

April 2011

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Dada Bhagwan Parivar's

AKRAM

Express



श्रीवर्ष

Stealing



Friends,

If you are going to buy a pair of shoes that you like, and on your way, the money that you had saved up for the shoes gets stolen then how would you feel?

Would you feel happy or would you be hurt? You would feel hurt, wouldn't you? In the same way, when we steal anything from someone else, then that person would feel just as hurt. The law of nature is such that, stolen objects ultimately give us unhappiness instead of giving us happiness and further more ruin our next birth.

In this edition, through Param Pujya Dadashri's gnan, we will receive a deeper understanding about answers to questions like; Why does stealing occur? What are its consequences? How can one wash off this sin? etc.

So, let us comprehend this knowledge and if we have committed any such mistakes, then let us free ourselves by washing them off.

Dimple Mehta

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Dimple Mehta
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Contact at:
Balvignan Department
Trimandir Sankul,
Simandhar city,
Ahmedabad-Kalol Highway,
-Adalaj,
Dist.Gandhinagar-382421,
Gujarat.
Phone:(079)39830100
email:akramexpress@dadabhagwan.org

Ahmedabad:(079)
27540408,27543979
Rajkot Trimandir: 9274111393
Baroda:(0265)2414142
Mumbai:9323528901-03
U.S.A.:785-271-0869
U.K.:07956476253
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kids.dadabhagwan.org

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Dadashri: It does not suit us to steal. When you come from a respectable family and you steal, then, you are no better than a thief.

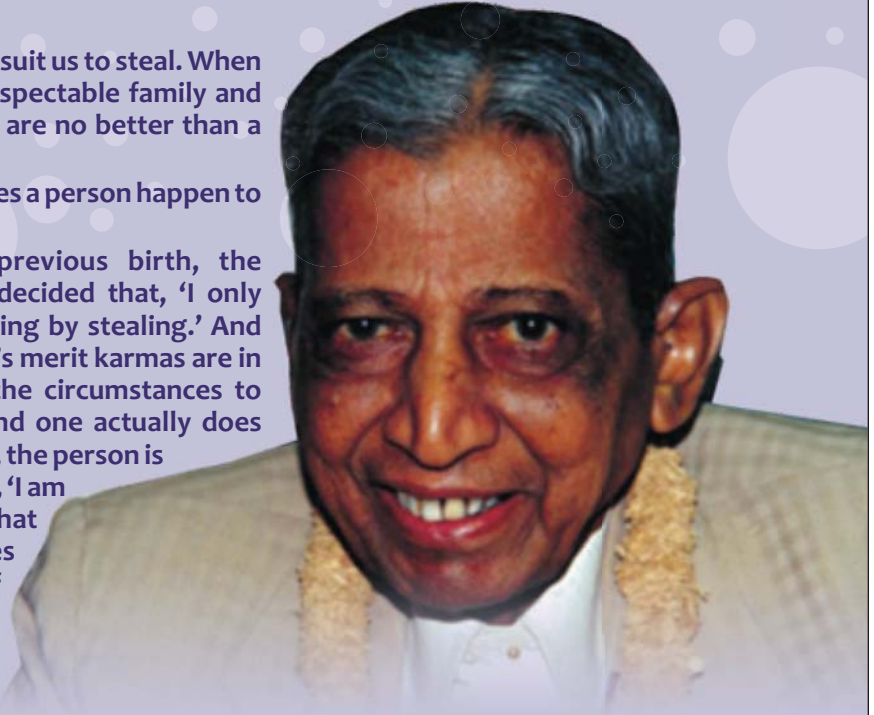
Questioner: Why does a person happen to steal?

Dadashri: In the previous birth, the person must have decided that, 'I only want to earn my living by stealing.' And that too, if a person's merit karmas are in their favour, then the circumstances to steal easily arise, and one actually does happen to steal. But, the person is not even aware that, 'I am committing a sin; what will its consequences be!' In a state of ignorance, the person commits the sin without any awareness.

Would you feel happy if someone were to pick your pocket? At that time, how hurt would you feel inside? Likewise, wouldn't the person you steal from feel hurt too? Once and for all, a person should firmly realize that stealing is wrong. It is only when the physical act of stealing stops that a person is born in a respectable family.

