



Akram Express

Pride



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**Akram Express****Pride****Editorial**

Friends, we all know that when any of our friend or cousin visits our home then we become so excited in showing off our belongings like new clothes, toys, games etc. to them and feel proud about it. Isn't it true? Yes, it is. Now do you know what is such behaviour called?

Ego? No, it is called Pride, an inflated form of Ego. We humiliate others just for our fun and hurt them, but we do not realize that we have made a mistake in doing so.

In this edition, Pujya Dadashri has given in-depth information on the subject of Pride.

Dimple Mehta

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Dadaji says



What is Pride? Showing off our possessions to people is called Pride. Without being asked we show off our property to others, "look all this is mine, these four buildings," is called Pride. Nobody has asked still he likes to display before others. There is a constant craving in his mind that, "I just get an opportunity and I show my things." He would not stop showing his newly bought pair of shoes worth Rs. 150/-, "Did you see my shoes?" Now your shoes don't interest me, it is of no use to me then why do you keep showing it to me? But what we would say, "Oh, very nice, you bought a lovely pair of shoes." And he feels satisfied. "I'm so good looking, there is no one better than me" is another form of Pride. A

constant feeling and effort 'I am superior to him' is employed by the person in Pride. If it is correct to take Pride, then only a Gyani Purush (an Enlightened One) has the right But HE never does it.

Nature punishes all who take Pride and brings their ego to normality. And so one should not be proud of the cars possessed or else we start losing it all one by one. One should be always humble. Our behaviour should be more humble with the increasing number of possessions with us. We should do Pratikraman (ask for forgiveness) of all who have felt hurt by our ego. Every step of ours is such that nobody is hurt by us.

I am the best!!



To believe that 'I am great' is pride.

Dangers of Pride

Marichi's pride

This incident had happened during the time of Lord Rushabdev (the first Tirthankara of Bharat Kshetra). His grandson named Marichi, the son of Chakravati King Bharat, had accepted monkhood under Lord Rushabdev. It was a summer time and they all were traveling without any vehicle on their feet from one village to another. Marichi was finding it uncomfortable walking barefooted due to the heat. Upon that the wind was continuously blowing hot air giving a burning feeling to their bodies. Bad odour started emitting from their bodies due to sweat. All this made him think, "It is difficult to lead a life of a monk. Also, it is not advisable to return home for the sake of our prestige." This made him find a middle-way to ease the situation. Taking few liberties he still remained a monk and wandered with all. He would set his camp somewhere nearby to Lord Rushabdev's place of stay. Thus, neither a monk nor a householder. However, due to high regards for Lord he would always guide others who came to his shelter seeking for true religion to go to Lord Rushabdev only.

One day Chakravati King Bharat came to pay his homage to the Lord. After having heard Lord's spiritual discourse he humbly asked a question, "Is there any Soul, present with us, who shall be a future Tirthankara in this time-cycle?" Lord

replied, "Yes, your own son Marichi is destined to be the 24th Tirthankara of this time-cycle and will be renowned as Mahavira. Prior to that he will also become the first Vasudeva named Tripustha and later a Chakravati named Priyamtira."

This overwhelmed the King and he set to pay



homage to Marichi. He exclaimed, "I bow to the One who shall be the first Vasudeva of this time-cycle by the name Tripustha, then a Chakravati King and finally the 24th Tirthankara too. I bow to your rank of a Tirthankara!" and saying so he took three rounds in devotion around Marichi.

Marichi felt very delighted. He thought to himself, "Oh! I will be renowned as the first Vasudeva in all Nine. Then a Chakravati King and finally the Last Tirthankara of this time-cycle! My Grandfather is the first Tirthankara, my father is the first Chakravati and this makes my dynasty the best amongst all. Like the Sun that is superior amongst all celestial bodies and the Moon that is superior amongst all the stars!" This made him feel proud of his dynasty to such an extent that he got bound by demerit karmas leading to birth in lower grades for the next lives.

