flow of water. Gandhiji reprimanded him for wasting water.

After this incident, Ravishankarji started using

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water judiciously. Even Mr. Mehta was inspired by this incident and he avoided wastage of water thereafter.

MORAL : Do not waste water. It is a very valuable resource which supports life on Earth. Stories of true incidents can be very inspiring and can trigger major life changes.

44. The Power Of Physical Exercise

Swami Dayanand Saraswati was an advocate and practitioner of a pure, disciplined life as well as physical exercise. He had acquired such resistance that he could sit bare even in Himalayan cold.

Once Swamiji was in the Kaasganj town of Uttar Pradesh. Two fierce bulls started fighting on the road of this town. They blocked the road and prevented the vehicles and the pedestrians from passing.

When Swamiji arrived there with his disciples, the people told him about the bull fight. He held the horns of the bulls and subdued them. He had to apply a lot of physical strength to do this. His habit of regular physical exercise had bestowed this

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strength.

MORAL : Let us also imbibe Swamiji's discipline and good habits. Physical exercise is as important as mental exercise.

45. Devil's Work

Sir Sayyed Ahmed was a writer, a social reformer and the founder of the Aligarh Muslim University. Amongst his friends were writers and poets like Maulana Shibli. Whenever they met, they shared many light, humorous moments. Sir Sayyed's public image was that of a strict and serious man but in reality, he had a great sense of humour and the following incident depicts this aspect of his nature.

One day, Maulana Shibli and Sayyed Mumtaz Ali were at Sir Sayyed Ahmed's house. Suddenly, Sir Sayyed fervently started searching for a piece of paper, mumbling that the paper had been just there until some time ago and that it was important.

Just then Maulana saw the corner of a folded paper jutting out from under the cushioned seat he was sitting on. He thought of having some fun. He thought of prolonging Sir Sayyed's search because

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Sir Sayyed's fervent state was amusing him. So, he kept his hand on the paper and looked here and there, pretending to search.

Sir Sayyed was a good judge of character. When he observed Maulana's eyes, he understood that Maulana was up to something. Maulana was not moving his one hand at all and the paper was surely hidden under it. Sir Sayyed laughed and said, "Our forefathers used to say if anything ever gets lost, then it is the Devil's handiwork. He hides it under his hand. Maulana, just check whether my paper is under your hand!"

Upon hearing this, Maulana burst into laughter and said, "Sir Sayyed! You are a face reader!"

MORAL : It is important to have a sense of humour. People having a sense of humour can lighten the mood and give happiness and enjoyment.

46. It Is Not A Sin

India was fighting its freedom struggle. The British had fired bullets upon the students of Khalsa College of Gujranwala city in Punjab.

Pandit Madanmohan Malviya, Motilal Nehru,

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Swami Shraddhanand and Venkateshnarayan Tiwari decided to go there personally to get information about the incident.

It was the summer season and the sun was blazing hot. Everyone got down from the train and opened their umbrellas, except Tiwariji who did not have an umbrella. Pandit Malviya gave him shelter under his umbrella. But Tiwariji saw that Panditji's half body was being exposed to the sun in doing so and this was not right since Panditji was a holy Brahmin and of a higher caste than Tiwariji. He told Panditji, "Why are you making me a sinner by exposing yourself to the sun for my sake?"

Panditji laughed and said, "I am the Chief of the Council of which you are the minister. So, that makes me your elder and it is the duty of the elders to look after their children. A child does not become a sinner by eating what his father provides. Nevertheless, the father does get an opportunity to do a virtuous deed. So, please don't take away this opportunity from me."

What a loving and sweet reply!

MORAL : The incident teaches us not to

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discriminate among people on the basis of caste, status and other factors. It also teaches us to be helpful and respectful towards others.

47. Never Stepped Into Baroda Thereafter

King Gaekwad of Baroda had given financial assistance to Bhimrao Ambedkar to go abroad for higher education, but upon the condition that he would be in service of the princely state of Baroda after returning.

Mr. Ambedkar fulfilled his promise. When he landed in Mumbai, he wrote a letter to the Gaekwad that he was coming to Baroda, also asking what would be the nature of his service and requesting to make boarding and lodging arrangements for him since he had no relatives in Baroda and no one would give him food or roof as he was a Dalit.

The officers of Baroda called him for the job but did not mention anything about his boarding and lodging arrangements. However, Mr. Ambedkar went under the hope that it must have been done.