Questioner: After listening to you, I am beginning to recollect that I have accumulated a lot by stealing.

Dadashri: Whenever you remember such deeds, then do pratikraman for them and ask Dada Bhagwan for the strength to not steal. By doing pratikraman, the opinion changes to 'stealing is wrong' and 'it is best not to steal'. Therefore, you become of the opinion that 'I should not steal.' From the moment your opinion changes, you are no longer at fault and when you ask for strength, you develop 'Param Vinay' (perfect humility) saying, 'O Lord! Give me strength'. So, the Lord immediately bestows strength upon you. He has no choice but to help you.



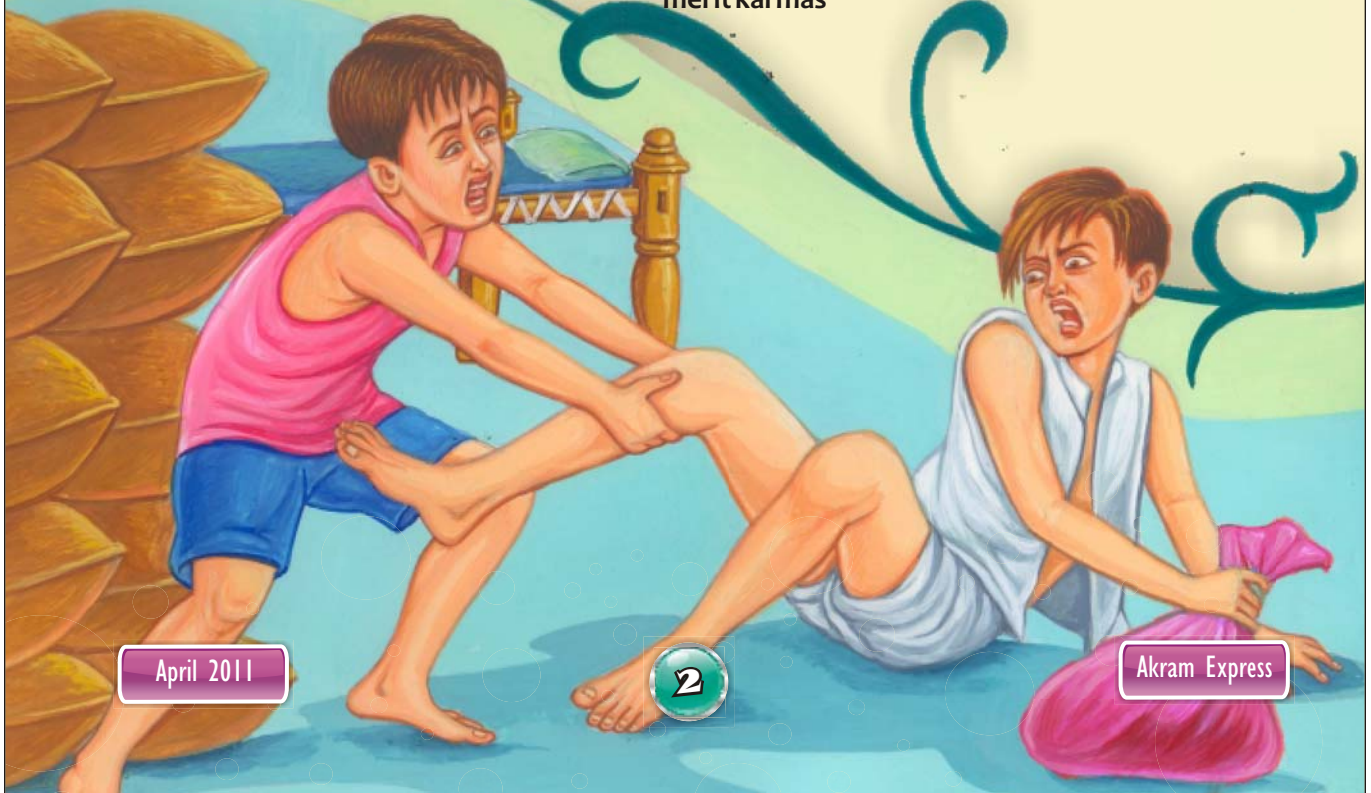
When Merit Karmas come to an end...

