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WHY SO?



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Friends,

The series of happy and sad moments is constantly going on in everyone's lives. Have you ever wondered why it is so? Why does happiness not remain forever? Why does unhappiness come even though one does not wish for it? The fact is that, happiness and unhappiness are actually the result of one's merit and demerit karmas.

In the previous issue we learnt all about paap and punya (merit and demerit karmas). In other words it is known as 'karmas'. You get a life form in accordance with the karmas bound in order to suffer them. In this issue, let us understand 'karma' at the basic level without going into too much depth.

Param Pujya Dadashri has revealed the entire science of karma. Answers to questions like what is karma?, how is it bound?, what are the fruits of the various kinds of karmas?, how can one free oneself from karmas? etc. have been unfolded beautifully by Param Pujya Dadashri. In this issue, we shall understand the basic information on karma.

- Dimple Mehta

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Dadaji Says...

Whatever we have to suffer in our life is a result of our own karmas. Hence, it is our own mistake. Nobody else is at fault. Right now, if someone hurts me, then it is only a result of my own karmas. If we plant a neem tree and hope to get mangoes, then it won't do, will it? You reap the fruits of whatever seeds you sowed. In the same way, we have to suffer the results of the karmas that we bind.

Questioner: How are karmas bound?

Dadashri: Karmas can not be seen. They are charged very subtly. Karmas are bound only on the basis of one's intentions, irrespective of what one's action may be. The type of intentions one has, defines the kind of karmas that will be bound, e.g. a person's actions from the exterior may be that of giving a donation while within he might feel that it is not worth donating a single penny. Then, in spite of doing a good deed, he binds demerit karma (paap). On the other hand, there may be a person who is unable to donate due to lack of funds, but feels from within that if he had any money, he

would definitely donate it. Then, in spite of not donating any money, he binds merit karma (punya). This is how it is. Therefore, do not spoil your intentions. The intention to give happiness to others, binds merit karmas and the intention to hurt others, binds demerit karmas.

Questioner: What are the results of merit and demerit karmas?

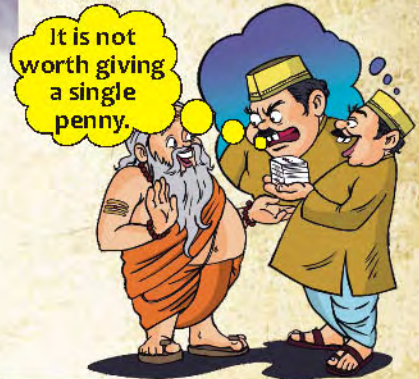
Dadashri: When merit karmas come into fruition then one feels happiness and peace, and it gives happiness to the heart, whereas when demerit karmas come into fruition then, unfavorable things happen, we feel uneasiness and we have a hard time.

Questioner: Will the deeds done in this lifetime bear fruits in the same lifetime or the next?

Dadashri: In the next lifetime. The happiness or the grief that you are experiencing now is all a result of the merit or demerit karmas charged in your previous life.

As a rule, repentance over any action or deed destroys the results of those deeds to a large extent. So when one has

bad intentions for others, then these intentions should be erased from the mind by saying, "Oh Dada Bhagwan, I have made a mistake. I will not repeat this mistake again." By asking for forgiveness in this way, the demerit karmas that were bound are immediately erased.



A person's actions from the exterior may be that of giving a donation while within he might feel that it is not worth donating a single penny. Then, in spite of doing a good deed, he binds demerit karma (paap). On the other hand, there may be a person who is unable to donate due to lack of funds, but feels from within that if he had any money, he would definitely donate it. Then, in spite of not donating any money, he binds merit karma (punya). This is how it is. Therefore, do not spoil your intentions.



Absolutely New and Different !



The results of karmas committed together also have to be borne together, e.g. If a person has committed a robbery single handedly, then the result of that karma will also have to be borne solely by him. While, if a gang of ten people commit a robbery together, then the result of that karma will have to borne by the ten people together. For instance, the same ten people may travel together in a car, meet with an accident and get injured.



