

MAMASHRI

AS EXPERIENCED BY

KIDS

Omnibeneficial Series - 50



Founder President: Pujyashri Narayanbhai G. Thakker
Shri Swaminarayan Divine Mission

Ahmedabad-13

*Emblem of
Shri Swaminarayan Divine Mission*



The Emblem depicts the lotus-feet of Lord Shri Swaminarayan. There are sixteen signs referred to in Samudrik Shashtra as the signs confirming the divine origin of God, the incarnate.

** Nine signs in the right foot.*

Swastika stands for the auspicious Figure of God.

Astakona (octagon) suggests that the divine compassion is constantly flowing in all the eight directions: North, South, East, West, South-East, North-East, South West and North-West.

Urdhvarekha indicates continuous progress of souls by the divine grace.

Ankusha (the spur) indicates that the Supreme Power, the cause of all causes controls everything and it also suggests that we must restrain the inner enemies.

Dhwaj (a flag)	or Ketu stands for the spiritual victory of God the absolute form of Truth.
Vajra (weapon of Indra)	stands for the prowess of God which destroys the weaknesses of the souls and frees them from the fear of time, actions and delusions.
Padma (the Lotus)	symbolises the tenderness and compassion of God which helps the devotee attain detachment from the mundane life, the way a lotus remains unaffected by water.
Jambu (rose apple)	symbolises the sap of divine joy that one receives from communion with God.
Jav (barley)	confirms that God takes care of the crops and the needs of those devotees who are in communion with Him and who perform non-violent Yajnas by offering foodgrains such as barley, sesame seeds etc. to the Holy Fire.
	* Seven signs in the left foot.
Meen (fish)	asks us to reach God, the source of the spiritual energy, the way a fish swimming against the current, reaches the source of a stream.

Trikona (triangle)	<i>symbolises liberation of the soul from the mental, physical and mundane problems and difficulties. It also stands for the need to free oneself from the trial of Ishwar, Maya and Brahman and to remain steadfast in Parbrahman the ultimate reality.</i>
Dhanush (bow)	<i>defends the faith by protecting the devotees against evil influences.</i>
Gopada (foot-mark of cow)	<i>suggests the beneficial qualities of cows as well as of the saints who are dear to God.</i>
Vyoma (the sky)	<i>signifies the infinite and detached all-pervasiveness of God.</i>
Ardhchandra (the crescent)	<i>shows that the way the moon increases slowly and gradually, one can attain perfection through patient meditation of God.</i>
Kalasha (the pot at the top of a temple)	<i>stands for the supremacy and absoluteness of God.</i>

Keeping the divine signs depicted in the emblem of the Mission before our eyes, we have been conducting spiritual activities for the welfare of mankind through our Gnan-Dhyan-Seva programmes. We bow down to the lotus-feet of Shri Hari and pray for His divine guidance and assistance in the fulfilment of our mission.

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**Shri Swaminarayan Divine Mission
Omnibeneficial Series
Publication Committee**

Inspiration & Guidance
Rev. Shri Narayanbhai G. Thakker

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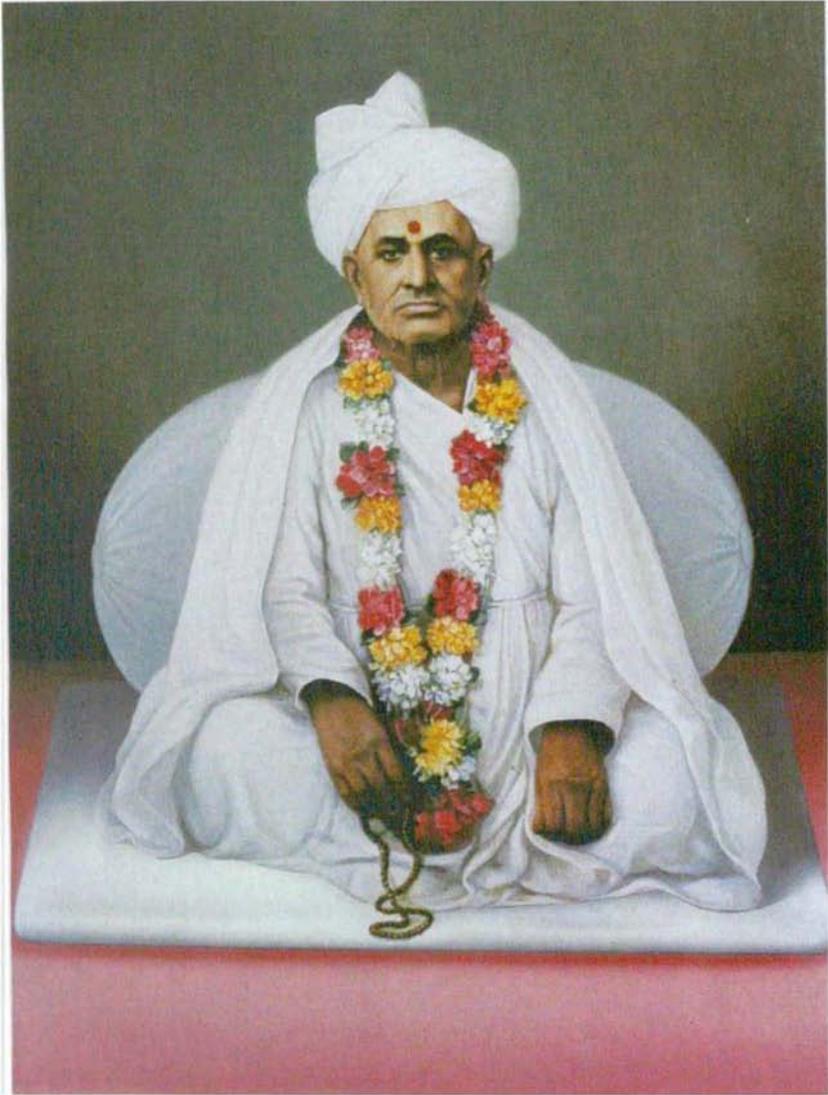
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**Supreme Lord
Shri Swaminarayan**

DEDICATION

We offer the flowers of faith and devotion in the form of this omnibeneficient series of books to the lotus feet of extremely merciful Anadi Muktaraj Param Pujya, **Shri Abjibapa**, who was an accomplished interpreter of the ideal and divine philosophy of **Lord Swaminarayan**, the incarnate God, eternally immanent and divine in Personal form and the Master of infinite Muktas who have attained the ultimate state of liberation. Param Pujya **Bapashri** spread the supremacy of **Lord Swaminarayan** in all directions, made many devotees experience the highest state of Anadi Mukta, the state of an ideal perfection, and thus obliged the entire mankind by bringing light and divine joy of the Supreme Lord **Shri Swaminarayan** on the earth.



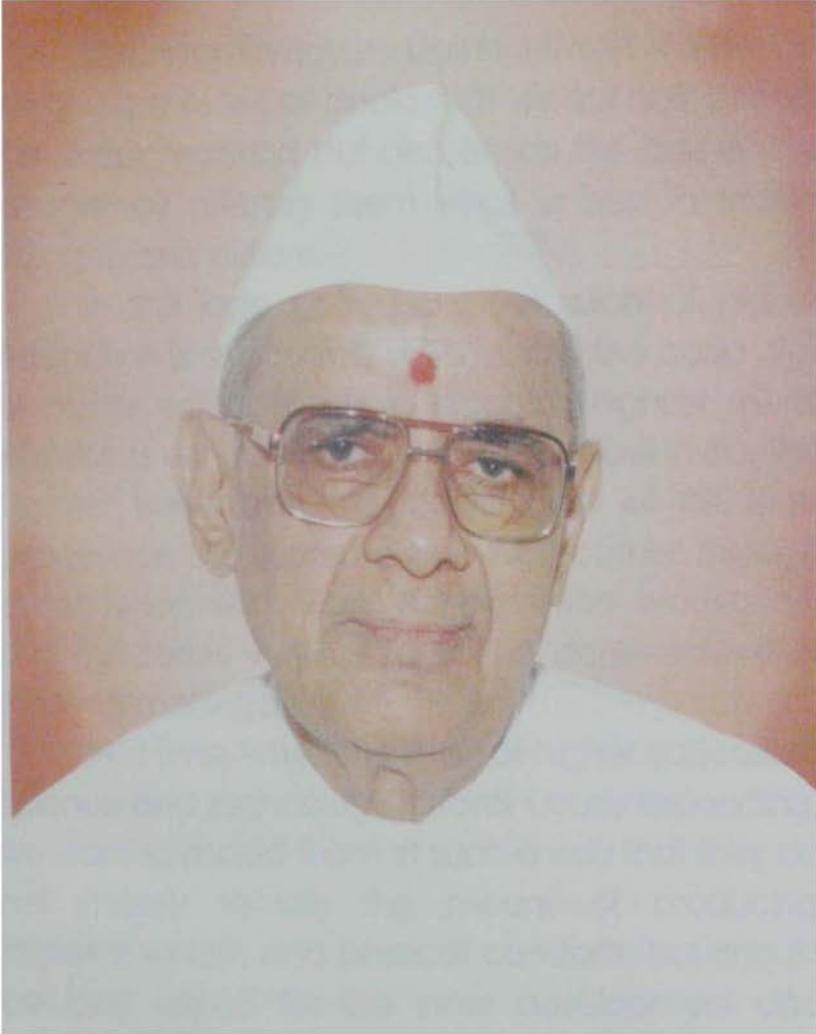
**Anadi Mahamuktaraj
Shri Abjibapashri**

Offerings !

We offer our thousandfold salutations
in the lotus feet of the most compassionate
Sadguru Anadi Muktaraj Pujyashri Narayanbhai
who established the Omnibeneficial Institute
Shri Swaminarayan Divine Mission to spread
the flames of Brahmyagya in the form of
spiritual evolvement who was the greatest supporter
of pure Religion, Administration and Character
who has offered his unique contribution for the spiritual,
social and educational upliftment
through presenting the suprememost
philosophy of Shreeji Maharaj and
Abjibapashri with scientific
perspective.



Founder President



Pujoyashri Narayanbhai Gigabhai Thakker

WE BELIEVE

Shri Swaminarayan Divine Mission intends to bring out a series of books that will not only benefit the entire mankind but also enrich the lives of the people by offering them what is best in Indian thoughts and culture

In this age of reason, the span of higher education is expanding day by day. The basic aim of higher education is to establish highest moral standards and to inculcate ethical values in life. The highest value and the loftiest goal of life is to experience the supreme joy which comes through communion with God. We hope the readers will find this series very useful in the achievement of these ultimate goals.

In a time, when the span of higher education, science and technology is continuously expanding, we want to mould them in such a way that they do not merely remain the means of producing material wealth and physical comforts, but should be best utilised for the inner development and spiritual perfection of mankind. Moreover, let us not forget that the final stage and purpose of evolution is to develop our self steadily and finally get immersed in the divine happiness of Supreme Lord.

Man has been gifted with an innate ability to develop continually to attain the divine bliss. This shows that we can strive together and create such social, economic and political conditions as are conducive to an unhampered spiritual progress and sublimation of life. To accelerate this process, we shall have to prepare literature, that inspire and assist the seekers of the divine pleasure.

For the social betterment and spiritual enrichment of the human society Lord Shri Swaminarayan has established a universally acceptable, comprehensive philosophical system. It's a path of pure knowledge which elevates our soul and helps us attain oneness with the Supreme Lord. Vachanamritam and Shikshapatri, are two great classics, containing the essence of the ideal philosophy of Shri Swaminarayan. In a simple but lucid and convincing language, Lord Shri Swaminarayan has tried to spread His message through these two great spiritual works. He also inspired His saints and seers, His liberated householder devotees and scholars to compose plenty of work expressing their own spiritual experiences, to contribute to the understanding of His percepts, which are beneficial to the whole of mankind.

These books contain the quintessence of the Indian view of life and they also teach the real art of living. Whether one belongs to the East or the West, each one of us will find this series useful as a spiritual guide leading us on the path of divinity, satisfying our longing for the touch of the Divine. Here, through this series, an attempt would be made to show how one can develop one's own self to attain oneness with the Lord Supreme. We are confident that the reading of this literature will help us overcome all conflicting deformities of modern life and usher in an era of peace, harmony and tranquillity.

We will incorporate in this series all positive and constructive ideas and religious tenets which are in consonance with our ideology and objectives.

In order to reach readers in different parts of India and abroad, we hope to publish this series, not only in Gujarati but also in Hindi, English and other languages.

We are hereby seeking everyone's active co-operation and assistance for the success of the Mission's activities. We pray for the divine grace of Lord Shri Swaminarayan to lead us and guide us in this great endeavour of ours.

V. S. 2043
Shri Hari Jayanti
April 18, 1986
Ahmedabad.

Humblest of Humble
Narayanbhai G. Thakker
Founder President
Shri Swaminarayan Divine Mission

PREFACE

We are glad to add one more pearl to the string of children's literature published by 'Shri Swaminarayan Divine Mission' through blessings of the most compassionate Shreeji Maharaj. We all know it very well that Muktaraj Shri Narayanbhai was very fond of kids. So it is not worth reminding.

Pujya Shri Narayanbhai used to say, 'If the last step of a human life is God-realization in form of ultimate salvation, then the first step is the innocent childhood. Nurturing the seeds of the highest values during childhood is the foundation for faultless character building in future. If the foundation is laid strongly, then the building of personality would come up strong and a person would be successful in achieving his goal. If the foundation is faulty, then it is not possible to achieve the goal of ultimate salvation. Therefore, it is essential for each and everyone to build his character right from his childhood.' Considering these statements of Pujyashri Narayanbhai, we have prepared this book based on the inspiring life-experiences of Muktaraj who is an ideal source of inspiration for the children. We hope that our efforts would be appreciated and this book would inspire and nurture the values of highest quality in children.

Finally, we sincerely pray to the Ultimate Supreme Lord Shreeji Maharaj, the most compassionate Bapashri and Sadguruvarya Pujya Shri Narayanbhai to bestow their boundless blessings on each and everyone who co-operated in preparing and publishing this book as well as the innocent young readers who are the most deserving for the grace of God.

16 February, 2004
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Devoted, Content And Honest Parents

In a beautiful town called Dhrangadhra, there lived a couple named Gigabhai and Shakuba. They had four children - two sons and two daughters. By profession Gigabhai was a mason. He was very pious. Whole day he would sing the Bhajans of God. While working, he chanted the name of God. Financially he was very poor. He earned just enough to feed his family. First of all, he would take out the share of Shreeji Maharaj from his earnings. Afterwards he would buy the necessities for the household. He wouldn't spend even for the children from the money kept aside for charity. If children wanted something, he would explain, 'Kids! This money belongs to God. I will buy you from the next payment I receive. Is it all right?'

He used to explain so lovingly that children would agree immediately. 'Father, we are not in a hurry. Please offer this money to God.' Once the Kothari of the temple had suggested, 'Gigabhai, you are very poor. It is alright if you offer a little less charity.' Gigabhai replied, 'Oh no! This money has been given by Shreeji Maharaj. And I offer charity as

per the instructions of Shreeji Maharaj. Charity should be performed honestly, otherwise Maharaj wouldn't be pleased.' Such conversation pleased the Kothari. He told Gigabhai, 'These days it is difficult to find devotees like you. You are very punctual and honest in offering the charity inspite of such poor financial condition.'

Gigabhai said, 'We should surrender to God's will and should live a happy and content life. Poverty gives an opportunity to worship God without any distraction. More money brings more disturbances.' The Kothari asked, 'Gigabhai, there is repair work in the temple. Would you do it?' The Kothari thought that it would be helpful to Gigabhai. Gigabhai consented, 'Yes definitely! I will do the work. I will not attend my work while working for the temple.' The Kothari asked, 'The front portion of the temple is to be constructed. Would you do it?' Gigabhai replied, 'Yes, of course.' The Kothari asked, 'How much would you charge?' Gigabhai said, 'O' Kothari Maharaj! what are you talking? This is God's work. I can not charge for that. This is worship. I can not charge for worship.' The Kothari explained, 'Gigabhai, I offered you the work with the intention that you could earn little money. If we offer more money to a pious devotee like you, Maharaj would be pleased.' Gigabhai insisted, 'Kothari Maharaj, now I will definitely do this work. When would I get such an opportunity to serve God? If I

charge for that, then it is not service. Maharaj would be pleased through such service. Tell me, when should I start the work?' The Kothari couldn't speak a single word against Gigabhai's insistence. He thought, 'Blessed is this couple! In spite of poverty they have so much faith in God and live such a content life!' He felt great reverence for Gigabhai in his heart.

Difficult words :

Pious - Having religious devotion

Punctual - On time

Distraction - Something which diverts the mind

To consent - To permit

Reverence - Deep respect

Points to ponder :

- An Anadimukta chooses such pious and content couple as his parents.
- As per the instructions of Shreeji Maharaj we should offer 1/10th or 1/20th portion of our earnings to Shreeji Maharaj as charity. This would please Shreeji Maharaj and His Muktas.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. In which town did Gigabhai and Shakuba live?
2. What was the profession of Gigabhai?
3. Why did Gigabhai refuse to charge for the construction work of the temple?

Fill in the blanks :

1. There was a beautiful town called _____.
2. Father, we are not in a _____, please offer this money to _____.
3. _____ gives an opportunity to worship God without any _____.
4. More money brings more _____.



Appearance Of Muktaraj Mama

It was the year 1922 A.D.. Shakuba and Gigabhai were expecting their fifth child. Gigabhai and Shakuba were feeling euphoric. They were feeling blissful without any reason. Shakuba told Gigabhai, 'Right from the beginning of pregnancy, I have the Darshan of Maharaj quite often. I feel as if Maharaj is with me all the time. I feel happy all the time. I feel blissful while worshipping God. I do not enjoy other activities which are not related to God.' Gigabhai also confessed, 'I also feel cheerful. Look at the kids! They are also cheerful. I feel that the child to be born must be a great soul!' Shakuba agreed, 'I also feel the same. And today, the bliss has increased manyfolds! The whole atmosphere is dancing with joy!' Gigabhai joined in, 'Yes, you are right. Today even the idol of God in the temple was spreading happiness all around by laughing happily. The trees-leaves etc. are also swaying andswinging with joy!' Shakuba said, 'Today the blissfulness is of a very special kind.'

The intuition of Gigabhai and Shakuba came true. That morning, Muktaraj appeared as a

son of Shakuba at 10:46 a.m. sharp. The auspicious day was Thursday. He appeared on February 16th, 1922, Thursday. The whole existence was blissful (As per Hindu Calender Samvat 1978, Maha Vadi Pancham).

Shakuba was full of joy looking at the handsome and glorious face of the child. Gigabhai felt happy and content looking at the face of the new born child. He told Shakuba, 'Wow! Look at our child! He is looking glorious! I feel that he is certainly a Mukta of God. His beautiful face reminds me of the laughing idol of Shreeji Maharaj. Let us keep his name 'Narayan' so that his name reminds us of Maharaj.' Shakuba also liked the name very much. His brothers and sisters were also dancing with joy while calling him Narayan-Narayan. They did not feel exhausted while playing with the new born child. Thus, everyone was full of joy.

Difficult words :

Euphoric - Feeling of happiness

Confess - Admit

Auspicious - Of good omen favourable

Glorious - Full of heavenly bliss

Points to ponder :

- Whenever a favourite (dearest) Anadimukta of Shreeji Maharaj is going to appear, the atmosphere becomes pious. Divine souls feel happy and peaceful.

-
-
- The great Anadimuktas of Shreeji Maharaj appear on Earth to liberate the living beings through their grace.
 - The arrival of an Anadimukta on the Earth is the most blessed, moment for us. We must celebrate the day wholeheartedly. Celebration means to perform Brahmyagya.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. When and where did Muktaraj appear?
2. As per Hindu Calender, mention the year, month and day of the appearance of Muktaraj.
3. What name was suggested by the father for Muktaraj?

Who speaks the following statements?

1. I have the Darshan of Maharaj quite often. I feel as if Maharaj is with me all the time.
2. I feel that the child to be born must be a great soul.

Fill in the blanks :

1. The child was _____ and _____.
2. Gigabhai felt _____ and _____ looking at the _____ of the new born child.
3. Let us keep his name _____.



Divine Blessings

It so happened one day. Narayan was eleven months old. Narayan was in the cradle. Shakuba was rocking the cradle. Gigabhai was sitting closeby. Shakuba said, 'Narayan does not know how to cry. Whenever you see him, he is laughing. He does not cry even when he is hungry.' Gigabhai shook his head, did not speak a single word. Shakuba continued, 'When he is sleeping, he looks as if he is meditating! I am very fond of him.' Shakuba noticed that Gigabhai was not attentive to her talk. He was looking worried. Shakuba asked, 'What are you worrying about? I have never seen you so worried. Even when there is no money at home.' Gigabhai informed, 'Tomorrow Anadi Mahamuktaraj Bapashri is going to visit, Dhrangadhra.' Shakuba was delighted, 'Then tomorrow is the most auspicious day! All of us will go for his Darshan.' Gigabhai continued, 'All the Haribhaktas will invite Bapashri to their houses.' Shakuba agreed, 'Yes, of course. That is good news, but why are you anxious?' Gigabhai said, 'I have a doubt whether Bapashri would visit our

house? We are poor. Our house is also very small. How could we invite Bapashri to visit our house? We do not even have a proper mat.' Shakuba consoled, 'Please, do not worry. We genuinely wish to invite him therefore it will be fulfilled. Bapashri has divine qualities. He knows everything. He will certainly fulfill our wish if it is heartfelt. Bapashri cares for devotion, he does not care for comforts.' Gigabhai was consoled. Early morning he had bath and finished his prayers. He reached the place where Bapashri was staying.

Bapashri used to visit every house in a cart. He used to bless them. Gigabhai was praying in his heart. Bapashri, I am poor, but have mercy on me and visit my place. Bapashri was smiling looking at Gigabhai. Gigabhai could not utter a single word to Bapashri.

Suddenly on the way Bapashri said, 'I want to use the urinal.' A volunteer who was accompanying said, 'Bapa, here on the way where could you go?' Gigabhai heard this. He grabbed the opportunity. He suggested Bapashri, 'Bapa, my house is closeby. Please, visit my place. I will arrange for you to use the urinal.' This was an excuse for Bapashri. Actually he wanted to bless the Mukta - Narayan residing there. He wanted to inform everybody that Narayan was an Anadimukta. Bapashri used the urinal at Gigabhai's place. He went to Narayan who was lying down in a cradle.

Narayan was smiling happily looking at Bapashri. He was full of joy. Bapashri also smiled looking at him. He carried Narayan in his hands. He caressed his head lovingly. He put on a dot of kumkum on the forehead of Narayan using the kumkum from the dot on his own forehead. Muktaraj Diwaliba who had been accompanying, requested, 'Please bless that Narayan becomes a great devotee of God.' Bapashri said, He is blessed eternally. He is Anadimukta of Shreeji Maharaj. He has come here through will of Shreeji Maharaj. He is going to liberate a lot of living beings. He will unite them with the divine form of Maharaj. He will perform omnibeneficial work. Everyone will become aware of these qualities later on.'

Bapashri left with such divine blessings to visit other places. Gigabhai was full of joy. He considered himself fortunate. Shakuba was choked with emotions. Tears were rolling down her eyes. Gigabhai spoke at last, 'We are blessed. Such a great Anadimukta has appeared as our son. He has chosen us as his parents. Maharaj is very compassionate.'