Bhushan was a farmer's son, who lived in a small village. He disliked hard labour. Thus, he never helped his father in the fields. He discovered a quick and easy way of earning money. He learnt the art of stealing from his friends and gradually became an expert at it. His mother often advised him to stop stealing but he would never listen.

One night, Bhushan and his gang broke into a store that belonged to a wealthy merchant. The merchant's son, who was sleeping in the store, captured Bhushan while his other friends escaped. After a long scuffle, Bhushan eventually managed to escape too, but he got hurt in the process.

While dressing his wounds, his mother cautioned him once again saying, "Don't think that you have managed to escape because of your bravery or intelligence. It was only due to your merit karmas that you could escape. When your merit karmas come to an end, no one will be able to save you. You will not be able to escape anywhere. At that time, you will have to endure a lot of suffering. To this day, I remember the story of Shersinh. He believed that he was a very clever thief but when his merit karmas


“ One night, Bhushan and his gang broke into a store that belonged to a wealthy merchant and...” ”



ended, he had to face a lot of difficulties. My son, we can never be happy by robbing other people of their happiness.”

Bhushan was curious to know, “Who was Shersinh? Why did he have to suffer?” His mother informed him about Shersinh saying, “Many years ago, there was a clever thief named Shersinh. He never left any evidence of his theft. In addition to being fluent in many languages, he also disguised in various ways. As a result, it was very difficult to recognize him. He was also a very fast runner and if the need arose, he could jump over a wall too. He used to hide his looted treasures in such a place where no one would know, think of or reach. He was capable of successfully stealing in broad daylight, whilst people were passing by and escape unscathed. Not only was he an expert in stealing but also in lying and deceiving others. He kept businessmen, brokers and police officers all under his hand. Due to this, people remained very fearful of him. They were always scared that Shersinh would loot their houses in their absence. The local police were ashamed of the fact that they were unsuccessful in arresting Shersinh. But, it is said that in life, everything is a speculation of merit and





demerit karmas. As long as merit karmas are in our favour, then the most difficult of hardships can be overcome but when merit karmas come to an end, then even the slightest carelessness can trap a person. In the same way, one afternoon Shersinh broke into a merchant's house. At that time, the merchant was out of town. For Shersingh, this job was something he could do with his right hand behind his back. After stealing, as he was running to escape, he stumbled hard and fell down. His foot got sprained badly. The sack of loot that was tucked under his arm got flung high up in the air and fell a distance away. The stolen items were sprawled all over the road. The artificial beard and moustache fell off the disguise he assumed. On seeing this, people immediately recognized him and surrounded him. It took him some time to get up because he was hurt quite badly. Co-incidentally, the police also happened to be patrolling that area. Everyone got together and captured him.

He was sentenced to a harsh prison term. He attempted to break out of prison several times but was unsuccessful and all his smartness proved to be futile. Thus, he spent twenty years of his life in prison. Twenty years later, when he was set free, he had become quite weak. The village folk did not accept him. His past reputation preceded him wherever he went. Everyone showed contempt towards him. People would not even let him sleep where the dogs slept, nor would they give him any leftover food that they fed to the dogs. Thus, the last days of his life went by miserably."

Bhushan's mother ended the story with a sigh. Until now, Bhushan would not listen to his mother's warnings but upon hearing the story of Shersinh and the experience of his own close escape, he began to visualize the horrendous future in store for him. He realized that the easy path he had chosen to earn money was definitely not a good path. He also understood that by stealing the happiness of others, he could never live happily.

From the picture on the right side, find the objects shown on the left side.

9



Let's play...

Find the words on the right side within the box below.