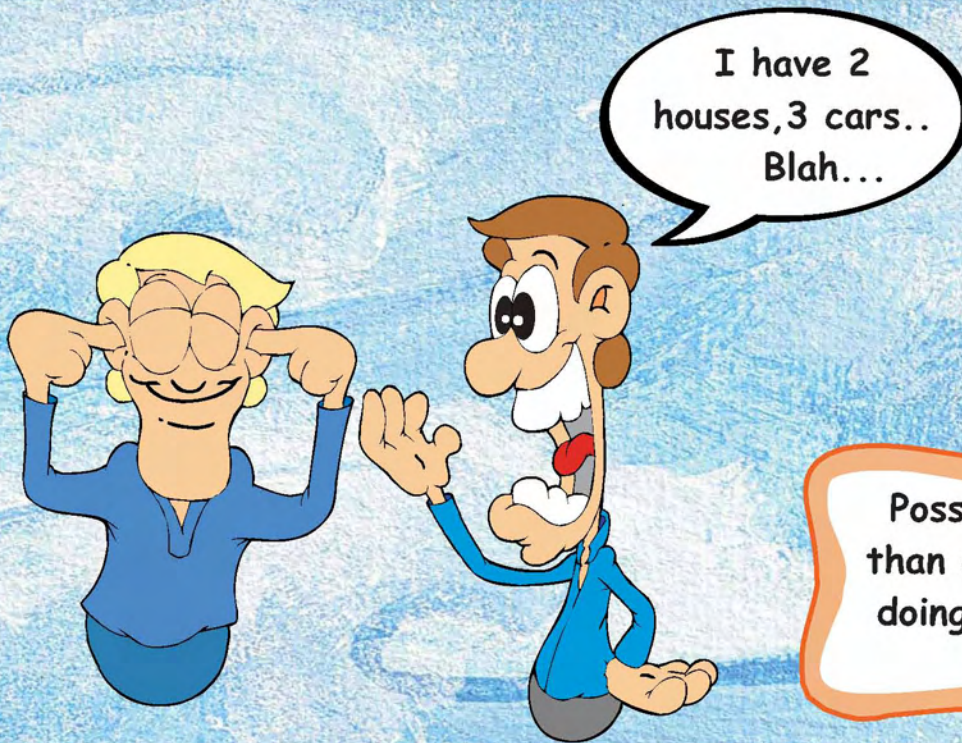
Thus you see friends, it is dangerous to boast over one's dynasty leading to birth in lower grades? Thus, Boasting and pride leads to a downfall.

Pride of Strength

This had happened during Lord Mahavira's time. The King of Magadha State was fond of hunting. On one such occasion he saw a beautiful deer and wished to hunt the poor animal. He aimed the deer with his bow and arrow and killed it with his might. The arrow pierced through the deer's body and got stuck in a tree's trunk. This cruel act made him feel proud of his strength and he started rejoicing in amazement and ego, "Hey, did you all see that? Wasn't that amazing! Don't you all think I'm matchless in this whole universe?" thus forgetting the damage caused by killing one living creature of this world. Instead of regretting for his misdeed, he felt even more proud of his strength and kept on praising himself in sheer happiness. As a result of this he bound demerit karmas for the next life leading to hell.

Did you realize friends that how dangerous it is to feel proud of one's strength and not understand the result leading to lower grade birth.

Absolutely! new & different!



Possessing more than our needs and doing show off is Pride.

I look so handsome than others in the society.



We consider ourselves smarter than others and disrespect them is our Pride

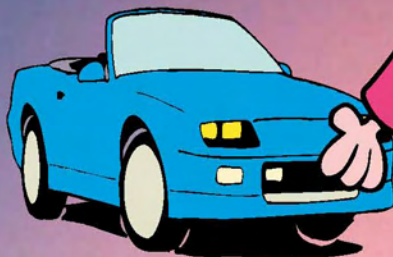


Hey, look at my motorbike and look at your bicycle, it will take you more than an hour to reach School, ha!



It is called Pride to propagate even though not been asked for.