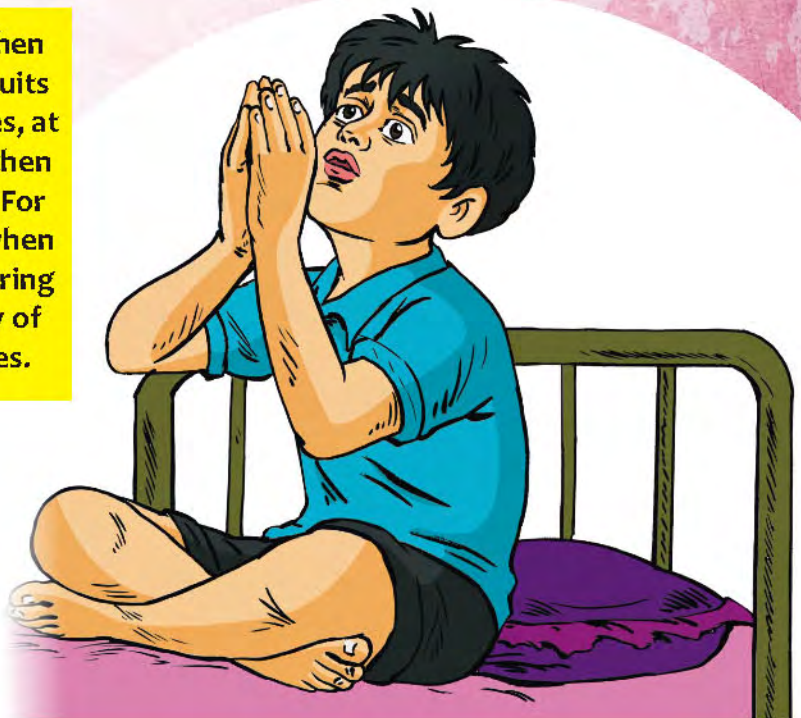
Only humans have the right to bind karma. Animals and celestial beings cannot bind karmas.





If you hurt any living being to the slightest extent, you will have to bear the result of those karmas, e.g. If one hurts dogs and cats, harasses them or kills them – as a result one may fall ill.

In circumstances when demerit karmas bear fruits i.e. when suffering arises, at that time, if one prays then one gets a little peace. For example, if one prays when one is suffering pain during an illness, the intensity of the suffering decreases.





Queen Kalavati

King Shankraj of Ujjain had a queen named Kalavati. Once, a grand celebration was held in the palace, on an auspicious occasion when the queen's brother gifted her a jewellery box. The box contained very beautiful bangles studded with precious gems. When the bangles adorned the queen's hands, they looked all the more beautiful. On seeing this, the other queens began to feel jealous of queen Kalavati, and poisoned the King's ears against her. The King was also surprised and wondered where queen Kalavati might have got such beautiful bangles from. Without enquiring further, he became suspicious about queen

Kalavati thinking, "Definitely, other some man must be sending Kalavati gifts."

It is said that there is no resolution for suspicion and fear. The King thought to himself that, "It would be better to cut off Kalavati's wrists, so that she can never wear the bangles again." He devised a plan for this and said to the queen, "Why don't you visit your parents for a few days?" Who would not like to visit their parents? The queen prepared to leave in no time and the king had the chariot summoned. As the queen sat in the chariot, the King seated a butcher next to the charioteer. The innocent queen did not even get an inkling

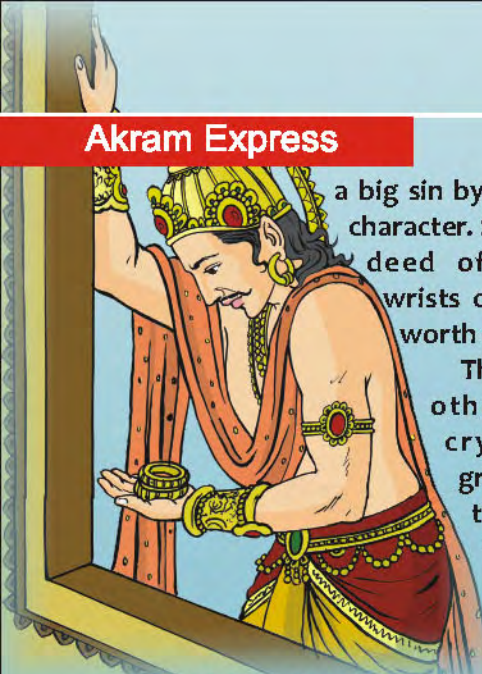
“Coming to peace with the truth, she cut the wrist of one of her hands herself and requested the butcher to cut the other. The butcher then took both of the queen’s chopped wrists with the bangles to the King.”

of the King’s foul play.

On the road, as they reached a secluded place, the butcher asked for the chariot to be stopped. The queen was surprised, wondering why the chariot was stopped at such an isolated place. Upon questioning, the butcher revealed the truth of the matter. Hearing this, the queen was taken aback with shock and grief. Coming to peace with the truth, she cut the wrist of one of

her hands herself and requested the butcher to cut the other. The butcher then took both of the queen’s chopped wrists with the bangles to the King. On inspection the King found the queen’s brother’s name engraved on the bangles. The King was shocked and he felt that, “I have committed





a big sin by suspecting her character. Such a heartless deed of getting her wrists chopped is only worth contempt.”

The queen on the other hand was crying in deep grief, but look at the strength of a ‘Sati’ (one who leads an extremely pure life and is faithful only to her husband)! Suddenly, in a few moments, out of nowhere, a dense forest arose, once dry rivers started flowing with water and Kalavati regained her lost wrists adorned with the bangles. Kalavati continued to live her life in that very forest.