H	C	G	M	A	G	D	T	A	Z	T	O
Y	U	R	O	U	S	S	O	R	G	S	N
W	L	N	L	S	T	E	A	L	I	N	G
J	P	M	O	A	T	V	L	O	S	C	Z
P	R	A	T	I	K	R	A	M	A	N	K
P	I	M	L	A	N	S	E	A	W	X	G
H	T	Q	U	B	R	I	H	N	Q	A	V
T	N	F	S	C	W	P	P	M	G	S	K
M	M	D	E	C	I	D	E	O	I	T	J
W	G	U	R	X	H	X	G	O	O	J	H
V	L	D	H	H	L	C	R	S	W	E	I

- 1 TRICK
- 2 OPINION
- 3 STRENGTH
- 4 PRATIKRAMAN
- 5 CULPRIT
- 6 LAKSHMIJI
- 7 RESULT
- 8 GROSS
- 9 STEALING
- 10 DECIDE

2

STAMP THEIF

Sanya could not take her eyes off Dhara's stamp collection.



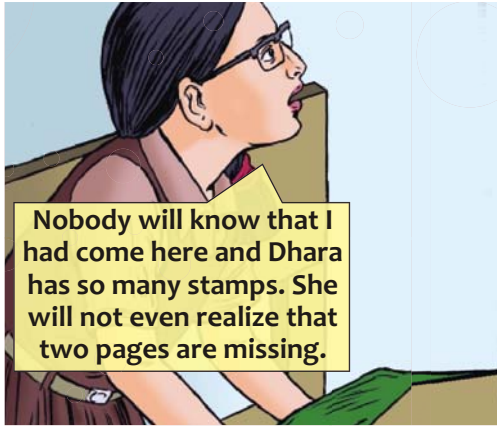
It was break time. She could not stop thinking about the stamps.



After drinking water, Sanya went to the classroom instead of joining her friends. The classroom was empty.



She went near Dhara's bench and tore two pages from the stamp book. She returned to her own bench and slipped the torn pages into her school bag.



Nobody will know that I had come here and Dhara has so many stamps. She will not even realize that two pages are missing.

Just then, she heard the sound of footsteps and then there was silence.



She broke out into a sweat. She returned to where her friends were snacking.

After the break everyone returned to class. Sanya looked at Dhara from the corner of her eye.



Where have my stamps gone? I had left them right here. Has anyone seen them?

Madam my stamps are missing. I had left them right here on my bench.



Now, Sanya began to feel frightened.

Listen everyone; Dhara's stamps have been stolen. Does anyone know about this?



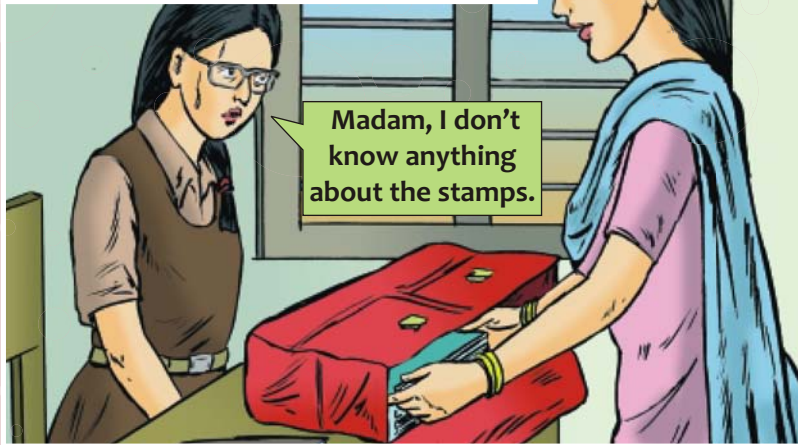
No one replied.

Whoever has taken the stamps had better return the otherwise; I will check everybody's bags.



Sanya tactfully slipped the stamp book pages from her bag to her pocket.

Madam searched everybody's bags one by one. It was Sanya's turn. While her bag was being checked,



Madam, I don't know anything about the stamps.

It seems like madam is suspicious of me. What if the sound of footsteps that I heard was hers?



Sanya could hardly sleep that night.



What if someone finds out? What if I am expelled from school? What if I am punished in front of everyone?

That night she had a nightmare. In the nightmare, she saw that there were many thefts taking place in school and that she was being accused for all of them.