Hey, I got a new car none of my friends have such a wonderful car.



Knowledge blossoms where Pride is absent and vice-versa.

The Proud Red Rose

It was spring time and a beautiful red rose blossomed in a forest. Many kinds of trees and plants grew there. As the rose looked around, a pine tree nearby said, "What a beautiful flower! I wish I was that lovely." Another tree besides it said, "Dear pine do not be sad, we can not have everything."

The rose turned its head and remarked, "It seems that I am the most beautiful plant in this forest." A sunflower raised its yellow head and asked, "Why do you say that? In this forest there are many beautiful plants. You are just one of them." The red rose replied, "I see everyone looking at me and admiring me." Then the rose looked at a cactus nearby and said, "Look at that ugly plant full of thorns. Nobody even looks at him!"

The pine tree said, "Red rose, what kind of talk is this? Who can say what beauty is? Who decides who is beautiful? You have thorns too on you."

The proud red rose looked angrily at the pine and said, "I thought you had good taste! You do not know at all what beauty is. How can you compare my thorns to that of the cactus?"

All the trees were stunned at this and said, "What a proud flower, this



pride is not good and you will suffer for this later." The rose got carried away in pride and struggled to move its roots away from cactus but did not succeed.

As the days passed the red rose would give hatred looks at the cactus and say insulting things like, "This plant is useless,

it is to be its neighbour." The humble cactus remained quiet but never got upset, it even tried to advise the rose, saying, "Nature did not create any form of life without a purpose."

Spring passed and the weather became very warm. Life became difficult in the forest as the birds, plants, and animals needed to drink. They moved in forest here and there in search of water and everybody was worried as it did not rain at all. The red rose began to wilt.



One day the rose saw sparrows stick their beaks into the cactus and then fly away, refreshed. This was puzzling, and the red rose asked the pine tree what the birds were doing. The pine tree explained that the birds got water from the cactus. "Does it not hurt when they make holes?" asked the rose. "Yes it does hurt, but the cactus does not like to see any bird suffer instead it feels happy to quench their thirst. Birds feel happy and cactus too feels happy!" replied the pine.

The rose opened its eyes in wonder and said, "Does the cactus have water in this terrible summer?" Pine answered, "Yes, you can also drink from it. The sparrow can bring water to you if you ask the cactus for help." The red rose felt too ashamed of its past words and behaviour to ask for water from the cactus, but still finally it did ask the cactus for help. The cactus kindly agreed and requested the birds to fill their beaks with water and give to the rose. Thus, the