Shakuba took Narayan in her lap. She was overwhelmed with joy. She hugged her son and kissed him and spoke, 'Anadimukta has appeared as our son. We are blessed. Anadimukta has appeared as our son! We are most fortunate!'

Difficult words :

Attentive - Who pays attention

Anxious - Worried

Console - To comfort

Utter - To speak

Caress - To stroke lovingly

Eternally - Forever

Compassionate - Kind

Overwhelm - Overpowered by emotions

Points to ponder :

- Muktas of Maharaj do not discriminate between rich and poor, they consider only the devotion.
- Bapashri was aware of the purpose behind appearance of Muktaraj Narayanbhai on the Earth. Therefore he blessed Narayanbhai with such divine blessings. And declared him as an Anadimukta.

Exercise**Answer the following questions :**

1. What was Gigabhai worried about?
2. How did Bapashri fulfill Gigabhai's wish?
3. What blessings did Bapashri grant (shower) on Narayan?

Fill in the blanks :

1. Tomorrow Anadi Mahamuktaraj _____ is going to visit Dhrangadhra.
2. He is blessed _____.

-
3. He is _____ of Shreeji Maharaj.
 4. He will perform _____ work.



4

Purified The House

When Narayan completed five years, his father passed away. Shakuba spent three years in Dhrangadhra with lots of difficulties. Shakuba was not able to get work in Dhrangadhra. She found it difficult to provide even food. Once Tyagi Bhagirathiba from Wadhwan visited Dhrangadhra. She was very sad looking at the financial condition of Shakuba. She spoke to Shakuba, 'Shaku, here you are not able to find work. You have to raise five children. Please, come with me to Wadhwan. You may be able to get some work there.' Shakuba was in two minds. Narayan was accompanying them. He encouraged, 'Yes, mother. Let us go to Wadhwan. Maharaj will certainly help us to find work there.' Shakuba made up her mind, listening to such encouraging statements of little Narayan. She consented to Bhagirathiba, 'All right Ba, we shall go to Wadhwan.'

They reached Wadhwan. But now where to stay? They had little money left. If she paid that money as a rent for the house then how to feed the children? Shakuba was worried. Now, what to

do? The house owners were demanding a very high rent. By that time, a rich man approached Shakuba, He said, 'I have a big, double storeyed building. I would charge only two rupees as rent. If you like the house, you can take it on rent. It is next to Bhagirathiba's house.' Shakuba was delighted looking at the house. She thanked Maharaj. Shakuba was about to shift in that house alongwith the children. At that time, her neighbour came to her and cautioned, 'Lady, do not stay in that house. It is a haunted house. The ghosts do not allow anyone to stay there even for a single night. They trouble a lot. Some of the tenants have died out of fear.'

Shakuba and the brothers and sisters of Narayan were scared. Shakuba realized that the rich man asked for such a low rent, because the house was haunted. She thought, 'I do not want to stay in a haunted house. I will make some other arrangement.' She left the house with the children. Narayan said, 'Ba, let us go inside! Why don't we stay in such a beautiful house?' Shakuba replied, 'Didn't you hear? That lady says that this is a haunted house. The ghosts do not allow anyone to stay here even for a single night'. Narayan tried to convince her mother, 'Ma, we are devotees of Lord Swaminarayan. We wear His Kanthi. Shreeji Maharaj is always with us. Poor ghosts! What are they going to do us? On the contrary, they would

be scared of us. So, let us go. We won't be able to find such big house at such a low rent. Whenever we remember God, he protects, us.' Shakuba remembered the statements of Bapashri. She recollected that Narayan is Anadimukta. Shakuba felt fearless. All of them shifted to the new house. Narayan suggested, 'Ma, we shall stay upstairs.' People of the town came to see them. Who has occupied the haunted house? By tomorrow they are going to leave the house and will shift to another house. We have warned them, but they did not listen to us. At night when the ghosts would trouble them, they will realize.' They talked among themselves for some time and went back.

Shakuba cleaned the first floor of the house and installed Maharaj. The night set in. Downstairs the ghosts began to make various noises. They tried to scare them. Brothers and sisters of Narayan were scared. Shakuba also was chanting the name of God. Narayan instructed, 'Let us remember God and go to sleep. The ghosts are not powerful enough to trouble us.' All of them remembered God and inspite of fear, they tried to sleep. When all of them were asleep, Narayan took a glassfull of water and went down. The ghosts were scared of Narayan. They saw divine brilliance of Narayan. They requested to Narayan, 'You are a great Mukta. Please, liberate

us. We are haunting for a long time.' Narayan felt pity for the ghosts. He chanted "Swaminarayan-Swaminarayan" and sprinkled the water on the ghosts. He blessed the ghosts and liberated them. Shakuba was observing every thing sitting on the staircase. She told Narayan, 'You are a Mahamukta. You have come to me as my son. I am the most fortunate.' Narayan replied, 'These are all divine acts of Shreeji Maharaj. We are just an instrument'. In the morning, people of the town came to see them. They found everyone in the house safe and sound. They were astonished! When they found out that an eight year old boy has purified the haunted house, they bowed down to Narayan. And said, 'We are blessed! You have arrived to our town.'

Even the house owner came running when he heard the news. He bowed down to Narayan and spoke gratefully, 'For years, this house had been haunted by the ghosts. They did not allow anybody to stay in this house. You have made this house as pious as a temple. You can stay in this house as long as you wish. I do not want even rent. I am fortunate enough to have Darshan of a Mukta like you.' With such words, he went back home delightfully. Shakuba and her children stayed in that house happily.

Difficult words :

Recollected - Remembered

Sprinkle - To scatter drops of water

Astonished - Surprised greatly

Points to ponder :

→ Anadimukta of Maharaj can liberate the haunting souls out of compassion even as a child. i.e. age is no bar for an Anadimukta to carry on his divine work.

Exercise**Answer the following questions :**

1. From Dhrangadhra, Shakuba shifted to which place? Why?
2. Why did the house owner ask for a very low rent?
3. What did the ghosts request Narayan?
4. How old was Narayan when he liberated the ghosts?

Fill in the blanks :

1. This is a _____ house.
2. We are devotees of _____, poor _____! What are they going to do us?
3. You made this house _____.
4. You are a _____.

Explain with reference :

1. You have to raise five children. Come with me to Wadhwan. You will be able to get

some work there.

2. We are devotees of Lord Swaminarayan, Poor ghosts! What are they going to do us?



5

Preference For Simple Food

It so happened one day. Shakuba was getting ready in the morning to go to work. Narayan also got ready. Shakuba tried to explain, 'Narayan, everyday I try to convince you. Please do not join me to work. Children of your age play wonderful games. You also join them'. Narayan refused, 'Ma, in the evening I will join them, when we come back from work. I am young. So I am able to help you very little. When I grow up, you wouldn't have to work. I will do all the work.' Shakuba felt so much affection for young Narayan. Both of them together went to work. In the evening, they returned. Narayan had a wash. He told his mother, 'Ma, I am feeling very hungry. Please give me something to eat.' Shakuba said, 'I will give you in a minute. Today you have worked hard. You must be tired.' Shakuba's eyes were tearful while serving the food. Narayan asked, 'Ma, what is wrong? Why are you crying?' Shakuba replied, 'Son! Abjibapashri mentioned that you are an Anadimukta. You have appeared to liberate innumerable souls. You have no constraints.'

Narayan gazed at mother. Shakuba clarified, 'Oh Narayan! why have you appeared in a poor family like ours? You could have appeared in a rich family and carried out your work to liberate the souls. I am not even able to offer you good food. Forget about good food! I am not even able to provide full meal. Today only buttermilk and chapatis are there to eat'. And Shakuba broke down into tears.

Narayan sat down next to Shakuba. He consoled Shakuba, 'Ma, who told you that I am not happy here? I relish buttermilk with chapatis. Simple food is very helpful in worshipping God.' Shakuba said, 'Son! you are trying to console me. Nobody enjoys just buttermilk and chapatis.' Narayan explained, 'Ma, richness makes you of Raja's nature. By having tasty food everyday, we become addicted to it. We do not enjoy worshipping God. Any object which is not helpful in worshipping God is useless. I really enjoy buttermilk and chapatis. Please, do not feel sad about it. Ma, you are the best mother on this Earth. Therefore, I have appeared as your son.' Shakuba was grateful and considered herself the most fortunate by having such a virtuous son.

Difficult words :

Constraints - Limitations, restrictions

Innumerable - A number of

Virtuous - Having good qualities

Points to ponder :

- Muktaraj teaches us that we must help our parents as per our capacity.
- An Anadimukta goes through financial difficulties just to set an example.
- So called hardships of this world never create obstacles in worshipping God.
- We must enjoy our food with remembrance of God considering it God's will.

Exercise**Answer the following questions :**

1. Why was shakuba crying?
2. What did Narayan explain Shakuba about simple food?

Fill in the blanks :

1. Richness makes you of _____ nature.
2. By having _____ food everyday, we become _____ to it.
3. Any object which is not helpful in worshipping _____ is useless.
4. You are the _____ mother on this _____.



Mother - The Real Teacher

Gradually, Shakuba got a lot of work. She was earning enough money. Shakuba called Narayan, 'Narayan, Son! Please come to me.' Narayan went to Shakuba. Shakuba said, 'Son! I wish that you study a lot. Now you must join the school again.' Narayan agreed, 'Yes, Ma. I will go to school.'

Shakuba said, 'Son, Please remember one thing always. You must study attentively in school.'

Narayan promised, 'Yes, Ma. I will study attentively.' Shakuba continued, 'You must remember Maharaj while going to the school as well as while coming back from the school and chant Swaminarayan-Swaminarayan. You should not look here and there on the way.'

Narayan reassured, 'I will certainly follow your advice.' Shakuba said, 'You must not touch any woman knowingly. If you touch a woman unknowingly, you must come home and have bath with the remembrance of God.' Narayan said firmly, 'Ma, I will remember this throughout my life and follow it.' Shakuba was pleased to hear such

sincere statements of Narayan.

She caressed Narayan's head and enrolled him in the school. (Narayanmama followed the promises given to his mother throughout his life).

Difficult words :

Reassure - To confirm again

Points to ponder :

- We must remember Shreeji Maharaj while performing any task.
- We must study attentively.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. Before going to school, what did Shakuba advise Narayan?
2. How did Narayan respond to the advice?

Fill in the blanks :

1. You must remember _____ while going to the school as well as while coming back from school and chant_____.
2. You should not touch any _____ knowingly.
3. I will remember your advise throughout my _____.



7

Conversation With God

It so happened on a Sunday. It was a holiday. Narayan got up early in the morning. He had bath and went to the temple. Narayan was very fond of Ghanshyam Maharaj installed in the temple. Narayan offered Shashtang Pranam to Ghanshyam Maharaj and sat down. Ghanshyam Maharaj chuckled loudly and welcomed Narayan sweetly. Narayan was overwhelmed with emotion. He began to sing a beautiful Keertan of God in a melodious voice and with full involvement in Maharaj! Maharaj was pleased and began to sway. He praised Narayan, 'Wow! Narayan; there is a wonderful devotion in your Keertan. I am pleased. Other devotees also sing Keertans, but their mind is wandering somewhere else. It is of no use. They come for My Darshan but they keep on thinking about other matters. You are fully engrossed in Me, while singing a Keertan or during My Darshan.' Narayan replied, 'Lord, it is all Your grace.'

Maharaj inquired, 'Narayan! Son! Do you like in Wadhwan?' Narayan replied, 'Maharaj! All

the places are same for me. I am always blessed by Your Darshan everywhere. I am equally blissful everywhere.' Maharaj agreed, 'Yes, Narayan, Good-bad etc. classification is for the living beings of this world. For an Anadimukta like you, all the circumstances are always pleasing.' Narayan replied, 'Maharaj, it is possible through Your grace.'

Swami Bhaktijivandasji was staying in the temple. He was a very pious and devoted saint. He noticed from a distance that a child had been murmuring sitting alone in front of Maharaj. He decided to check him up. Slowly he went there and stood behind Narayan. At that moment he heard the voice of Maharaj. He looked at Maharaj. Maharaj was making gestures using His hands. He was caressing Narayan's head. Maharaj said, 'Narayan, you liberated the ghosts in your house. I am very much pleased. Poor souls were haunting. You have liberated them.' Narayan smiled and said humbly, 'Maharaj, it is Your glory. I am a mere instrument to carry out Your will. I obey Your command. You have sent me on Earth to liberate living beings. I perform it with Your inspiration.'

Maharaj congratulated him, 'I am pleased.' Narayan prayed, 'Maharaj! Please, bless me with Your grace.' Narayan bowed down to Maharaj. Maharaj blessed him, 'Narayan, you are My dearest favourite Anadimukta. I am eternally pleased with you.' Maharaj lovingly caressed

Narayan's head.

For the first time, Swami Bhaktijivandasji had such Darshan of Maharaj and His Mukta. He was overwhelmed with emotions. For a few moments, he was stunned. He thought, 'Wow! Anadimukta has arrived in this town in the form of a child.' Swami bowed down to Narayan with reverence. Narayan asked, 'Swami, what are you doing? I am just a child. Why do you bow down to me?' Swami replied, 'Today, I have realised what kind of child you are!' Narayan asked, 'What are you saying?' Swami replied, 'Please, don't hide anything from me, now. You are an Anadimukta of God and you have appeared to liberate innumerable living beings. I have been meditating for many years, but never had Darshan of Maharaj. Today due to your prowess, I had divine Darshan of Maharaj and I was blessed with an opportunity to hear the divine voice of Maharaj. I am the blessed one. This has been possible due to your prowess.' Narayan realised that now he can not deny it. He confessed to Swami, 'Swami, Maharaj talks to me everyday. But today you had Darshan of Maharaj due to His grace. Please, do not mention this to anyone.'

Swami believed that he had Darshan of Maharaj due to Narayan's prowess. Swami considered himself the most fortunate.

Difficult words :

Chuckle - Soft laughter

Melodious - Pleasing to the ears

Engrossed - Fully attentive

Circumstances - Connected events

Gestures - Movement to convey meaning

Stunned - Shocked deeply

Points to ponder :

→ Anadimuktas of Maharaj are eternally united with the divine form of Maharaj. They experience the bliss of Maharaj all the time. Sometimes due to their prowess, other people also get an opportunity to have the divine Darshan of Maharaj.

Exercise**Answer the following questions :**

1. When and on which day did Narayan go to the temple?
2. What was Narayan doing sitting in front of Maharaj?
3. What did Maharaj mention about other devotees?
4. What privilege had been offered to Swami Bhaktijivandasji?

Fill in the blanks :

1. There is a wonderful devotion in your _____.
2. Their _____ is wondering somewhere else.

-
-
3. Such _____ is of no use.
 4. I am always blessed by Your _____ all the time at all the places.
 5. I am just an _____ to carry out Your will. I obey Your _____.
 6. You have sent me on Earth to _____ the _____.
 7. For many years, I have been _____.

Explain with reference :

1. Due to your prowess today I am blessed with the divine Darshan of Maharaj and had an opportunity to hear His divine voice.



Reverence Towards Kanthi Guru

As usual, Shakuba finished her Pooja. Narayan said, 'Ma, I also want Pooja for worship. I will also worship Maharaj everyday.' Shakuba was delighted to hear such words. 'Son! Please ask the Swami in the temple. He will give you a Pooja for worship.' said she. Narayan was full of joy. He remembered what Shreeji Maharaj had mentioned while leaving for Wadhwan, 'Narayan, Swami Bhaktijivandasji of Wadhwan will tie you Kanthi. Accept him as your Kanthi Guru. He will also give you a Pooja.'

Next day, Narayan got up early. He had bath and left for the temple. Swami was glad to see Narayan. He asked, 'Narayan, why are you early today? Are you going to talk with Maharaj?' Narayan prayed, 'Swami, would you tie me Kanthi and give me Pooja. Please, be my Kanthi Guru.' Swami said, 'Narayan, you are a favourite Mukta of Maharaj. Maharaj is always with you. Why do you need a Guru? It is my good luck to be your Guru! Come, let me tie you a Kanthi.'

Swami offered a Kanthi to Shreeji Maharaj

and tied it to Narayan. He also gave him a Pooja for worship. Narayan bowed down to Swami. He spoke with gratitude, 'Swami, from today you are my Kanthi Guru. Now onwards, I will serve you.' Swami was pleased. He said, 'Narayan, you always serve me. Now you do not have to serve more.'

Everyday Narayan would go to Swami. He served him with reverence. He would massage Swami's feet, head etc. He would offer any object to Swami even before he could ask. He would clean the mat of Swami. Thus, he used to serve Swami in all possible ways. Sometimes Swami used to say, 'Narayan, now please go home. You must be tired.' Narayan used to reply, 'Swami, I enjoy to serve you. I am not at all tired. It pleases Maharaj, if I serve you.' Such sweet statements of the small Mukta pleased Swami immensely.

Difficult words :

Immensely - To a very great extent

Points to ponder :

- Here, Muktaraj teaches us that we must serve our Guru considering him equivalent to God. We must try to attain his blessings.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. What did Narayan ask for?

2. Give the name of Narayan's Kanthi Guru?

3. How did Narayan serve Swami?

Fill in the blanks :

1. Swami, please be my _____.

2. You are a _____ Mukta of Maharaj.

3. It is my _____ to be a _____ of
a Mukta like you.



Devotion Through Keertan

It so happened one day. Narayan was singing Keertan sitting in front of Ghanshyam Maharaj in the temple. He was singing with full involvement and with closed eyes. All his senses were engrossed in God. Narayan's voice was sweet and melodious. And he was singing with total devotion. What a wonderful combination it was! Everyone visiting the temple for Darshan was attracted by his Keertan. They would sit down to listen to Narayan's Keertan. Narayan would sing such beautiful Keertans one by one that everyone felt fully immersed in devotion. A Haribhakta went to Swami Bhaktijivandasji to inquire, 'Who is this young boy! I have never seen him before. How beautifully he sings the Keertans! I feel so attracted.' Swami replied, 'He is Narayan. He is a great Mukta of Shreeji Maharaj. Ghanshyam Maharaj talks to him everyday. He sings beautiful Keertans fully absorbed in Maharaj.' Haribhakta said, 'Wow! What devotion this kid has towards God! Maharaj talks to him! Wow! That is great.'

Once, Acharya Maharaj came for the

Darshan of Maharaj. He stopped there listening to Narayan's voice. He was fully immersed into the divine form of God. Narayan's Keertan was over. Acharya called Narayan. Narayan bowed down to him and sat down. Acharya said, 'Bal Muktaraj, what is your name?' Narayan replied, 'Narayan.' Acharya asked, 'Who taught you to sing such beautiful Keertans with such devotion?' Narayan replied, 'Nobody.' Archarya was astonished. He said, 'Oh great! What a sweet voice God has given you! Your concentration while singing Keertans is wonderful. Narayan, you were singing all the Keertans with closed eyes. Do you remember so many Keertans by heart?' Narayan replied politely, 'With God's grace, I remember one hundred Keertans by heart.' Acharya was surprised. 'Narayan, How old are you?', he asked.

Narayan informed, 'I am eight years old.' Acharya and everyone sitting there were astonished. One hundred Keertans by heart at the age of eight years!!! Acharya congratulated, 'Narayan, your devotion through Keertans is great and blessed are your parents who have attained such virtuous son!'

Difficult words :

Politely - With good manners

Immersed - Involved deeply

Absorbed - With great interest

Involved - Taking part wholeheartedly

Points to ponder :

- Anadimukta of Shreeji Maharaj are not bound by the age limits of this world.
- Muktaraj teaches us that we must worship God with total involvement in the divine form of God.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. How was Narayan singing Keertans in front of God?
2. Why did Haribhaktas sit down around Narayan?
3. How many Keertans did Narayan remember by heart? How old was he at that time?
4. What did Swami reply to Haribhaktas?

Fill in the blanks :

1. Wow! what a _____ voice God has given you!
2. You were singing with closed _____, how many _____ do you remember by heart?
3. I am _____ years old.



Shreeji Maharaj Responded To The Prayer

As usual Narayan was having Darshan in the temple. At that time Dr. Manilalbhai from Wadhwan sat down next to Narayan. Narayan greeted him with, 'Jai Swaminarayan.' The doctor asked, 'Narayan, God talks to you, isn't it?' Narayan replied, 'Who told you?' Doctor informed, 'Whole town knows about it!' Narayan kept quiet. Doctor requested, 'Narayan would you pray for me to God?' Narayan replied, 'Certainly.' Doctor said, 'Please pray to God to bless me with His divine and eternal Darshan.' Narayan replied, 'How can I say that?' Doctor insisted, 'Narayan, you are the most favourite Mukta of Maharaj. If you request Him, He will certainly respond.' Narayan said, 'Let me try.' Narayan closed his eyes. He withdrew all his senses inwards and asked Maharaj. After a few minutes, he opened his eyes. Doctor asked eagerly, 'What did He say? When would He bless me with His Darshan?' Narayan told slowly, 'Maharaj is refusing!' The doctor was sad. He prayed to Narayan with his voice choked with emotions, 'Narayan, please pray to God once

again. Please, make me have His Darshan through your prowess. Please, pray to God once again and try to please Him.' Doctor requested Narayan again and again. Again Narayan withdrew his senses inwards. Maharaj asked, 'Narayan, what is the matter? Why are you praying again!' Narayan replied, 'Maharaj! He is desperate for Your Darshan. Have mercy on him.' Maharaj replied, 'All right, Narayan, I have accepted your prayer. Make him sit in front of the idol after Shayan Aarti.' Narayan informed this to Dr. Manilalbai. Doctor was full of joy. At night, as soon as the Aarti was over, he sat down in front of the idol. Slowly everyone left the temple. Narayan, doctor and Swami remained in the temple. Doctor gazed at the idol of Maharaj eagerly. Maharaj lifted His left hand a little bit. He gestured slowly.

Manilalbai was full of joy by such gesture. He lifted Narayan on his, shoulders and began to dance. 'Today, I am the luckiest one. I am the most fortunate one.' He repeated it and continued dancing.

After a while, he took Narayan down and bowed down to him. He spoke with gratitude, 'Narayan, through your prowess and prayer, I had the Darshan of Maharaj. You are great! Thank you Narayan! Thank you once again. You are really favourite of Maharaj. You are great Narayan!'

Difficult words :

To withdraw - To pull back

Eagerly - Keenly desiring

Prowess - Spiritual Power

Desperate - Having strong need or desire

Gazed - Fixed look

Points to ponder :

→ Shreeji Maharaj always responds to the prayer of an Anadimukta. And it becomes possible to manifest the impossible.

Exercise**Answer the following questions :**

1. Why did Dr. Manilalbai request Narayan to pray to Maharaj?
2. What did Maharaj say to Narayan?
3. When and how did Maharaj offer His Darshan to doctor?

Make sentences :

1. To pray.
2. To feel desperate.

Explain with references :

1. Narayan, please pray to Maharaj again.
2. Maharaj! He is desperate for Your Darshan.
3. Today! I am the most fortunate one.



Sharp Intellect

Nobody was playing in the school. There was pin-drop silence in the school. The exams were due. The students were busy preparing for the examination. Narayan was meditating God, singing Keertans. His friends approached him and spoke, 'Narayan, exams are due. You are not studying at all.' Narayan replied, 'I do not need to study.' His friends inquired, 'How would you appear in the exams? Every year, you pass the exams with first rank. How do you write without studying?' Narayan explained, 'Whenever the teacher teaches us, I understand with total concentration. At home, I prepare my notes. I study those notes once and I remember everything by heart. I do not have to revise it.'

