

**JAINAM JAYATI SHASANAM**

**LABDHI BAAL VAARTA Series**

**Part - II**

# BORN TO BLOSSOM

Mobile App : LABDHIVIKRAMRAJ (LVR)

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FOR  
SALE**

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## 1. CHANT IN ADVERSE SITUATIONS

This is a true incident which occurred in the life of residents of Surat, Belaben and her family, which once again highlights the importance of *Shree Navkar Mahamantra* in our lives. Let us read about it in Belaben's own words.

It happened during election time in the year 1990. Due to elections, a three day holiday had been declared. All schools, offices and shops were closed. We decided to go on a pilgrimage trip to Palitana. My sister-in-law, her husband, their fifteen-year old son, my husband, our two-year old son and I left by car. The incident happened in the afternoon while we were returning home. We had reached a place called Amod near Ankleshwar. The

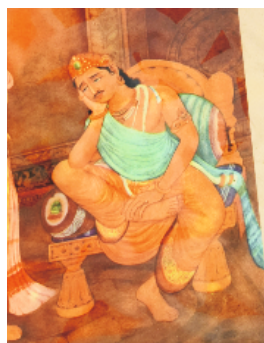
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election results had been declared and riots had broken out there. An angry mob of 100-150, carrying swords, sticks and knives, surrounded our car and started beating it with their sticks. One rioter removed a long knife, threatening us to step out. We were very scared for our lives and started reciting *Navkar Mahamantra*, praying to Lord Aadeeshwarjee. Just then, as if sent by God Himself, an old man stepped out of the mob, telling his fellow rioters to let us go as we were not their enemies but one of them. The old man warned us that we would meet another mob of 100-200 rioters on our way ahead. He instructed us to give his name as reference and say that we were his relatives so that they would allow us to go unharmed. Just ahead of us, a truck driver's throat had been slit. We were very frightened as our lives were still in danger. We kept on chanting *Navkar Mahamantra*. After

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driving on for just two minutes, we were stopped by yet another armed mob. But on giving the old man's name, we were allowed to go unharmed. Since that day, our faith in *Navkar Mahamantra* has been reinstated, in fact it has increased manifold. Now *Navkar Mahamantra* has become an inseparable part of our lives and we recite it at all times, even when we wake up in the middle of night.

Thus, chanting *Navkar Mahamantra* repeatedly keeps all troubles away.



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## 2. PIETY OF HIGHEST DEGREE

Amit Mota, a resident of Nadiad, who was pursuing further education in Jain scriptures, after having studied *Four Karma Granth*, had gone to attend a five day religious camp (*Shibir*) held by *Pujya Acharyaji* at *Godhavi Teerth*. In the afternoon, a programme of *Upkaran Vandana* was to be held. In order to fulfill his strong desire to get the *Gyan Pothi* (Book of Knowledge), which is regarded as a valuable Jewel of Jainism, Amit prayed to Shree Mahaveer Swami, the 24<sup>th</sup> *Teerthankar*. He was determined to not deter from taking the most difficult vow for this.

When the bidding for vows began, he made the highest bid, whereby he took a vow to learn 2300 new verses within two years.

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Bidding was also held for Shree Kumarpal *Aarti* to be done on the same evening. The person who would take a vow to give up meals after sunset for the longest period, would get the fortune of doing the *Aarti*. The bid started with a vow for eight months, Amit said two years but another person almost snatched the opportunity out of Amit's hands by making a bid of ten years. Amit strongly felt that he shouldn't let go of the fortunate chance to be King Kumarpal - a devout follower of the Jain *Teerthankar* and person who propagated the principle of *Amari Pravartan* (Non-Violence) in 18 provinces.

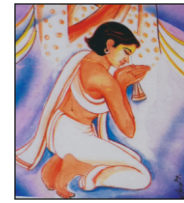
Amit mustered up the courage to take a vow for lifetime and won the bid. After doing the *Aarti*, Amit felt concerned as he had taken the vow without asking his family. With tear-filled eyes, he prayed to Shree Mahaveer Swami and took a vow of chanting *Shree Navkar*

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*Mahamantra* on each of the 108 beads of the rosary, thrice daily, if his family supported him in fulfilling his vow of *Tivihaar* (having no meals or beverages after sunset except water).

A miracle happened when he reached home. His parents were overjoyed. His father hugged him and praised him saying that he had removed a sin from his life which he, himself, could never do. His father blessed him that he should fulfill his vow with piety and determination.

We should salute Amit's parents for giving him such good values. Readers, won't you also encourage and inspire your children to be like Amit?



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### 3. SHRI NAVKAR MAHAMANTRA BECOMES THE REMEDY OF AN AILING MOTHER

Animeshbhai, (presently in Ahmedabad) narrates the miracle brought about in his house by *Shree Navkar Mahamantra* when he used to live at Kandivali (Mumbai).

On 23-11-2004, my mother Mrs. Jyotiben Dhananjay, was affected by facial palsy. The family physician told us to consult a neurologist. Although it would be difficult to get an appointment at such a short notice, we took the local doctor's letter and reached the neurologist's clinic at 3 p.m. The assistant lady doctor told us that we would have to wait till 5:30 p.m. However, by 5 p.m., my mother developed such an excruciating headache that she felt like banging her head against the wall. She started blabbering senselessly as if

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intoxicated. She could not even manage to stand up. We drew the assistant doctor's attention to the gravity of the situation and requested her to immediately take us to the doctor, but she paid no heed.

At 5:30 p.m., the neurologist examined my mother and diagnosed her condition as being quite grave. We were told to get some tests done right away and show the reports to the doctor. My mother couldn't even sit straight on the chair. The entire left side of the body was affected by a paralytic stroke. She could barely manage to have her blood taken for the test. From the pathology laboratory, we took her to a hospital in

Malad for C.T. Scan. Meanwhile, she was continuously blabbering but surprisingly, she was subconsciously alert enough to chant *Shree Navkar Mahamantra* and other holy *Mantras* in her mind.

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We informed the neurologist about the C.T. Scan result on the phone. According to his instructions, mother was admitted to Dr. Pankaj Gandhi's clinic at about 9:30 p.m. The doctor told my father the case was serious but he would try his best.

At midnight, when my father was leaving for home, Mother told him that evening *Aarti* of Lord Sheetalnath, in their home temple, had not been done, so he should do it on reaching home. She also instructed him to wash and dry *Angluchhanas* (Cloth used to wipe the God's idol) that she had soaked so he could use them while performing *pooja* the next day. [When the values of doing *Ashtaprakari Pooja* (8 kinds of *pooja*) and *Aarti* daily and undaunted devotion towards God are deeply imbibed in a person, the person manages to co-ordinate his thoughts and words due to the positive effect of these values, even when he is not in his

...14...

senses.]

Next morning at 9 a.m., father returned to the hospital and inquired about mother's health. Mother replied that she was feeling much better and that she had walked by herself up to the bathroom, even without the support of the wall.

Father was greatly astonished to see mother walking unaided and so was the doctor, who called it a miracle. When questioned by father, mother replied that she had not slept even a wink at night. In fact, she had been continuously chanting the holy *Mantras*. She had chanted the *Shree Navkar Mahamantra* on each of the 108 beads of the rosary 7 times. Likewise, she had chanted the *Shree Parmeshthi Mantra* 12 times.

Father calculated that it took about half an hour to chant the *Mantra* once on the rosary, so mother must have chanted the *Mantras* for

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about six hours. Father believed that mother's miraculous recovery was owing to the chanting of the *Mantras* with undaunted faith and mother wholeheartedly agreed to this.

Whoever chants the *Shree Navkar Mahamantra* and *Shree Parmeshthi Mantra* with undaunted faith and determination will not only experience that the obstacles in his path to Salvation are removed but will also inevitably attain the best, eternal gift of Salvation.



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#### 4. I HAVE COME FROM FAR, MY LORD, TO BEHOLD YOU IN MY VISION

This incident of the life of *Sadhvi* (Nun) *Shree Shrutratnashriji*, belonging to the clan of *Pujya* (Revered) *Acharya* *Shree Hemprabhasurishwarji*, highlights the miraculous power of Lord *Aadeeshwarji* and *Shri Shatrunjay Teerth*. *Pujya Sadhviji* had unfortunately got five fractures in her leg and to add to this woe, she met with an accident. The doctor plastered her leg, supported it with a sling that went around her neck and instructed that the plaster was not to be opened for the next six months.