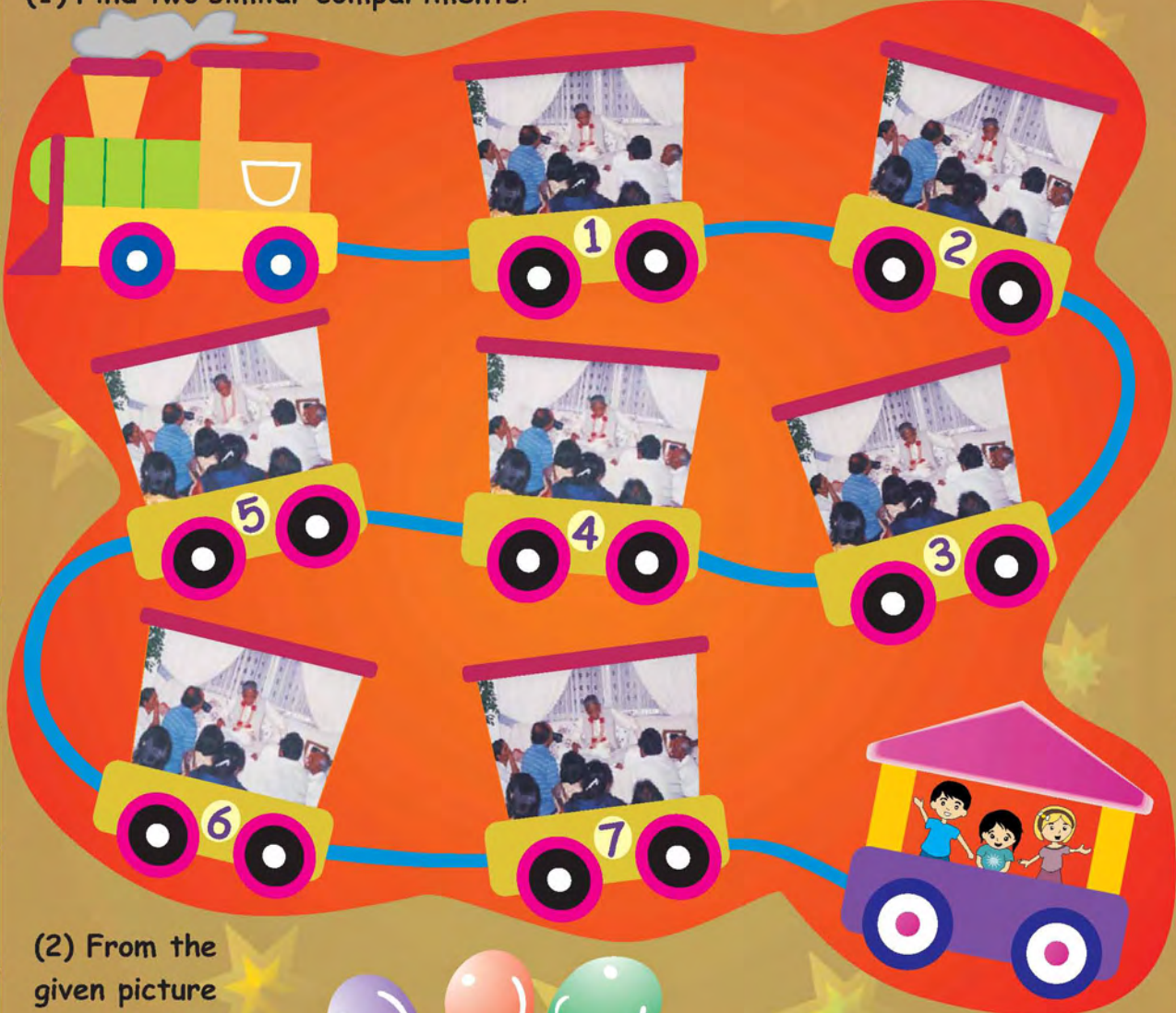
birds did so and watered the rose's roots.



On this the rose felt embarrassed and its heart filled with emotions. It felt sorry about its past behaviour. The proud rose understood that 'Each One is Unique' with some attribute bestowed by nature. We should not boost over our attributes and live in Pride.

Let's Play...

(1) Find two similar compartments.



(2) From the given picture match the Balloon to the corresponding Year.



(3) How can you arrange six lines so that each line touches all of the others.



Introspect Within !

Radhika was a good singer. Her voice was liked by everyone at home, in family and at school too. She would practice daily. Gradually she became famous everywhere. She started getting invitations for singing in events like Navratri, bhakti, birthday parties and cultural shows. That way she started believing to be the best singer amongst all. And started behaving rudely with others. She would consider her friends inferior, insult elders and pull leg & tease people for their inabilities.



On one such occasion she was invited to sing in a birthday party. As

always she was at her best. Everyone gave her a thunderous applause and did not stop congratulating in person. Radhika was soon on cloud nine. All served her and forced to eat more dishes and lot more ice-creams.

As a result of it the next day she got a sore throat. In the next two days she was to participate in a singing contest to be broadcasted on the television. But due to such a throat she was unable to do enough practice. She rushed to the doctor and took some medicinal pills, but all in vain. She grew nervous. And got her name cancelled from the competition.

And then it dawned upon her that "having a good voice was a nature's gift to her and not of her own ability. One should never feel proud of it. Pride deprives one from this gift."