All the friends asked in chorus, 'Only once!!' Narayan replied, 'Yes, I read it once with the remembrance of God and I remember everything by heart.' A friend requested, 'Narayan, would you give me your notebook to study?' Another friend said, 'Who will give you at the time of exams? Don't you think, he will have to study

it?' Narayan replied, 'Oh no! not at all. I do not have to study. You can take it. I remember everything by heart.' The friend was delighted. One of the friends glanced through the notes and asked, 'O Narayan! From where did you take these notes? Teacher has not explained in this manner.' Narayan replied, 'I have prepared these notes by myself. I have explained all the topics as per my understanding.' The friends were surprised. One of the friends asked, 'Narayan, how do you write the exams? How do you manage to get first rank in all the exams?' Narayan explained, 'First of all, I study attentively. Then while writing the exams, I pray to Lord Swaminarayan in the beginning.' Friends asked, 'What kind of prayers? How do you pray?' Narayan continued, 'I pray that O Maharaj! Please join me to write the exam. Listening to such prayer, Maharaj participates with me to write the exam and I am able to write in the best possible way. When Maharaj Himself joins me in writing exams, obviously I get first rank.'

One of the friends asked, 'This year, I have not studied properly. If I pray to God, would He pass me?' Narayan replied, 'Hard work is essential. Then and only then God joins with us and helps us to get good marks. Without working hard, if we ask God, He does not grant. We must prepare properly. And then if we pray to God, He responds to our prayers.' Listening to such advice

of Narayan, all the friends began to prepare for the exams.

Difficult words :

Approach - Come nearer

Concentration - Fixed attention

Revise - Reading one again

Essential - something necessary

Points to ponder :

- Muktaraj teaches us that whenever the teacher is teaching in the school, we must learn with total concentration and we must prepare the notes at home.
- Without working hard, we should not expect God to support us. If we work hard and pray to God, He certainly responds to our prayers.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. Why was nobody playing in the school?
2. What was Narayan doing?
3. Why was Narayan not studying?
4. How did Narayan get first rank in all the exams?

Fill in the blanks :

1. Narayan was meditating _____ and singing _____.
2. Whenever teacher teaches, I learn with total

-
-
- _____, at home I prepare the_____.
3. I read it _____ with the remembrance
of God, so that I remember every thing
_____.



Young Teacher

One day Narayan was reading narratives of God at home. Meanwhile, his friends arrived. Narayan greeted them, 'Welcome.' They all sat down around Narayan. Narayan asked, 'What is the matter? Today how come all of you have arrived together?' A friend informed, 'We all have come here to learn from you.' Narayan asked, 'What do you want to learn?' Another friend replied, 'English and Maths. Narayan, you always get first rank in exams. Would you teach us?' Narayan replied, 'The same portion has been taught by the teacher in the school, isn't it?' The friend replied, 'Yes, but whatever the teacher teaches, we do not understand properly. His method is very tough.' At the same time another friend complained, 'I can not understand at all.' With these words he scratched his head. All of them laughed. Narayan said, 'All right, let me teach you today. Please pay attention.' Narayan began to teach. He taught in such a simple and interesting manner that everyone listened to it attentively. Narayan taught in such a good and methodical way that they understood

quickly. The friends said, 'All these days, teacher had been explaining, but we could not understand. Today Narayan taught us and we have understood it immediately and remembered it also. Narayan, you are our young teacher.' A friend inquired, 'Narayan, How do you know to teach so well?' Narayan explained, 'When the teacher teaches us, I listen to it attentively, revise it at home and I always, keep Shreeji Maharaj with me. Therefore, I understand everything immediately.' All the friends thanked Narayan and returned to their respective homes.

Difficult words :

Narratives - Real incidents in story form

To greet - To address

Methodical - Orderly

Points to ponder :

- An Anadimukta of Shreeji Maharaj has unique ability to teach so that everyone understands immediately.
- Muktaraj teaches us that while studying we must study attentively and we must revise it at home.

Exercise

Answer the following question :

1. What was Narayan doing at home?
2. What did all the friends want to learn from Narayan?

Fill in the blanks :

1. Narayan, you are our _____ .
2. When the teacher teaches us, I listen to it _____ . I _____ it at home once again.



Cleared Up Superstition

Exams were going on. Narayan and his friends were going to appear for the exams. One of his friends was looking worried. Narayan asked, 'Why do you look worried?' His friend replied, 'I find today's subject very tough.' Narayan reminded him, 'Remember God while writing the exam. You will remember everything.' While they were talking, a cat crossed their path. The friend was frightened and stopped in the middle of the road. Narayan asked, 'What happened? Exams are about to start. Let us go, otherwise we would be late.' The friend replied, 'First of all, I find today's subject very hard and on the top of it, the cat has crossed the path.' Narayan inquired, 'How does the cat affect the whole issue?' The friend explained, 'It is a bad omen. Now I will not do well in exam.' Narayan chuckled. He said, 'Such a small cat would decide your fate, is it so?' The friend clarified, 'It is considered as bad omen, if a cat crosses your path.' Narayan asked, 'Why do you believe in such superstitions? Don't you have faith in your efforts?' The friend repeated, 'Today's subject is tough and

the cat has crossed the path. Now I will not do well in exam.' Narayan tried to convince, 'How do you believe such superstitions? A cat is a living being. It roams around on the road. Why do you consider it as good or bad omen? Listen, write your exam with remembrance of God. And I promise, your performance would be the best in today's exam. Come on! Let us go. Narayan spoke with determination.'

His words encouraged his friend. And in fact, he did very well in his exam. Bad omen did not affect him. As usual Narayan passed the exams with first rank. His friend got the second rank. The friend confessed, 'Narayan, you were right. A cat is not responsible for misfortune. Now onwards I will not believe in such superstitions. You cleared up my ignorance. Now I will perform all the acts with remembrance of God.' The friend's belief in God was strengthened and Narayan was looking satisfied as his friend was freed from the bondage of superstition.

Difficult words :

Issue - Point under discussion

Omen - Sign of something to happen

Superstition - Belief based on fear or ignorance

Determination - Firm intention

Misfortune - Trouble, Calamity

Bondage - Slavery

Encourage - To inspire

Points to ponder :

- Shreeji Maharaj should be remembered while performing any act, so that He also joins us in our act, and we always experience good omen.
- We should not waste the precious moments of our life believing in superstitions.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. Where were Narayan and his friends going?
2. Why was the friend looking worried?
3. Why did the friend stop in the middle of the road?
4. What did Narayan explain his friend about the cat and the bad omen?

Fill in the blanks :

1. A _____ crossed their path.
2. Now, such a small cat is going to decide your_____.
3. Why do you believe in such _____?
4. Listen carefully, write your exam with the remembrance of _____.



A Wonder Game

It so happened one day. Narayan's friends visited him at his home. They asked Narayan, 'Narayan let us go to play.'

After finishing his work, Narayan joined his friends. They all went to a lake. One of them suggested, 'Let us play catch 'n' catch.' The another friend protested, 'We play it every day. Let us play something different today.' Narayan proposed, 'May I teach you a new game today?' They were delighted. 'Yes, of course. New game!' They spoke with excitement. Narayan said, 'Let us play the game of meditating God.' Friends inquired, 'What kind of game is that? How could we play it?' Narayan explained, 'We must close our eyes and visualize the idol of God in our heart.' Friends asked, 'What is so exciting about it?' Narayan answered, 'Once we learn to meditate then it is the most pleasing experience. We don't enjoy any other activity thereafter.' Friends asked, 'Really? Are we going to enjoy it? Would you please teach us?' Narayan replied, 'Yes, certainly. I would love to teach you. First of all, sit

down with crossed legs.' Everybody sat down. Narayan instructed further, 'Now concentrate your mind. Try to remember God. Stop thinking about anything else than God.' All of them followed the instruction - Narayan continued in a quite voice, 'Try to visualize the idol of God in your heart.' Narayan's voice was tender. All of them followed him. They sat quietly for some time. After a short while they came out of it one by one. Narayan was still meditating. Friends woke him up. One of the friends told, 'I couldn't see God.' Another one said, 'I could see only darkness.' The third one confessed, 'I was thinking about playing games.' They asked Narayan, 'Narayan, what did you see?' Narayan replied, 'I saw the brilliant form of God. God looked beautiful. Once you have such Darshan, you can not let it go.' One of the friends asked, 'Why didn't we have such Darshan?' Narayan informed, 'Daily practice is required for such Darshan. We must sit in front of the idol for some time everyday.' Friends asked, 'In front of whose idol?' Narayan replied, 'We can sit in front of either Ghanshyam Maharaj, Nilkanthvarni or Sahajanand Swami, whoever we like the most.' A friend asked, 'What should we do after that?' Narayan explained, 'We should sit in front of the idol with focused mind and try to remember it. We can remember the idol correctly after the practice of a few days.' The friend inquired, 'Is this called,

meditating?' Narayan replied, 'We must visualize the idol in our heart with closed eyes.' The friend asked again, 'Is this called meditation?' Narayan spoke smilingly, 'Bhai, have patience and listen to me.' The friend asked again, 'How many days does it require to practice?' Another friend spoke, 'We must practice for three-four days, I guess, and we would be able to visualize.' Narayan informed, 'No, we must endeavour slowly. It takes years to become an expert.' The friend cried out, 'Years? My God!' Narayan said, 'That is why I told that if we start practicing right from our childhood, we can experience the bliss of God when we grow up.' The friends asked, 'Narayan, how long could you visualize the idol of God?' Narayan revealed, 'I always have the Darshan of God surrounded by His brilliance.' A friend asked, 'How is it possible? You are still young. And you say that it takes years!' Narayan informed, 'By the grace of God, I always have Darshan of God in His divine brilliant form.'

The friend complained, 'Because you have such Darshan of God, Ghanshyam Maharaj talks to you. Whereas he does not talk with us.' One of the friends asked, 'Would God bless me with such Darshan?' Narayan assured, 'Certainly. Why not? If we have full faith in God and if we meditate upon God wholeheartedly God would certainly bless us with His Darshan.' The friend asked, 'And then

would He talk to me?' Narayan affirmed. The friend inquired, 'Would He let me sit on His lap?' Narayan reassured, 'Yes, probably He would allow.' The friend asked, 'And would He offer me Ladu?' All of them laughed hilariously. They said, 'Look! Here is a Ladu devotee.' Narayan spoke with laughter, 'Yes, He would give Ladu also.' The friends promised, 'Narayan, now we shall practice meditation regularly. Please, teach us.' Narayan was delighted. He promised, 'Yes, of course. I am going to enjoy it.'

Difficult words :

To protest - To object

Visualize - To form a mental image

Tender - Soft or delicate

Endeavour - Sincere effort

Hilarious - Funny

Points to ponder :

- An Anadimukta of Shreeji Maharaj always experiences the bliss of divine form of Shreeji Maharaj.
- Muktaraj teaches us that if we begin to meditate right from our childhood, we can attain something when we grow up.
- We must learn the art of meditation from an Anadimukta.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. Where did Narayan and his friends go to play?
2. Which game did Narayan suggest to play?
3. How should we meditate?

Fill in the blanks :

1. Let us play the game of _____ today.
2. Stop _____ about anything else than God.
3. I saw the _____ idol of God.
4. If we have full _____ in God and if we _____ upon God _____, God would certainly bless us with His Darshan.



Caring Son

Narayan passed tenth standard exams in first division. The friends asked, 'Narayan, we do not have coaching facilities for Matriculation exams in Wadhwan. What would you do?' Narayan replied, 'I will go with my mother to Dhrangadhra to study.' Narayan shifted to Dhrangadhra, but within few days his mother Shakuba fell ill. Mother said, 'Narayan, please get admission in the school, otherwise whole year would be wasted.' Narayan replied, 'Ma, this year I am not going to take admission.' Narayan knew that this was his mother's final illness. Mother asked, 'Why son?' Narayan replied, 'Ma, you are ill. I will take admission when you will feel better.' Shakuba said, 'It is not certain when I will get well! And your year would be wasted.'

Narayan said, 'Studies are not important compared to serving one's parents. If this year is wasted, I will study next year. But it is my duty to serve my parents. Serving the sick people pleases Maharaj. And it is my good luck to serve a pious mother like you.' Shakuba resisted, 'Son! I do not

like a great Mukta like you serving me. I clearly remember the statements of Bapashri. You have appeared to liberate a lot of living beings and you are serving me.' Narayan replied, 'You have lived your life in pious manner. You have worshipped God and you have lived an honest life. God would be pleased if I serve you.'

Shakuba said, 'Narayan, you are looking after me very well. Nobody can take care like you. I am extremely fortunate that God has given me a son like you.' Shakuba felt exhausted while speaking. Narayan was concerned. He said, 'Ma, please take rest.' Shakuba requested, 'Son, please tell me the narratives of God.' Narayan lovingly narrated greatness of God. Shakuba felt peaceful. She was united with divine form of Maharaj forever.

Difficult words :

1. Fortunate - Very lucky
2. Exhausted - Extremely tired
3. Concerned - Anxious or Worried

Points to ponder :

- Muktaraj teaches us that we must serve our parents honestly considering it as a pious duty.
- We must ignore other activities while serving.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. Why did Narayan leave Wadhwan?

2. Why did Narayan not take admission in Matriculation classes?

Complete the following sentences :

1. It is my duty to serve _____
pleases Maharaj.
2. Nobody can take care _____
given me a son like you.



Real Entertainment

Narayan went to the city of Surat to study B.Sc. His economic condition was not very good. In city, young men wore fashionable clothes. Narayan wore very simple clothes and lived within the limits of religion. Once, friends asked him, 'Narayan, why don't you wear clothes of recent fashion?' Narayan replied, 'I like to wear simple clothes. Besides it is beyond my capacity to buy fashionable clothes and I am not at all fond of them.' Friends argued, 'But you look different among all of us.' Narayan explained, 'I do not believe in other beautification. It is more important to have inner purity. I do not like to spend unnecessarily, just to show off. You are not bothered whether your parents could afford or not. You make them spend unnecessarily just to show off.' Narayan spoke this firmly, so that his friends couldn't argue further. To change the topic, one of the friends suggested, 'Let us go to library to issue a novel. I have finished the one I have.' One of the friends asked Narayan, 'Narayan, why don't you read novels?' Narayan replied, '*Novel* means a

story which does not lead to anywhere. Therefore, it is a waste of time and energy to read a novel.' A friend spoke in English, 'Narayan, it is *Novel*.' Narayan replied in English, 'Which is not well, why to read it?' Another friend congratulated, 'Wow! Narayan, it was a good one!' Narayan said, 'It is not for the sake of argument, I really believe it. A book which is not useful in shaping up one's life is futile. Why should we read it?' The friends couldn't find an appropriate answer to this. So they kept quite.

Once all the friends were discussing, 'Tomorrow is Sunday. Let us go to a movie.' All of them liked the idea. At once they agreed, 'Yes, let us go.' One of the friends spoke jokingly, 'Narayan would meditate even in the theatre.' He started laughing saying these words. Nobody joined him. One of them scolded, 'Narayan really meditates God. You should not speak in this manner.' Narayan said, 'I am not at all offended. He is right. I am not interested in silly entertainment like cinema.' A friend asked, 'What kind of entertainment do you believe in?' Narayan explained, 'The one which is Satwik. I enjoy meditating upon God and having Darshan of God. Once you experience it, no other entertainment is required. A soul wanders in many types of life forms. Such a wandering soul can attain human body after ages. This human body is

the best means to attain God. I do not want to waste it for silly entertainment.' The friends agreed. They said, 'Narayan, you are right. We have not experienced the bliss. Therefore, we are trying to experience some happiness out of such activities.' Narayan said, 'All of you go happily, but please, do not force me to join you. I do not consider it as an entertainment. I am immersed in to the bliss of God.' Nobody could insist Narayan to join them!

A few friends requested Narayan to teach them meditation. Narayan agreed happily to teach them.

Difficult words :

Bothered - Troubled

Futile - Useless

Offended - Angry or Displeased

Points to ponder :

- The real essence of a person is expressed indicated by inner purity, not by outer beautification.
- Muktaraj teaches that we should not make our parents spend unnecessarily just to show off.
- Muktaraj has the personality of an ideal student.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. In which city did Narayan take admission

-
-
- to study B.Sc.?
2. What did friends say Narayan about his clothes? What did Narayan reply?
 3. Express the opinion of Narayan regarding novels and cinema.
 4. According to Narayan what is real entertainment?
 5. How did a friend tease Narayan?

Fill in the blanks :

1. I like _____ clothes.
2. You look _____ among all.
3. It is called _____ means a story which does not _____ to anywhere.
4. Narayan would _____ in the theatre.

Arrange in proper sequence :

1. More important outer beautification it is to have do not believe I in inner purity.
2. A 'Novel' story does not which means anywhere to lead.
3. The best to attain God is body means human.



Humane Religion

Once Narayan and his friend were passing by on a road. Narayan was narrating the incidents of God while walking. His friend was listening interestingly. Meanwhile a young boy from the roof of a closeby house fell down. People gathered around him. The boy had injured his head. He was bleeding profusely. People were talking among themselves that he was injured badly. Narayan and his friend reached there. The boy was unconscious. Narayan carried the boy immediately. The friend advised, 'Leave it. So many people are standing around. No one is trying to help him out. Why do you take the trouble?' Narayan said, 'It is our duty as a human to help someone in trouble. If you want to join me, please come with me.' The friend followed Narayan. Narayan took the boy to a hospital in a rickshaw. Doctor checked up the injury. He recommended another doctor to treat him. The doctor asked Naryan, 'How did it happen?' Narayan replied, 'I do not know anything. May be he fell down while playing on the roof.' Doctor asked, 'Are you related

to the boy?' Narayan said, 'I am not a relative. I do not even know him. I have only performed my duty as a human.' At that moment, another doctor came and informed the first one, 'The boy has lost a lot of blood. He would need blood. If he does not get the blood immediately, his life is in danger.' Narayan requested, 'Please, check up my blood group.' Narayan's friend protested, 'Narayan this is too much. We have admitted the boy into the hospital. You have performed your duty. Now, there is no need to give blood also.' Narayan pleaded, 'If the life of this boy could be saved by donating a little blood, I will certainly do that.' Incidentally Narayan's blood group matched with the boy's blood group. Narayan donated blood and was waiting outside. The friend suggested, 'Now let us go back to the hostel.' Narayan said, 'Let the parents of the boy arrive. We shall leave afterwards. We can not leave the boy alone.' Other friends of Narayan also came to know about the incident and they reached the hospital. The parents of the boy also arrived. Doctor indicated Narayan and said to the parents, 'This young man has saved the life of your son. He brought the boy to the hospital on time. Otherwise, it would have been difficult to save his life. He has donated his blood to your son and saved his life.'

The parents of the boy were grateful. They spoke to Narayan with gratitude, 'We shall never

forget your kindness. You have obliged us. Our son is saved because of you.' Narayan replied politely, 'It is all right. I have performed my duty.' The parents tried to give money as a reward. Narayan refused, 'I do not want money.' The parents insisted, 'You are staying in a hostel. It will be useful to you.' Narayan repeated, 'I have done my duty. Money should not be taken to perform one's duty.' The parents thanked Narayan once again. Narayan took leave. The friends congratulated, 'Great, Narayan! You have done very well.' They praised his deed. Narayan was looking satisfied by saving the life of a boy.

Difficult words :

Profusely - In great quantity

Gratitude - Thankfulness

Points to ponder :

- Muktaraj teaches that as a human it is our duty to help someone in trouble.
- Muktaraj also teaches us that we must help others without any expectation of reward or favour.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. What was Narayan narrating to his friend?
2. From where did the boy fall down?
3. How did Narayan help the boy?

4. What did the parents of the boy offer Narayan?

5. Why did Narayan refuse to accept money?

Fill in the blanks :

1. It is our _____ as a _____ to help someone in trouble.

2. I am not a _____.

3. If he does not get _____ immediately his _____ would be in danger.

4. We shall never forget your _____.

5. I can not accept money to perform my_____.



Simple And Satwik Snacks

Once Narayan was sitting in his room in the hostel. It was afternoon and he was having snacks. One of his friends entered the room. He saw Narayan eating and asked, 'What are you eating Narayan.' Narayan replied, 'Peanuts and jaggery.' The friend made a face and spoke, 'Is this called snacks?' Narayan asked, 'Why? What is wrong in it?' The friend said, 'It is not tasty.' Narayan asked, 'What do you eat as snacks?' His friend replied, 'I eat tasty snacks in the hotel.' Narayan said, 'Do you know how unhygienic it is what you call tasty?' The friend said, 'But it does not look impure, it looks very clean.' Narayan said, 'It looks clean from outside but the grains, sauces, water everything is impure. They use old, spoiled and uncleaned grains, sauces are stale and water is not filtered.'

The friend agreed, 'Yes Narayan, in a way, you are right. The ingredients used to prepare snacks are impure!' Narayan continued, 'Such unhealthy, fried in impure oil, spicy and stale food can not nourish our body, isn't it?'

Such food is not at all hygienic and healthy. Peanuts and jaggery is a simple snack and it is nutritive also. Such snacks provide energy to our body.' The friend listened to Narayan carefully. Narayan explained further, 'Spoiled and stale food spoils our health, our studies and the most important our mind.' The friend inquired, 'How does it spoil our mind?' Narayan explained, 'Look, spoiled and stale food is impure. It is full of germs which can spread diseases in our body, which weakens our mind. When our mind is weakened, our thoughts are affected. There is a proverb, 'You are what you eat.' Therefore, our thoughts are affected by our food. Clean, simple, Satwik and nourishing food provokes healthy, pious and creative thoughts. Therefore, we must always eat simple, Satwik and nutritious food.' The friend confessed, 'I have realized it today that our food can affect our thought process. Now onwards I will try to avoid eating out.' Narayan was pleased. He offered peanuts and jaggery to his friend. The friend found it extremely tasty.

Difficult words :

Stale - Not fresh

Ingredients - Components

Nourish - To promote life and growth

Hygienic - Healthy and clean

Points to ponder :

- Outside food which tastes good is impure and unhygienic.
- Muktaraj teaches us that outside food spoils our body as well as mind.

Exercise**Answer the following questions :**

1. What was Narayan doing when his friend visited him at his hostel?
2. Why did the friend make face?
3. What did Narayan say in favour of simple snacks?
4. How are outside snacks? Explain it according to Narayan's opinion.

Fill in the blanks :

1. That is _____ snacks.
2. Peanuts and jaggery are _____ and _____.
3. Spoiled and stale food spoils our health, our studies and the most important our _____.

Complete the following sentences :

1. Our thoughts are affected _____ pious and creative thoughts.



Divine Couple

Once Muktaraj Mansukh Bapa went to see Bhai*. Bhai was pleased to see Muktaraj. He bowed down to Muktaraj. Mansukh Bapa said, 'Bhai, today I have come to see you with a proposal.' Bhai was curious, 'What kind of proposal?' Mansukh Bapa said, 'A proposal of marriage.' Bhai protested, 'Bapa, I am not at all willing to enter the Grihasthashram.' Mansukh Bapa said, 'I know about your ascetism.' Bhai informed, 'Bapa, I want to follow lifetime celibacy.' Mansukh Bapa said, 'Bhai, you know God's will.' Bhai said, 'I must get a proper person who can support my great vow as well as God's will.'

Mansukh Bapa said, 'Bhai, I have found such eligible and virtuous person. You meet her once.' Bhai had no words to deny.