After five months of immobility, she crawled on her hands from *Girivihar* to *Taleti* (the foothill of *Shree Shatrunjay Teerth*). She, somehow, managed to reach there after an hour. She did *Chaityavandan* in the sitting

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position. Suddenly, she was overtaken by an intense desire to do the *yatra* (journey) of Shree Shatrunjay and see Lord Aadeeshwarji. She started climbing slowly with a strong conviction that Lord Aadeeshwarji would help her to reach his sanctum, which she did in six hours. She cried bitterly before Lord Aadeeshwarji.

She felt an inner voice urging her to do seven *yatras* of Shree Shatrunjay while simultaneously doing *Chhath* (a complete fast of two days without water and food). In fact, she felt inspired to do it not once but 108 times. She untied the sling, freeing her leg. She sang *stutis* in the Lord's praise for two hours and then descended Shree Shatrunjay after an arduous journey of four hours.

Very soon she completed the *yatras* as commanded by her inner voice not 108 times,

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but 111 times. Many of these *yatras* were done by *Pujya Sadhviji* in the course of her ninth and tenth *VarshiTap* (alternate fasting by drinking only boiled water for 13 months). She went on to do the *Navvanu Yatras* (99 *Yatras* of Shree Shatrunjay) seventeen times and the *Navvanu Yatra* of Nav Toonk, twice.



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## 5. A MINI DEVOTEE TAKES A MAJOR LEAP OF FAITH

Around 5-6 years ago, during the monsoon, Jesal, a 23 years old resident of Kandivali came to *Gurudev* to do *vandan* (obeisance). *Gurudev* explained to him the power and greatness of *Shree Namaskar Mahamantra*, also telling him that a person who chanted the *Mahamantra* nine lakh times would not have to go to Hell in his next birth.

Jesal started chanting the *Mahamantra* with complete faith. He was the kind of person who never gossiped and always minded his own business. He always kept the *Navkar Mantra* counter handy and no sooner did he get some free time, than he started his chanting. He would chant about 1000-1500 times daily. Within five years, he had

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completed chanting the *Mahamantra* 22 lakh times.

Later on, Jesal learnt the importance of *Mutthisahiyam Pachchakkhan*, a vow in which a person, before consuming any food or water, has to sit down, fold his palm into a fist and chant the *Mahamantra* 3 times. After consuming, the person has to do *Dhaarna* (a vow by which the person decides how long he will not eat or drink.)

The Jain Scriptures inform us that a person who does *Chauvihar* (fasting totally, including no water, after sunset) on a daily basis for a month, gets benefit equivalent to that of 15 fasts and benefit equivalent to that of 27 fasts (consuming only boiled water) if a person does *Mutthisahiyam Pachchakkhan*. Jesal started doing the *Mutthisahiyam Pachchakkhan* and gradually, according to his capacity, he also started doing the 14 *Niyam*

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and 12 *Vrats* (Vows for self-control and regulation on daily or life-time basis)

When Jesal met *Gurudev* in the year 2006, he said, “*Maharaj Saheb*, on the basis of the rituals and self regulations I have observed till now, I have full confidence that they will bear me the fruit of higher elevation in my next birth!

What undaunted faith must have driven Jesal to observe the rituals and self-regulations that he was able to give guarantee for his next birth! Let’s follow Jesal’s footsteps and tread the path that will lead us to monkhood and finally to salvation.



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## 6. THE REMARKABLE *SHREE NAMASKAR MAHAMANTRA* :

Panktiben narrates this incident which happened with her father, who was going on a business trip to Coimbatore, with 5-6 of his colleagues by the office car.

Suddenly, a tyre got punctured, the reason being nails that were purposely scattered on the road. Just as the driver alighted from the car, a few rogues appeared from somewhere and surrounded the car. When one of my father’s colleague confronted them, he was severely beaten. Another colleague who was also severely beaten, slipped into coma from which he took about one and half month to recover. At that critical moment, my father had already started chanting *Shree Namaskar Mahamantra*. All

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my father’s colleagues were stripped-off their valuables but owing to the divine effect of the *Mahamantra*, neither did my father lose any of his valuables nor was a single hair on his head harmed.

It’s such a remarkable *Mantra* that has been the saviour of countless lives.



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## 7. CHANT IN LIFE THREATENING SITUATION

This miraculous incident took place in the lives of Kantikaka and his wife who lived in a *chawl* of Mumbai.

Owing to old age, their eyesight has weakened. Although unable to see, they could recognize a person from the sound of his voice, even if they were meeting him after a gap of few years. Both were immensely religious and God loving, so they spent their entire day in religious rituals such as *Samayik* and *Pratikraman*.

Owing to fructifications of some past bad deed (*Karma*), a fire broke out in their house. Neighbours gathered around the house but the fire was so intense that nobody was willing to risk their lives to rescue the old couple.

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Kantikaka and his wife realized that they were trapped by the fire so they calmly surrendered to their fate and started chanting the *Namaskar Mahamantra* with complete devotion and faith. People, standing outside their house, saw the old couple being delivered to safety outside their house. It was a truly divine incident that they had witnessed. Who is He that rescued Kantikaka and his wife?



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## 8. REINCARNATION OF A COW AS A HEAVENLY BEING

Let us read about this episode of Draupadiben's life in her own words. It occurred at Jabalpur in *Samvat* (Era) 2028.

At 1:30 p.m., a sick, stray cow fell down into my compound. Moved by her plight, I gave her some grass and water. But upon realizing that her condition was unlikely to improve, I started chanting *Shree Navkar Mahamantra* in her ears and I could see that this was giving her great relief. She became emotional and her eyes brimmed over with tears.

That entire day, everytime I passed by her, I compassionately chanted the *Mantra* in her ears. I sat by her again in the evening, continuously chanting while she constantly gazed at me, listening to the *Mantra* very devotedly, despite her pain.

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I made her do the '*Sagarik Ansan*' (abstain from worldly needs in case of death) and gave her refuge of the Siddhigiri (Palitana), inspiring her to do the *yatra* of the Siddhigiri. While listening to the *Mahamantra*, she breathed her last.

I had her buried as if she was my dear relative and sprinkled five kilos of salt over her grave.

Six months after this incident, my husband suddenly fell ill. While sleeping at night, I saw a Divine light. At first I was scared but chanting the *Namaskar Mahamantra* gave me courage to ask, "Who are you? What is this light? I cannot understand." Just then a divine figure appeared from the light and said, "Didn't you recognize me? I have come to help you." Then the figure transformed itself into a cow and said, "I have reincarnated as a heavenly

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being on account of the divine effect of *Shree Navkar Mahamantra* which you chanted in my ears." I didn't ask for any boon. The Goddess told me to let my husband sleep till the next morning and he would be completely cured. It happened just as she had said, "My husband's faith was also reinstated in the *Mahamantra*."

In the *Posh* month of *Samvat* 2041, the Goddess again reappeared in my dream and forecasted a calamity on my children. I didn't let both my sons go out of the house, not even their college, for two days. Just then I received the grievous news of my daughter, Asha, falling off the roof. We all went to Ahmedabad where she was. I called upon the Goddess in this moment of crisis to save my daughter, but the Goddess expressed her helplessness in the situation as my daughter's life span was short according to her destiny. I was told she would

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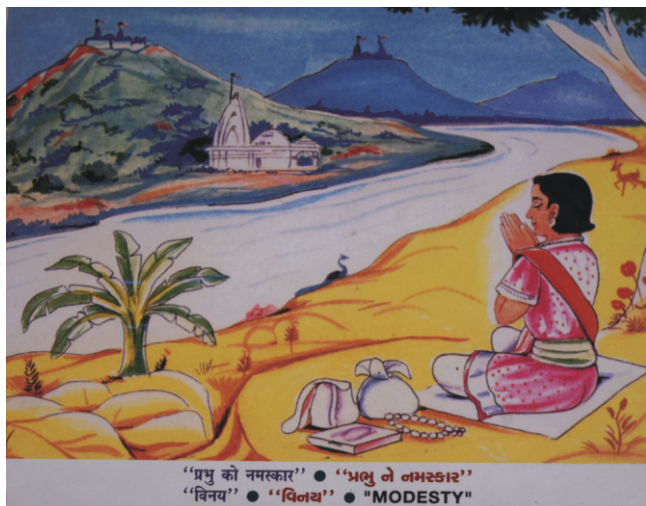


breathe her last at 9a.m. on Wednesday. I started administering the last rites to my daughter, undeterred by the opposition put up by all our relatives as I was more concerned about elevating my daughter's soul. At 9:05 a.m., Asha passed away while listening to the *Mahamantra*. Her consent for donating her eyes had already been obtained before her death.