Fill in the blanks from the above story:

- (1) A good voice is a _____ by nature.
- (2) A proud man forgets to _____ others.
- (3) One is _____ from his gift due to pride.
- (4) A proud man considers others _____.
- (5) We should never have _____ on our abilities.

Glimpses of Yatra



Hey Friends, do you know that Dada Bhagwan Parivar had organized a Special Yatra from Ahmedabad to South India by a Special Train where 1100 Mahatmas with Pujoyashree visited many beautiful places. Mahatmas named it 'Akram Express', the name given to our magazine.



There was excitement everywhere on the Ahmedabad railway station as Mahatmas boarded the train. Everyday we were served with delicious sweet & tasty spicy dishes four times a day. We were blessed with Pujoyashree's daily satsangs via speakers put in each compartment and also darshan at every halt. We experienced Pujoyashree's presence all the time. We spent our time in doing Bhakti, Vidhi (prayers) and applying the vision of Suddhatma in each one while walking

from one end of the train to another. The mornings would begin with the chants of 'Dada Bhagwan Na Aseem Jai Jaikar Ho'. It were the most wonderful & unique moments of pleasure!!

Our first stop was at Tirumala in Andra Pradesh. Here we visited various temples in a single day. Then we visited the famous temple of Lord Tirupati Balaji. We waited for 2 to 3 hours in the long darshan queues. It is known that more than 40,000 pilgrims visit here daily and spend whole night waiting in these long queues only for few seconds of glimpses of the Lord. However, our Pujoyashree got to do darshan for full 20 minutes. Pujoyashree did Aarti, Pujan, Bhaav Pratistha and then prayed for World Salvation (Jagat Kalyan)! All were delighted to hear this. As per the tradition many Mahatmas got their head shaved.

From there we went to visit Shravan Belgoda, a place of pilgrimage in Karnataka. We climbed 600 steps up a hill to pay homage to huge standing idol of Bahubaliji (son of



Lord Rushabhdev). Pujoyashree came up the hill on a 'doli' (palanquin carried by four people). As per the rules of the pilgrim place Pujoyashree did not hesitate in wearing a dhoti-khesh to do Pujan-Aarti and put his whole body at the feet's of Bahubaliji in devotion. Then Pujoyashree enlightened us with Bahubaliji's life incidences and finally we all did prayers.



Pujan of Bahubaliiji- Shravan Belgola



Huge statue of Bahubaliiji

Our next stop was Mysore where we visited Indian Emperor Tipu Sultan's Royal Palace-cum-Museum. It is a huge place with paintings of Goddesses as well as historical events all over its walls. In the center of the palace is placed a 80

kilo weighted Golden Throne occupied by the Emperor during special occasions only. Then Pujiyashree blessed us all in the Palace Gardens with special darshan.

Next was Munnar, a hill station of Kerala. All the hill tops were covered with beautiful tea gardens. While climbing the hills we came across many lovely waterfalls. We were taken to the tea museum giving information required in the making of a tea bag. Then we went on a dam to enjoy its Speed Boat Ride. Everyone reached the Echo Point and started screaming 'Suddhatma' (Pure Soul) to cherish the echo. Again hereto we were blessed with Pujiyashree's daily satsangs. We even did Garba-Bhakti by igniting a huge bonfire one night!

The famous Indian Port City Cochin was our next destination, where we took the pleasure of another boat ride in the Arabian Sea. We spotted two dolphins that made the ride more exciting. A gyan-vidhi was organized in a temple where more than 500 new interested people took gyan and became Mahatmas.



Boating in Munnar

Then was the final 49-hours long train journey back to the home-city of Ahmedabad. We did Bhakti-Garba, shared experiences and had great fun in the train. This was my first divine experience of 11 wonderful days in the divine shelter of the Gnani (Gnani Ni Chhaya Ma). Our joy was boundless as if we had been in Mahavideh Kshetra (Simandhar Swami's place of residence). It was a real Jackpot as Puja Dadashri always said. I am very eager to join the next Yatra and hope to see you all there!

Sweet Memories.....