Mansukh Bapa took Bhai to visit the person (prospective bride). Looking at their financial status Bhai thought, 'How is this going to be possible? Financially, I am very poor and this

*Now, everyone used to call Narayan as Bhai, therefore we shall also address him as 'Bhai'.

family is well to do.' A meeting was arranged for Bhai and Leelabahen. Leelabahen was very simple, honest and straight forward. Bhai noticed these qualities in their first meeting itself. Bhai informed Leelabahen, 'You are quite rich. You have big house, car etc. My condition is quite opposite. I am very poor. Moreover, it is my aim to follow lifetime celibacy and worship God. Would you be able to adjust in such circumstances?' Leelabahen replied, 'If you have only one roti, we shall share half each. I would live happily with you under any circumstances. I will also make it an aim to live a life surrendered to God.' Such a beautiful and polite answer satisfied Bhai thoroughly. He felt that Maharaj has sent such Muktatma to accompany him in his lifetime mission of liberating the living beings. Bhai gave his consent to Mansukh Bapa. And such an exceptional engagement took place.

Difficult words :

Ascetism - Denial of sensual pleasures

Exceptional - Unusual, not ordinary

Points to ponder :

- The relationships which have been fixed (decided) by Shreeji Maharaj take place inspite of their incompatible financial status and prosperity.
- Bhai accepted Grihasthashram with the intention that gents as well as ladies can get

the benefit of Satsang and service.

- In spite of being a Grihastha, Bhai and Leelabahen followed celibacy throughout their life and set an example of an ideal life style.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. Mansukh Bapa approached Bhai with what proposal?
2. What was Bhai's reaction about the proposal?
3. What did Bhai think looking at financial status of Leelabahen?
4. How did Leelabahen answer Bhai's question?

Fill in the blanks :

1. I have come to you with a _____.
2. Bapa, I am not willing to enter _____.
3. My _____ condition is very _____.
4. Even if you have only one _____ we shall share it _____ each.

Complete the following sentences :

1. If you have only one roti _____ aim to live a life surrendered to God.
2. He felt that Maharaj has sent _____ liberating the living beings.



Two Forms

Once Bhai fell sick very badly. Sickness was prolonged. Therefore, he couldn't take admission into the final year of B.Sc.. He recovered after some time. Now, what to do for the whole year? He accepted a job of a teacher in a school in Patan. Bhai's method of teaching was very good. Students liked Bhai's teaching very much. When Bhai was teaching, not a single student would make noise. Therefore, principal of the school was also happy with Bhai.

One day suddenly a few officials arrived for the inspection. Bhai had to take one lecture but he was sitting with the principal to help him in his work. At that time, the inspectors entered the school. They went to Bhai's class for inspection. Bhai was teaching the students methodically. Students were listening to him with full concentration. The inspectors stood there for a while. They praised Bhai, 'Your method of teaching is very good. We are impressed.' After saying these words, they went to the principal's office. They were astonished seeing Bhai sitting there.

One of the inspectors hurriedly went to Bhai's class. He saw Bhai teaching the students as before. With same speed he went back to the office. His mouth fell open due to shock. He could not utter a single word. The principal was concerned, 'What is the matter? What happened?' The inspectors stared at Bhai with amazement. After a while they could only speak, 'Impossible! Impossible!' Once again, the inspector went to the class to make sure. He saw Bhai there. Bhai asked, 'What is the matter? Do you have some work? Why do you come here again and again?' Inspector did not speak a single word and went back to the office running. He spoke to fellow inspector, 'It is the same!' Now the principal was annoyed. He said, 'Sir, what is the matter? It is all right, if you do not want to say. Please come this side. Let me introduce you to the best teacher of our school. He is Narayanbhai.' The inspector said, 'He is amazing.' Bhai asked as if he was not aware of anything, 'Am I amazing? What are you saying?'

The inspectors bowed down to Bhai. Bhai stepped back. The principal asked the inspectors, 'What are you doing?' He was still not aware of the happenings. He asked again, 'Please tell me, what has happened to you all?' The inspectors informed, 'He is a very great saint. We have never witnessed such a miracle.' The principal asked,

'What kind of miracle! What are you talking about?' The inspector revealed, 'The miracle of being at two places at the same time!' Principal asked, 'What are you talking?' The inspector said, 'Yes. This saint had been teaching in the class when we entered. And when we came here he is sitting here also.' Principal said, 'May be, you are mistaken. He has been sitting with me for quite some time. There must be some other teacher in the class.' The inspector said, 'Not at all! I have verified twice. This gentleman was present at both the places.' Bhai said innocently, 'May be, God has shown you something. I am not aware of it.' The inspectors said, 'We do not know the intricacies of it. But we have seen you at two places at the same time. You are a great saint. Otherwise this is not possible. Please, bless us to attain salvation.' The inspectors bowed down to Bhai. Bhai also pleased them by blessing them. The inspectors considered them fortunate and left the school remembering this wonderful incident of their life.

Difficult words :

Impressed - Affect the mind or emotions.

Amazement - Surprise

Annoyed - Angry

Intricacies - Complicated theories.

Points to ponder :

→ For an Anadimukta of Shreeji Maharaj, it is an

ordinary act to appear at two places at the same time through Maharaj's will.

- All great saints declare God responsible for their wonderful miracles.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. Why did Bhai not get admission in final year of B.Sc.?
2. In which place and what job did Bhai accept?
3. Why were the inspectors astonished?
4. How did Bhai clarify about his two appearances?
5. What blessings did the inspectors ask Bhai to grant?

Fill in the blanks :

1. Your _____ of teaching is very good.
2. He is the _____ teacher of our school.
3. He is a great _____.
4. Please _____ us to attain _____.



Principles Dearer Than Money

As usual Bhai went to Ahmedabad temple for Darshan. The Karbhari (Manager) of the temple approached Bhai. Bhai greeted him with 'Jai Swaminarayan!' The Karbhari said, 'Bhai, I have some work with you.' Bhai said, 'Please tell.' The Karbhari said, 'Wife of Calico Mills owner is suffering from tuberculosis.' Bhai asked, 'How could I help? He should consult some good doctor.' The Karbhari said, 'Bhai, I know you. You are a great Mukta of Maharaj. Bhai, no one else can do this. You will have to come.' Bhai surrendered to the Karbhari's request and went with him. The lady recovered from tuberculosis due to prayers of Bhai. The owner was very happy. He employed Bhai as Dying Assistant in his mills. The salary was fixed at Rs. 350/- (Those days such a salary was considered as a very good amount).

One day Bhai noticed that his senior officer was choosing colour dyes. Therefore, Bhai went there. Bhai checked up the company of the colours. He told his senior officer, 'Sir, please, do not buy the colours of this company. I have

checked up the colours. They are of inferior quality.' The senior officer interrupted, 'Bhai, you wouldn't understand these things. You are still new.' Bhai said, 'If I am a new employee, so what? I understand these things. These colours are not good. They will spoil the cloth.' The officer was confused a little bit. He took Bhai aside. He explained, 'Bhai, I am also aware that the colours of this company are not good. But the company pays me commission to buy their colours. I will also give you your share. Please, do not mention this to the owner.' Bhai did not like this. He said, 'Sir, I do not want a single paisa. We should not cheat the person for whom we are working. The owner pays us sufficient salary. So, why should we take such extra money? That also through unjust means? We must serve our owner with total honesty.' The officer argued, 'Is this theft? No it is not. There is no harm and there is no risk involved. The owner will undergo (some) a little bit of loss. Let it be. If you want more money, I am ready to pay.' Bhai was annoyed. He said, 'This is completely against my principles. I shouldn't even touch this money. I can not even think about accepting this money.' The officer interrupted. 'But Bhai...!' Bhai left without listening to officer's explanation. Bhai was feeling restless. He thought, 'This is unjust. This is cheating. I can not work in such environment. I can not stay here.' And Bhai

took the decision. He went to the owner with his resignation letter.

The owner was surprised. He did not like that such a good person should leave his mills. He asked Bhai, 'What is your problem? If you want, I am ready to pay more salary.' Bhai replied, 'No sir, you are paying me enough salary. But I am not able to follow my principles here.' The owner was sad. He had great respect for Bhai, because his wife was cured due to Bhai's prayers. He considered Bhai as his own son. For the last time, the owner tried to convince Bhai. He said, 'Bhai, I do not have any issue. Please, stay back as my son and look after the mills.' Bhai refused politely, 'I can not do that.' The owner was disappointed. Bhai left without disclosing the name of the officer.

Difficult words :

Tuberculosis - A disease of lungs

To interrupt - To obstruct, to break up the sequence

Unjust - Not fair, not right

Resignation - Application to give up the position

Points to ponder :

- Muktaraj teaches us that in life principles are more important than money. We should not practice unjust means and dishonesty to achieve money.
- Muktaraj also teaches us that we should not accuse anyone behind their back.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. Where did the Karbhari of the temple take Bhai? Why?
2. What kind of colour dyes was the senior officer choosing? Why?
3. What was Bhai's response to his senior officer regarding commission?
4. What were the temptations offered to Bhai by the owner of the mills to not to leave the job?
5. Why did Bhai resign from his job?



Correct Method To Interview

After resigning from the mill, Bhai was going back. On the way he noticed a long queue in front of a school. He stopped there and inquired. He found out that the interviews for the post of a teacher were going on. Bhai also joined the queue. He went inside when it was his turn. Inside there were some apparatus used in experiments arranged by the interviewers. They asked Bhai to show them how to use those apparatus. Bhai went to the apparatus. He observed them closely. Bhai replied, 'These apparatus are arranged in improper manner. Some parts of them are missing. Some of them are faulty.' The persons who were conducting interview were glad to hear his response. They informed Bhai, 'We wanted to find out if you can make out whether the apparatus are arranged properly.' Bhai was surprised. Looking at Bhai's expressions, one of the interviewers asked, 'Would you like to say something?' Bhai replied, 'Yes. What did you find out about my knowledge of the subject by testing me in this manner?' The interviewer said, 'We

found out that you know how to use the apparatus.' Bhai explained, 'I am a graduate of the subject. I must be having the knowledge about how to use the apparatus. But how did you assess my knowledge of the subject?' Everyone present there looked at each other. Bhai continued, 'You must ask me to perform some experiment using the apparatus. You must ask me to demonstrate the experiments of chemical reactions etc.. You must ask me a few questions related to my subject. Then only you could find out my mental capabilities. If I declare faulty instruments as faulty, how does it qualify me as a knowledgeable person? You must try to assess, if I get this job, how would I teach the students. This is the correct method to interview.' By expressing his views, Bhai might not have got the job. But he did not think about it and expressed his views frankly and openly.

The interviewers were spellbound. They told, 'You are right. That is the correct way to interview. You have spoken with self confidence. It indicates that you have sufficient knowledge of the subject. We appoint you for the job. You are the most deserving candidate for this job. No one could be better than you. You have pointed out our mistake and taught us the correct way to interview.'

Difficult words :

Apparatus - Tools for a specific use

Demonstrate - To explain through experiment

Spellbound - Fascinated

Points to ponder :

→ We should not be scared of anyone while expressing appropriate and correct opinion.

Exercise**Answer the following questions :**

1. How were the apparatus arranged by the interviewers?
2. What is the correct way to interview?

Fill in the blanks :

1. These apparatus are arranged _____.
2. You must ask _____ related to my subject.
3. If I declare faulty apparatus as _____, how does it qualify me as _____ person?
4. You have _____ knowledge of your subject.
5. We can not find _____ candidate than you.

Complete the following sentences :

1. You must try to assess _____ the correct method to interview.
2. No one could be better _____ correct way to interview.

Darshan To Goddess

A trip was arranged by the school. It was decided to visit Pavagarh. They informed Bhai. Bhai apologized, 'All of you please go ahead. It is not convenient for me to join you.' The teachers and the students insisted very much. Looking at their affection Bhai consented. 'All right! All of us will go.' All of them were delighted. They left for the trip. Bus reached Pavagarh in the morning. The students were cheerful. They were in a hurry to climb the hill. They were in competition to climb the hill first. Bhai said, 'We must start to climb with remembrance of God.' They remembered God and began to climb. They reached the last series of the steps. Bhai sat down under a tree.

Another teacher who had accompanied said, 'Bhai, now only a few steps are left. You will be able to make it.' Bhai said, 'All of you, please go and have Darshan. I am sitting here.' Teachers insisted very much, but Bhai refused. Slowly, the teachers climbed the steps. At that time, the teachers and the students saw a woman climbing down the steps. She was wearing white clothes.

She was looking beautiful and serene. They gazed at her. The woman climbed down the steps and stopped near Bhai. The teachers and the students stopped on the steps. Why did the woman go to Bhai? The woman bowed down to Bhai. She told Bhai, 'You are a great soul full of splendour. I can see great prowess in you. I have never had Darshan of a divine man like you. You are great. Please, bless me to attain salvation. Liberate me.' Bhai blessed her and said, 'Mataji! Your work is not yet over. As soon as it is over, the ultimate Supreme Lord will liberate you.' She was extremely pleased. Once again she bowed down to Bhai and disappeared. They went running to Bhai. They asked, 'Who was she? We thought that a woman was bowing down to you. And asking for your blessings. But she has disappeared.' Bhai revealed, 'She was Goddess Mahakali of Pavagarh. She came here for Darshan. She was blessed by God and then she disappeared.'

A student asked, 'But how beautiful was she! In the temple she does not appear so beautiful.' Bhai said, 'In the temple she may be looking different, but in reality Mataji looks such beautiful and serene.' A teacher said, 'Bhai, we went to have Darshan of Mataji and she herself came down the steps to have your Darshan!' Bhai explained, 'All the Gods and Goddesses come to attain the blessings of Lord Swaminarayan.' The

students inquired, 'But she came to you.' Bhai explained, 'Yes I am a staunch devotee of Lord Swaminarayan. I am always accompanied by God. Therefore, she came down here. I blessed her with the remembrance of God.' They were amazed listening to the explanation. They thought, 'Oh! How great is our Bhai! Gods and Goddesses also visit him for his Darshan! We are the most fortunate because we are privileged to remain with Bhai.' They bowed down to Bhai with reverence.

Difficult words :

Apologized - Expressed regret for a mistake

Serene - Calm and undisturbed

Staunch - Firm, Loyal

Points to ponder :

- Looking at the prowess of an Anadimukta, even Gods-Goddesses go to him for his blessings to attain salvation.
- Blessings of an Anadimukta works as good as the blessings of God. Because God Himself blesses through an Anadimukta.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. Where did the students go for the school trip?
2. What did the teachers and the students notice while climbing the steps of the temple?

3. What did they ask Bhai? What did Bhai reply?

Fill in the blanks :

1. You are a great soul full of _____.
2. I can see great _____ in you.
3. I have never had _____ of a
_____ man like you.
4. Please, bless me to attain _____
please _____ me.
5. She was _____ of Pavagarh.



Maxim Of Life

Once a teacher was absent. Bhai went to take his class. Students were making noise in the class. They became quiet looking at Bhai. Bhai announced, 'Today, your teacher is on leave. I will teach you in his place.' A student got up. He told Bhai, 'Sir, today we do not want to study'. Bhai asked, 'What do you want to do?' He replied, 'Anything else, but we do not feel like studying. Is it possible that you do not teach us this one period?' Bhai promised, 'Why not! If you do not feel like studying, it's Ok, we shall talk and discuss some other interesting topics, right?' They answered in one voice, 'Yes sir, right.' Bhai warned them, 'You should not make noise. That is the condition. The students of other classes should not be disturbed.' The students agreed, 'We would not make any noise.'

A student requested, 'Sir, please tell us a story.' Bhai asked, 'Today, can we talk about spirituality?' All of them consented. Bhai said, 'I will ask you a few questions and you must raise your hands to answer.' He asked, 'Who worships God

everyday?' A few students raised their hands. Bhai said, 'Very good. Why do other students not worship God?' A student replied, 'I do not know how to worship.' Another one said, 'I do not have time.' The third one said, 'It takes a lot of time to worship God. My father worships God for one hour. I feel bored. Therefore, I do not sit with him to worship.'

Bhai repeated, 'No time, do not know, takes a lot of time. These are all excuses. Today, I will teach you the simplest method. Early morning, you should have bath and have Darshan of God. You should read five Shlokas from either Shikshapatri or some other religious book. And then you should recite God's name for five rosaries. It takes ten minutes to do this.' The students asked, 'Only ten minutes?' Bhai confirmed, 'Yes, only ten minutes.' A student said, 'I can worship God for ten minutes daily. I can always spare ten minutes.' Bhai encouraged him, 'I like this attitude of yours. Now all of you should worship God everyday. Always remember God before doing anything. Then we must begin the work. Therefore, God also joins us to do the work. And the work is performed very well. We enjoy doing it and the outcome of that work looks very good.' The students asked, 'How is it possible.' Bhai explained, 'It is very simple. Before drinking water we must remember God, while having food

we must remember Him. When we sit down to study, first of all we must remember Him. While writing exams also we must remember Him. So that God joins us in writing exam and we can pass the exams with very good marks.' The students said, 'If we follow this, all the time we would spend for God only. Then how could we study or work.' Bhai said, 'We do not have to do this for a long time!'. The students asked, 'You asked to remember God for ten minutes.' A student complained, 'If we spend ten minutes during writing exams, we may not finish the question paper.' Bhai clarified, 'No, not that way. In the morning you should worship God for ten minutes. Afterwards, before doing anything, you must remember God only for four or five seconds.' The kids were relieved. 'Only four to five seconds! That's all? That is very simple.' Bhai explained, 'You must tell God, O God, please join me in doing this task. Therefore God would join you and you will not feel bored. You will not find it difficult to perform. You will enjoy your work. Tell me, would you do this?' All the children spoke in a single voice, 'Yes sir, this is very simple. We have to remember God only for five seconds. You have made it so simple!' A student confessed, 'I used to think, it is very time consuming to worship God. Therefore, I never used to worship God. Sir, you have taught us a very simple method.' Bhai said, 'You must

remember this through out your life. Will you do that?' The kids were very happy. They spoke in chorus, 'This is very simple. We will certainly remember this.'

Bhai gave the children the most important key for lifetime. He did this in a very simple manner. This key was going to be helpful for their spiritual progress.

Difficult words :

Maxim - Principle

Spirituality - Related to God

Rosary - A string of beads used to recite the name of God

Outcome - Result

Time consuming - A task which takes a long time to complete

Points to ponder :

- Bhai teaches us that we must remember God while performing each and every task.
- By remembering God before starting any work, we get accustomed to remember God frequently.
- Bhai teaches us to remember God right from childhood, so that it can result into beneficial habit when we grow up.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. According to Bhai, for how long should one

-
-
- worship God?
2. What reasons were given by the children for not worshipping God?
 3. Which important key or clue had been given by Bhai to the children, which was going to be helpful for their entire life?
 4. According to Bhai, for how long should one remember God before starting any work?

Fill in the blanks :

1. No _____, do not know, waste of time etc. These are all _____.
2. I can worship God everyday for ____ minutes.
3. Before starting any work, we must remember _____.
4. We must remember God only for _____ seconds.
5. We must tell God _____ please join _____ in performing this task.
6. During simple conversation, Bhai gave an important _____ for their entire _____.



Kind Teacher

It was recess time in school. Children were playing in the ground. At that time, a boy was hurt in his leg with a piece of glass. He was bleeding. Other children brought him into the staff room. The peon was applying medicine to the boy. Bhai noticed this. Bhai inquired, 'What happened? How did he get hurt?' The peon explained, 'Sir, this boy is hurt. I am applying medicine.' Bhai came closer to the boy. He was still bleeding. Bhai said, 'He needs dressing. Let me tie a bandage.' Bhai asked the boy, 'How did you get hurt so badly?' The boy replied, 'Sir, a piece of glass hurt me.' Bhai asked, 'From where did the glass pieces come there?' The boy replied, 'I do not know, Sir. May be some one broke his bottle.'

Bhai asked the peon, 'Please, clear up all the pieces of glass. Otherwise someone else will get hurt.' Bhai asked the boy again, 'How did you get hurt? Weren't you wearing chappals?' The boy looked down without saying anything. Bhai asked again, 'Why? What happened? Answer me!' The boy replied, 'Sir, I do not have chappals. We are

very poor. I am very fond of studies. Therefore, my parents send me to school with a lot of difficulties. We do not have money to buy chappals.' Bhai also felt sad along with the boy. He thought, 'Right from their childhood, these kids have to face such difficulties!' He called the peon, 'Please take this money and buy a pair of chappals for this boy.' Said he. The peon said, 'Certainly sir. Very kind of you! This boy is brilliant in his studies. But his parents are very poor.' The boy said, 'Sir, thank you very much but I do not want chappals. I do not have money to return to you.'

Bhai told, 'I do not want my money back.' The boy said, 'Then I do not want chappals at all. My mother has taught me not to ask anything from anyone.' Bhai was pleased. He said, 'I am glad to hear you. Your mother has taught you very good values. You are not asking, isn't it? I am giving you out of affection. It is not a favour.' The boy became sad. Bhai asked, 'What happened? Would you like to say something?' The boy was hesitating. Bhai encouraged him, 'Please, talk to me without any hesitation. I can understand your helplessness.' The boy said, 'Sir, if you really want to help me out, then please pay my examination fees. If I do not pay it, my whole year would be spoiled. And my parents would not make me study further. I do not want a pair of chappals. Please, pay my fees.' Bhai was proud of the boy. What

a thirst for learning! Bhai said, 'I will buy you chappals also and I will pay your fees also.' The boy was overwhelmed.

He bowed down to Bhai. He said, 'Sir, I will study sincerely. You have not saved a year of my life, but you have saved my entire life.' Bhai said, 'If you need any help any time please come to me.' The boy was choked with emotions. Again he bowed down to Bhai and returned to his class.

Other teachers were observing the whole incident. They approached Bhai and said, 'Sir, we get only Rs. 80/- as our salary. With such salary, we can manage our expenses with difficulty. Why did you promise to help him?' Bhai explained, 'I have gone through the similar circumstances. I know how helpless you feel when you want to study but you do not have money.' A teacher argued, 'But even we do not have spare money.' Bhai said, 'We should try to help as much as possible. We may have to live frugally for a month. That's all. God is also pleased. If we help needy, He blesses us.'

The teacher praised him, 'Only you can do this. You can help out others in such a meagre salary.' Bhai said, 'He is a brilliant student. He knows the value of studies. He is eligible. Therefore, I have helped him.' The teacher repeated, 'Everyone can not be as kind as you. You are great!'

Difficult words :

Good values - Good qualities

To hesitate - To feel unsure

Circumstances - A series of events

Frugally - Thriftily

Points to ponder :

→ Here the quality of kindness is indicated.

→ We must always try to help an eligible person.

Exercise**Answer the following questions :**

1. With what was the boy hurt? Why was he hurt?
2. Why did the boy refuse to accept chappals?
3. In what other way did Bhai help out the boy, other than buying chappals?
4. What did the other teachers tell Bhai?
5. What reason was given by Bhai to help out the boy?

Fill in the blanks :

1. I do not have _____ we are very _____.
2. Please, pay my _____ fees.
3. As a teacher, we get Rs. _____ per month as our salary.
4. By _____ out needy, _____ is also pleased.

Arrange in proper sequence :

1. Taught me anything my mother to ask anyone from has not.
2. Helpless when study but you not money how

-
- you want to feel have you do.
3. Pleased is also God needy we if help.
 4. Kind as you you as can not be everyone are great.