My daughter's untimely death plunged me into deep grief. The Goddess once again appeared in my dream and said, "Don't worry. The divine effect of the *Mahamantra* has elevated your daughter's soul." I requested to behold my daughter in my vision and accepting my request, the Goddess brought my daughter, who had also reincarnated as a Goddess, before me. The person to whom my daughter's eyes had been donated was also shown to me. I felt very content.

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The Goddess has told me to ask for anything, be it wealth or anything else, but till date I haven't done so. My faith in *Shree Navkar Mahamantra* is undaunted and I wish that everyone chants it for the upliftment of their soul.



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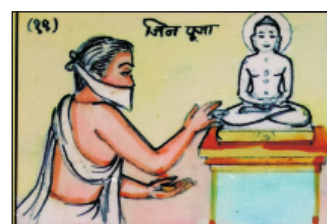
## 9. DIVINE EFFECT OF THE UVASSAGGAHARRAM STOTRA:

About 12 years ago, a *shravika* (a female devotee), living in Thane, had got a big cyst in the region below her ear. She was in excruciating pain and unable to even turn her face. She consulted a specialist in Malad who said that a surgery was inevitable and fixed a date, three days later, for the same. Meanwhile, he recommended some tests. The *shravika* was quite frightened at the thought of undergoing a surgery. She went straight to the *Derasar* (Jain Temple). She bowed before God, took the *prakshal* water, (holy water) in her hand, chanted the *Uvassaggaharam Stotra* thrice and applied it over the region affected by the cyst. She did likewise continuously for three days and went straight from the *Derasar* to get admitted to the clinic on

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the third day. There was a subsidence in the pain and the cyst also seemed to have reduced in size. The doctor did some tests and diagnosed that everything seemed normal, there was no need for surgery. The *shravika* rejoiced. She had got a cyst on her left wrist in the past and that had also been cured in the same manner.

There are many such incidents in the present times which have proved the divine remedial power of *Shree Navkar Mahamantra* + *Uvassaggaharam Stotra* which when chanted 27 or 41 times while holding the holy water in the hand and then consuming or applying the water has benefitted many.



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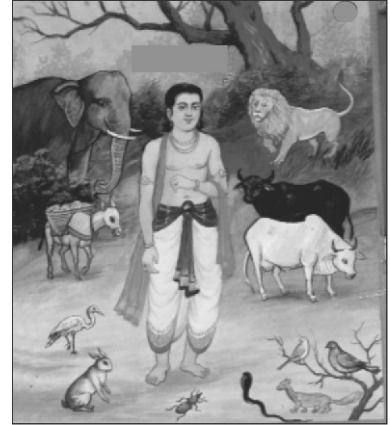
## 10. HAIL JAINISAM - THE PROPOGATOR OF NON-VIOLENCE

This is the story of an 88 years old resident of Kandivali (Mumbai), Mrs. Prabhavati Chinubhai Shah. In 2001, she was diagnosed with a fatal disease whereby only one out of 100 patients managed to survive and the doctor had warned that she and her family should be ready to accept the ultimate consequence. Mrs. Prabhavati and her sons were very religious. Besides giving the prescribed medication to their mother, they started giving *Abhaydaan* (giving freedom of life to cattle) to one life daily for 40 days. Mrs. Prabhavati, who had not consumed a single drop of water for 21 days, seemed to be blessed by these living beings and she gradually proceeded towards total recovery.

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Today, at the ripe age of 88, she is hale and hearty and immersed in devotion to God.

Our *Teerthankars* have stated that non-violence is the essence of religion. Violence is the origin of all bodily diseases. Abstinence from violence blesses us with good health and finally leads to Salvation (*Moksha*). Let us take a pledge to follow the path of non-violence and get the blessings of all living beings.



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## 11. DIVINE INFLUENCE OF PRATIKRAMAN

Kailasben, a resident of Vasna, Ahmedabad, was suffering from cancer. One morning, she thought of skipping *Pratikraman* as her body was aching badly but on further thought, she decided to do it as she was going to do the household chores, then why shy away from *Pratikraman*. After *Pratikraman*, she did *Navkarshi* (first meal taken 48 minutes after sunrise). Later on, while she was taking the boiling *dal* off the flame, the tongs broke up into two parts and the *dal* fell, splashing the drops into her eyes. However, her eyes remained unharmed and since then her faith in religion and God have increased manifold. She realized the benefits of doing *Pratikraman*.



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## 12. NON JAINS INSPIRED TO EMBRACE JAINISM

Leench, a small village near Mehsana, Gujarat, has a *Shikharbandhi Derasar* of Lord Aadeeshwarjee but there isn't a single Jain in the village. Three years ago a Jain *Sadhvi* (nun) stationed there during monsoon and it was as if the season of penance and religion came along with her. Every house in the village gave up consumption of roots and tubers and many people started consuming only boiled water. Under the influence of the pious nun, a significant change came over the village by the time the *Paryushan Parva* commenced. Even after a long and tiring day of laborious work, 350-400 people attended the discourses held at night. People would go to the *Upashray* (Monastery) to request the nun to come and

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deliver the lecture and after the lecture, they would respectfully accompany her back. She inspired the villagers to do *Ekasana* (consumption of meal only once and boiled water before sunset and after sunrise) during the *Paryushan Parv*. Many people also laid the foundation of *Aayambil Oli* (a kind of penance in which food devoid of vegetables, spices, condiments, oil, milk and milk products, etc. can only be consumed once in a day). Till date, even after the departure of the nun, many non-Jains still do the morning and evening *Pratikraman* daily. The people of Leench also collectively go on a pilgrimage (*yatra*) of *Shree Shatrunjaya Teerth*.

In this way, many Jain monks and nuns have inspired many non-Jains who came in contact with them, to embrace Jainism.

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### 13. LET US DO THE NAVVANU YATRA

Ramilaben was a devout *shravika* (female devotee) who would simultaneously do her religious studies with whatever chore she was doing. Whether she was going on a pilgrimage or any excursion, as soon as she would sit in the car, she would say, "Victory be to God !" and start chanting *Shree Navkar Mahamantra*, chanting the *Navsmaran* (collection of Nine Holy *Stotras*) for others and limiting all idle talk. In 1998, the doctor prescribed her to take one pill daily for her blood pressure. After the monsoons, she wished to join in the *Navvanu Yatra* (99 *yatras* of *Shree Shatrunjaya*) sponsored by a relative. Her husband, though reluctant to allow her to do so because of her blood pressure, finally gave his assent, not wanting to be an obstacle

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in a religious ritual. In a span of one and a half months, she did 108 *yatras* including 7 *yatras* while doing *Chhatth* (a total 2 days fast). From that time onwards, she hasn't felt the need to take any pills and has developed immense strength to do long and difficult penance like complete fasting during 20 *olis* of *Vees Sthanak Tap*, 2 *Updhaans*, 2 *Varshee Tap* (year long fasting like Lord Aadeeshwarji), *Siddhi Tap*, *Navvanu Yatra* once again, *Maasakshaman* (30 days fast), 108 *Attham* (3 days fast) of Lord Parshvanath and 9 *Navpad Olis*, all of which she has done following all the rituals prescribed by the scriptures. She added more feathers to her cap by doing 22 *olis* of *Vardhman Tap*, *Kalyanak Tap*, etc. purely because of her immense faith in God.

She persuaded her husband to do *Varshee Tap* which commences from the

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month of *Falgun*. Her husband was diabetic and couldn't remain hungry. He used sugar free in his food, but as he went on with the *Tap*, he wasn't troubled by his ailment at all and even started consuming sweets during *Biyaasana* (consumption of 2 meals a day.)

Once her husband was returning by car from a pilgrimage trip of Rajasthan, along with five of his friends. He was sitting beside his friend who was driving. Unfortunately, his friend dozed off and the car dashed against a truck coming from the opposite direction. One friend died on the spot, others were critically injured and Ramilaben's husband became unconscious, but was saved from serious injury by chanting of **Shree Navkar Mahamantra**.

Such is the divine and glorious effect of faith in God and chanting of the Holy *Mantras*, and doing *Tap* and Holy *yatras*.