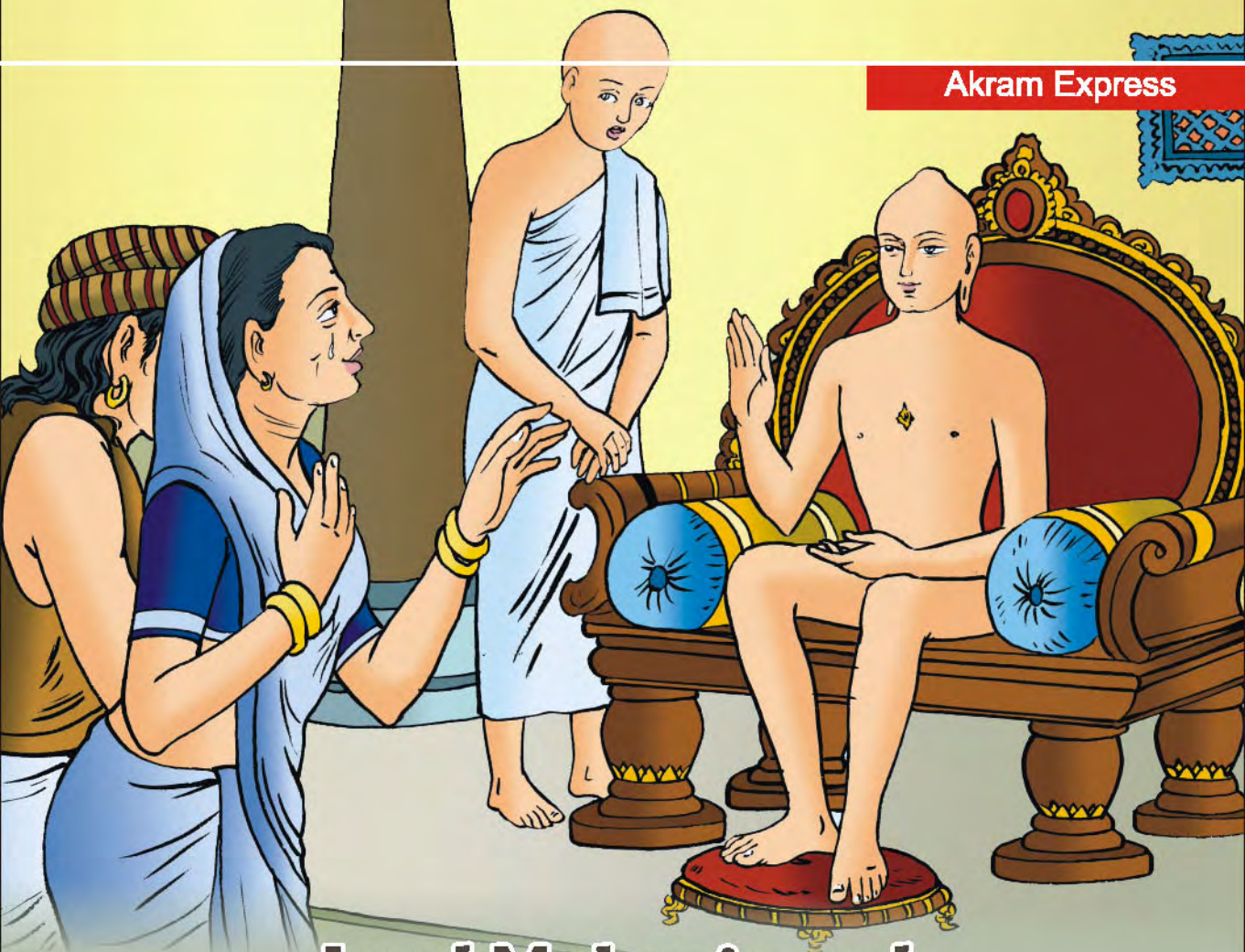
One day, Kalavati happened to meet a

self-realized ascetic. She related the incident that she had been through and questioned the ascetic about the reason behind it. The ascetic then revealed Kalavati’s previous birth to her, saying,

“In your previous birth, Kalavati, you were a princess. As a princess, you were fond of archery and pierced both the wings of a flying bird. That bird is now reborn as King Shankhraj and the princess is you. As you had pierced both wings, the result of that deed is that the King had both of your hands cut in this present birth.”

Upon learning about her previous birth and the results of her own karmas; the queen felt detachment from worldly pleasures, renounced worldly life, and embraced the spiritual path.





Lord Mahavir and The Brahmin Lady Devananda

One day a Brahmin named Rushabhdudd, accompanied by his wife, Devananda went to pay their respects to Lord Mahavir. As soon as Devananda set her eyes on the Lord, her happiness knew no bounds. Her pure love for the Lord brimmed over.