Affection More Effective Than Punishment

Once Bhai was standing in the school passage. A teacher was beating one boy with a scale. Bhai couldn't tolerate this. He went to the teacher and asked him, 'Why are you beating him?' The teacher replied, 'Sir, he is a very naughty boy.' Bhai said, 'Children are obviously mischievous. We should not beat them.' The teacher said, 'He is not an ordinary child. Everyday he invents new forms of mischief. Every few days, he is beaten up by me. But he refuses to improve.' Bhai looked at the boy. The boy asked, 'Now would you also beat me up? Everybody beats me up first and then talks to me.' Bhai said, 'I will not beat you up. Will you listen to me?' The boy asked, 'You will not beat me. I will listen to you then.'

Bhai asked, 'Why do you come to school?' The boy replied, 'To study.' Bhai explained, '*Work while you work and play while you play.* If you follow this principle you can do both the things efficiently.' The boy confessed, 'I can not understand anything during class. Therefore, I find

studies boring.' Bhai explained, 'You think about playing games while studying. You do not study attentively. Therefore, you do not follow. Do you invent new methods of mischieves?' The boy replied, 'Yes.' Bhai said, 'Do you have to think to find new ways? The way you use your brains to invent new ways of mischief, similarly, if you could use your brains to study, you can study very well. You must pay attention while your teacher is teaching. You should not think about anything else. If you will pay proper attention, you will understand the topic. And if you are not able to understand, you must ask your teacher.' The boy inquired, 'Then I will also get good marks like others?' Bhai assured him, 'Why not? If you will really work hard, then you will certainly get good marks. Your parents spend money to send you to school. How disappointed they would be if you will not get good marks? You will also not progress in life. If you study properly, you will be successful in life, isn't it?' The boy replied, 'Sir, you have explained me so nicely without beating me up. I liked it very much. Nobody spoke to me lovingly like you. Everyone used to beat me up saying naughty. Sir, now I will pay full attention to studies.'

The boy went to his class. Bhai advised the teacher, 'You should not beat the students like this. It would affect them adversely.' The teacher argued. 'Sir, he is very mischievous. He has been

beaten up so many times, but there is no improvement.' Bhai said, 'So, you agree that he has been beaten up many times. That means students do not improve their ways by beating them up. They should be convinced affectionately. They are like tender plants. They can be moulded either way. On frequent beating, they become stubborn. Then they do more mischieves. They could adopt wrong course of action. Punishment is not the solution of a problem. We must try to find out their difficulties and problems and then if we explain them lovingly, they would certainly understand.' The teacher said, 'Sir, today you have corrected my mistake. I am grateful to you. Now, I will not beat up children. I will try to explain them lovingly.'

Difficult words :

To invent - To think up

Efficiently - Effectively

Disappointed - To give up hopes

To mould - To shape up

Points to ponder :

- Bhai teaches us that we must study attentively while studying and we must play during the break time.
- Affection and explanation, these two are the most powerful tools to remove the drawbacks of a person.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. Why was the teacher beating up a boy? With what was he beating?
2. How did Bhai explain to the boy?
3. Which mistake did Bhai point out to the teacher?

Fill in the blanks :

1. Children are obviously _____. We should not _____ them.
2. I can not _____ anything during class.
3. If you study properly, you will be _____ in life.
4. On frequent beating, they become _____.
5. Today you have _____ my mistake. I am grateful to you.

Complete the following sentences :

1. How disappointed they _____ successful in life.
2. They should be convinced _____ they do more mischieves.
3. Today you have corrected _____ them lovingly.



Taught Fearlessness To Children

Once the school organized a trip. Teachers and students were sitting around Bhai in the bus. They told Bhai, 'Please tell us some nice narratives of God.' Bhai said, 'Won't you feel bored?' A student said, 'No, not at all. We enjoy listening to your narratives.' A teacher said, 'Bhai, your style of narration is very interesting, children get absorbed into the story.' Another teacher said, 'Not only children, but we also feel captivated.'

Bhai narrated beautiful parables full of fun and knowledge to all. During the trip, they played a lot, ate a lot and enjoyed a lot. Whole day was passed off happily. Night set in. Two male teachers came to Bhai and said, 'Bhai, there is no place available to stay at night. Rooms are not available in any lodge or hotel.' Bhai was concerned. A teacher said, 'We must make all the children sleep. We have beddings but the problem is where to spread them.' Bhai agreed, 'You are right. Children are also very much tired.' He observed the surroundings. Suddenly he had a flash of an idea. He informed the teachers, 'Let us go to

the graveyard which is close by.' The teacher were shocked, 'Bhai, what are you telling? In the graveyard!!' Bhai affirmed, 'I am saying correctly. At the moment we shall not find a better place than that.' Teachers stood there thoughtfully.

Bhai went to the students and spoke, 'Come on, we have found a place to sleep.' Children were relieved. Bhai instructed, 'Please spread your beddings in the graveyard and go to sleep.' The kids halted. They asked, 'In the graveyard? That is a scary place.' Bhai explained, 'At this hour, it is not possible to make any other arrangements. What did I tell you in the morning?' A student replied, 'We must face the problems bravely.' Bhai said, 'Right!' The another boy said, 'We should not get scared of the problems. We should become fearless.' Bhai was pleased. The third one said, 'We must remember God during emergency, He would certainly help us.' At that moment a student spoke loudly, 'God helps him who helps himself.' They laughed. Bhai encouraged them, 'Good! You are right. And I am also saying the same. All these people are sleeping here after death, similarly we can also sleep here for tonight. Let us remember God. So that God will help us. God will protect us. Whoever believes me and has faith in God, please sleep here.' The students had tremendous faith in Bhai. They immediately spread out their beddings and slept off.

The students were talking among themselves, 'Sir has assured us, so nothing will happen to us.' It was a hot, summer night. Cool breeze was blowing. Within a few second, all of them slept off. The teachers were surprised. They told Bhai, 'Bhai you have performed a miracle. You removed the fear from the minds of children just by talking to them. You have made them completely fearless.' Bhai said, 'Right from their childhood, if the children are fearless and brave, they can attain all round growth. We should never scare them. And we should never discourage also. Then the hidden talents of a child bloom properly.'

Difficult words :

Graveyard - Where dead people are burried

Breeze - Cool, fresh air

Scare - To frighten, to create fear

Bloom - Develop

Points to ponder :

- Here Bhai teaches the kids to become fearless and brave.
- However impious a place may be, it can be converted into a pious and holy by reciting the name of God.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. What did everyone suggest to Bhai to talk
-
-

-
-
- about in the bus?
2. What did the teachers inform Bhai at night?
 3. How did Bhai sort out the problem of night stay?
 4. What did Bhai remind the children?

Complete the following sentences :

1. All these people are sleeping here _____
God will help us.
2. Whoever believes me _____ sleep here.
3. Right from their childhood _____ all
round growth.



Gift Of Knowledge

Once, Bhai was taking presence in the class. Roll number sixteen was absent for last two-three days. Bhai asked the student who used to sit next to him, 'Why is your friend absent?' The boy replied, 'Sir, his mother is not feeling well. Therefore he is absent.' Bhai inquired, 'Why? Is there nobody else at home?' The student replied, 'No, only two of them are staying together.' Bhai said, 'After the school is over would you take me to his place?' The boy consented.

In the evening, Bhai went to the boy's house. The boy was attending to his mother. Bhai was pleased to notice this. Looking at Bhai the boy quickly got up and said, 'Sir, you! At my place!!' Bhai informed, 'You are not attending school, so I thought, let me go and checkup. This is the holy dust of the feet of God. Mix it with water and give it to your mother to drink. God will certainly cure her.' Mother of the boy said, 'Sir, you took time to visit me and brought God's offerings also. Thank you very much. Nobody visits us. My son always talks about you. You are a great saint.'

You are very kind. Bless me to become allright soon. There is none to look after my son except me.' Bhai consoled her, 'Mix the dust of feet of God with water and drink it. I will pray to God. God will definitely cure you.' Bhai congratulated the boy, 'You are doing very good. Everyone must serve their parents. By serving them we attain the blessings of God.'

The boy said, 'But sir, my studies are affected. My absence is marked in the school.' Bhai assured him, 'Please do not worry. I will speak to the principal. He will grant you leave of absence. Do not worry about studies also. Whatever you have missed, I will teach you later.' Mother of the boy interrupted. 'No, no sir, he himself will cover it up.' Bhai asked, 'But how could he learn himself without studying in school.' Mother said, 'He will manage it some how.' Bhai insisted, 'But if I teach him in spare time, why do you object?' Mother said, 'Spare time means more money. I work in other people's houses and feed him. I pay the school fees with difficulty. How could I afford tuition fees? No, sir, he is brilliant. He will manage it.' Bhai was shocked, 'What are you talking? Your son is clever. He should not lag behind in studies. He can get good marks in exams. That is why I want to teach him. When did I ask for money? I am going to teach him without any money in spare time.' Mother of the boy

was surprised, 'Sir, what are you talking? Without charging any money, are you going to teach my son?' Bhai confirmed, 'Yes, of course. After school, I will teach him for sometime.'

The mother of the boy still couldn't believe this. So she asked again, 'But extra money?' Bhai reassured her, 'Lady, I am not asking a single paise. These days his studies are affected. When he begins to attend the school, I will make him sit after school everyday. In a few days he will cover up everything.' Mother's eyes were full of tears. She spoke, 'Sir, you will be wasting your time.' Bhai said, 'I am a teacher. In teaching someone my time is not wasted. Imparting knowledge is the biggest charity.' Mother of the boy broke down. She said, 'Sir, I wish all the teachers were like you! Boys from poor families like us could study properly. Otherwise if they have remained absent, they fail the exams. And they have to leave their studies.'

Bhai said, 'Your son is brilliant. Please, make him study!' Mother replied, 'Sir, for his sake, I am working so hard. He has a teacher like you. So I am not worried about him. Other teachers are greedy for money. I will never forget your favour.' Bhai replied, 'I am not doing any favour. This is my duty. I am doing my job.' Bhai told the boy, 'Attend the school, only when your mother feels better.' The boy was choked with emotions. He bowed

down to Bhai. Bhai took their leave. Mother and son, both of them saw him off with reverence.

Difficult words :

To attend to - To serve

To grant - To sanction, to allow

To interrupt - To stop in between

To see off - To say good bye

Points to ponder :

- Everything is secondary compared to serving one's parents.
- Bhai teaches us that we should do our duty honestly. We should not be greedy for money.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. Why was the student absent in the school?
2. When Bhai reached the house, what was the boy doing?
3. What did Bhai give to the boy?
4. When did Bhai offer the student to teach?
5. Why was the mother of the boy surprised to know that Bhai was going to teach extra hours?

Fill in the blanks :

1. The boy was _____ his mother.
2. This is _____ of God.
3. Everyone must serve one's _____.

4. When did I ask _____?

Explain with reference :

1. You took out time to visit me and brought God's offerings also. Thank you very much.
2. When did I ask for money? I am going to teach him without any money in spare time.



Honesty The Best Policy

Once during recess time, Bhai was sitting in the office with a teacher. Meanwhile, the teacher called for the peon and asked him to go to market to buy something. The peon asked Bhai, 'Sir, I am going to the market. Do you want any thing?' Bhai replied, 'Since it is recess time and you are going to market, I am asking... Please take this money.' The peon asked, 'What is to be bought?' Bhai said, 'Two envelopes and a few pins.' Hearing this the teacher said, 'Oh! Bhai, there are many envelopes lying in the cupboard and here are the pins.' Bhai said, 'I know about it.' The teacher said, 'Then, why are you ordering for more? Why do you give your money?' Bhai said, 'I want them for personal use.'

The teacher was puzzled, 'But why are you buying from outside! Please take from the cupboard.' The peon informed, 'Sir always asks me to buy from outside.' Bhai explained, 'I am not going to use them for school work. But I am going to use them for personal purpose. I cannot use the objects belonging to school for my personal use.' The teacher said, 'So what? We are working here.'

By using such small things, we are not going to harm.' Bhai argued, 'We are working here, so what? It does not entitle us to use the objects belonging to school for our personal use.' The teacher couldn't understand, 'But where is the question of misuse? It is not going to harm the school, if we use an envelope or a few pins.'

Bhai declared, 'I do not agree. It is against my principles of honesty. Forget about paper, envelopes etc. I do not even use pen, pencil belonging to the school for my personal use. There are so many things in the school which could be useful to us. But we should not use them for personal purpose. If we use all of them, definitely the school would go under loss. I believe that we must work with honesty wherever we are working. Honesty does not mean just to teach properly but we must be honest in every conduct. We can teach the students by our conduct. If there is no similarity in our speech and conduct, students are not influenced. They can be inspired by setting an example through our conduct. In future they grow up as honest and responsible citizens.' The teacher confessed, 'Such subtle understanding of honesty could be learnt from you only. Bhai, you are an ideal teacher.'

Difficult words :

Meanwhile - During that time

Puzzled - Confused

Envelope - Cover for a letter

Subtle - Hidden, not obvious

Points to ponder :

- Bhai teaches us that, we must work with total honesty and integrity, wherever we are working.
- A person could be influenced if our speech and conduct resemble each other.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. What did Bhai ask the peon to buy from the market? Why?
2. What did the teacher speak to Bhai about buying the things from outside?
3. Why was Bhai not using the objects belonging to school?
4. What are the views of Bhai about honesty?

Fill in the blanks :

1. I want to use them for _____ use.
2. It does not _____ us to use the _____ belonging to the school.
3. I do not use even the _____ belonging to the school for my personal purpose.

Complete the following sentences :

1. If there is no similarity in our speech _____
_____ responsible citizens.

Reformed The Bad Habit

Bhai was working as principal in a girls school. Each and every student of the school considered him an ideal teacher. Bhai was also fond of them like their father and guided them properly. Once, the parent of a girl came to Bhai with a complaint, 'Someone is stealing things from the school bag of my daughter.' Bhai was surprised. He said, 'Really! In this school, this has never happened earlier. I will inquire about it.' The next day another student came to Bhai and complained, 'Sir, someone has stolen my compass box. Someone took it out from my school bag.' At that time another girl came. She said, 'Sir, yesterday, someone had stolen my pencil.' Bhai was surprised. 'Come with me. Which class are you studying in?' The girls took Bhai to their class. Bhai inquired. He found out that a lot of things belonging to many girls were stolen from the class. Pencil, eraser, compass box, text book etc. were stolen. Bhai said, 'This is very bad. Who must be the thief?' Bhai asked two-three good students to keep an eye. And he asked the teacher also to

inquire. The next day, they caught the thief. They brought her to Bhai. Bhai made her sit on a chair. He offered her water and asked, 'Well! you know that it is a great sin to steal.' The girl began to cry. 'Sir, I know it is not a good habit to steal.' Bhai asked, 'Then why do you steal?' The girl replied, 'I can not control myself. It is a bad habit. I steal out of compulsion. If I like someone's object, I steal it.' Bhai thought, 'She is aware that stealing is not good. Even though she does it. Therefore, she should be tackled in a different manner. Scolding is not going to help.' Bhai asked her lovingly, 'Do you believe in God?' The girl replied, 'Yes, I have so much faith in God.' Bhai said, 'Very good. Now whenever you feel like stealing, recite, Swaminarayan-Swaminarayan! You will be able to get rid of your bad habit.' The girl was happy. She asked, 'Then would everyone talk to me in the class? Would they play with me?' Bhai assured, 'Certainly. If you stop stealing, everyone will be your friend. You are a good girl. God also loves you. You should not behave in such a manner. Whenever you feel like stealing someone's object you must think that, would God like this! If we do something which is not approved by God, it displeases God. Then he does not help us. Do you wish that God should help you?' The girl replied, 'Yes sir.' Bhai said, 'Then never steal anything.' The girl asked, 'Sir, if I remember God

and recite Swaminarayan - Swaminarayan, I won't be able to steal, isn't it? I could get rid of my bad habit, isn't it?' Bhai assured her, 'Certainly, why not? If we try sincerely, we can definitely succeed.' The girl requested, 'Sir, you are my ideal teacher. Please, bless me.' Bhai blessed the girl. After that, the girl never stole anything. She was reformed of her bad habit.

Difficult words :

To keep an eye - To watch closely

Sin - An act not approved by religion

To tackle - To handle

Compulsion - Strong, uncontrollable desire

Points to ponder :

- Bad habits acquired during lifetime could be reformed through the blessings of great Muktas and sincere efforts.
- Muktaraj always insisted that good habits and good values should be imparted to the children right from their childhood which is the foundation of their life.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. What did each and every student consider Bhai as?
2. What did Bhai find out while inquiring in the class?

-
-
3. What did Bhai explain to the girl to prevent her from stealing?
 4. What did the girl assure Bhai about?

Fill in the blanks :

1. It is a great _____ to_____.
2. I have a _____habit.
3. Whenever you feel like stealing, recite _____.
4. If we do something which is not approved by God, it_____God.



First Division In Ten Days

Once Mama* was sitting in the house. A young man came to see Mama. Mama welcomed him sweetly. Young man sat next to Mama. Mama asked, 'Why are you looking sad?' Young man replied, 'Mama, matriculation exams are approaching.' Mama said, 'While studying, we have to appear for the exams. Write your exams with the remembrance of God.' The young man confessed, 'But Mama, I do not know anything in Maths and Science. I find these subjects very difficult. I am afraid, I may fail in these subjects.' Mama said, 'How is your preparation for the other subjects?' The young man answered, enthusiastically, 'I will do well in other subjects. I am worried about these two subjects only.' Mama noticed that the young man had self-confidence. Genuinely, he might be facing difficulties in these two subjects. Mama asked, 'When does the exams start?' The young man replied, 'After twelve days.' Mama suggested, 'Could I teach you these two

*Now, Satsangis were lovingly addressing Bhai as 'Mama', so we shall also address him as 'Mama'.

subjects? Would you learn from me?' The young man was delighted. He said, 'Mama, there is no other teacher like you. If you will teach me, I will definitely understand.' They began to study. Mama taught, 'Before you start your studies, you must remember God. So that you understand everything very well.' Mama's method of teaching was very simple and effective. Young man grasped everything immediately. Within ten days he mastered both the subjects. Studies were completed. The young man bowed down to Mama. Mama blessed him. The young man did not leave. He stood there. Mama asked, 'Any problem? Would you like to ask something?' The young man replied, 'Mama, I have a doubt. How could you teach so wonderfully? I understood both the subjects within ten days!' Mama said, 'Look son, a subject which is clear in mind can be taught and written clearly.' The young man said, 'Mama, I could not follow.' Mama clarified, 'A subject, which is understood properly, can be taught to others clearly. As well as, if a subject is understood properly, we can write it in exams properly. Have you understood both the subjects properly?' The young man consented, 'Yes Mama.' Mama explained, 'Now, you can teach these subjects to anyone. You can write your exams also properly. That is the message, I am trying to convey.' The young man confirmed confidently, 'Yes, Mama, I will

be able to write my exams very well.'

The young man passed the exams in first division, even though he studied only for ten days with Mama. How wonderful !

Difficult words :

Enthusiastically - Full of excitement

Genuine - True

To grasp - To understand

Points to ponder :

- Mama was always helpful to children in their difficulties.
- When an experienced teacher teaches, only ten days are sufficient to get first division in exams.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. Why was the young man looking sad?
2. What exams were the young man going to appear for?
3. Which subjects did Mama teach him?
4. What did Mama say about teaching method?
5. For how many days did the young man study with Mama?
6. How did he do in his exams?

Fill in the blanks :

1. I do not know anything in _____
and_____.

-
-
2. Mama, there is no other _____ like you.
 3. Mama's method of teaching was _____
and _____.
 4. The subject which is clear in mind, can be
_____and_____clearly.



Self Help Is The Best Help

Once, Mama went for pilgrimage. Leelamasi, Haribhaktas and Sevak were accompanying. They hired a room in Haridwar. The room was full of cobwebs and dust. Mama asked Sevak, 'Please, sweep the room.' Sevak argued, 'Mama, we are not going to stay here permanently. As such the room is clean.' Mama said, 'The place where we are staying, should be clean. God accompanies us only if the space surrounding us is clean. God likes cleanliness.' Sevak brought one broom and started to sweep. Mama asked, 'What are you doing?' Sevak told, 'I am sweeping the room.' Mama asked, 'Like this? Standing? Don't you know how to sweep? Let me teach you how to sweep.'

Mama took the broom and showed to Sevak, 'See, you must sit or rather squat like this and slowly sweep by pressing the broom on the floor. By sweeping in this manner, dust does not spread around. After that you must fill up a bucket with water and wipe the floor with wet cloth.' Sevak observed everything and

learned it. Mama asked, 'Do you know, how to wash clothes?' Sevak said, 'No Mama. I have never washed clothes earlier. Therefore I do not know how to wash clothes.' Mama said, 'Everyone must learn to do their own work. Everyone should try to become self reliant. Come on, let me teach you how to wash clothes.' Mama taught Sevak how to wash clothes. He taught Sevak the virtue of self-reliance.

Difficult words :

Pilgrimage - Travel to holy place

Cobwebs - Spider webs

Squat - To sit in crouching position

Self-reliant - Self-dependent

Points to ponder :

- Mama was self-reliant inspite of being an Anadimukta. He teaches us to become self-reliant.
- Everyone must know how to do one's own work, so that one does not have to be dependent on others.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. Where did Mama go for pilgrimage?
2. What chores did Mama teach to Sevak?
3. What should everyone try to become?
4. Express Mama's views about cleanliness?

Fill in the blanks :

1. _____ accompanies us only if the space surrounding us is clean.
2. God likes _____.
3. Everyone should try to become _____.

Arrange in proper sequence :

1. Accompanies only space us if the us surrounding is clean God.
2. Self-reliant everyone try should to become.



Healing Through Charanraj*

It was early afternoon. A boy was waiting outside Mama's house. Mama's house was closed. Everyday Mama used to open the door around four thirty-five o'clock. Still it was early. The boy was looking worried, but he did not have courage to knock the door. He did not want to disturb Mama. He was waiting outside, reciting the name of God.

And behold! As if Mama found out that he was waiting outside! He opened the door early. The boy heaved a sigh of relief. He bowed down to Mama. Mama called him inside and asked, 'What brings you here?' The boy was uneasy and restless. Mama lovingly made him sit next to him and asked again, 'What is the matter? Please, tell me.' The boy broke down into tears. Mama pacified him. He offered him water. The boy quieten down. Mama asked, 'Now, tell me, what is the matter?' The boy replied, 'Mama, my younger sister is in the hospital for many days.' Mama inquired, 'What is

*(Holy Dust of God Swaminarayan's Feet)

wrong with her?' The boy replied, 'Mama, I do not know. One day suddenly she fainted in the house. Then she had high fever. We admitted her into the hospital but the temperature does not go down. Today from morning she has fainted again. She does not speak a single word.' Mama asked, 'What does the doctor say?' The boy replied, 'Now the doctor has given up hope. He is asking us to shift my sister to some other hospital. If something happens to my sister, reputation of his hospital would be spoiled. Doctors from other hospitals do not respond positively. Now what should we do? I have come to your refuge. Please, save my sister.' And the boy was sobbing uncontrollably.

Mama's heart ached with pain. He felt tremendous pity for the girl. He went to God. He took out the Charanraj (holy dust of God's feet) from a small box. He prayed to God. He gave Charanraj to the boy and said, 'Please, take this Charanraj. When your sister is conscious, put a little bit in her mouth, otherwise rub it on her body. All of you recite the name of God. God is very fond of kids. God will certainly cure your sister. I will also pray to God.' The boy had deep reverence for Mama. He had tremendous faith in the words of Mama. He was delighted to listen to Mama's words. He told Mama, 'Mama, with your blessings my sister will certainly recover. Even though doctors have given up hope, her

life would be saved.'