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## 14. REMARKABLE RESILIENCE OF CHILDREN

This incident highlights the immense faith, courage and determination aroused in devotees of all ages by inspiring words of revered Jain Monks. After hearing the inspiring words, "In order to remove the *Karma* (deeds) from the soul, a *Shravak* (Male devotee) should bear the suffering caused by *Kesh Loch* (removal of hair from one's head by pulling it)", during a discourse of revered *Maharaj Saheb*, stationed for the monsoon in Daulat Nagar (Borivali, Mumbai), about 150 devotees, including children aged 8-15 years got ready for the same. Salute to the inspirer as well as the resilient spirit of the children.



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## 15. DEARER THAN LIFE

Keval, a 14 year old boy residing in Dahegam, was inspired to chant **Shree Navkar Mahamantra**, 9 lakh times, after reading the ideal incidents of Jainism. Keval says emotionally, "I study in a convent school. When the Christian prayer is being chanted by everyone, I silently chant *Shree Navkar Mahamantra*. Sometimes, I utter it loudly by mistake and I am inevitably punished when the teacher hears it. I accept the punishment happily as *Shree Navkar Mahamantra* is more important than any punishment I have to bear."

Which school do your children go to?



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## 16. REFORMATION OF THUGS

Brahmasen was fully devoted to Jainism and was completely immersed in rituals prescribed by the scriptures. The virtue of "Compassion" was fully enhanced in his personality. Once, four princes, who were dethroned and banished from their kingdoms, wandered into Brahmasen's town. He offered shelter and livelihood to them.

On *Chaturdashi* day (last day of fortnight), the four ungrateful princes broke into Brahmasen's house to carry out theft. Brahmasen had undertaken *Paushadh Vrat* at that time and not wanting to commit the sin of breaking the regulations of the *Vrat* (vow), he remained silent even after knowing about the break-in. Brahmasen started chanting **Shree Navkar Mahamantra** softly and the princes, who heard the *Mahamantra* said, "We have

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heard these words before, but where?" The four princes felt great turmoil which finally led to the awakening of *Jaati Smaran Gyaan* (knowledge of their Past birth). Upon learning of their state of monkhood in their past birth, the four princes regretted deeply in the following manner, "We, the undertakers of monkhood, chanters of *Shree Navkar Mahamantra*, reincarnated as Gods in Heaven, have lowered ourselves so!"

The Heavenly Gods were moved by the intense longing of the princes to embrace monkhood and conferred the same upon the princes and Brahmasen.



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## 17. GRACE THE TEMPLE WITH YOUR DIVINE PRESENCE O LORD!

An idol of Shree Sambhavnathjee had been installed in a tenement at Vejalpur. A Muslim glazier was called to repair a glass window. However, the glazier refused to accept payment for his work. His reason was that a debtor was not paying his dues in spite of several attempts. Having heard a lot about the miraculous powers of Jain *Teerthankars*, he decided that if he recovered his dues, then he wouldn't take the payment for his work in the temple. The glazier's resolution was fulfilled and his faith on Jain *Teerthankars* was established.

In his previous birth Shree Sambhavnathjee had helped many lives affected by famines and carried out many feats that

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seemed impossible. He sowed the seeds of good deeds and reaped the benefit of becoming a *Teerthankar*. Devotees still experience his miraculous powers.

Hail Shree Sambhavnathjee!



*Meditation*

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## 18. I AM A SHAMEFUL SINNER

This incidence was witnessed by a Jain monk during his one month stay at Jain Society. He narrates it in the following words: The kite flying festival had just got over. One day I came out of the monastery and saw an eagle swinging from the branch of a tree and trying to keep out of the grasp of a dog who was trying to eat it. I realized that the string of a kite had got wound around the wing of the eagle and the injury was preventing her from flying. I mentioned this to a *Shravak* (male devotee) who untangled the string and the eagle went away from that spot without any trace. In a similar incident in Shefali, the victims, namely a crow and an eagle, were bravely saved. We have heard of many incidents of a kite's string

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slaying throats of passersby and cutting the fingers of people flying the kites. It's high time that we seriously ponder whether such enjoyment, which becomes punishment for others, is worth it? Many kite fliers find actual enjoyment in cutting other people's kites. It's no wonder that people who seek enjoyment in a deed that heartens one's soul against other living beings' pain, invite grievous punishment for themselves for several births.

There are many groups of young people who rush to rescue the victims of kite flying. Aren't you inspired to organize the youths in your locality and do the same? However, the best solution to this is that people who feed grains and give donations for welfare of birds and animals on one hand and indulge in the cruel deed of kite flying on the other, should awaken to this monstrous fact.

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## 19. OBEDIENCE OF JIN'S TEACHINGS - TRUE SOURCE OF HAPPINESS

Sweetben, a resident of Kandivali, says that she has been doing *Chauvihar* (no meals or water after sunset) since childhood. During pregnancy, the doctor had recommended her to have milk at night and to include beetroot and carrot juice in her diet as she was physically weak. No one in her house had ever consumed roots and tubers. She was in a dilemma. She happened to read some Jain scriptures which strengthened her mind. She abstained from roots and tubers and did *Chauvihar* during the entire term of pregnancy! Even on the day she delivered, she stuck to her resolution. Today her son is two and a half years old and very healthy too. Come what may, she will not steer away from the teachings

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of **Jin** as this is the only way to make one's life worthy and meaningful. She advises all to do the same.



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## 20. THE TRUE SAVIOUR OF MILLIONS

Jayshreeben, a resident of Vasna, Ahmedabad, says that her father was a tour operator. Once he was conducting a group of pilgrims from Ratlam to Nageshwar. It being his first pilgrimage to Nageshwar, he lost his way. A stranger appeared from nowhere and instructed him. Accordingly, he reached the bank of a river and the holy place of Nageshwar was on the opposite bank. The river was full and the bus driver refused to take the bus across the river. The passengers were also against the idea of taking the bus across the river without checking out its depth. Her father along with the driver and 2-3 passengers went upto the middle of the river while the other passengers collectively started chanting *Shree Navkar Mahamantra*. The bus

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was miraculously transported to the opposite bank. Wonder of wonders! How did this happen?



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## 21. THE DIVINE NAVKAR MAHAMANTRA KUMBH

During monsoon season of *Vikram Samvat* (Era) 2064, a *Navkar Kumbh* (Pot) was circulating from house to house in *Mridang Sangh* (Congregation) in *Vasna*, *Ahmedabad*. Forty five lakh times chanting of *Shree Navkar Mahamantra* had already been completed in front of the *Kumbh* when it reached *Vanitaben's* house. In an uninterrupted chain, the members of the household chanted *Shree Navkar Mahamantra* on every bead of the rosary, 650 times.

When *Vanitaben* was chanting the *Mahamantra* with intense concentration, some *Vasakshep* (holy sandalwood powder) and *Kanku* (red vermilion powder) fell on the edge of her clothes. When she completed the

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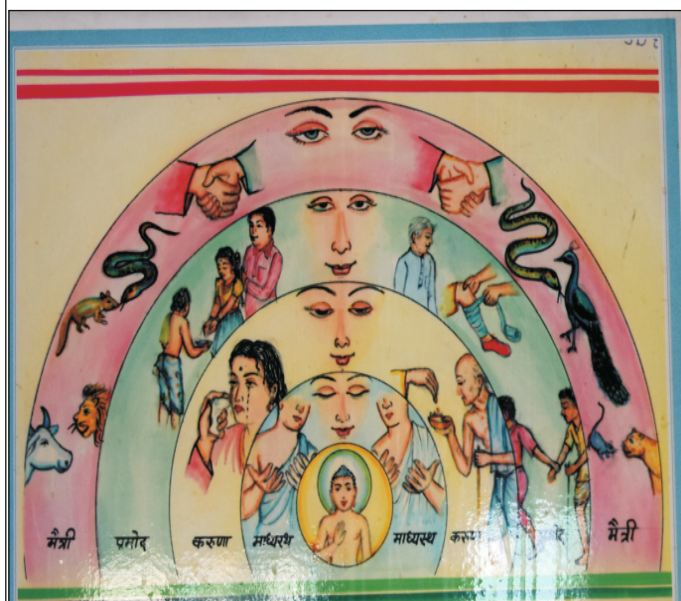
chanting after 2-3 hours, she noticed it and thought that it was some stain. The incident was repeated when she was chanting at 3a.m. With passage of time, all that remained were the marks on her clothes.