Gautam Swami, a disciple of Lord Mahavir was very surprised to see this. So he asked, "Oh Lord, why has this Brahmin lady, Devananda, become so ecstatic with

joy on seeing you? Why have her eyes welled up with tears of joy?" To this Lord Mahavir replied, "Gautam, Devananda is my mother and I am her son. The feelings that she has are those of her pure love for her son."

Gautam Swami was astonished to hear the Lord's words. He wondered why the Lord mentioned the name of Devananda instead of Trishlamata.

Do you know the secret behind all this? Come let's find out.

In a previous life when the Lord was born as 'Marichi', he had been very proud of his superior lineage. As a result, in this birth as a 'Tirthankar', instead of being born in a Kshatriya lineage, he was born in the Brahmin clan, in the womb of Devananda, a Brahmin lady.

As a rule, the expecting mother of a 'Tirthankar' has fourteen auspicious dreams. Devananda also had these fourteen dreams. On the basis of the meaning of these dreams, when Devananda learned that the soul in her womb was that of a Tirthankar, her happiness knew no bounds.

But her happiness did not last long. When the life of Lord Mahavir in the womb was 82 days, a shocking incident took place. Devananda felt as though someone had robbed her of her child.

“

A Tirthankar is always born in a Kshatriya lineage. Instead, why was Lord Mahavir conceived in the womb of the Brahmin lady Devananda?

”





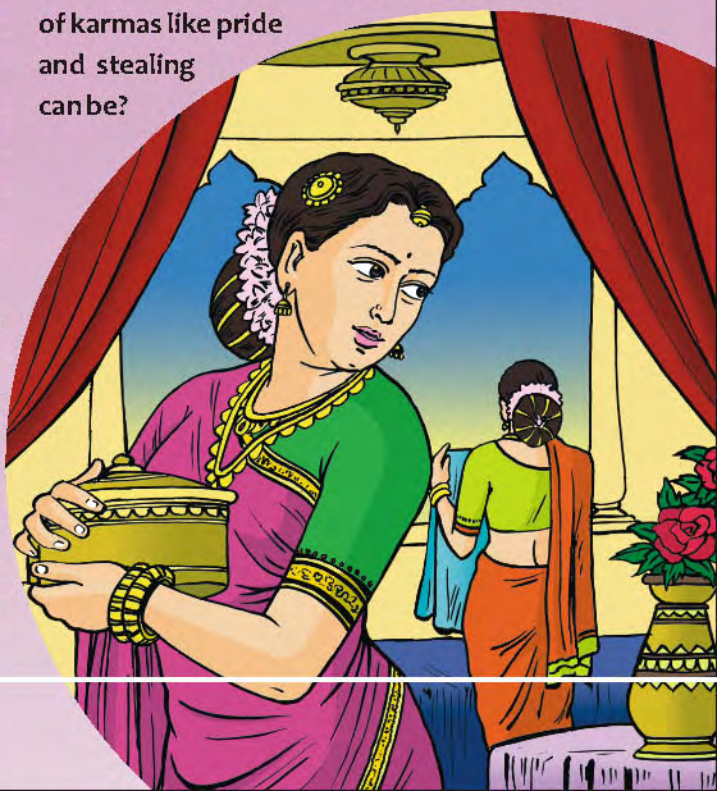
A Tirthankar is always born in a Kshatriya lineage. However, since Lord Mahavir was conceived in the womb of the Brahmin lady Devananda, Indra Dev's throne began to rock. When Indra Dev found out the facts, he summoned Hirangameshi Dev and handed over the task of transferring Lord Mahavir from Devananda's womb to Trishlamata's womb. Thus, after being in Devananda's womb for 82 days, Lord Mahavir was moved to Trishlamata's womb.

Friends, you must be wondering what karma of Devananda had borne fruit, such that she had to lose a son who was a Tirthankar?

In their previous births, Devananda and Trishlamata were sisters-in-law. Out of jealousy, Devananda had stolen Trishlamata's jewellery box. As a result of

having stolen the precious gem studded jewellery, Devananda had to lose a gem-like son who was to light up all the three worlds.

So friends, do you see what the results of karmas like pride and stealing can be?



Goshala

We are all well aware of Lord Mahavir's disciple named Goshala. Goshala belonged to a very poor clan. He was quarrelsome by nature. Once, after quarrelling with his parents, he left home. As he wandered around, he happened to reach the place where Lord Mahavir had arrived. Seeing the glory of the Lord, he felt that, "If I become his disciple, then I will never have to worry about my daily meals. Instead, I will get to

eat delicious food every day."