The boy went to the hospital running. His parents were waiting for him eagerly. Seeing the boy, they asked, 'What did Mama say?' The boy was looking happy. He said, 'My sister would be all right.' The boy gave Charanraj to his mother. She applied Charanraj on the daughter's entire body. Doctor and nurses were standing there. They said, 'What are you doing? This will hurt the patient.' The boy said, 'This is our medicine. The doctor said, 'This is not medicine! It looks like dust.' The boy responded, 'This is the real medicine. You tried your medicines, but there was no improvement. This medicine has been given by our Gurudev. It will not fail. My sister will recover soon.' The boy spoke with such strong belief that the doctor was surprised. He sat there to witness if the girl recovered or not. To their astonishment, the girl regained her consciousness. Slowly, she recovered. Doctors were amazed, 'How did this happen? A pinch of dust was applied on her body and the patient's life was saved. This is a miracle!'

The boy was full of joy. He went running to Mama. He fell down at the feet of Mama. He spoke with gratitude, 'Mama, with your blessings my sister's life has been saved. She is recovering.' Mama explained, 'Maharaj always responds to a prayer offered with full concentration.' The boy confessed, 'Mama, we were praying everyday. But

she has recovered only after you offered Charanraj and blessed her.' Mama explained, 'Maharaj has heard the prayer of a Mukta. Maharaj is the doer. He has cured her.' The boy said, 'Mama I know only one thing. You blessed my sister and she has recovered. Otherwise the doctors had given up hope.' Mama said, 'Maharaj is the doer of all. Positive results could be achieved only through Maharaj's will.' The boy said, 'Mama, I have strong belief in your words. I do not know much.' Mama smiled sweetly, 'All right, now narrate the incidents of Maharaj to your sister so that she would recover faster.' The boy bowed down to Mama and went home happily.

Difficult words :

To heave a sigh of relief - To make a sigh with effort

To faint - To lose consciousness

To sob - To cry uncontrollably

Points to ponder :

- Through his prowess, an Anadimukta can perform miracles.
- In spite of having tremendous prowess, an Anadimukta declares Shreeji Maharaj as doer of everything and obeys His will.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. At what time did the boy arrive at

Mama's house?

2. Why did the boy go to Mama's house?
3. What did Mama give to the boy? What was its result?
4. Why were the doctors amazed?

Fill in the blanks :

1. The doctors have given up _____.
2. He prayed to Maharaj and offered _____ to the boy.
3. God is very _____ of kids.
4. The boy fell down at the _____ of Mama.

Complete the following Sentences :

1. The boy had deep reverence for _____ to listen to Mama's words.
2. This is the real medicine _____ sister will recover soon.
3. Maharaj is the doer _____ Maharaj's will.



Affectionate Towards Children

It was the day of idol installation in the prayer hall of the Mission. Everyone was excited. All of them wanted to please Mama. But Mama had decided something special. Mama declared to the volunteers, 'Children will perform today's celebration program.' The volunteers asked, 'Mama, what would the kids do? Today is the day of idol installation. It would be appropriate if the elders present the program. Mama explained, 'Today is the day of idol installation, therefore it would be appropriate if children present the program. God is very fond of children and I am also fond of children. You just wait and watch. The kids will perform very well.' Hearing this the kids were full of joy. They went to Mama and said thankfully, 'Mama, you remembered us today, otherwise nobody allows us to speak during congregations.' Another boy complained, 'Mama, they keep on saying keep quite, keep quite.' Mama laughed hearing this. He said, 'Today no one will say it. Please perform very well with the remembrance of God.' The kids were delighted.

They bowed down to Mama and sat down in the hall.

Children performed very well. Some of them sung Keertans. Some of them narrated the incidents of God. One child got up and announced, 'Today I will speak a few words about Mama.' They were amazed. What would this child speak about Mama? The child began, 'Mama what a beautiful name! In this name the word 'Ma' is respected twice. As a mother teaches good values to her child, this 'Ma' also teaches us how to live our lives. As a mother protects her child from all the troubles and looks after him, similarly this 'Ma' also protects us from the troubles of this world. He blesses us to attain the bliss of Maharaj and liberates the soul. He offers us happiness here i.e. in this world; and there i.e. in the next world. He gives us bliss of unity with divine form of God in the next world. Both ways he showers happiness. Therefore 'Ma' is repeated twice. i.e. Mama.' The child completed his speech. Everyone was delighted by his speech. They responded joyously with the clappings of hands.

Mama was full of joy. He spoke, 'See! How beautifully a child can speak! What a beautiful meaning he has derived. I am very much pleased. We shall offer all the participants silver coin as a memento.' The children clapped happily. One by one, they went to Mama, bowed down to him and

accepted a coin. Mama blessed them happily. Suddenly he noticed a small child. He was looking sad. He was sitting there feeling disappointed. Mama called him. He caressed his head lovingly and asked, 'What is the matter? Why are you looking so sad?' The child was on the verge of crying. He spoke, 'Mama, I did not participate in the program. So I will not receive a coin from you. I will not attain your blessings also. Had I participated, I would have been blessed by you. Now I will go back without your blessings.' Mama was pleased listening to child's regret. He said, 'Oh! Look at this child's affection for God!' Mama noticed other children also. All the children who had not participated, were looking sad. Mama thought that it was not fair. From the temple of Mahāraj, every child must go back happily. God is equally fond of each child. Whether they perform or not. Mama announced in the program, 'All those children who have not participated in the program, will also receive a silver coin blessed by Maharaj as a memento. They have not participated, but they are also affectionate towards Maharaj. God always responds to true affection, therefore all the children will receive the coin.' All the children stood up and welcomed this announcement with clappings of hands. A child sitting next to Mama jumped. Immediately, he fell at the feet of Mama. Mama offered him a coin. Mama noticed that every

child in the program was happy now. All of them were looking joyous. Mama was satisfied noticing this.

Mama made that day memorable for lifetime for each and every child present.

Difficult words :

Congregation - Small gathering of like minded people

To liberate - To make free

To derive - To prove by reasoning

Memento - An article for remembrance of a specific occasion

Points to ponder :

- To develop the hidden talents in children, Mama used to organize functions where children could perform.
- Affectionate nature of Muktaraj towards children is highlighted here.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. What important day was that for the Mission?
2. To whom did Mama ask to perform? Why?
3. How did the child interpret the word 'Mama'?
4. Why did Mama suggest to present a silver coin as a memento to all the children present?

Fill in the blanks :

1. It was the day of _____ in the Mission.

-
-
2. As a mother protects from the _____ of this world.
 3. He blesses us to attain the _____ with divine form of Maharaj.
 4. God always responds to true _____.
 5. Mama made that day _____ for lifetime.



Secret Of Abhishek

Once a child went for the Darshan of Mama. He bowed down to Mama and asked for his blessings. Mama blessed him. The child sat down next to Mama. Other Haribhaktas were also sitting next to Mama. They were engaged in religious discussion with Mama. Mama looked at the child. He was looking puzzled. He kept quiet for some time. When Mama finished talking, he asked Mama, 'Mama, can I ask you one question?' Mama said, 'Go ahead, son whatever you want to ask, you can ask without any hesitation.' The child asked, 'Mama, does God reside in the idol of Harikrishna Maharaj?' Mama replied, 'Yes, He does.' The child asked, 'Does He see us all remaining in the idol?' Mama confirmed, 'Yes, He sees us all remaining in the idol.' The child asked, 'Then God must be hearing us remaining in the idol.' Mama clarified, 'If our feelings are real, He may listen to it.' The boy was about to ask the next question. At that moment, a Haribhakta interrupted, 'Enough now! Do not ask so many questions.' Mama stopped him, 'Please, do not discourage

him. We must satisfy children's curiosity.' He encouraged the child, 'You can ask whatever you want to ask. I will answer till you are satisfied.'

The child asked in detail, 'In the morning I went for the Darshan to the temple. I had Darshan of Abhishek. Why do they give bath to God using curds, milk, ghee etc.? Does God like to have bath with such sticky liquids? If someone pours such sticky liquids on us, do we like it? Then how come God likes it? If God Himself is residing in the idol, does he enjoy this!' Mama said, 'It is a very good question. Answer to this question should be understood by the elders also. Son, you are right. Nobody likes to have bath with such sticky stuff.' The child inquired, 'Then why do we trouble God by giving Him bath like this?' Mama replied, 'There is a secret behind all these ceremonies. Today I will explain you in detail. Please, listen to it attentively.'

'Panchamrit' means five different liquids equivalent to nectar. We use them for Abhishek, right? Each ingredient represents a specific meaning. I will explain you the significance of every element.

Honey : Who prepares honey?' The child replied, 'Honey bee.' Mama said, 'Right! Honey bee goes from flower to flower. But collects only sweetness and prepares sweet honey. Similar to honey, we should collect virtues from everyone.'

We must make our lives as sweet as honey. Honey means essence of all the virtues. Honey is the symbol of such affection. Thus God is showered with affection and devotion. Then comes Milk.

Milk : How is milk?' The child replied, 'Milk is nutritious. It gives energy.' Mama said, 'You are right. Milk is full of vitamins, carbohydrates, protein etc.. Therefore it is called complete food. It nourishes our body. Similarly, a true devotee of God should nourish all the living beings. They must show them the path of truthful behaviour. They must guide them. This is the significance of milk.' The child asked, 'Mama, the way you nurture everybody and guide them properly?' Mama caressed his head lovingly and continued, 'Number three is Curd.

Curd : Curd is also made up of nutritious elements. Curd also symbolizes the same meaning as Milk. Milk and Curd are white in colour. Similarly, our character should be bright and without any stigma.

Sugar : What happens if we add sugar into any liquid?' The child replied, 'It melts.' Mama asked, 'Then how does the liquid taste?' The child replied, 'Sweet!' Mama continued, 'Similarly we must develop oneness and affection with all the living beings and ultimately we must get united with divine form of God. Such beautiful

meaning is hidden here. Sugar symbolizes it. And at last Ghee.

Ghee : Ghee is the end product of Milk. Similarly, we must study scriptures. We must gain knowledge. The knowledge related to self-realization and God-realization is like an essence of all the knowledge. We must pull out that knowledge. This knowledge also should be offered at the feet of God. Here it is indicated that we must drop our ego and get united with God.

Each element is just a means. But the hidden sense or significance behind it is more important. With such implications we perform the ceremony of Abhishek. Have you understood now, why do we perform, Abhishek?' The child replied, 'Mama, today I have understood clearly. I asked this question to many people, but nobody could explain it properly. Today my doubt is cleared.' Haribhaktas who were present there, said, 'We also understood the real significance of Abhishek today. What a beautiful meaning is hidden behind it!'

Difficult words :

Nectar - Amrit

Ingredients - Components of a mixture

Nourish - To promote growth

Stigma - Sign of disgrace

Points to ponder :

- An experienced Anadimukta like Mama only can explain such hidden meanings.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. Which Darshan did the child attend in the temple?
2. Which question did the child ask Mama?
3. What is the significance of Milk in Abhishek?
4. What is the significance of Ghee in Abhishek?
5. Which five ingredients are used in Abhishek?

Fill in the blanks :

1. Does _____ really reside in an idol?
2. If our _____ are true, He may listen to it.
3. Each and every element is just _____.
The _____ behind it is more important.
4. We must drop our _____ and get united with _____.



Virtue Of Forgiveness

Mama was sitting in his room. A young man entered the room with a sad face. He bowed down to Mama. Mama said, 'Please, have your seat. What is the matter? Why do you look depressed?' The young man replied, 'I have not got good result.' Mama asked, 'What is the result?' The young man answered with a weepy face, 'Mama, I have got A.T.K.T.. My year would be spoiled. Now what should I do? What shall I inform at home?' Mama looked at the young man and asked, 'This was your final year, isn't it?' The young man answered, 'Yes, Mama, I have passed final year exams. I have got first class.' Mama asked, 'In which subjects have you got A.T.K.T.?' The young man informed, 'I had to clear last year's exams. I have not been able to clear them.' The young man looked down. Mama asked, 'Tell me the truth, did you prepare the subject properly?' The young man replied, 'Mama, I will never tell lie in front of you. Last year subjects I couldn't prepare properly.' Mama said, 'If you did not prepare properly, how could you pass the exams? You must work

hard. Otherwise God does not help.' The young man broke down. He appealed Mama, 'I have committed mistake. I will not repeat it. Please, save me.' Mama pacified him and asked, 'Now, what is the alternative?' The young man replied, 'We can apply for rechecking.' Mama asked, 'Is it possible that your marks would be increased during rechecking? How many marks are required?' The young man replied, 'Only seven marks are less. Should I fill up the form for rechecking! If you bless me, I could pass and my year would be saved.' Mama thought for a few seconds. Then replied, 'All right, fill up the form. I will pray to God.' Mama gave him sugar offered to God. The young man bowed down to Mama and left.

After a month or so, the young man went for the Darshan of Mama. The moment he entered the room, Mama spoke, 'God forgives the mistake only once. If you commit mistakes in life again and again. God wouldn't forgive.' The young man was surprised. He thought, Mama knows everything. He knows about me. He bowed down to Mama. He was looking happy. Mama asked innocently, 'What happened?' The young man chuckled and said, 'Mama, you know everything. Your comment when I entered the room, was most appropriate.' Mama inquired, 'Have you passed?' The young man replied, 'Mama, it has happened due to your

blessings. I needed seven more marks to pass. During rechecking only seven marks are increased.' Mama explained, 'That day you repented with true feelings. And you did not lie. Therefore, God is pleased. God does not like liars. Do not repeat such mistake in life. We should not do anything for which we have to regret later. We must always remember God while performing any act. Therefore, God makes it successful.' The young man bowed down to Mama with great reverence and promised, 'Mama, I will try to follow your advice wholeheartedly. Please, bless me.' Mama was pleased and he blessed the young man.

(Later on the young man worked hard in his life. He tried to avoid committing mistakes as per Mama's advice. These days he is working in a reputed company on a good post.)

Difficult words :

To repent - To feel sorry

Comment - Remark

Points to ponder :

- By repenting our mistakes with real and true feelings in front of Anadimuktas, they forgive our mistakes.
- In front of Maharaj and His Anadimuktas we must behave truthfully. We should not lie in front of them.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. Why was the young man looking sad?
2. What reason was given by the young man for failing the exams?
3. How did the young man get passing marks?
4. What did Mama ask the young man not to repeat?
5. Why was Mama pleased by the young man?

Fill in the blanks :

1. If you do not _____ hard, how could you pass the exams?
2. Mama, it has happened due to your _____.
3. You had _____ with true feelings.
4. We must remember _____ while performing any act.



Real Psychiatrist

Once a couple visited Mama for his Darshan. They bowed down to Mama and sat down. Mama asked, 'What brings you here?' The gentleman replied sadly, 'Mama, my son is addicted to tobacco. We scold him so much. But he does not understand.' The lady said, 'Once we had beaten him up too.' Mama advised, 'You shouldn't beat your son.' The gentleman spoke helplessly, 'What should we do Mama? He does not listen to us. Earlier, he used to chew tobacco stealthily. Now he chews it in the house in front of us. If I scold him badly, he threatens to smoke cigarettes too.' The lady said, 'Mama, we are Satsangi. Is it good to have such addictions? We are tired of reforming him.' The lady became sad. She added, 'Mama, that is why we have come to you. Through your kindness and blessings, he could be freed from addiction.' Mama agreed, 'Tomorrow, bring him to me, I will talk to him.'

Next day both the parents and son, all three of them, went to Mama. Mama asked the parents to wait outside. The young man bowed

down to Mama and sat down. Mama asked, 'What are you studying?' The young man replied, 'I am in college.' Mama said, 'Good. Your parents have come to me with a complaint against you.' The young man was upset, 'They announce it to everyone. They keep on scolding me. They scold me even in front of outsiders. Therefore, I have decided that I will continue chewing tobacco till they behave in this manner. At the most they will scold. Even otherwise, they scold. Now it does not affect me any more.' The young man expressed his anger. Mama consoled him, 'Please, calm down. Your parents' behaviour is not proper. They should not scold their son. And they should never scold in front of outsiders.' The young man felt better. He thought that Mama understood his feelings. Mama was in his favour. He told, 'Mama, When they scold me in front of everyone, I feel it very insulting.' Mama assured, 'I can understand your feelings. I will convince them to not to scold you. Never in front of others.' The young man insisted, 'Please, convince them. They will listen to your advice. If it happens I will help them in household chores also.'

Mama noticed that the young man had cooled down. Therefore Mama asked, 'Would you listen to me?' Mama respected the young man and asked his permission for the discussion. There was a favourable impact on the young man. He

said politely, 'Yes, Mama. I will listen to you and follow your advice.' Mama explained, 'I want to know a few details about your addiction. I do not have to advice anything.' Slowly, Mama was trying to make his point clear. The young man thought Mama required a few details only. He cheered up. Mama asked, 'How do you feel while chewing tobacco? Why do you do that?' The young man replied, 'When I chew it I feel fresh. It stimulates my brain. It inspires new ideas. Now I have become addicted to it. I can not survive without it. Without it, I feel exhausted. I feel as if energy is drained off my body. So I have to take it.' Mama asked, 'For how long are you addicted?' The young man replied, 'For last two years.'

Mama thought something and asked, 'How many percentage did you get in tenth standard?' The young man brightened up, 'Mama I got 85% in tenth standard and 80% in twelfth standard.' Mama congratulated, 'Wow! That is great! You are a brilliant student. Now how many percentage do you get?' The young man looked down. He informed, 'Now, I get less marks. I can not concentrate in studies like earlier. As soon as I sit down to study, I remember tobacco. Then I get up. I chew tobacco and study for sometime. Then I can not continue for long. I loose concentration.' Mama spoke thoughtfully, 'This means that you were studying with better concentration when you

were not addicted to tobacco.' The young man agreed, 'Yes, Mama, that is right.' Mama continued, 'This also means that it is completely baseless to say that chewing tobacco inspires new ideas. Or raises the energy level, you will also accept this right? Now tell me the advantages of chewing tobacco. Whatever you had described earlier are not the benefits.' Now the young man was confused. He thought what he had thought beneficial, was not beneficial at all. What are the advantages of chewing tobacco? After a while he told Mama, 'I can not think of any advantage.' Mama grabbed this opportunity. He said, 'You also agree, if it is not beneficial, why to get addicted to it? Do you know how harmful it is to chew tobacco? It weakens your body as well as mind. It stimulates all the nerves and gradually they are weakened. Then your mind weakens and a poor (weak) mind generates poor thoughts; you can not perform creative work. Memory power decreases; concentration also becomes poor. Just now you have agreed, isn't it. It affects physical well being also. We catch a lot of diseases. Thus our future is also affected. We have to spend our lives in poverty. Now your father gives money.' The young man interrupted, 'Mama, I spend all my pocket money in buying tobacco.'

Mama sympathised with him, 'See! In the beginning, you chew tobacco, later on tobacco

chews you. It eats up your body from within. In future, you will spend all your earnings on it. How would you come up in life? Please, tell me?' The young man seriously thought about it. He spoke to Mama, 'I never thought about it in so much detail, such depth. And nobody explained me with so much affection.' Mama asked, 'So now will you give up tobacco?' The young man promised, 'I will sincerely try.' Mama explained, 'If we make up our mind totally, everything is possible. The scientists continue experimenting till they do not achieve success. They stop only when they are successful. Similarly, you should also achieve success. We must be addicted to good things. We should be addicted to worshipping God. We could be addicted to good books. Then we can progress in life.' The young man bowed down to Mama and prayed, 'Mama, please bless me. With your blessings, I will definitely become successful. I promise you. I will be free of (give up) my addictions to tobacco.' Mama was pleased to see his positive attitude. He blessed him. The young man went out with a new self-confidence.

Difficult words :

Addiction - Habit

Chores - Daily tasks

To stimulate - To make more active

To grab - To snatch

Points to ponder :

- We must keep away from the addictions which make our lives useless and thoughts poor and ultimately make our future hopeless.
- The addictions like worshipping God, meaningful reading habits, selfless service etc. are supportive in growth and development of our personality. They should be embraced.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. The parents visited Mama with which complaint?
2. What were the benefits of chewing tobacco according to the young man? Were they really benefits?
3. What are the disadvantages of chewing tobacco?
4. What did the young man promise Mama?

Fill in the blanks :

1. My son is addicted to _____.
2. We are _____ is it good to have such addictions?
3. You should not _____ your son. You should never scold him in front of _____.
4. Whenever they scold me in front of everyone, I feel it very _____.

-
-
5. Tobacco weakens your _____ as well as _____.
 6. I have never thought about it in so much _____.
 7. We must be addicted to _____ in life.
 8. I _____ you, I will be free of _____.



Ego Elimination

Once Mama was doing Mission's work. He had to type a few pages. Mama called one young man. He was explaining the young man how to type. Another young man was standing next to them. He spoke proudly, 'Mama, please give it to me. I will get it typed.' Mama said, 'This man will do it.' The young man insisted, 'Mama, my typing speed is more. I also type very well. I will get it typed in a few minutes.' Mama said, 'All right. You may get it typed.' Mama asked the first young man to wait there. The other young man thought, 'Let me type it very fast and impress Mama.' He was typing with such thoughts going on in his mind. He went to Mama with typed papers in a few minutes. Mama said, 'Oh! Have you finished so soon? Very good speed!' The young man was puffed up with joy. He spoke, 'Yes Mama, my typing speed is very good.' Mama, checked up the paper. He reacted immediately, 'What is this? How have you typed this? There are no proper margins on both the sides.' The young man replied, 'May be I did not notice it. But there won't be any other

mistakes.' Mama said, 'Well! You have made a lot of spelling mistakes also. Who told you, you are good in typing?' The young man couldn't speak a single word. He stood there looking down. Mama gave those papers to the first young man and instructed, 'Go and type it properly. Doesn't matter if it takes some time.' The first young man left with the papers. Mama turned towards the young man who had hurriedly typed the matter. He said, 'Please sit down. You have made a lot of mistakes and wasted the papers also. You behaved out of ego. You wanted to prove him inferior to you. May be you type very well, but God does not like egoistic attitude. To destroy your ego, God did this to you. If we are qualified, we must use our quality for constructive purpose. We must not intent to show others as inferior to us. We should never be proud of our qualities.' The young man apologized, 'Mama, I am sorry. God has punished me for my egoistic attitude. I wanted to please you.' Mama said, 'Your intention was good, but it was mixed with pride.' The young man promised, 'Yes Mama, now I will never act out of vanity.' The young man bowed down to Mama. Mama blessed him. Today the young man had achieved real knowledge.

Difficult words :

Inferior - Lower in status or poor in quality

Vanity - False pride

Points to ponder :

- We should not show off our skills proudly in front of great Muktas.
- We must utilize our skills without the intention of showing others as inferior to us.

Exercise**Answer the following questions :**

1. What work did Mama have?
2. What did the young man who knew typing, say to Mama?
3. How did the young man type?
4. Which reason was given by Mama for committing so many mistakes?
5. What did Mama explain to the young man?

Fill in the blanks :

1. My typing speed is _____.
2. There are no proper _____ on both the sides.
3. God does not like _____.

Complete the following sentences :

1. You have made _____ to prove him inferior to you.
2. Your intention was _____ mixed with pride.

Arrange in proper Sequence :

1. Qualified if we are quality for must we use our purpose constructive.
2. Never now out of I will vanity act.



Power Of Intent

A young man used to attend to Mama. He was not interested in studies. He enjoyed meditating God. He had only one desire -to please Mama. Mama was also happy with his service. As soon as the exams were over, he was present to attend to Mama. Mama assigned him some work. Mama noticed that he was not paying proper attention to the work. Mama asked, 'Where are you lost? Your mind is somewhere else. You look worried.' The young man agreed, 'Yes Mama, I was lost in thoughts.' Mama inquired, 'Is there any problem? Please, tell me.' The young man confessed, 'Mama, it was my final year in college. Exams are over. I am worried if I would pass the exams.'