Once she was passing by the Opera on her scooter, simultaneously chanting the *Mahamantra*, when another scooter dashed into hers, flinging her against a wall, five feet away. Fortunately the *Mahamantra* protected her against any harm.

The miraculous effect of *Navkar Kumbh* was also experienced in *Vikram Samvat* (Era) 2063, in *Krishnanagar*. More than one crore times, *Shree Navkar Mahamantra* was chanted and in the house of a fortunate devotee, *Ameezharna* (Shower of Holy Nectar) occurred, whereby the entire sheet of cloth was drenched. The *Ameezharna* went on continuously for almost an hour, even after the

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sheet was hung from a clothesline. It finally stopped only after the sheet was folded and put away.



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## 22. SHREE NAVKAR-THE BEST CURE

Sunil, a resident of *Mulund*, was plagued by severe headache for about 18 hours in a day since many months. All remedies and medical treatments proved unsuccessful. He was fed up of the pain and the dizziness. Inspired by his mother, he read incidents of people whose lives had been positively influenced by *Shree Navkar Mahamantra* and resolved to chant it. The faithful chanting started bringing him relief and after he had chanted the *Mahamantra* about 5000 times, the C.T. scan report showed that he was cured. Truly, the *Mahamantra* is the master key to solving all ailments and problems!



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### 23. TIME AND TIDE WAIT FOR NO MAN

*Gurudev* says, "During my stay at Dahanukarwadi, Kandivali, a person came to me in the evening, and requested me to go his house and chant the *Manglik* for the benefit of the soul of a family member who was seriously ill. I was taken to a 16 year old boy, lying in a bed, covered with a shawl over his body from neck downwards. His face had turned fully black. I was told that his blood cancer was in the third stage and his wealthy uncle (mother's brother) had also taken him to the U.S. but to no avail. The boy's aunt (mother's sister) was a doctor but all the care and the money in the world could not save him. I chanted the *Manglik* and *Shree Navkar Mahamantra* for half an hour. Meanwhile, my attention was

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drawn to a *Rajoharan* (Monk's broom) hanging from a handle in the attic. Upon enquiry, I was told that the boy had a longing for monkhood and had resolved to embrace it if he was cured. The same night, I made an exception upon his father's request and went after *Pratikraman* to chant the *Manglik* and the *Mahamantra*. The same night, the boy passed away with an unfulfilled longing. It teaches us to embrace monkhood before the opportunity slips away."



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### 24. FAITH IS POWER

A resident of Nava Vadaj says, "I gave a book of miraculous experience of *Shree Navkar Mahamantra* to a non-Jain friend. His faith in the *Mahamantra* was aroused and after learning it from me, he started chanting it daily before a photograph of the idol of Shree Shankheshwar Parshvanathjee. This evoked his father's anger but he couldn't stop his son. Once my friend's father sprained his ankle and challenged my friend to prove the miraculous powers of the *Mahamantra*. My friend chanted the same with undaunted faith, told his father to consume the holy water, moved his hand over the sprained area and within a few minutes the sprain was gone! How did a non-Jain, who had never even heard the sound of letter 'N' of *Navkar*, gain such strength and power? Only one answer echoed in my mind - 'Faith'.

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### 25. BIRDS RE-INCARNATED AS HUMAN BEINGS

An impressive monk, Revered Kshemkarsoorjee, arrived at Gunsheel Park in Rajgrihi. His eloquent discourse was attentively heard by a mynah and a parrot which led to the awakening of *Jaatismaran Gyan* (knowledge of past birth). They deeply regretted having committed grievous sins, in spite of being Jains, in their previous birth, for which they had reaped rebirth as *Tiryanch* (animals/birds). They developed a deep contempt against sins and resolved to devote themselves to Jain *Teerthankars*. They would collect rice grains from a nearby field and would select unbroken rice grains with their feet and offer these daily to Shree Shantinathjee in the local *Derasar* (Jain Temple).

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The pair of birds were reincarnated as humans owing to this *Akshat Pooja* (offering of rice grains). The parrot was re-born as Prince Arimardan where as the mynah was re-born as princess Chandravati and they both got married. The values and virtues of devotion to Jain *Teerthankars* were imbibed deeply in their souls, so they used their immense wealth for benevolent deeds. A Jain monk inspired them to embrace monkhood and they attained Salvation in that very birth.



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## 26. BENEFITS OF AAYAMBIL

Jignesh, a 28 year old resident of Nadiad, had laid the foundation of *Vardhman Tap* in the year 2004. His paternal cousin Abhay, who lived in Mumbai, had come to visit him. It was the last day of the *Tap* (penance) and it was his fast. On the same day, Abhay was returning to Mumbai by Lokshakti Express, scheduled to depart at 10 p.m. Jignesh, who had gone to the station to bid good bye to Abhay, tried to board the train while it was still in motion and he accidentally fell under the train. All the coaches passed over him. Although his life was saved, his foot was cut off.

Jignesh was immediately taken to a nearby hospital. When the doctor gave him some pills to swallow, he refused adamantly, owing to his fast. He said he would not

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consume any medicine orally until *Navkarshi* (meal eaten 48 minutes after sunrise), next morning. He said that the doctor could inject the medicines.

Jignesh's firmness is exemplary for people who make the mistake of thinking that principles of religion are flexible and can be bent to suit them. His treatment lasted for one and a half months. He went on to do the *Navvanu* (99times) *Yatra* of Shree Shatrunjaya in spite of his maimed leg and repeated the feat two years later. He also successfully completed 15 *Olis* of *Vardhman Tap*. Tough penance like the *Aayambil Tap* benefit a person's soul by making it courageous and resilient.



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## 27. SHREE NAMASKAR MAHAMANTRA - THE GREATEST IN THE WORLD

This was during India's freedom struggle. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel had earnestly pleaded all states to bury their differences and become united. The *Nizam* of Hyderabad paid no heed. Communal riots broke out between the Hindus and the Muslims in Hyderabad.

Ratanben, her husband, their 4 sons and 5 daughters lived in Hyderabad. They were advised by their Muslim neighbour to migrate to Sholapur. They left that very night by a bullock-cart.

Ratanben was a religious woman who abstained from roots and tubers, did *Chauvihar* daily and all kinds of penance. She imparted religious education to the women and

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children of her locality. She had immense faith in *Shree Namaskar Mahamantra* and would chant it daily in her free time.

Their journey entailed crossing a jungle at night, with impending danger of wild animals and dacoits. Suddenly, they saw seven to eight riateers, carrying swords in their hands, coming towards them.

Ratanben, told all her frightened family members to loudly chant the *Mahamantra*. To their astonishment, a gigantic man appeared from nowhere and stood between the riateers and the bullock cart. His personality and the radiance on his face caused the riateers to take to their heels. The Saviour vanished before Ratanben could say anything to him. Who was he?



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## 28. SELFLESSNESS STRENGTHENS FAMILIAL BONDS

Incidents such as the one mentioned ahead take place in many households owing to greed for wealth.

Before dying, the father willed his house to his younger son who filed a case against his elder brother for usurping that house.

Once, the elder brother listened to a discourse highlighting the greatness of *Shree Navkar Mahamantra*. After the discourse, the elder brother asked the orator, "I have been chanting the *Mahamantra* since many years, then why can't I experience peace and happiness?" The elder brother also mentioned the court-case.

The orator advised the elder brother that he should wish for the welfare of every living

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being, especially his brother, before he chants the *Mahamantra*. The elder brother vehemently refused to do so for his younger brother.

The elder brother agreed to take the advice after much persuasion by the orator. As time passed, the elder brother's reluctance disappeared and the feeling of amicability towards his younger brother began to come easily and naturally.

A duration of five months passed and the elder brother resolutely decided to implement the thought that had gripped his mind since a long time. However, just on the day when the elder brother and his wifestepped out of their house to go and ask for the younger brother's forgiveness, they were met by the younger brother and his wife. Both of them tearfully fell at the elder brother's feet and expressed deep

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regret that they had troubled him for their selfish interest. They told the elder brother that he was a father figure to them and it had taken them a long time to overcome their hesitation and seek his forgiveness.

The elder brother also tearfully confessed the injustice he had done to his younger brother and declared that he would withdraw his claim over the property which rightfully belonged to his younger brother. The younger brother, on the other hand, wanted the elder brother to keep the property. Then, there ensued a sweet tussle between the brothers who wanted to give up their claim for each other.