This South India Yatra reminds me of one such Yatra with Pujya Nirumaa to Auli. It is a hill station in the State of Uttranchal, India. It is fully covered with snow almost throughout the year. We had to take the chair-car from the nearby ropeway station and from the destination we were to walk one kilometer to reach our hotel. We started from the ropeway at around



4 P.M. and by the time the second group reached it was already 6 P.M. and pitch dark. Being unaware that it would get so dark, we had no arrangements for a battery or lantern. By now two groups along with Nirumaa reached the hotel. However, the third group was still at the ropeway station. And there went off the lights it was a power failure to make the situation even worse. Now nothing could be seen. It was snow everywhere, like being stranded in the middle of a sea with a broken compass unaware of the right direction. Here at the hotel Nirumaa came to know that the last group was missing. She immediately asked an Aptaputra to take help from the hotel management by sending someone with a lantern and bring them all safely. The Aptaputra was in a dilemma, "no lantern or torch with me and if I go in this condition then chances are I myself get lost in this darkness." He immediately requested Nirumaa, "Nirumaa, please pray to Dada for Mahatmas' safety & well-being and they reach here safely." Niruma sat with all Mahatmas and started praying to Dadashri. Exactly an hour had passed and the bhakti too got over, there came the lights and the third & last group of Mahatmas entered in the hotel screaming in joy, 'Jai Sachidanand Nirumaa'.

Everyone was so happy to see Mahatmas back & safe. By now it was very late in the night. Nirumaa was also feeling physically very tired, but fresh & energetic from within. She immediately declared, "Let us all do bhakti and thank Dada" and all were overwhelmed with this. Nirumaa was present throughout the bhakti and the atmosphere became pure & divine.

Nirumaa deeply cared for each & every Mahatma. If any Mahatma was ever put to danger then Nirumaa would feel uncomfortable till the problem is solved. Nirumaa would do anything & everything for Mahatmas' happiness.

Answers to Puzzles

- (1) 3 and 7 are same (2) 2009 - Green Balloon. (3)
 2010 - Sky Blue Balloon.
 2011 - Orange Balloon.



Introspect Within!

Answers :

- (1) gift (2) respect (3) deprived (4) inferior. (5) Pride

My Vision

Form class I upto now, you have always scored good marks. This year, there is a new entrant in the class who is weak in studies. He wants to be your friend. Write to us how you will treat him.

Send your replies to us by the 25th of this month.

From the given one word below, you need to find two hidden words. To find the answer keep this page in front of the mirror, and look at the bottom line.



GOOD EVIL OPTICAL ILLUSION



My corner

A drawing competition was organized in my school and the topic given was 'what will I be when I grow up?' I did not know what to draw on that topic, but while reading Akram Express I saw a picture of a girl who was thinking, 'I will not help anybody and will only do my own work' Looking at the picture I thought to myself that, I don't want to be like her. Instead I will always be helpful to others. Then from that picture I drew a girl and wrote underneath, 'How would I be helpful to everyone?' And guess what, I stood first from my class in this competition. By drawing this picture, I got an inspiration to always help others, no matter what will I be when I grow up.

Name: Bhoomi Vadodaria, Simandhar City

Answer to previous Issue's 'My vision'

If all my friends go out to eat an ice-cream and forget to invite me then I will not feel bad or upset at all, instead I will tell them that it does not matter. In my mind I will set the understanding that my evidence was not to go out with my friends and eat ice-cream and whatever happened is justice, is result of scientific circumstantial evidence.

Name: Shruti Vyas, Ahmedabad

Good news... Good news... Good news

The most awaited news every Mahatma had longed for, i.e. a wonderful Dada's School is coming up from this June 2009.

Name: 'Amba School for Excellence'

Medium: GUJARATI

Grades: Jr. K.G. to 7th standard

Admission Forms available from 16th February 2009 from First Floor of Gurukul, Simandhar City.

Contact: 079-39830888

Friends, do write in to us about "Your Dream School" at the earliest.