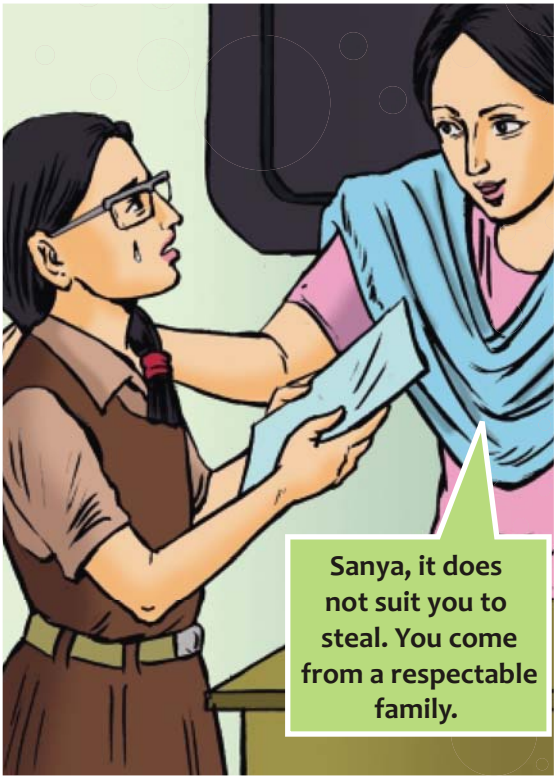


Stamp thief, stamp thief, Sanya is a thief... a thief....



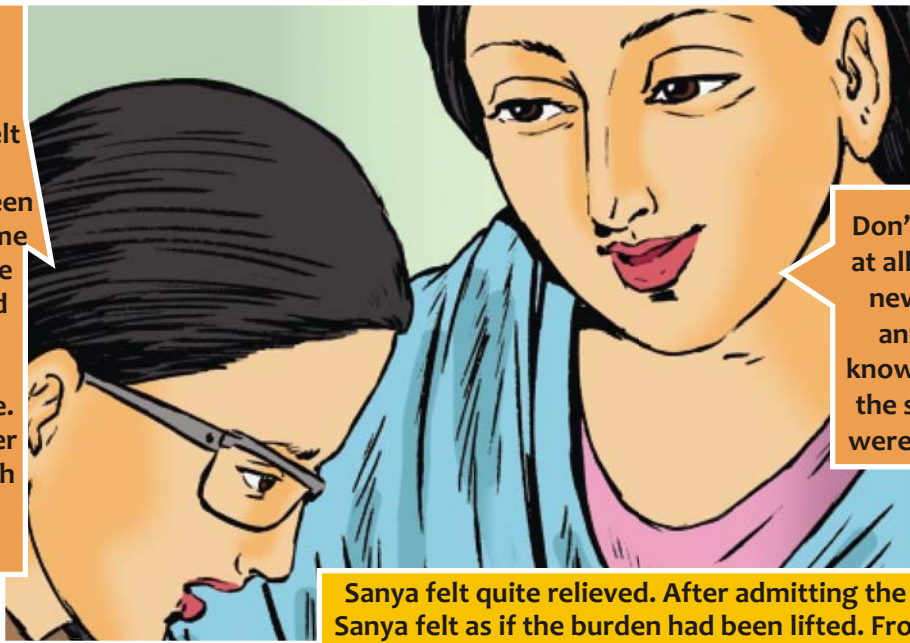
I want to tell madam the truth.

The next day, Sanya tearfully returned the stamps to madam and confessed everything.



Sanya, it does not suit you to steal. You come from a respectable family.

From the moment I stole the stamps, I felt burdened and it has been bothering me that, 'I have committed a big sin'. Please forgive me. I shall never repeat such a mistake again.



Don't worry at all. I shall never let anyone know where the stamps were found.

Sanya felt quite relieved. After admitting the truth, Sanya felt as if the burden had been lifted. From that day onwards, it was as if she had forgotten to steal!

Absolutely News

What is the reason for lack of wealth (money)? It is due all this stealing. Laxmidevi (the Goddess of wealth) showers her blessings onto those who do not steal with their mind, speech or body.