Finally, it was decided that the younger brother should sell his house and come with his family to live with the elder brother's family. Unselfish love can turn a house into heaven!

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## 29 GUN SAAGAR AND PRITHVICHANDRA

Gunsaagar was an ascetic soul in his previous birth. So in the present birth he was inclined towards monkhood. Owing to immense pressure from his parents and reaping of some past bad deeds, he unwillingly agreed to get married. Eight maidens of incomparable beauty were chosen for him.

Gunsaagar was only physically present during the ceremony. All the while, he was thinking, "When will monkhood be conferred upon me so that I can serve the teacher who will guide me to Salvation? I must have committed such grave sins that in spite of my human birth, I am unable to embrace monkhood and I am being forcefully tied to household duties."

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Gunsaagar's feelings were elevated so high that he attained "Enlightenment" (*Keval Gyan* - The Supreme Knowledge). Everyone realized this only when the Heavenly Gods descended and offered him the attire of a Jain monk.

An eye-witness narrated the incident to King Prithvichandra who was struck by an acute feeling of regret, "There is such a wide difference between Gunsaagar and me! I have enjoyed so many worldly pleasures, then why can't I have enough of them? Why can't I renounce them and embrace monkhood?" The sincerity of his remorse purified his soul and King Prithvichandra attained *Keval Gyan*, then and there on his throne.

We salute these Great Souls !

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## 30. INNER VOICE IS GOD'S VOICE

Circumstances had forced a man to thief but his sensitivity was still intact. He robbed Rs.19,500/- from a house and felt happy that he would be able to meet his expenses from that amount for the next couple of months. However, the very next day, he learnt that he had robbed a poor man who had lost his legs in an accident just six months back. Feeling remorseful, he secretly returned the booty alongwith a letter of confession. Having done this, his conscience was appeased.



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## 31. THE MERCIFUL ARE ALWAYS BLESSED

Every morning, a Sindhi couple, residing in Chhatisgarh, spend Rs.900/- out of their daily profit of Rs.1000/- to make *rotla* (Indian bread) and then distribute them among stray animals and poor and crippled people. Satiating the hunger of the needy satisfies them immensely and they receive more satisfaction than any rich man would ever receive by earning money. No wonder they consider themselves to be the most fortunate people in their city!



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### 32. BANK BALANCE IS NOT THE YARD STICK OF WEALTH

A Jain *shravak* narrated an incident that occurred while he was travelling by a rickshaw to reach the *upashray* (monastery) for *Pratikraman*. He was astonished to read the following words on the leather covering:

‘Needy people will not be charged any fare upto 2km.’

If a poor rickshaw driver with scarce resources can show such generosity, then why not people having all the means? Who in your eyes is greater – ‘A man with a big house or a man with a big heart’?

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### 33. PARENTS - THE ARCHITECTS OF CHARACTER

A 50- year old *shravak* said to a Jain monk, “*Maharaj Saheb*, a banana might not know that it can exist safely only as long as it is bound within its peel. The youth of today is similar to the banana - equally energetic and enthusiastic but with a vulnerable character. The younger generation, being unaware of this, needs the protection and guidance of parents and elders. I play a similar role in my house and my 22 year old son and 18 year daughter often tell me, ‘Father, the world might feel you are useless but we are useless without you. We are fearless, relaxed and pure because of you.’

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### 34. ONE GOOD TURN DESERVES ANOTHER

A Jain *Acharyajee* and his disciples were travelling under police protection in the naxalite area of Chhatisgarh. One of the policeman always carried a shoulder bag with him and the *Acharyajee* asked him the reason for doing so. His reply stunned the *Acharyajee*. He said that in their encounter with the naxalites, the trees always shielded the police from their bullets. The trees planted by someone else were protecting him. Thus, he was inspired to make his life meaningful by planting these life-saving trees for others. He carried different varieties of seeds in his bag and scattered them randomly, hoping that they would germinate one day.

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### 35. CHARITY KNOWS NO BOUNDS

An *Acharyajee* explained that a man can reap benefits for his next birth by doing charity. The discourse had such great impact on a devotee that two hours after the discourse, he came to surrender his godown keys to *Acharyajee*. The devotee said that after discussing it with his son, he had decided to donate all the new clothes in his godown. The *Acharyajee* said that he could have donated old and used clothes instead. But the devotee replied that he wanted to reap more fruit by donating new, unused clothes. Hats-off to his generosity!

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### 36. TRUE KNOWLEDGE IS PRICELESS

In a discourse, a Jain monk was explaining the drawbacks of modern education, that it only lays stress on career and materialistic advancement and does not teach the importance of culture, good character, mental satisfaction, spiritual advancement and attainment of salvation. Being positively influenced by the discourse, a devotee wanted his daughter to listen to the discourses and learn the true meaning of life. The daughter, studying in Ooty, was on a month-long leave. According to the institute's rule, any student taking leave during the working days of the term had to pay a fine of Rs.3500/- per day of absence. This did not deter the father and he paid a fine of Rs.1,05,000/-. The daughter came back home and to the father's immense joy, the discourses taught her valuable lessons, just as he had intended.

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### 37. THE HONEST THIEF

In a small village of Chhatisgarh, a theft took place. The surprising element of this incident was that only Rs.50,000/- was taken even though there were many valuables and Rs.3 lakh cash in the house. The thief had left a letter in which he had explained that he was not a habitual thief but forced by circumstances. His family was poor, his father was suffering from cancer and being the eldest child, the responsibility of taking care of the needs of his family had fallen upon his shoulders. He didn't earn enough and had become desperate. He promised to return the money the day he could.

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### 38. COMMUNICATION IS THE BEST BRIDGE

Generally it is observed that fathers get cause to find faults in their sons but this is an unusual case of a father feeling pride and gratitude towards his son. The family had just shifted into its new bungalow where each of the two sons and daughter were allotted separate rooms. Moreover, the father wanted to install a T.V. in each room. But the eldest son rejected the suggestion. He argued that every family member was busy the whole day and it was only at night that they were all at home. Now, if they confined themselves to their individual rooms, watching T.V. instead of sitting together and talking, then very soon they would lose their emotional bond and family togetherness inspite of living under the same roof. The father felt blessed to have a son who was so wise, far-sighted and family loving.

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### 39. HUMANITY IS THE BEST KINSHIP

*Acharyajee* was explaining to four friends who were in their early 30's how to enrich their life. Then one of them introduced his friend saying that not only was he extremely rich but also compassionate. He couldn't bear to see anyone's sorrow or pain. His bungalow was next to a government hospital which was daily thronged by hundreds of patients from rural areas. In daytime, the patients' relatives and attendants sat on the benches and at night slept in the compound. He felt sad when he learnt that there was no arrangement for their food. Within 4-5 days, he arranged that food be cooked in his own kitchen and supplied twice a day to them. This arrangement continues till date!

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## 40. 'LETTING GO' IS THE KEY TO HAPPINESS

A devotee came to obtain the blessings of *Acharyajee* before performing a feat. He was holding a file which contained proof that a business firm owed him Rs.35 lakh. Owing to this, his relations with that firm had turned sour since past 10 years. He had abused them and was plagued by thoughts of killing them. He had no assurance of getting his dues but he had burnt his happiness and peace of mind over a funeral pyre. That day's discourse had affected a change of heart and he was personally going to return the file to the firm and inform that he didn't want his dues. He didn't want that in his absence his son should try to extract the payment.

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## 41. A SELFLESS PERSON IS ALWAYS FAIR

This inspiring incident took place in a joint family which was strongly bound by ties of love and co-operation. Since last 10 years, the mother-in-law was completely bed-ridden and her two elder daughters-in-law took great care and served her well. The mother-in-law felt blessed. The third daughter-in-law entered the family and about one year after that, there was deterioration in mother-in-law's health. Sensing that her end was near, the mother-in-law wished to distribute her wealth equally among her three daughters-in-law. However, the youngest daughter-in-law felt that she didn't deserve a share. She earnestly requested her mother-in-law that she should equally distribute her wealth between her two elder daughters-in-law since they were the ones who had been selflessly serving her since so many years. We should salute the spirit of fairness of the youngest daughter-in-law!