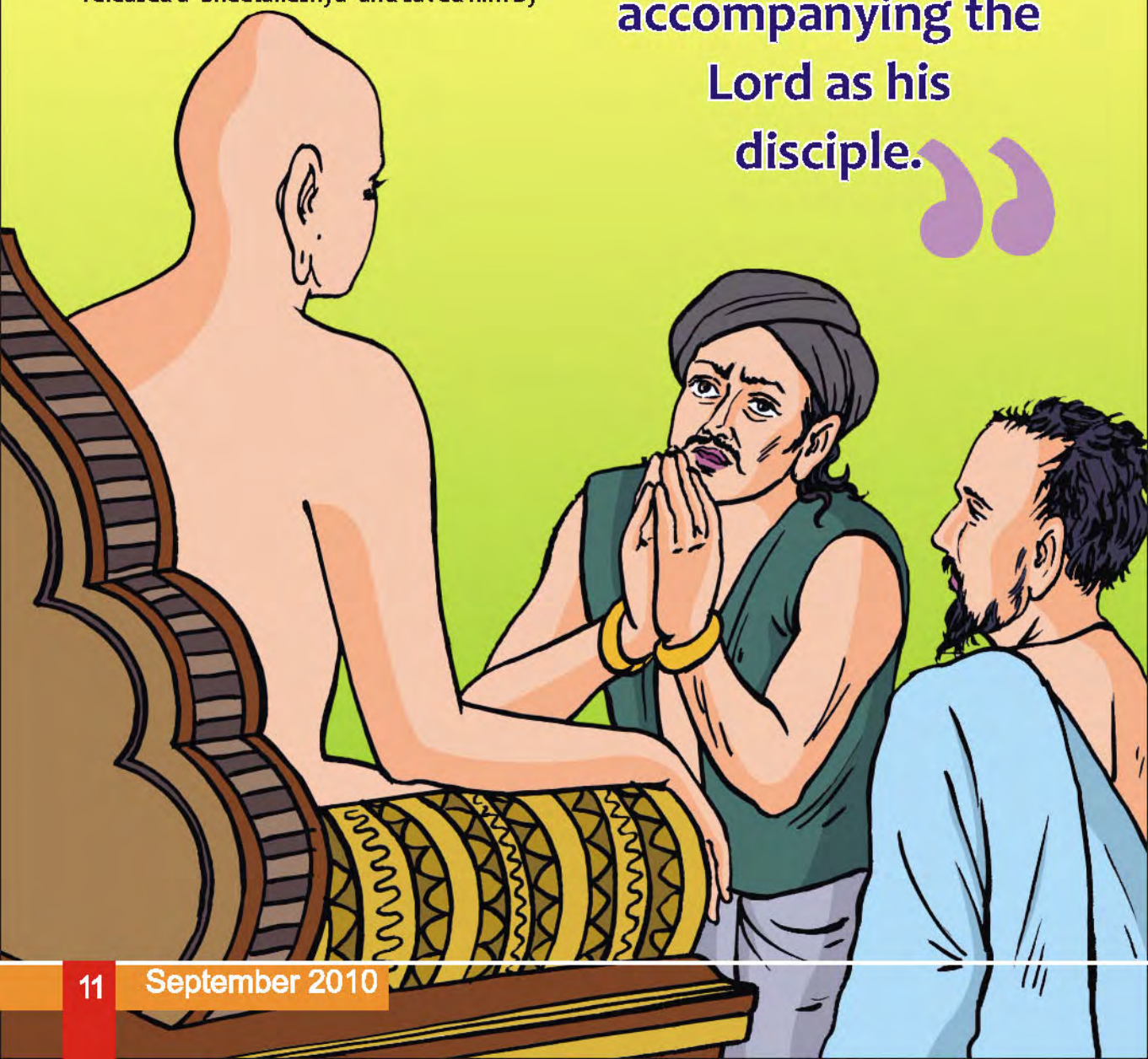
He requested the Lord to accept him as a disciple with these thoughts in mind. The Lord remained silent. Assuming the Lord's silence as an affirmative answer, he started accompanying the Lord as his disciple. Being quarrelsome by nature, he would cause some kind of ruckus wherever he went. Although he stayed with the Lord, he made many attempts to demean the Lord