King Gaekwad had ordered his Chief Minister to

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go and receive Mr. Ambedkar at the station. But in those days the Dalits were treated as untouchables, so nobody went to receive him nor did they make any arrangements for his stay.

Nobody was ready to provide him with a roof. At last, a Parsee let out a room to him and the daughter of the Parsee provided him food. After just about ten days, a mob of neighbouring Parsees came with sticks and started threatening Mr. Ambedkar. But he was not a coward. He told the mob, "If you do not like me staying here, then I will leave after eight hours. But if you care about your welfare, then go away from here."

The mob got scared by his tone when he spoke the last sentence. They knew that he had been to America and England for higher studies. They got scared thinking that he might have brought an imported revolver and they dispersed at once.

Thereafter, he wandered fruitlessly in search of a place to stay. He even made earnest requests to King Gaekwad but to no avail because the Chief Minister had been against him from the start.

Homeless, hungry, alone and humiliated, Mr.

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Ambedkar decided to give up. It is said that he felt so helpless that he burst into tears.

He left and never stepped into Baroda again where he had to face so much suffering and humiliation.

MORAL : Untouchability is an inhuman and unjust practice whereby the people who are treated as untouchables are stripped of their dignity and their fundamental rights are encroached upon. A society which practises untouchability is unhealthy and animalistic.

48. Firm Resolution

It was the year 1884. The British Government had assigned an engineer the task of making the water of a canal reach the region on the opposite bank of a river. This could be done by either building pipelines over the river or under the river.

Since the work of constructing pipelines under the river was cheaper and safer, it was decided to dig the riverbed and lay the pipelines.

The monsoon season had started. Now and

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then, the river would be flooded and the hollows dug in the riverbed would get refilled. So, the engineer wrote a letter to his supervising officer, explaining the reason and seeking permission to resume the work after the monsoon.

The officer, not having a deep knowledge or understanding of the difficulty, wrote back, "It is not a good thing that you are showing such slackness at the start of your work."

Although the engineer felt angry he did not stop the work. He would stand there in the pelting rain with the labourers. Finally, the work was completed in two months. His supervising officer was amazed. He asked the engineer to forgive him for his criticism.

The engineer had imbibed the value of firm resolution. He had learnt never to say 'impossible'. After that he always completed the task on hand, despite the difficulties.

His dedication towards his work promoted him to higher posts. He became the chief engineer of the states of Mumbai and Hyderabad. He also went on to become the Chief Minister of the princely state of

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Mysore.

The second iron factory in India was set up by him. The largest dam of the world in those times, Krishnaraj Saagar was built by him. He was the first person to plan the manufacturing of automobiles in India. The first and the only aircraft factory in India was established according to his plan.

The British Government conferred the title of 'Sir' upon him and after independence, India awarded him the highest citizen award, the 'Bharat Ratna'.

This great man was **Sir Vishwesharaya**. He led an active and disciplined life and lived up to the ripe old age of 102 years.

MORAL : Never be disheartened by difficulties. Success always comes to those who do their work persistently.

49. Can A Father Accept His Daughter's Gift ?

An organisation of Banaras is famous in India for its work of propagating the Hindi language and literature in the country.

Dr. Shyamsunder Das was one of its founders.

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He regarded the organisation as his daughter and worked with great love to achieve the goals of the organisation.

The organisation undertook the mammoth task of preparing a Hindi Dictionary. The task went on for many years and several people involved in the task passed away in those years. Finally, the task was completed. The dictionary was named "Brihad Hindi Shabdasaagar" and Dr. Das planned its inaugural ceremony in which he had thought of also felicitating the people who had worked to prepare the dictionary and presenting the ones who were alive with a shawl, a watch and a fountain pen.

He went home and sounded out the plan to his wife. She liked the plan. Then she asked Dr. Das whether he would also accept the presents. Dr. Das said, "Yes! Why do you ask ?" His wife replied, "You always say that the organisation is like your daughter and our custom is that the father does not drink even milk at his daughter's house." Dr. Das understood his wife at once. He felt that he had treated the organisation as his own, so it would be shameful to expect anything in return. He refused to accept any presents.

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MORAL :- How many people do we know who can work with such selfless dedication ?