Mama asked, 'Why? Haven't you written your exams properly?' The young man looked down and replied, 'Mama, I do not find studies very interesting. I enjoy meditating God. I feel happy to be with you and work here.' Mama advised, 'The way you are enthusiastic in selfless service, similarly you must study with the same

zeal. Education is very important in life. If you do not study properly you will not get proper job. It would be difficult to fulfill your worldly responsibilities without proper earnings.' The youth fell down at the feet of Mama. He spoke, 'If I fail the exams, one more year I will have to study the same syllabus, which I do not enjoy. Please, give me some solution. You are my saviour. I surrender to you.' Mama said, 'You are a true devotee of God. You participate wholeheartedly in selfless services. God is pleased with you. But you must work hard and study properly.' The young man beseeched, 'Mama please, bless me that I pass the exams. With your blessings, I will certainly pass the exams. Please, have mercy on me.' The young man pleaded to Mama with deep reverence. Mama felt pity on the young man. He said, 'All right, I will pray to God. What is your seat number in the exams?' The young man replied, '435.' Mama went to the idol of Maharaj. He stood there with closed eyes for a few seconds. He blessed the young man and offered him sugar.

Days passed by. The young man was busy in serving. It was the day of results. The youngman had full faith in Mama's words. He was sure that he was going to pass the exams. He went to college to check the results. He was not expecting more marks. Therefore, he looked for his

number in pass class list. His number was not there, so he panicked. One moment he missed his heart beat. He remembered Mama. And he gathered courage. He checked further. He found that his number was in second class list. He was full of joy. He bowed down to Mama in his heart. Suddenly he had a flash of thought, He was curious, 'What would be the result of seat number 435 in other classes?' He checked up the lists of preparatory, first year and second year. For all the three years, seat number 435 had passed with second division.

He was amazed. The young man went to Mama. He bowed down to Mama. Mama asked, 'Hello! you have passed, isn't it?' The young man was astonished. He said, 'Mama, you know everything. I have passed because of your blessings only. I did not have the hopes of getting even passing marks. You have granted me second class.' Mama revealed, 'You are a true devotee of God. You worship Him with great devotion and affection. Therefore, God has responded to your prayers.'

The young man replied, 'I consider it as your prowess, Mama. I am totally amazed to find that seat number 435 of every year has passed in second class. None has failed.' Mama said, 'Once a Mukta intends, it rewards everyone. It is not restricted to only one person. The intent of

an Anadimukta is so powerful.' The young man exclaimed, 'Oh! Today I have realized that the intent of an Anadimukta is so powerful.' The young man bowed down to Mama with gratitude and reverence. Mama was pleased and blessed him.

Difficult words :

To assign - To allot

Zeal - A lot of enthusiasm

Saviour - A person who saves from difficulties

Surrender - To give oneself up

Points to ponder :

→ Intent of an Anadimukta is not restricted to only one person, but is rewarding to all.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. What did the young man enjoy more than studies?
2. What did Mama explain to the young man about studies?
3. Why was the young man completely amazed?
4. How powerful is the intent of an Anadimukta?

Fill in the blanks :

1. Mama, I do not find _____ interesting, I enjoy meditating _____
2. The way you feel _____ about selfless

service, similarly you must _____ with
the same zeal.

3. Once a Mukta _____, that is
_____ for all.



Significance Of Vratmaan

Mama's house always remained full of visitors. His house hardly remained empty. Once, a couple visited with a small child. They bowed down to Mama. The gentleman requested, 'Mama please, initiate my son into Vratmaan and bless him.' Mama took the child in his lap. Mama put on a Kumkum dot on his fore head. He put him on a Kanthi. Mama was talking to the gentleman. The child was sleeping peacefully in Mama's lap. Mama revealed, 'This child is a very good soul. He is a divine soul. Some of the souls are evil also. As soon as they approach a Mukta, they begin to cry. They do not even allow to put on Kumkum dot. Even then they should be initiated into Vratmaan by Mukta. A child might cry, but we must hold his head forcibly and initiate him into Vratmaan.'

The gentleman was curious. He asked, 'Mama, why so?' Mama explained, 'Whenever a Mukta of God initiates a living being, he intents for his betterment. This destroys his past life Karma and evil tendencies. Their aura is purified. Their soul is directed towards God. Mukta intents in

such a way that his energy is transformed. His thought process becomes positive. Therefore, he develops good values and he is protected in his life. His life is improved.'

The couple exclaimed, 'Oh! There is a great significance. Today we have realized that such a great intention is hidden behind the initiation into Vratmaan.' Mama explained, 'Muktas of God wish that all the living beings get devoted to God. All the acts performed by a Mukta are for the betterment of living beings.'

Difficult words :

Aura - Radiance around a person

Significance - Importance

Points to ponder :

→ The great spiritual secrets hidden behind small rituals could be known through an Anadimukta only.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. Why did the couple visit Mama?
2. How many kind of souls are there?
3. What is the significance behind the initiation in to Vratmaan?



Real Birthsign

A small boy aged 7-8 years lived abroad. Once he came to visit Mama. He bowed down to Mama. Mama blessed him. Mama asked, 'Have you come alone? Are your parents not accompanying you?' The boy answered, 'Mama, I have come alone. My parents are at home. Here, I am staying with my relatives.' Mama praised him, 'You are bold enough to come alone from abroad.' The child had a habit of asking sunsign to everyone. He asked Mama too, 'Mama, what is your sunsign?' Mama asked, 'What will you do knowing my sunsign?' The child explained, 'From sunsign, we can know the characteristics of a person. we can find out his qualities and peculiarities. We can know a little bit about his virtues - drawbacks etc.'

Mama was laughing. He thought, 'This child wants to know my sign. He wants to know my personality traits! All right!' Mama told, 'My sunsign is Divine Power.' The child was surprised. He asked, 'What is that sign? There is no sign by that name.' Mama teased him, 'That is my sign. I

have Divine Power.' The child was confused, 'Mama, what is the meaning of Divine Power?' Mama explained, 'Divine Power means spiritual strength of God. This strength is always with me.' The child asked, 'Mama, what could you do with that power?' Mama explained, 'Let me explain it to you. The person who has this power is fully self-confident. He can perform all the tasks very well. He has positive attitude. God responds to his prayers. He is not afraid of anyone. He never gets discouraged. God accompanies him eternally.' The child asked, 'Mama, I ask a lot of questions. Wouldn't you feel annoyed?' Mama replied, 'No, if children ask me questions, I like it very much. I will explain you everything. I will give proper answers to all the questions. You can ask as many questions as you like.'

The child was delighted. The child asked, 'What is the meaning of "God accompanies eternally"?' Mama explained, 'Eternally, means all the time. He is not separated from God even for a single second. Not even for the tiniest part of a second. That is called eternal unity with God. A person who is eternally united with God, gets Divine Power.' The child asked, 'Only you have Divine Power? Can anyone else achieve it?' Mama explained, 'Why not? Anyone can certainly get it.' The child asked with a lot of excitement, 'Can I attain Divine Power?' Mama

replied, 'Certainly.' The child asked, 'What should I do to achieve Divine Power?' Mama explained, 'You must remember God always. You must recite the name of God continuously.' The child asked, 'But always means all the time. Then how could we study? How could we perform other tasks?' Mama explained, 'This is required at the final stage. You must remember God before (while) starting any work. You must request God to join you in your work. You must pray Him to make you successful in your task. You must pray with full involvement of your heart. Even if you drink water, you must remember God. Thus you must remember God while performing every activity. In your spare time, you must recite the name of God. In this way, you will progress slowly.'

The child inquired, 'How long does it take for God to accompany us always?' Mama clarified, 'God is always with us. But we do not realize it, because we are not aware of it.' The child inquired, 'We are accompanied by God all the time, even then I don't have Divine Power?' Mama replied, 'When we remember God ceaselessly, God grants us Divine Power gradually.' The child inquired, 'Gradually means when?' Mama started laughing. He explained, 'Listen! If you want to achieve a degree in your studies, how many years do you have to study? You have already started your studies, right? You will study

for many years till you grow up, isn't it?' The child replied, 'Yes, I will have to study for fifteen to seventeen years.' Mama continued, 'If you study for seventeen years, you can achieve a degree of this world. Imagine the greatness of the ultimate Lord Shri Swaminarayan Bhagwan! He is divine. To attain His divinity, one has to work for a few years, isn't it? We must have the knowledge of God. As a teacher is required while studying, similarly on spiritual path also we need a true guide. We can progress with the help of true guidance.' The child said earnestly, 'Mama, I want to please God. I want to attain Divine Power. Would you guide me?' Mama consented, 'Certainly, Son ! God has sent me to guide you all.' The child was delighted. He bowed down to Mama. Mama blessed him.

Difficult words :

Peculiarity - Special quality or characteristic

Tease - To make fun

Eternally - Ever lasting

Earnestly - Sincerely

Points to ponder :

- An Anadimukta appears to spread the knowledge of Shreeji Maharaj among the living beings and to guide them on spiritual path.
- One of the qualities of an Anadimukta is that he has answers to all the questions of a seeker.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. How old was the child?
2. What did the child ask Mama?
3. What did Mama say about his sunsign?
4. What could a person perform who has Divine Power of Maharaj?
5. How does God join us eternally?
6. How could children get united with God all the time?
7. Whose guidance is required to attain the Divine Power of God?

Complete the following sentences :

1. Divine Power means _____ of God.
2. Eternally means _____ eternal unity with God.
3. Imagine the greatness of _____ work for a few years, isn't it?



Taught The Correct Style Of Writing

Once, Mama went abroad, He visited the house of a Haribhakta. His children were doing homework. Mama noticed that both the children kept the notebook sideways while writing. Therefore, their writing was not in a straight line. Mama asked, 'Why is your writing not in a straight line?' The children replied, 'We do not know. Our handwriting is like this only.' Mama explained, 'Because you keep your notebooks sideways. If you keep your notebooks straight, your writing would be in straight line.' The children asked, 'In which position? We couldn't follow.'

Mama arranged the notebooks properly. The kids tried to write, but they couldn't find it convenient. They said, 'Mama, we do not feel comfortable writing in this way. How could we write by keeping the notebook straight?' Mama asked for a paper. He kept it straight and wrote 'Jai Shri Swaminarayan' in beautiful handwriting. The children praised his handwriting, 'Wow! How beautiful your handwriting is!' Mama explained, 'My handwriting is straight and beautiful, because I

keep the notebook straight while writing. You can also try to write accordingly. Slowly you will learn. Your handwriting will also become straight and beautiful.' Then, Mama was busy talking with Haribhaktas. The children wrote for sometime with their notebooks straight. They did not find it comfortable. Therefore, again they turned their copies sideways and began to write. Mama noticed this. He said, 'Oh! once again you are writing with your copies sideways?' The kids asked, 'What happens if we keep our notebooks sideways?' Mama replied, 'I will explain to you. You can not write in a straight line if your notebook is not kept straight. Right?' The kids agreed. Mama explained further, 'Crooked handwriting is the symbol of disorderliness. Bad handwriting indicate that the person is disorganized in other tasks also. Good handwriting creates good impression on a reader. Do you know that from one's handwriting, the personality of the person could be known. We can find the characteristics of that person. A person having good handwriting is organized in his life. And an organized person becomes successful in his life. Good handwriting is very important in life.' The children cried out, 'My Gosh! How important is handwriting! It seems whole life of a person could be revealed by handwriting.'

Mama said, 'You are still young. If you practice regularly right from your childhood,

you will definitely improve your handwriting.' The children promised, 'Mama, Now, we shall write properly with our notebooks straight. Please, bless us so that we can learn it properly.' Mama blessed both the kids.

Difficult words

Disorderliness - Confusion

Crooked - Not straight

Points to ponder :

- Even the smallest detail could be invaluablely important in shaping up the life.
- Mama used to notice even the smallest details of children and tried to develop their personality.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. Where did Mama go?
2. What were the children doing?
3. How were the children writing?
4. What did Mama ask children to do to improve their handwriting?
5. What are the implications of good handwriting in life?

Fill in the blanks :

1. Why is your writing not _____?
2. If you keep your notebook _____ your _____ would be in straight line.

-
-
3. Crooked handwriting is the symbol of _____.
 4. _____ of a person could be known from his handwriting.
 5. And an _____ person becomes _____ in life.

Arrange in proper sequence :

1. Handwriting is your how beautiful Wow!
2. Disorderliness is the symbol crooked of handwriting.
3. If regularly practice right from you childhood your, improve handwriting you will definitely your.



Ego Surgery

On the last Sunday of the month, devotees used to assemble in Mission premises. Sometimes children used to sing Keertans. One of the children had a very good voice and he sung the Keertans very well. Mama used to praise him to encourage him. But the child became proud of it. He thought, 'Nobody else could sing like me. I sing very well. Even Mama enjoys it. No one else should sing Keertan except me during assembly.' If other children requested to sing, he would refuse them stubbornly. And he would retort insultingly, 'You couldn't sing. During assembly only those children should sing, who can sing nicely.' Children used to keep quiet, because he sung regularly during the assembly.

Mama found this out. He thought that this was not proper. Therefore, Mama announced, 'Today other children will sing Keertans during assembly. They should also get a chance.' That child couldn't say anything, because Mama himself announced this. But his ego was hurt. Other children were delighted. They bowed down to

Mama and said, 'Mama, we shall try to sing well.' Mama taught them, 'If you sing for God only, you will be able to sing well.' The child who sung very well, stopped attending the assembly. He did not attend the next assembly. He completely stopped attending assemblies. Mama understood. The boy went to the Mission office after sometime. Mama called him and made him sit next to him. He asked, 'Why don't you attend the assembly?' The child replied, 'Just like that!' Mama asked, 'Without any reason, why did you stop attending assembly? I will tell you the reason why don't you attend the assembly. Because I encouraged other children to sing Keertans, you felt bad. You feel that only you can sing well. You certainly sing well, but you are egoistic about it. This subtle ego covers up your virtues (qualities) and exposes your weakness of jealousy. The other children who can sing well, should also be given a chance, isn't it?' The child confessed, 'When other children sing, I do not enjoy. I feel that I can sing better.'

Mama explained, 'Only I can sing well and others can not. This is an ego.' The child asked, 'What could I do?' Mama said, 'Yes, I can teach you that. I can give you a proper solution. If any body part is damaged or decayed what does a doctor do?' The child replied, 'Doctor performs surgery. He cures that part through operation.' Mama said, 'Right! A doctor can perform surgery'

on our body. But no doctor can perform surgery of our mind. Only we can perform surgery of our mind and remove the dirt and cure disease. Your ego is your disease. You should remove it. You should perform your ego surgery.' The child asked, 'How?' Mama explained, 'I will help you in every possible way. I will guide you as required. You must make sincere efforts.' The child promised, 'I promise Mama, If you are ready to be my guide, I will make sincere efforts and I will throw out the disease of ego from my mind.' Mama explained, 'You must think that whatever virtues you have they all belong to Maharaj. You must surrender all your virtues to God. You must think that you are a Mukta residing in the idol of Maharaj and Shreeji Maharaj performs through you. When virtues belong to Maharaj and Maharaj performs through us, then who are we to feel (be)egoistic about it? Right? Such approach will destroy even the subtlest ego. Maharaj would be pleased.'

What a simple and effective solution to conquer ego which could not be conquered by great Yogis also! With such understanding, if we do not try to conquer our ego, forget the child, even a great scholar or a great Yogi can not attain salvation.

Difficult words :

Stubbornly - With obstinance

Decay - Rotten thing or part

Ailment - Disease or symptoms of disease

Points to ponder :

- The drawbacks of a living being could be revealed through the help of an Anadimukta and could be cured through their blessings.
- The ailments of mind trouble more than that of body. They should be cured.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. When is the assembly organized in the Mission?
2. What did children do during the assembly?
3. Why was the child offended?
4. What was the reason to get offended, according to Mama?
5. What surgery did Mama prescribe for the child?
6. To whom should we surrender our virtues?

Complete the following sentences :

1. This subtle ego _____ your weakness of jealousy.
2. You must surrender all your virtues _____
Shreeji Maharaj performs through you.



Correct Method To Pray

The results of twelfth standard were declared. A young man went to see Mama happily. He bowed down to Mama. He said, 'Mama, with your blessings. I have received 70% in twelfth standard.' Mama blessed him and asked, 'Now, what are your future plans?' The young man replied, 'Mama, I am thinking of taking admission in Mechanical Engineering.' Mama inquired, 'Will you be able to get admission in Ahmedabad?' The young man replied, 'Yes, Mama, I have got good percentage, So I may get the admission.' Mama asked, 'If you do not get admission in Ahmedabad, where else could you get?' The young man informed, 'Surat, Baroda and Vidhyanagar are good Universities. I will try there.' Mama asked again, 'If you could not get there also?' The young man replied, 'Mama it is not possible. Most probably I will get the admission.' Mama said, 'All right. Please let me know, once you get the admission.'

That particular year, there was so much rush for the admission in Mechanical Engineering. Slowly all the seats were filled up. The young man

couldn't get admission in Ahmedabad. He was worried. He went to Mama. He said, 'Mama, you know everything. I couldn't understand, when you were asking.' The young man had deep reverence for Mama. He had great faith in Mama. He knew that Mama's words come true. Therefore he requested to Mama, 'Mama, would you pray to Maharaj that I get admission in Surat, Baroda or Vidhyanagar, any one of these places?' Mama asked, 'Why these three places only? Can't you go somewhere else?' The young man replied, 'These three universities are considered good. Teaching at other places belonging to Gujarat University is not very good. Mama, please, pray for me. Maharaj will definitely respond to your prayer.' Mama cared for the young man. Therefore, he used to inquire him about all the details.

Mama asked, 'If you go out of station to study, how would you manage about your stay, food etc.?' The young man replied, 'Mama, I will have to stay in a hostel.' Mama said, 'That is very expensive. How would you manage?' The young man informed, 'My father says that he will pay for my expenses even if he has to live frugally.' The young man insisted Mama, 'Mama, please pray to God that I get admission at one of the good places.' Mama made him sit next to him and explained lovingly, 'See, we should not pray to God to do some particular thing. We should not insist

for a specific reward. God only knows what is best for your future. Therefore we must pray to God that, Hey Maharaj! Please, do whatever is best for me.' The young man pleaded again to pray for the admission at one of the good places. Mama scolded lovingly, 'Still you are insisting. I will pray to God. Whatever is best for you, will happen.' The young man bowed down to Mama and left.

The young man got admission in Bhavnagar College. He was disappointed that if Mama had prayed to Maharaj, he would have got admission at a better place. He went to Mama looking sad. Mama spoke to him, 'You are not aware of your future, that is why you feel sad. This is for your good. In whatever circumstances, God wants to keep us, we must accept them happily. This situation is appropriate for you and it is created for you and it is given by God, so why feel sad? Go to Bhavnagar happily.' Mama's words consoled the young man. With the blessings of Mama, the young man could make arrangements for his stay and food only for a hundred rupees per month.

After one year, the young man visited Mama for his Darshan. He was beaming with joy. He bowed down to Mama and said, 'Mama, you are the most compassionate. You and God knew very well about my future. I did not even know how to pray. You taught me.' Mama asked, 'What

is the matter?' The young man replied, 'When I couldn't get admission in other Universities, I was disappointed, But now I feel that was the best thing to happen. Bhavnagar belongs to Gujarat University. So, I applied for transfer and I have got the admission in Ahmedabad from second year onwards. Now, I will be able to study in Ahmedabad and I will get an opportunity to serve you.' Mama said, 'You were unnecessarily feeling sad. Maharaj knows everything.' The young man bowed down to Mama devotedly.

Difficult words :

Frugally - Thrifty, using very little money

Circumstances - Connected events

Beaming - Smiling with radiant look

Points to ponder :

- Only God and His Anadimuktas know what is good for us.
- Muktaraj teaches us that we should not insist God and his Muktas to grant us some particular reward.
- Only an Anadimukta can teach us how to pray to God.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. For which standard, the results were declared?

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-
2. In which city did the young man want to take admission? Why?
 3. What did the young man insist Mama to pray?
 4. Which method of prayer did Mama teach the young man?
 5. How could the young man come back to Ahmedabad to complete his studies?

Complete the following sentences :

1. Mama, please pray _____ one of the good places.
2. We should not pray to God to _____ for a specific reward.
3. In whatever circumstances _____ accept them happily.



Neither Delay Nor Postpone

Throughout the vacation, children went to see Mama. Mama taught them good values. He taught them a lot of good things like importance of unity, how to avoid weaknesses like jealousy, quarrelsome temperament, bad addictions etc. He also taught them how to arrange books and other important objects properly and neatly. He narrated incidents of God and nourished them spiritually. Holidays were about to get over. Children were sitting with Mama. A child said, 'Mama, now only ten days are left to enjoy. Then school will re-open.' The other child said, 'Then we will not get much spare time to come and visit you. We have enjoyed a lot with you during holidays.'

Mama looked around and asked, 'One person is missing in your gang.' The children replied, 'Yes Mama, he won't be able to come now.' Another child said, 'He will have to work day and night to complete his work.' Mama asked, 'Why? What happened?' A child informed, 'Mama, he is lazy. Whole vacation, he was busy playing. He did not touch his home work. He has not even

covered his notebooks. Now everything is accumulated.' Another child said, 'His homework is incomplete for all the subjects.'

Meanwhile, the child entered. Mama asked him, 'Why did you not come?' The child replied, 'I had to finish my homework. In school they give a lot of homework. Who could do so much work? I was feeling tired. So I have come to you.' Mama asked, 'Your friends have completed their homework, why have you not yet completed?' The child replied, 'I have no idea. I am not able to do so much homework. I am tired.' Mama explained, 'You have accumulated a lot of work, therefore you feel tired. If we finish our daily work everyday, then it does not accumulate. You have not worked regularly, therefore it has become a big burden.' The child said, 'Mama, I will work day and night and complete it.' Mama said, 'This is not a good habit. When you try to finish it hurriedly in the end, the result is not good. You can not do it properly. Before starting the work you must prepare a time-table. You must decide that everyday you would complete a certain portion. By following the time-table, you can complete your work on time. Then you can plan for the next work. If we work everyday, we can work with concentration.'

The child argued, 'To work everyday means to worry everyday. It is better to finish it in

a few days.' Mama explained, 'The quality of such work is not good. And there is a probability that you may not finish your work on time. And if you get used to such habits, there won't be any discipline in your life. Then it becomes a habit to perform all the tasks in disorganized manner.'

The child did not want to accept his mistake. He told Mama, 'But work is always done!' Mama continued patiently, 'Do you get the time to check up your work whether you have written all the answers properly or not? Your handwriting also won't be good due to haste. Look! I will explain you in a different manner. How many times do you eat everyday?' The child replied, 'Two meals a day and twice a day snacks!' Mama asked, 'Now, if someone gives you food enough for four days to eat in a single day and then no food for four days, would it work?' The child cried out, 'Food for four days at one time? How could we eat so much? I would vomit and next four days no food! I would die!' Mama said, 'Right! You are absolutely right. Similarly if you finish entire homework at one time, you can not understand anything. As our stomach does not accept food in excess, it throws it out, similarly our brain also can not absorb it in excess. It will also reject. Therefore we must learn proper time management. Have you understood?' All the children asked him together, 'Have you understood? You must work daily.'