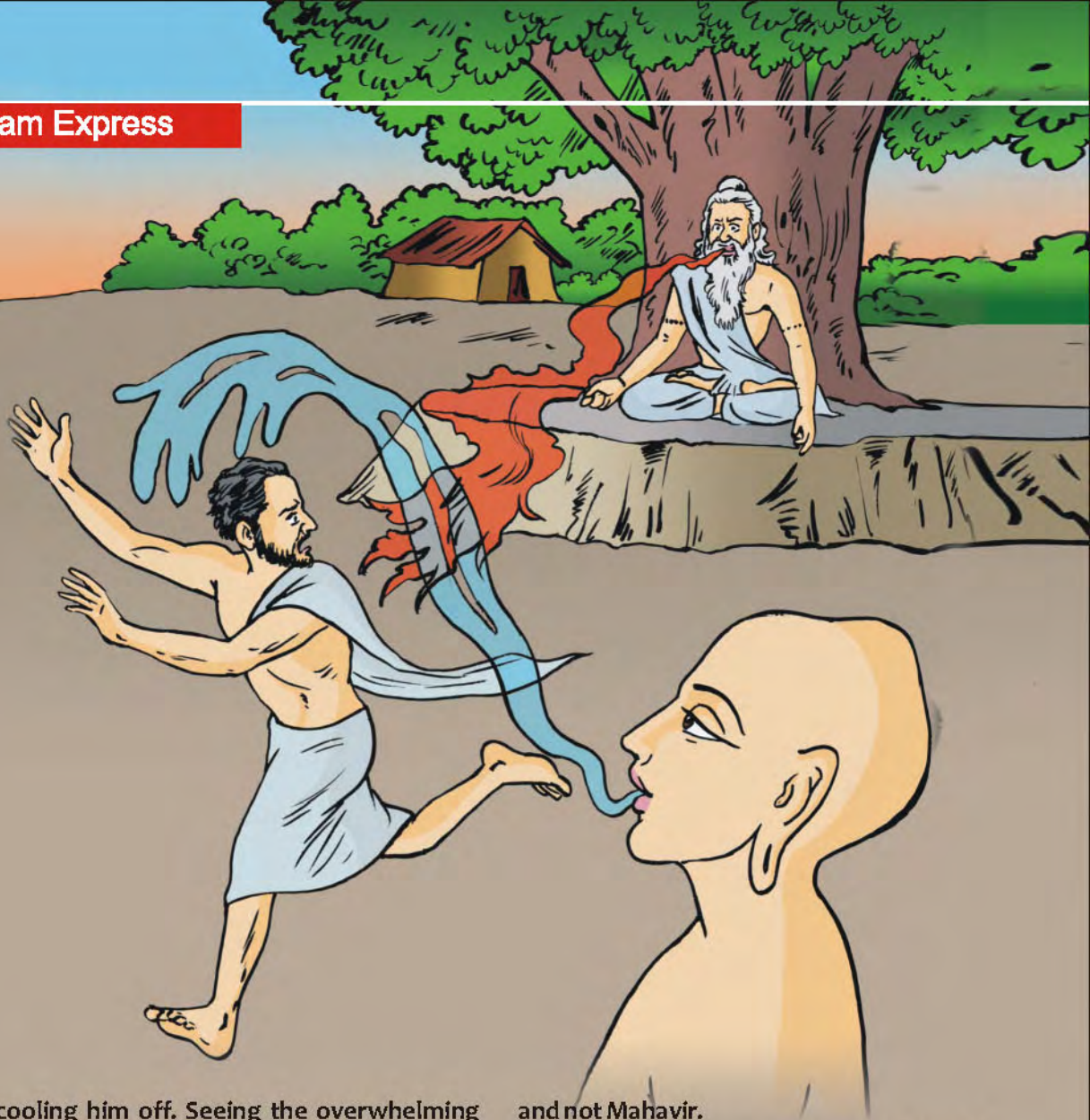


and prove him wrong. Yet, the Lord had compassion for him every time.

One time, Goshala's bad behavior angered an ascetic so much that the ascetic threw 'Tejoleshya' (Fire Ball) at Goshala to burn him. Tejoleshya means to extract fire from the body and whoever the fireball is thrown at will burn and die. The Lord, who is an ocean of compassion, immediately released a 'Sheetalleshya' and saved him by

“Assuming the Lord's silence as an affirmative answer, he started accompanying the Lord as his disciple.”