50. Not A Miracle But Concentration Of The Mind

Swami Vivekanand had gone to America and was visiting a coastal village. He saw some boys on the shore. One boy was holding a gun, another boy hit the ball hard on the surface of the water and when the ball bounced up, the first boy aimed a shot at it. Swamiji found the game interesting and stopped for a while to watch. All the boys tried to shoot the ball turn by turn, but they all missed. Swamiji could not help laughing.

The American boys did not like that an Indian saint was laughing at them. One of them curtly asked, "Why are you laughing ?"

Swamiji replied, "It is because you all are failing in spite of taking so many chances." The boy said, "So what ? This game is not easy even for expert shooters."

Swamiji retorted, "Oh ! Give me the gun for a while." Then Swamiji got a hang of how the gun

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worked. Now he told one boy to throw the ball. Swamiji shot seven times in a row without missing his aim.

All the boys now surrounded him and remarked that he seemed to be a professional shooter. Swamiji clarified that he had not even held a gun before that. The wonderstruck boys wanted to know how he had performed the miracle. Swamiji explained that it was no miracle. He had just concentrated with his mind while aiming. When we concentrate the mind, all our powers are assimilated and we can successfully perform any work which seems like a miracle."

MORAL :- If you want to ensure success in any work, then do it with full concentration.

51. Arrogance Never Pays

This incident happened when Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was studying in high school. Once the Municipal elections were being held in his village. The candidates were Vallabhbhai's school teacher and a rich man who was proud of his financial status. The rich man arrogantly declared

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that he was surely going to win and if he would not then he would shave off his moustache. This was enough to arouse Vallabhbhai's anger who hated arrogance. He made up his mind to bring the rich man down to earth. He formed a group of his school mates and they campaigned aggressively for their teacher. As a result, their teacher won.

Vallabhbhai had been waiting for just that moment. Along with fifty boys and a barber, he reached the rich man's house, caught hold of the rich man and had his moustache shaved off.

MORAL : Never be arrogant or you may find your match who will humble you.

52. Not A Single Abusive Word

Pandit Madanmohan Malviya was a leader of India's freedom struggle. He was a scholar and an educator.

Once he was having a discussion on a topic with someone and it was culminating into a light argument. The other person thought that Panditji was deliberately aggravating him. So, he said,

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"Panditji, I have acquired superb control over my mind. Even if you say a hundred abusive words to me, I will not lose my temper."

Panditji retorted, "Brother, whether you lose your temper or not is secondary. First of all, why should I utter a hundred abusive words and foul my mouth ? Let alone a hundred words, I will not be able to utter even a single abusive word."

MORAL : Speaking abusive words might or might not harm the listener, but it certainly harms the speaker.

53. A Poor Hermit's Advice

When Aurangzeb was ruling over Delhi, there used to live a scholarly and worldly-wise hermit outside the city. In times of trouble Aurangzeb often sought his advice which proved beneficial.

One day, Aurangzeb wrote a letter to the hermit expressing his gratitude and also his wish that he should leave his poor dwelling and Aurangzeb would provide him with a house equipped with comforts and some gold coins for his livelihood.

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The hermit sent a reply the very next day, "I cannot understand why you want to give me something. In my eyes, you are a beggar just like me. Whatever wealth you have is not yours. It belongs to the kingdom and the people. You are merely the treasurer. I don't need a big house. I am perfectly happy in my small cottage. A man requires a small room to live and space for his grave when he dies. If he desires more than that, then he is wrong in doing so."



It is said that Aurangzeb kept the hermit's letter safely and would often read it and cry. He treated himself as the custodian of his kingdom and not its owner.

MORAL :- The hermit's advice should be followed by all of us. One should keep company of pious and knowledgeable ascetics who can guide us to the right path.



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: Supported By :