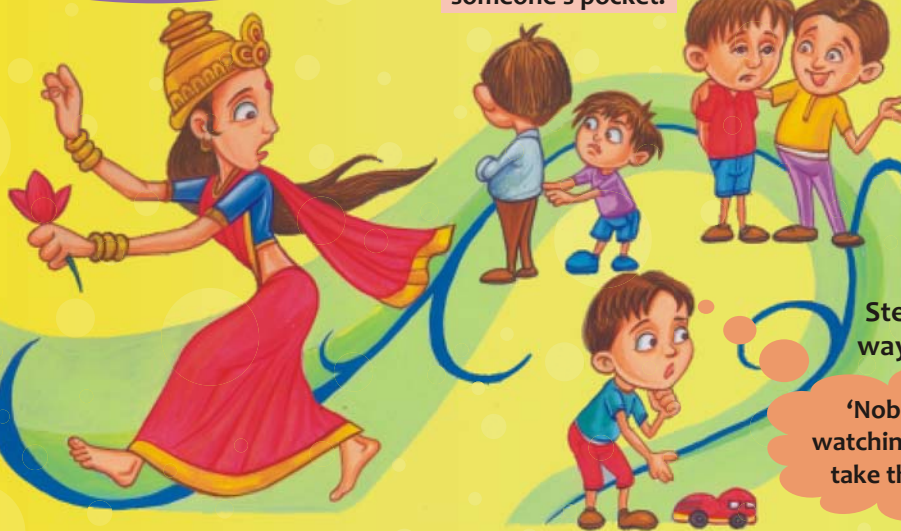
Stealing hinders the flow of wealth.

Stealing by way of action

A boy is stealing a wad of money from someone's pocket.

Stealing by way of speech

If I was in your place and I had seen a gold watch lying on the road, I would have definitely taken it.



Stealing by way of mind

'Nobody is watching, let me take this toy.'



Tricks are a form of subtle (sookshma) stealing. What does it mean to trick/con someone? When a merchant tricks his customers by selling them adulterated merchandise saying, "It is very pure."

And Different!

Even after you stop stealing, if people continue to accuse you of being a thief, you should bear it. It is the punishment for all the instances when you stole and never got caught. For example, even though Amit has stopped stealing for the past five years, whenever he goes out, the neighbourhood children still call him a "thief."



The consequence of stealing is that a person has to go from a two legged (human) to a four legged (animal) being.



Mythological Stories

There was once a royal high priest named Vishwabhuti. He had two sons called Kamath and Marubhuti who were both married. Marubhuti was calm and religious by nature. He was not interested and remained aloof from worldly life, whereas his wife had the ardent desire to enjoy worldly comforts and happiness. Due to this, she always felt unhappy and dissatisfied internally. Marubhuti's elder brother, Kamath, had a wicked nature and behaved immorally. He lured Marubhuti's wife and started having an affair with her. Kamath's wife soon came to know about this and she informed Marubhuti of it.

Marubhuti did not believe this so he devised a plan. He told his wife that he had to go out of town for a few days for some business and left. Marubhuti's wife was just waiting for such an opportunity. She called Kamath to her house, in Marubhuti's absence. Spying on them, Marubhuti saw Kamath and his wife behaving immorally. He felt deeply hurt to see this. He complained to the King about this matter. The King punished Kamath by degrading his appearance, making him ride around the whole town on a donkey and then banishing him from the kingdom. Kamath bound strong revenge with Marubhuti because of this demeaning insult. Grief stricken, Kamath became the disciple of an ascetic who did penance.

Meanwhile, Marubhuti was feeling guilty that Kamath had to suffer a lot of unhappiness because of him. Marubhuti decided to ask for forgiveness from Kamath. With this intent in mind, one day he went to meet Kamath. Just as Marubhuti bowed his head down to ask for forgiveness, Kamath, in a fit of rage, lifted a



“Kamath had bound such terrible vengeance for Marubhuti that this cycle continued for ten lifetimes.”

big stone and hit Marubhuti on the head. Marubhuti died there and then.

Marubhuti had inauspicious feelings at the time of his death and was reborn as an elephant. Kamath spent his remaining life in penance, but when he died, he had feelings of anger and resentment and was thus reborn as a snake. In that lifetime also, Kamath's incarnation in the form of a snake bit the elephant, which was the incarnation of Marubhuti. The elephant was in an auspicious state of meditation and was reborn as a celestial being, while the snake bound immense demerit/inauspicious karmas and was reborn in hell. Kamath had bound such terrible vengeance for Marubhuti that this cycle continued for ten lifetimes. In each of those lifetimes, Marubhuti and Kamath would meet each other in one form or another. Due to the deep vengeance he had bound, Kamath would kill Marubhuti in each of these births. Marubhuti, who remained in equanimity, would be born in a higher life form while Kamath due to his vengeance, would be reborn in hell.