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## 42. ADVERSITY TESTS A PERSON'S LOYALTY

A young man in his early 30's expressed his woes before *Acharyajee* that his wife wanted to sever all ties with him since she was involved in an extra-marital affair. She was so blinded by love that she was ready to break her marriage vows. Moreover, she had ignored all his pleas and left the house, taking their son alongwith her. He had come to *Acharyajee* to take a vow of celibacy till further relations were established with his wife and a vow to not bad mouth his wife's character since he wanted to maintain their dignity as he would always consider her his wife.



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## 43. AGE IS NOT AN OBSTACLE FOR THE TRULY DETERMINED

An *Acharyajee* was stopped by an 84-year old lady when he was coming out of a Jain temple in Durg. She paid obeisance and asked for an oath of *Biyasana*. When *Acharyajee* enquired, her son replied that she did *Biyasana* daily and *Ayambil* on days of 5 main Tithis. The son also revealed an astonishing fact that his mother did around 8 *Samayiks* daily and had done 80,000 *Samayiks* in all. The old lady then requested *Acharyajee* to give his blessings that she could complete 100,000 *Samayiks* before her death.



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#### 44. TRUE EDUCATION IS ONE THAT IMBIBES WISDOM

A father-in-law immensely praised his daughter-in-law before *Acharyajee* that she was a doctor, holder of seven degrees and had received a gold medal from the hands of the President of India. *Acharyajee* decided to test the daughter-in-law. One afternoon, the father-in-law brought his daughter-in-law along and this is what she said to *Acharyajee*, "I was born and brought up in Mumbai and my parents have imbibed good values in me from birth. When my parents started considering marriage proposals for me, I laid three conditions before them that I want to live in a joint family for lifetime, the candidate should be free of all vices and bad habits and he should live in a foreign country. Despite my parents' doubts, I remained firm. I rejected three proposals from doctors in Mumbai and I accepted the proposal from a doctor in Durg. I am immensely happy that I married on my terms. I have no regrets of leaving Mumbai."

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#### 45. BE YOUR OWN MASTER

After hearing the discourse in which the destructive effects of a cell phone were clearly explained, a 24 year old man said this to *Acharyajee*, "(1) I won't answer any call on my cell phone while I am talking to my family member, (2) I won't call anyone from my cellphone to pass my free time, (3) I will not see any photographs or videos on my cellphone, (4) I won't lie atleast to my family members via the medium of the cell phone and (5) I won't send any vulgar message or save any vulgar message received." I congratulated the young man for not becoming a slave of his cell phone.



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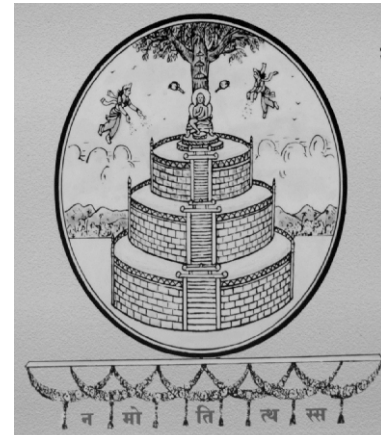
#### 46. ADDICTION IS AKIN TO SLAVERY

The experience of this 70-year old person highlights the extent to which a person is made helpless, dependent and weak by his addiction. His own words are quoted here, "I was addicted to *Gutka* since many years and I would always carry *Gutka* sachets with me 24x7. One day, it so happened that I had to catch a train for Akola in a hurry and it was only after the train passed a few stations that I realized that I had forgotten to take the *Gutka* sachets. I become desperate. I didn't think any of my co-passengers would be having *Gutka*. I became restless and my head reeled so much that I felt like banging it against my seat. I waited helplessly for the train to reach Akola. When I got off at Akola, I sighted some *Gutka* sachets in a beggar's pocket. Putting aside my shame and self-respect, I requested him to

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give me a sachet. The beggar bent over with laughter and explained that he had become mad with joy because the tables had been turned. First time, a wealthy man was asking him for something and not the other way round. He asked me for my address so that he could tell everyone. The beggar's words freed me from my addiction forever."

#### OBEISANCE TO TEERTH



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## 47. HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY

A retired journalist of a popular newspaper came along with his son to meet *Acharyajee* after his discourse. He told *Acharyajee* that he wanted to respond to a question that *Acharyajee* had asked the listeners during the discourse whether they would prefer dishonest success to honest failure and would they prefer to be known by more people or loved by more people? He further said that in his long career, he had not bowed before any pressure or threat and had exposed all those who posed a danger to families, society, states and nation. He never had to face a dilemma in refusing temptations of wine, women and wealth offered by influential people to stop him from doing his duty. He considered himself an ideal example of the fact that good deeds always reap sweet fruits. That is why he was loved by his near and dear ones, enjoyed good health

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and spent every moment in peace and happiness. He was never troubled by any ghosts of his past. He could do the religious rituals and gain religious education and had no fear of death. Would you call him a failure or success?



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## 48. SHARING IS CARING

A 60-year old man was once describing his family to *Acharyajee* in the following words: "Since last twenty years, I don't recall any member of my joint family speaking in a raised voice. I have a brother. We don't have individual bank accounts. Our wives also don't have separate wardrobes, clothes or jewellery. My younger brother's wife handles the budget for the household expenses whereas my wife plans and organizes the family functions. The guests are unable to tell who is the elder one amongst the two of us as well as our wives. They are also unable to differentiate between our children. We have dissolved our egos just like sugar dissolves in milk."

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## 49. GOOD COMPANY IS GOOD INFLUENCE

The mind almost never fails to absorb the essence of the environment to which it is exposed. This is evident from the words said by the rickshaw driver to *Acharyajee*, "*Maharaj Saaheb*, about 3 days after your arrival in Raipur, I had come to drop my passengers outside the Lecture Hall. By chance of fate, I stayed there for a few minutes and the words of your discourse which fell upon my ears had such magical effect on me that I started attending each and every discourse without fail. Over the last 4 months, I have abstained from alcohol, meat, gutka, gambling and not uttered a single bad word. I seek your blessings that this reformation in my life stays forever."

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## 50. SET YOUR PRIORITIES SO THAT LIFE IS NOT UPSET

Let us learn about the turn that came in a person's life, who had an annual turnover of crores of rupees, in his own words : "I was so involved in my business that I had no time to devote to my personal well-being, my family, religion and social duties. By chance of fate, I got an opportunity to listen to the discourses of *Acharyajee* and was struck by the realisation that I had wasted my life in trying to earn 'opinion' rather than 'experience'. But now I have resolved to treasure the happiness that evolves out of 'experience' and make optimum use of my valuable time. I seek the blessings of *Acharyajee* to carry out my resolution successfully."

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## 51. SPIRITUALITY DEFEATS MATERIALISM

A Sindhiresident of Raipur Poursh is heart out to *Acharyajee* "I run a coaching-class and I earn substantially because of my expertise in teaching. I had wealth, power and success but lacked good health, happiness and peace until I started attending your discourses. Despite my tight schedule, I keep my self free from 9 to 10 in the morning for your discourses f o r y o u r discourses that have brought a positive change in my life. I have resolved that after your discourses end, I will teach free of charge to all students who come from 9 to 10 in the morning. I don't want to commit any sin during the time that I had set aside for religion. Please give me your blessing for the same."

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## 52. RESPECT FOR PARENTS IS THE KEY TO HAPPINESS

The following conversation between a Shrivakand *Acharyajee* highlights that a person should first win the love of his family, *Shrivak* : "There is mutual love and co-operation among my family members. In my family, the daughter-in-law always receives the money for expenses from her mother-in-law and never from her husband. This arrangement continued after my marriage as well as my son's marriage."

*Acharyajee* : "Doesn't this cause any ill-feeling?"

*Shrivak* : "Not at all. In fact, everyone has whole-heartedly accepted this arrangement and it has only made the emotional bond between the mother-in-law and daughter-in-law stronger."

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## 53. BELIEF LIES IN THE HEART NOT IN THE EYES

This is the incident of a 65 year old *Shravika* whose devotion towards God and Jain saints and whose sensitivity and charitable nature are inspirational. She was paralytic and unable to walk without 2 persons supporting her. Her undaunted faith in the invisible God led her to believe that her God would always do good for her. With the highest degree of trust, she daily did Ayambil during four months of the monsoon. As a result, she was completely cured and she gives all the credit to the benevolence of God and Jain saints.