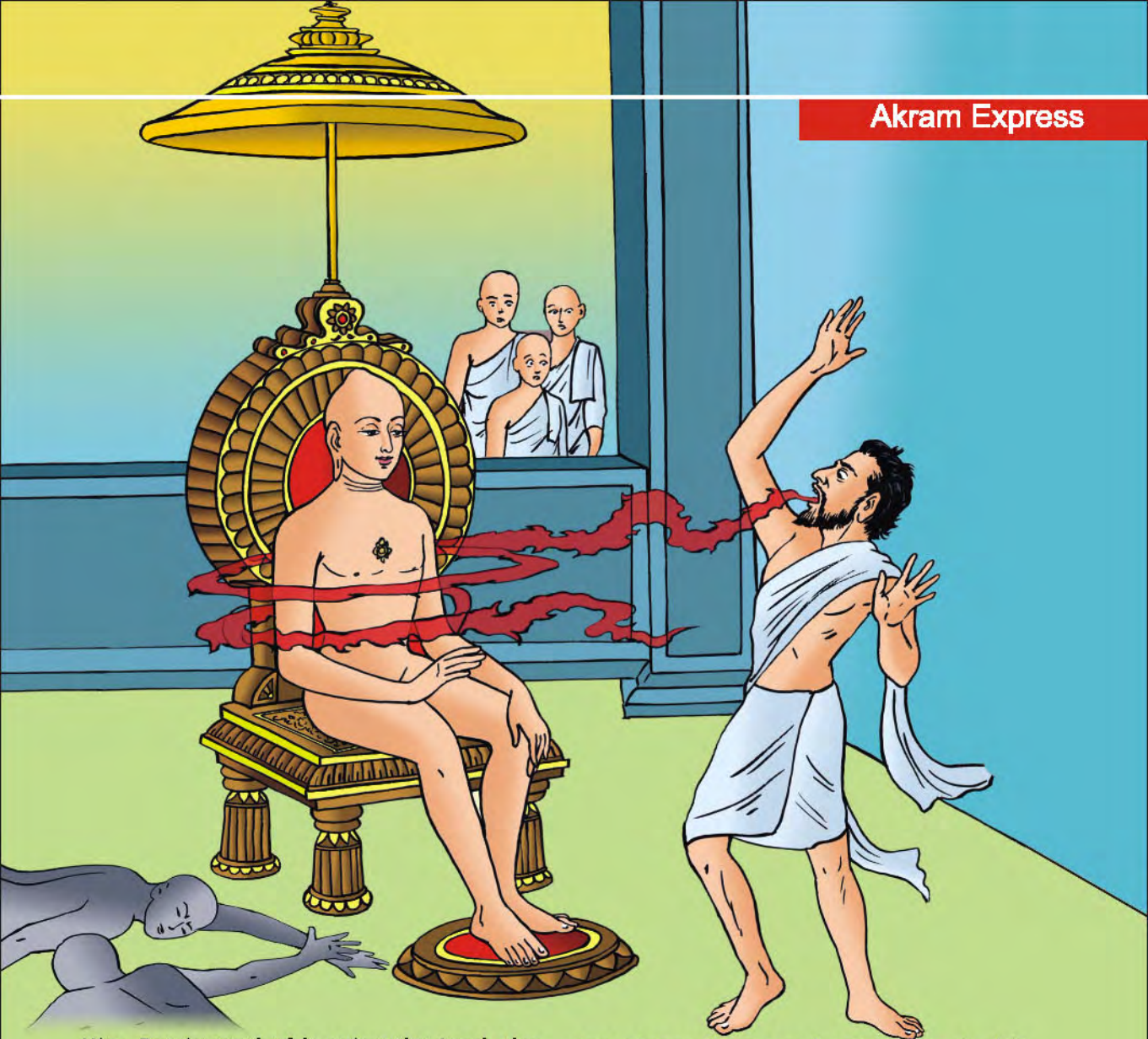


cooling him off. Seeing the overwhelming power of the 'Tejoleshya', Goshala decided to learn the art. Requesting the Lord, he inquired about the ritual to obtain 'Tejoleshya' and thus learnt the art.

After obtaining this art from the Lord, he started believing himself to be the Lord. He parted ways with the Lord and established his own sect of followers. He would tell his followers that he himself was the Lord and not Mahavir. Eventually, he openly told everyone that he was the Lord

and not Mahavir.

Once he went to Lord Mahavir's 'Samovasaran' (A gathering where the Lord preaches and where humans as well as animals listen in attendance, as well as, understand the preaching in their own individual language) and insulted Him in many ways. Upon hearing Goshala's demeaning words for the Lord, two of the Lord's disciples opposed him. Goshala got angry and he burnt both the disciples with 'Tejoleshya'. Ultimately, he even threw, 'Tejoleshya' on the Lord in order to burn



Him. But instead of burning the Lord, the 'Tejoleshya' boomeranged back into Goshala's body. Although the 'Tejoleshya' did not burn the Lord, for 6 months He suffered from motions of blood. As an after effect of the 'Tejoleshya', Goshala's body started to burn in pain continuously.

He began to repent deeply over all his bad behavior with the Lord. With deep repentance, he accepted all his faults and openly declared all his sins to his followers. Thus on the seventh day of heartfelt

repentance he passed away. Due to his virtuous intentions on his deathbed, he was reborn as a Dev (celestial being) in the celestial world.

Friends, this shows us that no matter what demerit karma one has bound, but if the repentance is heartfelt, then those sins are washed off and one binds merit karmas.



Kids Section Highlights

A glimpse of the exhibitions for kids organized during the gurupurnima celebrations in New Jersey.

Inauguration
of the
exhibition by
Pujyashree



Various displays on the theme of, 'The Science of karma'.



Slides on not hurting anybody by one's mind-body-speech.



The effects of TV and the concentration power of 'Chit'.

Puppet Show



Cultural Show



Sweet Memories



This incident happened in the year 1992. There was a shibir in Morbi, Gujarat. During the course of Niruma's satsang, one gentleman stood up and said, "Niruma, I smoke 80 'beedis' (cigarettes) every day. I want to stop smoking." To this Niruma said, "Surrender everything at Dada's feet." The man said, "Yes." and immediately walked up to the stage where Niruma was sitting and placed the 'beedis' at her feet. Seeing this, others also followed suit. "Niruma, I eat a lot of 'paan' (roll of betel leaf with condiments)." Niruma replied, "Bring them here; we shall pray for everybody to become free from their addictions." Eventually, about 8 to 10 mahatmas from the crowd stood up.