- 1) Bhamasha Jagdusha, Ishan, Siddha, Mansvi, Aditi Bharuch, Ahd-
- 2) Snehaben Pankajbhai Bakulaben Sevantilal Shah, Nadiad-Indore.
- 3) Kochar Textiles, Chennai.
- 4) Deepak Maganbhai, Hyderabad.
- 5) Deepika Hasmukhbhai Parmar, (Jashith) Chennai.
- 6) Ashok B. Choksi, Ahmedabad. U.S.A.
- 7) Sejalben Devanshubhai, Ahd.
- 8) Girish, Titixa, Tanisha, Sweety, Singhvi, Hyd & A.P. (Shilpa, Sonam)
- 9) Jyotiben Jayantibhai Himmatlal Shah, Ghamiswala Parivar, Sola Road, Ahmedabad.
- 10) Jawarilalji Bhawar Devi - Erode, T.N.
- 11) Sanghvi Vansraj Kushar Raj Santosh Bhansali, (Sakshi-Vruti). Ahd.
- 12) Jignesh (Pappu) Bindu-Karan-Vandan Nadiad.
- 13) Pannaben Sandipbhai Parikh, Sehul, Anish, Vishal, Mumbai-Palanpur.
- 14) Taruben Rameshbhai, Chhaya Gems, Vanee.
- 15) Shantilal Manilal Vohera-Nadiyad
- 16) Late Bhailalbhai Somchand Parivar-Hanshaben-Halol
- 17) Indiraben - Ratilal Shah - Shantinagar (Idarwala)
- 18) Heet Jignesh Narechania - Ahmedabad
- 19) Bhavya-Vipra-Vishal-Arya-Krupali-Jaya-Bhavana-

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Nitin Satyavadi-Ahmedabad

- 20) Ranulaljee Rajeshkumar Kotadia (Varsha, Vineet, Saumya-Rajnandgaon)
- 21) Hiya Kunal Shah, Raedita Shaunak Verdia
- 22) Subhadraben Jyantilal Nagardas Shah - Khimmat - Palanpur - Bangalore
- 23) Pushti, Devarsh, Dhruvi, Yashasvi, Samarth, Vinod K. Shah, Mumbai - Palanpur
- 24) Susheela Shantilal Sethia - Bikaner, (Shashi.)
- 25) Chetna-Umesh-Manilal-Lodaya-Solapur
- 26) Prithy Jain - Pernambut T.N.
- 27) Dilipbhai Vadilal Vasa - Jamnagar
- 28) Khyati Chirag Varan - Ahd.
- 29) Vruti Atul Shah (Krishil) - Ahd.
- 30) Jas, Mohit, Seema, Piyush, Prerna - Tirth - Ahd.
- 31) Ramandevi Gyanchand Gandhi - Ahmedabad - Sirohi
- 32) Hitesh Mohanlal Sanghavi (Sushilaben, Paresh, Priti, Kinnari, Mansi) Chennai
- 33) Disha Bhavin Shah - Ahd.
- 34) Shrimati Sukhidevi Sumermalji Vanigotha, Bhinmal-Delhi-Hyderabad, Mumbai
- 35) Mahir Pooja Jinesh - Ahd.
- 36) Vimlaben Natvarlal Shah Parivar, Khambhat, Mumbai
- 37) Meenaben Amitbhai Jain, Ketan, Vinaya Raakhi - Aarti. Nagpur-Bangalore
- 38) Sangeeta Nilesh Kothari, Hemangi, Prushti, Sneha,

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Nagpur.

- 39) Amay, Arya, Ayan, Rihtik, Pranit - Aahaan, Rihaan, Bhansali, Mumbai. Palanpur
- 40) Maulika-Ahd.
- 41) Charmie Jawaharbai, Mum.
- 42) Dhruvi Mehul Shah, Ahd.
- 43) Sarvamangala Jewellers, Maudha.
- 44) ek - Sadgra Hasta - Mumbai.
- 45) Kantilaljee, Jitu, Raju, Khushi, Saru, Saroja, Nagarthpeth, Bangalore.
- 46) Gunvantbhai-Samip-Hita (Nadiad-U.S.A.)
- 47) Nityam, Akshee, Niyati, Vivan, Dadar. (Mumbai)
- 48) Madhuben Chothmal Parivar, Thara, Surendra Guruji, Bangalore.
- 49) Khushi, Jiya, Pinky, Pathik, Ahd.
- 50) Amichandjee Solanki (Shraddha, C.A.) Bangalore.
- 51) PrashantAutomobiles, Mancherial - A.P.
- 52) Shrenik, Rita, Yashashvi, Riddhi-Mumbai.
- 53) Prakash Golechha - Pragya Bhilai
- 54) Pragnaben Prakash Shah Parivar - Juna Disha Mumbai.
- 55) Vineeta Jain - Ahd.
- 56) Alauki, Shalin, Aradita on occasion of 10 fast of Alauki-Mum.
- 57) Ashok Kochar, Rajnand Gao, Chhatishgadh.

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