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## 54. WHERE THERE IS WILL THERE IS A WAY

A *Shravak*, who was a source of inspiration for his family because of his love for religion and religious values, had bought a new house. His old house was near a Jain temple and he strongly felt that since his house was close to the temple, the family which bought the house should have certain religious values such as every member of that family should be abstaining from night meals and consumption of roots and tubers and every member should not be letting a single day pass without doing *Jin Pooja* or *Darshan*. He was ready to accept Rs.5-10 lakhs less as long as his terms were accepted. His wish regarding his house 'Jaynaa' was fulfilled.

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## 55. SPIRITUAL BEAUTY SURPASSES PHYSICAL BEAUTY

Just like a man is proud of his intelligence, a woman is proud of her beauty, notwithstanding the fact that either may not be having enough of it. True to this statement, a young lady used to spend more than two hours daily on bathing and various beautification processes. A surprising change came over her when one day she heard facts about physical beauty, mental acumen and piety of soul in a discourse. This young lady, holder of a civil engineer degree, not only resolved to bathe only once in two months but also rejected a high profile job saying that she would get other job opportunities but the opportunity to listen to *Acharyajee's* discourse in the 4 months of monsoon was once in a life-time.

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## 56. GOD HELPS THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES

One day, *Acharyajee* gave a discourse before 3000 school-girls and after the discourse, 2 teachers and 2 schoolgirls came to meet him. One girl's both hands were totally cut off and her teacher described her astonishing capabilities. The girl could roll out *rotis*, cook food, iron clothes, light a gas stove, write beautifully and paint amazingly well, and that too, with both her feet. In order to give proof of this the teacher instructed the girl to write something and draw a picture of *Ganeshjee*. The girl completed the feat in 5 minutes. When asked, the girl said that she wanted to join the I.A.S. and teach other girls like her that by the grace of God, who has a thousand hands, they can live a gallant life.

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## 57. THE POWER OF FAITH

Once a village of Chhatisgarh was flooded due to a very heavy downpour. Even the last step of the Jain temple was submerged under water. An old lady was performing *Snatra Pooja* in the temple. She was a firm believer in the powers of God. When she completed the last ritual of *Snatra Pooja* - the *Shanti Kalash*, she realised the gravity of the situation. She took the holy water of *Shanti Snatra* in her palm and prayed that the floods should recede. Then she sprayed the holy water over the flood waters and miraculously they started receding. By evening, the flood had receded in the entire village. Such is the power of faith !



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## 58. SELF REALISATION IS THE BEST REALISATION

This is the incident of a 70 year old man who was looking after his 65 year old wife who was suffering from an incurable illness. The illness had made the wife grumpy and she used to verbally abuse her husband, humiliate him and vent all her anger on him. The man's grand-daughter was astonished that her grandfather yet took care of his wife with great love, patience and tolerance. When questioned by his grand daughter, the man replied that her grandmother had patiently tolerated his cruel wrath when they were young and to uphold his dignity and self-respect, he must do the same.

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## 59. HUMANITY HAS HIDDEN HANDS

A man was travelling to another city by car when he heard a loud crashing sound. He witnessed two cars crashing into each other. The driver of one car was saved from any damage and he instantly sped away but a noble-looking gentleman was flung out of the other car on to the road. The gentleman had been injured on his head and was bleeding profusely. The witness immediately picked up the injured gentleman and rushed him to a nearby hospital. He had obtained the contact number of the gentleman's family member from the card he found in his pocket. He informed the family member about the accident and left the hospital before the family members reached there. Within five days, the gentleman's health started improving. When the family members went to settle the hospital bills, they were informed by the cashier that the man who had admitted the accident victim in the hospital had already made a payment of

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Rs.1 lakh, along with the instruction that his name should not be revealed to any one.

## 60. DEVOTION TO MOTHER LEADS TO GREATNESS

A young man migrated from his village to the city in order to set up his business. His mother still lived in their village. Fortune favoured him and his hard work was rewarded. He became wealthy and successful. He pleaded to his mother to come and live with him but she refused vehemently stating that she didn't put even a single drop of water in her mouth without worshipping God and there wasn't a single temple in the vicinity where he lived. The son tried to persuade his mother by saying that he couldn't do without her. But the mother's reply was that she couldn't do without God. The young man was so devoted to his mother that he had a Jain temple built out of his own wealth and handed it over to the Jain

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congregation. He was overjoyed that he was finally able to bring his mother to their home in the city.

## 61. FORTUNE FAVOURS THE BRAVE

To understand that faith in penance can create a chain of miracles, we must read about this *Shravika*. The *Shravika* suffered a paralytic stroke to the extent that she became totally helpless and dependent for everything. Although her daughter-in-law looked after her lovingly, she felt no peace as she didn't want to put an end to her penance. She convinced her son and started doing *Varshi Tap*. She did 12 *Varshi Tap* in a row and her paralysis was completely cured. By misfortune of past deeds, she developed a thyroid problem and her weight increased upto 125 kilos. She fasted for 36 days in a row and her thyroid problem

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vanished. But by another stroke of misfortune, her blood sugar level shot up to 450. This time she fasted for 51 days in a row and her blood sugar level became normal. As if this was not enough, she was diagnosed with cancer of the uterus. She fasted for 30 days in a row and a medical test done on the 30th day showed that the cyst had reduced remarkably in size. She didn't break her fast and on the day of her 45th fast, her medical reports were clear. Her cancer was completely cured. Such is the power of penance which cures all bodily diseases as well as vices of the mind.



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## 62. A MAN IS REMEMBERED BY HIS DEEDS

He was a member of the State Government. Yet he devoted his every morning to *Jin Pooja*, *Guru Vandan* (paying obeisance to Jain Monks) and *Samayik*. He began his meetings only after 10 a.m., irrespective of how important that person was. He would try to maintain this discipline even when he had to go out of town. He would give Rs.100/- each on regular basis to the staff members of the temple and *Upashray*. He would never disappoint any person who came to seek financial help. He would daily feed *rotis* to about 100 dogs and 50-60 monkeys, and grains to birds. When he passed away, 300 of his family members present at his funeral procession, said with tears in their eyes, "The support of fourlives and family isgone." "To everyone's astonishment, for 2 days, dogs and

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monkeys sat outside his house without having any food and mourned his death. People who act selflessly always stay in memory even after their death.

## 63. TOLERANCE IS THE KEY TO HARMONY

A 35 year old man had come to *Acharyajee* to express his dilemma and the solution he had thought of, to come out of it. He said to *Acharyajee*, "*Maharaj Saaheb*, I went against my par-ents' wishes and married the girl of my choice. However, my expectations of happiness were belied. There were so many arguments and clashes that my wife and I reached the point where we were ready to take divorce. Then I heard your discourses and felt that before filing for a divorce, I should try to amend my mistake just like a student corrects

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any mistake in his answer sheets before handing them over to the supervisor. Two days ago, I asked for my wife's forgiveness and to my amazement, she also asked for my forgiveness. That night, my son cried in my arms that if the divorce would have gone through, he would have run away from home and committed suicide. Maharaj Saaheb, his words shook me up terribly. Please give me your blessings that I should be able to sustain my tolerance power in any adverse situation."

## 64. EXEMPLARY DEVOTION

The entire village was water-logged due to a heavy downpour. A couple who lived near the Jain temple were worried about the Jain nuns not being able to go out of the monastery to collect *Gochri* (food and water). They felt anxious that the Jain nuns might have to stay

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hungry for 2 - 3 days as the rain was not showing any signs of stopping. The wife suggested that she would cook the food and the husband should take it to the mon- astery. The husband felt it would be impossible to wade through knee-high water in which snakes were swimming and that too, with food and water in his hands. The wife appealed to his conscience by saying that they all had eaten their meal, then how could they sit peacefully when the nuns hadn't eaten anything ? She suggested that he should carry the food tiffin on his head, the pot of water on his shoulder, cover them properly and reach the monastery. In this manner, inspired by his wife, the husband reached the monastery. The nuns were moved by this act of devotion.

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- 1 Shantilal Manilal Vohera- Nadiyad
- 2 Late Bhailalbai 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 Ranulajee Rajeshkumar, Kotadia (Varsha, Vineet, Saumya-Rajnandgaon)
- 7 Hiya Kunal Shah, Reedita Saunak Verdia
- 8 Subhadraaben 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, Purna, Tirth - Ahmedabad
- 17 Ramandevi Gyanchand Gandhi - Ahmedabad - Sirohi
- 18 Hitesh Mohanlal Sanghavi (Sushilaben, Paresh, Prifti, 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

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:: सौजन्य ::

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



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



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