In his last incarnation, Marubhuti was born as a son to King Ashwasen and Queen Vamadevi of Varanasi. He was named Parshvakumar. When Parshvakumar was of age, he married Princess Prabhavati.

One day, they were sitting on the balcony of their palace when they saw the people of their kingdom walking enthusiastically towards the main gates of the kingdom. Upon inquiring the reason for this, they learnt that an ascetic named Kamath had arrived at the outskirts of the kingdom. People were going to pay their respects to him there. Hearing this, Parshvakumar went to meet the ascetic, seated on an elephant.

To be Continued in
June issue...





Pujyashree with kids

Questioner: What should I do if I am not interested in studying?

Pujyashree: What are you interested in?

Questioner: In playing.

Pujyashree: Playing? Then, what benefit do you get by playing?

Questioner: It's just that I enjoy it.

Pujyashree: You have fun and if a person studies less, will he pass or fail?

Questioner: I will pass in my final exams, but otherwise...

Pujyashree: If you study even less than that, then is it possible that you may fail, right?

Questioner: Yes.

Pujyashree: So, which of the two is more enjoyable, passing or failing?

Questioner: It's more fun when we pass.

Pujyashree: So, if you are doing it for enjoyment, then study. How much fun do you have when you play? After playing your bones ache and at night you have to go to sleep because you are tired and if you study, then you will make your career. In the future, you will be able to get a good job. If you do not study, then you will have to work as a labourer, you may not even get a job, is that considered good?

Questioner: No.

Pujyashree: So, you need to think about the future and study. Don't you think that living your whole life peacefully is the best kind of enjoyment? If you want to play for fun, then you have to study for fun too. Your whole life will be full of enjoyment. Wouldn't your whole life be a lot of fun if you had good money, a good house, and a good career? If you do not study now and you fail, then will you be able to secure a good job in the future?

Questioner: No, I will not get one.

Pujyashree: Then, is it necessary to study or not?

Questioner: Yes, it is.

Pujyashree: From now on, will you study with interest?

Questioner: Yes.

Sweet Memories

Every year, when Niruma returned from her trip to America, she would always bring Cadbury chocolates, for all the bramchari bhaios and behnos.

This incident happened when Niruma used to reside at the 'Dada Darshan' building in Ahmedabad. The bramchari behnos occupied the second floor, Niruma stayed on the third floor while the bramchari bhaios lived on the fourth floor of the building. As the refrigerator on the second floor was filled with fruits and vegetables, the Cadbury chocolates that Niruma had brought from America, had been put in the refrigerator on the fourth floor. The packet remained untouched for quite a few days, therefore the bramchari bhaios thought that it was only for them. With these thoughts, two to three of the bhaios had a feast and finished all the Cadbury chocolates.

When Niruma found out, she called these bhaios over and simply said, "Didn't you remember the bramchari behnos?"

These few words of Niruma's sank deep in their hearts. Even though they had not eaten the chocolates alone, they had shared the chocolates amongst themselves, but Niruma's small remark, "Didn't you remember the bramchari behnos?" broadened their vision.

Since then, no matter what they would receive, those bhaios would always ensure that it was first offered to the behnos.

After this incident, not only with regard to food, but any other area, be it 'seva' (selfless service) or 'satsang' (spiritual discourse), this understanding was always helpful to the bhaios.

So friends, do you see how Gnanis' always think of others before themselves and take care of one and all in the most trivial of matters?



Creative Writing Competition

Friends, your holidays must have begun, right? Come on and join the Creative writing Competition in Akram Express.



Groups:

7 to 9 years

10 to 12 years

13 to 15 years

Competition Rules:

- 1) You must make the story up by yourself.
- 2) This year's Creative Writing Competition will test your imagination power. Any one of the two sentences given below should be used somewhere in your story. This sentence should not be the first or the last sentence in your story.
- 3) The story should not be more than twenty-five (25) lines.