While this was going on, there was one brahmachari (celibate) youth also present in the crowd. He had the habit of eating 'paan'. Although, the 'paan' he ate was plain, not one with tobacco, he did not stand up. He remained seated. A lady mahatma, who saw this, said to him from afar, "You go." The brahmachari youth was a little egoistic and thought in his mind, "Why is she asking me to stand along with all these people? I am not an ordinary person. I am a brahmachari". Just then Niruma looked at him and said, "Come along". The brahmachari youth felt a little embarrassed and said, "Niruma, why do I need to... I do not smoke 'beedis'?" To this Niruma replied, "Don't you eat 'paan'?" The youth answered, "Yes Niruma, I do eat 'paan'". So Niruma said, "Surrender it at Dada's feet."

From that day onwards his habit of eating 'paan' stopped. Then Niruma explained lovingly to him, "If you were conducting satsang with some people in this manner, then would your 'paan' stained mouth look appropriate?" The youth said, "No Niruma, it won't be appropriate." To this Niruma said, "One should not eat 'paan'." From that day onwards, he has never eaten 'paan'.

See friends, such is the compassion and special support of a Gnani! They give us the right understanding and lovingly free us of all our attachments.

Introspect Yourself !

Here is a story which gives the details of the previous births of a few people. Read the story and figure out which character is reborn as whom and fill in the blanks given below.

Once an ascetic named Balibhadra went on pilgrimage to Haridhwar along with his disciples. After passing through many towns and villages, they arrived at Varanasi. There, a wealthy businessman named Dhanna Sheth, received news of the ascetic's arrival in the town. He thought, "I should invite the ascetic for a meal, otherwise the townspeople will think that I am stingy. Had I known of his arrival earlier, I would have left town prior to his arrival." He then ordered his cook, "Shambhu, prepare a good meal for the ascetic and his disciples." Shambhu, the cook had deep hatred for his master. He deliberately added a lot of salt to the sweet dish that he had prepared for the ascetic and his disciples, thinking; "Now they will curse my master. Nobody will even know what has happened because ascetics never criticize the offerings that they received in alms." After having the meal, the ascetic and his disciples walked from Varanasi on their journey ahead.

The next day they reached a small

village. A woodcutter name Gopal lived there. He saw the ascetic and his disciples and with utmost respect, he welcomed them into his hut. He considered himself very fortunate that the ascetic visited his home. He began to think, "Had it been possible I would have had the best meal cooked for them. It is not every day that one has such good fortune." Gopal's wife Sumitra, very lovingly prepared a simple meal and a sweet dish, but by mistake, she added salt to the sweet dish instead of sugar. One of the disciples fell sick, after having such a meal for two consecutive days.

That night the ascetic and his disciples camped under a tree. Somdutt, the senior most disciple got angry on another young disciple for not laying his bed well. The ascetic explained to him not to get angry. To this, Somdutt replied, "Only by scolding him will he learn, otherwise he will never improve."

Now, based on the science of karma, find out the previous birth of the people listed below and explain the cause of each of these rebirths or explain the incident of the previous birth in one line.

1

When Vinit was 4 years old, he met with an accident. He was taken to a hospital immediately where he received proper medical treatment and recovered in just a few weeks.is reborn as Vinit because.....

2

When Keshav was fifty years old, he too met with an accident like Vinit. But he did not get immediate medical treatment. It took him months to recover.is reborn as Keshav because



3

Kasturbhai is a very wealthy man and he provides free meals to thousands of poor people at his home. Even after that he has no shortage of money.
..... is reborn as Kasturbhai because.....

4

Shekhar is very hot tempered. He has to suffer a lot due to his temper.
..... is reborn as Shekhar because.....

5

Bhikhu is a labourer. He works very hard but he does not get even one square meal a day. is reborn as Bhikhu because.....

ANSWERS: 1. Sumitra - because she had unknowingly added salt to the sweet dish due to which one person had fallen sick.
2. Shambhu - Cook, because he had deliberately added salt with the intention to hurt his master.
3. Gopal, Wood Cutter - because he had the good intention to serve the best meal to his guests.
4. Somdutt - because he defended his own anger by arguing and believing that it is necessary to get angry to improve others.
5. Dhanna Sheth - because while offering the meal his intention got spoiled.



My Vision

You must be reading the newspaper daily. "Thousands of people died in an earthquake." "There was flooding in the village and lots of people lost their lives." So many people lost their lives all together. What is the significance of karma behind this?

Please send your responses to us by the 24th of this month. You can send in your experiences, poetry you have created, stories or drawings at the address provided below, or by email. We will definitely publish the best entries in coming issues of this magazine. Remember to write your name, address and age on the entry.

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