The child accepted his mistake frankly. He touched his ears in front of Mama. He told, 'Mama, you are my real Guru. You explained me my weakness. Now I will work everyday and never postpone.' Mama congratulated him, 'You have accepted your mistake in front of everyone. It is not easy. I am pleased.' Mama blessed him.

Later on, that child got very good marks in his exams.

Difficult words :

Accumulate - To pile up, collect

Burden - Load

Postpone - To delay

Points to ponder :

- By doing our routine work everyday, we can bring discipline in our lives and it also improves efficiency.
- Even small things play an important role in shaping up our lives.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. How did Mama impart good values in the children?
2. During the last few days of holidays, why did a child not visit Mama?
3. What reasons were given by the child for not completing the homework earlier?

-
-
4. Explain the advantages of finishing daily work everyday.
 5. Explain the disadvantages of postponing the daily work.

Fill in the blanks :

1. By narrating the incidents of God, he nourished the children _____.
2. Why is one member of your _____ missing?
3. His homework is incomplete for all the _____.
4. If we work a little _____ it does not get accumulated.
5. Before starting the work, we must prepare a _____.
6. By finishing the work hurriedly, the _____ of work is not good.
7. If we get used to such habits, there won't be any _____ in our life.
8. The child accepted his mistake _____.

Complete the following sentences :

1. Then you can plan _____ work with concentration.
2. The quality of such work _____ discipline in your life.
3. As our stomach does not _____ proper time management.

Advice To Parents

It was the day of Guru Poornima. Everyone was visiting their ideal Guru Mama for his blessings. At that time eight to ten persons entered at the same time. They were accompanied by their children. All of them bowed down to Mama. They asked their children to bow down. Children bowed slightly and got up. Parents asked, 'Kids, bow down properly.' Children repeated in the same way. Mama said, 'It is all right.' Mama asked children, 'Do you perform worship everyday?' Children replied, 'Sometimes we forget.' Mama explained, 'We must worship God everyday. How long does it take? Only fifteen to twenty minutes. You must spare this much time for God. Do you remember Aarti of God?' Children replied, 'We can sing along with the group.' Mama asked, 'Do you remember Aarti of Bapashri?' Children replied, 'We do not know that properly.'

Parents of the children complained, 'Mama, children these days are not interested in such things. They do not feel attracted towards God. They spend whole day in meaningless

mischieves.' Mama sent children outside to play. Then he spoke, 'Children are like tender plants. You can mould them the way you want. Their life is like a clean slate. We can write on it, whatever we want. Accordingly their lives shape up. Generally, children imitate their parents. You must make a rule to perform Aarti, together every morning & evening at home. By following such rules, children can be taught. If elders are not present for Aarti, children also would not remain present. You must sing even Bapashri's Aarti fully. Every day you must arrange a family meeting and recite one 'Vachanamrit', one 'Bapashri ni Vaat' (Sermons of Bapashri) and 'Nitya Niyam'. This does not take more than one hour. We must do this much to please God. If elders could improve their behaviour, automatically the behaviour of the children is improved. Daily an hour spent in this manner can shape up our children's lives. It becomes a part of their lives. Then there won't be an excuse like 'No time'. It becomes a daily routine.

To impart good values to the children, elders must behave in proper manner. When children are around, you must not spend a long time in worship-devotion. Otherwise children would be bored. They will do it whole heartedly for a short while only.' The elders understood Mama's advice. They promised Mama, 'Mama

we will improve our behaviour. We shall impart good values to our children.' Mama was pleased. Thus, on Guru Poornima, the parents learnt a meaningful lesson.

Difficult words :

Impart - To give

Good values - Virtues or good principle

Points to ponder :

- If the parents behave properly, even the children behave properly.
- Mama teaches us that in front of children, their parents should not be advised, their drawbacks should not be discussed. This could create an unfavourable impression on children.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. On which day did everyone visit Mama for his blessings?
2. How did the kids bow down to Mama?
3. What did Mama ask to the kids?
4. What did the parents complain about the kids?
5. How are children?
6. Everyday, what rules should be followed at home?

Fill in the blanks :

1. It was the day of _____.

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2. Children are like _____.
 3. You must recite the whole Aarti of _____ also.
 4. Everyday you must arrange a _____.
 5. If the _____ behave properly, automatically the children will _____ properly.
 6. Daily _____ spent in this manner could shape up children's lives.



Utilizing the Spare Time

It was a quiet afternoon. Mama was taking rest. Outside children were making noise. Mama went out to check up. He noticed that children were standing outside the Mission hall. They were plucking the flowers from potted plants. Other children were scattering the flower petals on the floor. Mama called the children. Mama asked, 'What were you doing?' Children replied, 'Nothing, we were standing there and talking.' Mama asked, 'Who spoiled these flowers?' Children replied, 'While talking, we plucked them.' Mama asked, 'Those flowers were looking good on the plants or are they looking beautiful scattered on the floor?' Children did not reply. Mama continued, 'Flowers are ornaments of a plant. They look good on the plants and at the feet of God. By offering flowers to God, the soul of the plant attains liberation. It considers itself fulfilled.'

Children apologized, 'We are sorry, Mama. Now, we shall not pluck flowers.' Mama asked, 'Don't you have anything to do?' Children replied, 'What should we do? We are feeling bored.' Mama

suggested, 'Play some game.' Children complained, 'Nobody allows us to play in the noon.' Mama said, 'Play some indoor game.' Children inquired, 'What could we play?' Mama said, 'You can write a story or a poem. You can read good books. You can learn to sing Keertan or you can learn music. At noon, if you can not exercise your body, then you can sharpen your mind. You can draw good pictures. You can narrate the incidents of God to each other. You can discuss new inventions. Why are you wasting time in gossip? You can do any creative activity. Every one has some talent. We can develop the talent in our spare time. Creative activities give us self satisfaction. We can be helpful to others.' A child said, 'I do not enjoy such activities.' Mama suggested, 'You are studying in English medium, isn't it! Can you teach English to those who are studying in Gujarati medium?' The child said, 'Yes, I love teaching.' He told a child studying in Gujarati medium, 'Come on. Let me teach you English.' Other children said, 'We shall make drawings.' A child said, 'I will write a story. Mama, would you read my story?' Mama encouraged, 'Certainly. Please, write a beautiful story. I will check up everybody's work.' The children were delighted. They thought, 'Mama will check up our work. We shall please Mama by showing him our best work. Therefore, he will bless us.'

All the children were busy working on their favourite subject.

Difficult words :

Invention - A new device or thing

Gossip - Idle talk

Talent - Special, natural ability

Points to ponder :

- Mama teaches the children that even a small living being like a plant could be liberated.
- Mama used to take care that the children should develop their abilities by doing some creative activity.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. At what time children were making noise?
2. What were the children doing near the Mission hall?
3. Where do the flowers look good?
4. Which activities did Mama suggest the children to do in spare time?

Complete the following sentences :

1. At noon, if you can not exercise _____ the incidents of God to each other.
2. We can develop the talent _____ give us self satisfaction.

Fortunate Child

Once, a couple visited Mama for his Darshan. They carried a small child with them. The child was learning to speak. Immediately he went and sat next to Mama. Mama carressed his head. Mama was talking to the couple. The child was looking at the rosary in Mama's hand. Every few seconds, he would touch it. When the child touched it, Mama's attention got diverted there. Again he would continue. Again the child touched the rosary. Mama looked at him. The child spoke in his sweet and not very clear language, 'Give - Give.' Mama took out sugar cube from the cupboard and gave it to child. The child shook his head to refuse. Mother of the child said, 'He does not want sugar cube.' Again the child spoke, 'Give - Give.' Mama asked, 'What does he want?' The child pulled the rosary from Mama's hand. His mother said, 'Mama, he wants the rosary.' Mama said, 'You should not take it.'

Mama tried to give him a coin. The child again shook his head to refuse. Mama laughed. The child held the rosary and continuously spoke,

'Give Give Give.' Mama was delighted. He gave the rosary to the child. After having rosary the child sat down quietly. Mama said, 'This child is a very advanced soul. Therefore, he likes rosary. Otherwise, a child drops everything seeing the sugar cube. This child will be a great devotee of God when he grows up. He will be wise and clever.' The parents were full of joy by having such blessings for their child. And the child received the rare gift which no one could have attained - The rosary of Mama with his blessings.

Difficult words :

Rosary - String of beads used for chanting name of God

Diverted - Turn aside from

Advanced soul - Spiritually developed soul

Points to ponder :

- Some times a child pleases a Mukta through his sweet language and attains a rare gift which even elders could not attain.
- An Anadimukta can distinguish between the souls and predict or foretell their future.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. Where did the child sit down?
2. What was the child looking at?
3. What did Mama try to give the child?

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4. What was the child asking for from Mama?
 5. What blessings did Mama grant to the child?

Fill in the blanks :

1. The child was looking at the _____ in
Mama's hands.
2. The child spoke in his sweet and not so clear
language _____.
3. This child is an _____ soul.
4. This child will be a great devotee of _____.
5. The child received the rosary _____
by Mama.



Cured the Illness

Once a child came to Mama. He was panting badly. He bowed down to Mama and sat down. Mama asked, 'Why are you panting so badly?' The child replied, 'I have some problem in my heart. Therefore, I am not able to walk long distance. I can not run at all. I keep watching all the kids when they are playing.' As if the child wanted to tell everything to Mama, he spoke, 'Mama, Mummy does not give me so many things to eat. She says that I would start wheezing and she would have to take me to the doctor - I feel like eating tasty food.'

Mama said, 'So sad! This is big trouble for a small child like you. Do you take medicines?' The child replied, 'When I grow up, they will operate on me.' Mama thought, 'Till he grows up, does he have to remain like this? When he grows up, what is he going to play? At this age children are enthusiastic to play. They enjoy eating good food. This is not fair.' Mama felt very sad in his heart. He felt a great pity on the child. Mama stood in front of God for a while. Then he went to the

child. He closed his eyes and rubbed his hand on the heart of the child. He chanted the name of God. He kept his hands on the child's head and blessed him. He put on a Kumkum dot on the child's forehead and told, 'Go. Now you can play as much as you want.' The child asked, 'Can I play all those games, which other children play?' Mama consented, 'Yes, you can play whatever game you like.' The child asked, 'Can I play catch 'n' catch also?' Mama replied, 'Yes, you can run as long as you want. Nothing will happen to you.' The child had true affection for Mama. He had faith and belief in Mama's words. He was delighted. He spoke to Mama, 'Mama, please say that I could eat whatever I want to eat.' Mama laughed and said, 'Yes, you can eat whatever you like.' The child asked, 'If I eat whatever I like wouldn't I get wheezing? Wouldn't I start coughing? Wouldn't I have to rush to a doctor?' Mama assured him, 'No, not at all. Nothing will happen to you.'

The child was clapping and jumping. He asked once again to confirm, 'So can I go home and have ice-cream?' Mama caressed his head and replied, 'You can eat everything. Never forget that God has cured your disease.' The child said, 'You have cured my disease. You had rubbed your hand.' Mama said, 'I prayed to God and God has cured your disease. Therefore, never forget God. You must always remember God while doing any

activity.' The child promised. 'I will certainly follow it. I will never forget God.' The child bowed down to Mama and went back home. He told everyone at home. The father of the child went to see Mama. Before he could say anything, Mama said, 'Today Maharaj has blessed the child. He felt pity, seeing your child suffering and Maharaj cured him.' Father of the child fell down at the feet of Mama with deep reverence.

Difficult words :

Wheezing - Whistling sound of heavy breathing

To suffer - Endure pain

Panting - Rapid and heavy breathing

Fair - Just, according to rules

Points to ponder :

- Through an Anadimukta, Shreeji Maharaj Himself performs all the tasks and miracles.
- Mama was very fond of children. He used to free them from all the troubles immediately.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. Why was the child panting?
2. How did Mama cure the child?
3. What did Mama ask the child to remember?
4. Whom should we remember before beginning any work?

Fill in the blanks :

1. I have some problem in my _____.
2. Go and from today you can _____
as much as you _____.
3. So, can I go home and have _____?
4. _____ has cured your disease. Never
_____ God.



A Perfectionist

It was Sunday. Children went to Mama to offer their service. Mama was in the Gyan Bhavan Library. Children went there. Mama welcomed them, 'So, all of you have come! Let us begin. Today we have to clean all the books. We have to clean the racks also. And then we will arrange the books again. By arranging the books properly, we can find them easily whenever we require it.' A child reminded, 'Mama, only a few days back, we had cleaned all the racks.' Mama explained, 'If we do not look after the books, they get spoiled. We must clean them every few days.' The child argued, 'But, Mama, we can not see any dust.'

Mama took him to the rack. He opened it and asked the child, 'Rub your hand on the shelf.' The child rubbed his hand. He said, 'Very little dust is there.' Mama explained, 'We must clean the dust when it is less. Otherwise, imagine how much dust would collect? Insects breed in the dust and the books would be spoiled. We must maintain cleanliness everywhere. Wherever there is cleanliness, God resides there.'

Cleanliness is favourable to God. Cleanliness is Godliness.' The child said, 'Now, I will not feel lazy in maintaining cleanliness.' A lot of time was spent in cleaning the books. Mama said, 'In the afternoon, there is assembly. All of you go to the assembly hall, clean it up and spread the carpet. I will join you in a short while.' Children went to the assembly hall. They were cleaning the hall while talking simultaneously. Cleaning was over. All of them together spread the carpet.

Mama arrived there. He noticed that the carpet was not spread properly. Mama called them, 'Children, come here. Children thought that Mama had called them because he was pleased. Children approached. Mama asked, 'Who has spread the carpet?' Children replied, 'All of us together have spread it.' Mama asked, 'All of you together couldn't spread it properly?' Children asked, 'Why, Mama, it is looking all right.' Mama said, 'Is this all right? It is slanting, not straight. Check up, both the ends of the carpet are in one line?' A child asked, 'There is a slight difference Mama, so what?'

Mama explained, 'There should be accuracy in life, isn't it? If you work with remembrance of God, work could be performed accurately. We can work with concentration. Work performed with concentration is accurate and perfect. It would be completed successfully. By completing tasks

successfully, our life becomes successful. Every one must develop the quality of working with total concentration and accuracy. Maharaj likes this quality. Whoever has developed this quality, attains the bliss of God. By cultivating such habit, we can easily concentrate on the idol of God while meditating. We can learn to meditate easily. We can meditate accurately and we can easily visualize the idol in our heart. Concentration cannot be cultivated by working in clumsy and disorganized manner. Neatness is also as important as accuracy.'

A child said, 'Wow! Mama, we were talking about spreading the carpet. You have linked the whole incident to God.' Another child said, 'Mama has explained in such a simple and beautiful manner that we will cultivate the virtues of accuracy, concentration and cleanliness in life.' Another child spoke, 'In Mama's house, everything is placed at a particular place in neat and organized manner. We also must learn to live like that.' Mama explained, 'Your Masi has blended all these virtues in her life. Every lady should learn it from her. If they learn these virtues, they will never have any problems at their in-law's place.'

Difficult words :

Rack - Frame work for holding things

Shelf - Thin, flat board for holding things

Breed - To produce

Accuracy - Exactly correct

Clumsy - Awkward

To cultivate - To grow, to develop

Points to ponder :

- Maharaj likes the virtues like cleanliness, accuracy and perfection which brings us closer to Mahaprabhuji.
- We can understand the importance of certain qualities only when an Anadimukta explains it to us.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. On Sunday, where did all the children go?
2. What did Mama ask the children to clean up?
3. Why did the child refuse to clean the racks and books?
4. How was the carpet spread by the children?
5. How is the work performed with the remembrance of God?
6. What are the virtues preferred by God?
7. How the virtues which have been incorporated in life, are beneficial while meditating?
8. From whom should the ladies learn?
9. What virtues should the ladies learn from Masi and develop them in life?



Equal Importance Of Appearance And Disappearance

Sixteenth February. It was the day of appearance of Mama. Mama's disciples were sitting in the assembly hall. Children had arrived early in the assembly hall. The disciple said, 'Children, today is your day. Today you have to perform during assembly. Do you know, why do children perform on this day?' Children replied, 'Today is Mama's birthday.' A disciple said, 'We should not call it as birthday of an Anadimukta. Birthday, day of demise etc. are for the beings of this world. These days are for those who are bound by Karma. For Anadimuktas, this does not apply. When they arrive on this Earth, it is called the day of appearance and when they leave this Earth, it is called the day of disappearance.'

Mama was very fond of children. He used to say, 'Children are very innocent and straight forward. Such children are favourable to Prabhuji also. Therefore, he has gifted his day of appearance to children. We celebrate that day as 'Satsang Bal Din'. And therefore you have

to perform, today.'

A child asked, 'Today, Mama is not in his physical body. Then why do we celebrate his birthday.... er.... sorry, I forget, his day of appearance?' The disciple explained, 'It is a very good question. Anandimuktas have all the divine liberating attributes of Shreeji Maharaj. They spend their lives on this Earth in an ideal manner. On this day, we remember their virtues. We intend to develop similar virtues in our lives. We pray to Maharaj and Mama that we shall sincerely endeavour to live an ideal life like Mama. By remembering his life, his virtues and his ideals we should feel inspired and strong enough to follow his foot steps and we ask for Mama's blessings for the same. For all these reasons, we celebrate the day of his appearance.'

Another child asked, 'Now, Mama is not there. So how could he bless us?' The disciple explained, 'We should never feel that Mama is not around. He is always with us in his divine form. We must pray in the Mission in front of the idols of Shreeji Maharaj, Bapashri and Mama. They listen to our prayers and respond with their blessings.' The child asked, 'Earlier as Mama used to bless and the troubles used to vanish. Is it possible to experience the same now also?' The disciple assured, 'Why not? If we pray with true feelings, then Mama would definitely respond to

our prayers. And the blessings could manifest as earlier. Mama was very fond of kids. He would certainly respond to their prayers.' A child asked, 'We have understood why should we celebrate Mama's day of appearance. But why do we celebrate Mama's day of disappearance ceremoniously.' The disciple explained, 'An Anadimukta never comes or goes.' The child asked, 'What does that mean. I could not understand.' The disciple said, 'Anadimukta is always experiencing the bliss of unity with divine form of God. They appear on this Earth through their intent. That time also they are experiencing the bliss of unity with Maharaj. When they disappear from this Earth, they get united with the divine form of God in the form of intent. Thus, they are always absorbed into the bliss of divine form of God. Therefore, it is said that they neither come nor go. It is equally important when a Mukta appears or disappears. Memory of both the days is equally liberating.

To appear on this Earth is a play for them. Similarly to disappear from this Earth is also their divine playful characteristic. Both the days are equally important. Remembering both the days is equivalent to remembering Anadimukta himself. Remembrance of an Anadimukta helps us to cultivate new aspirations in life, understanding and ideal virtues. It inspires us to divert our

senses towards God. Therefore, both the days should be remembered and celebrated by performing Brahm Yagya. Do you remember the day of disappearance of Mama?' Children replied, 'September, 20, 1997 A.D.' The disciple asked, 'Do you remember Gujarati year, month and day?' Children replied, 'We do not remember.' The disciple informed, 'Samvat 2053, Bhadrva Vadi Pancham, Saturday noon 12:25 p.m. We must remember all these details. We remember our birthday, we remember our relatives', friends' birthdays. Mama is our Guru. He has done many favours to us. He has taught us how to live our lives. He has blessed us in the best possible way. So many times, he has saved us from a lot of troubles. He has reformed our bad habits. He has forgiven our mistakes. He has suffered a lot for us. He has showered his affection on us. And now also he is showering his grace.

The biggest favour of Mama on us is the establishment of 'Shri Swaminarayan Divine Mission.' Where omnibeneficial activities are performed. We perform Brahm Yagyas like knowledge, meditation, prayer, Keertan etc. in meditation hall. We also organize the assembly for the children here. Here children can develop their hidden talents. They develop their spiritual qualities. They learn a lot of new things. Mama has established a library also. Here he has collected all

types of books, like books for the children for their personal growth, spiritual books describing true knowledge about God, fables, biographies of dignitaries, recipe books for ladies, health and fitness related books, books related to education etc. He has installed idols in the Mission and has also blessed that if we go and pray there, God will accept all the auspicious prayers. What a wonderful blessing! Such infinite favours which we can not forget. We must never forget the divine, playful life span of such a great Guru. Remembrance of the birthdays of our relatives is not at all beneficial. But remembrance of the days of appearance and disappearance of an Anadimukta is tremendously spiritual and liberating.

On these days, we must try to follow his teachings in our lives. We should sincerely try to live an ideal life like him. When we do not repeat the mistakes, corrected by him, we are his dear children in real sense.'

Today children had understood the real greatness of Mama. All the children performed the Brahm Yagya with total devotion.

Difficult words :

Endeavour - Sincere efforts

Vanish - To disappear

Manifest - To materialize

Ceremoniously - Celebrating formally

Points to ponder :

- The day of appearance and the day of disappearance of an Anadimukta are equally important. Therefore, we must remember both the days and celebrate them ceremoniously. This pleases Maharaj.
- The appearance of an Anadimukta is for the salvation of the living beings. Their lifestyle is the ideal lifestyle. Their remembrance is also liberating.
- We should never forget the favours done by an Anadimukta. We must sincerely try to follow his teachings in our lives.

Exercise

Answer the following questions :

1. Mention the day of appearance of Mama.
2. Mention the year, month and day as per English and Gujarati calender of the day of disappearance of Mama.
3. To whom has Mama dedicated his day of appearance? Why?
4. Why the day of appearance of Mama should not be called as his birthday?
5. Recently, how does Mama shower his blessings?
6. By establishing which institution, Mama has obliged us?

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7. Which programs are being performed in meditation hall?
 8. What type of books are there in the library?
 9. What blessings has Mama granted while installing the idol?
 10. When could we be called as favourite children of Mama?



S

*What does Shri Swaminarayan
Divine Mission stand for?*



With a view of translating the omnibeneficient divine message of Lord Shri Swaminarayan into action for the spiritual and worldly happiness of mankind:

- (a) We try to provide financial assistance to the needy without any discrimination and uphold the ideal of seva-sadavrat, selfless service.*
 - (b) We are planning to establish and run health-centres and hospitals. We are offering assistance to institutions providing medical help to the people.*
 - (c) We construct, develop and maintain temples and spiritual centres, commemorating great spiritual leaders with a view to bringing peace, happiness and divine joy to people.*
 - (d) We encourage creative activities aimed at educating people through literature and art.*
 - (e) To satisfy the spiritual thirst of the devotees we want to establish and*
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manage libraries, research centres and museums or assist individuals and institutions involved in such activities.

(f) We strive to achieve harmony and amity in our society by publishing books that enhance our cultural and spiritual life and take mankind on the path of progress and perfection and thus elevate man to the spiritual heights.

Therefore, we want

(1) to undertake and organise activities aimed at strengthening and improving the moral standards which form the basis of our social life.

(2) to launch programmes for the spread of universal brotherhood, social unity, fellow-feeling, amity, compassion that will end all discords and establish permanent peace; for without peace there cannot be progress.

(3) to organise conferences to bring all the religions and warring groups on a common platform and strive for harmony among them for the social and spiritual welfare of mankind.

The Mission, through constructive programmes and spiritual activities, aims at total development of human society in order to make it worthy of receiving the divine bliss through communion with God.