7 to 9 years

- 1) When I opened my eyes, I found myself in the land of the fairies...
- 2) All the animals came to find out how the sick elephant was feeling...

10 to 12 years

- 1) After that, Petu the frog left his habit of eating more than necessary...
- 2) ... and my stomach was hurting because of laughing so much.

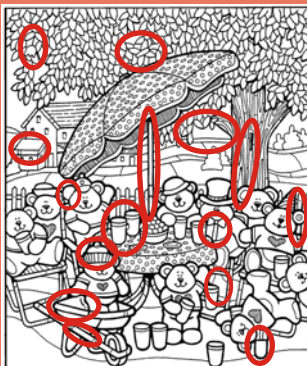
13 to 15 years

- 1) One day, the scholar saw his own horoscope.
- 2) Seeing the King worried, the queen planned a trick..

The first two winners from each group will be chosen. The prizes will be delivered to the winners address. We should receive your stories by the fifteenth (15th) of May. The winning stories will be published in the June issue of Akram Express. Send your stories along with your full name, address, age and photo to the address or e-mail given below.

Akram Express - Creative writing Competition

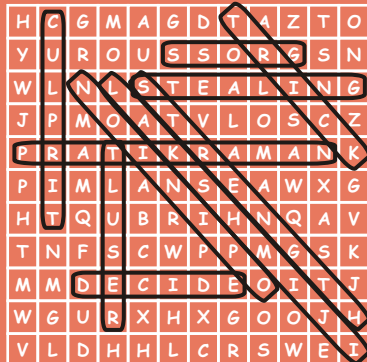
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Puzzle Answer

1

2



April 2011

16

Akram Express

Shree Simandhar Swami
Janna Kalyanak
27 April 2011



Friends,

Do you know? At the moment, according to the gujrati calendar, it's the "Chaitra" month (Between March and April of the English Calendar). The 10th day after the full moon of the Chaitra month is our dear Tirthankar Bhagwan Shri Simandhar Swami's birthday. So let's wish Swami a Happy Birthday and recite this prayer.

*Happy Birthday
Simandhar Swami !!*

With the live presence of 'Dada Bhagwan' (pure soul within) as my witness, with utmost reverence and devotion, I bow down to Tirthankar Lord 'Shri Simandhar Swami' who currently resides in Mahavideh kshetra.

" Oh Simandhar Swami, may my next birth be in your shelter and at your feet. Please make me just like you and take me to Moksh."

My Vision



Dadaji says that a person should not steal by way of mind, speech or action. Please give one example each of how a person could steal with their mind, speech and action.

Akram Express

My Experience

Dear (Akram Express) Editor
Jay Sachitanand,

I like reading Akram Express. By the last issue of March "Bye Bye' to the habit of lying" I'm greatly influenced. I've found that I have spoke many lies and I'm trying to stop telling lies.

By the way, I have a suggestion for you. You may know that all of us have many difficulties, problems and habits to deal with, so if there was a column in the book in which we can write our difficulties and have the right guidance by you it would be great! So we can find the right ways to deal with our problems.

I really like all stories, puzzles and Questions-Answers with Pujyashree. Akram Express is amazing! Keep up the good work!!!

Yours Sincerely, Parita H. Patell
Age: - 11, Anand

Akram Express

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on 08th of every month



19th March - In Simandhar City



19th March is the day on which our beloved Niruma left her mortal body and transcended towards Mahavideh Kshetra. This time, on this auspicious day, a grand 'prabhatpheri' had been planned by the bramchari bahenos.



Just as we have 'Akram Express', a magazine named 'Ynet' has been launched for boys and girls who are older than us. The magazine was launched on 19th March. In the photo shown, Pujoyashree is initiating the magazine. Be sure to subscribe to this magazine for your older brothers and sisters. The magazine can only be obtained from your local center's YMHT center.

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How would you know if your annual subscription is about to expire? If there is a # besides the member id number on the label which appears on the cover of your current month's Akram Express, then you should know that this is your last issue e.g. AGIA4313#. If there is a ## besides the member id number on the label which appears on the cover of your current month's Akram Express, then you should know that this is your second last issue e.g. AGIA4313##.

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