

January 2013

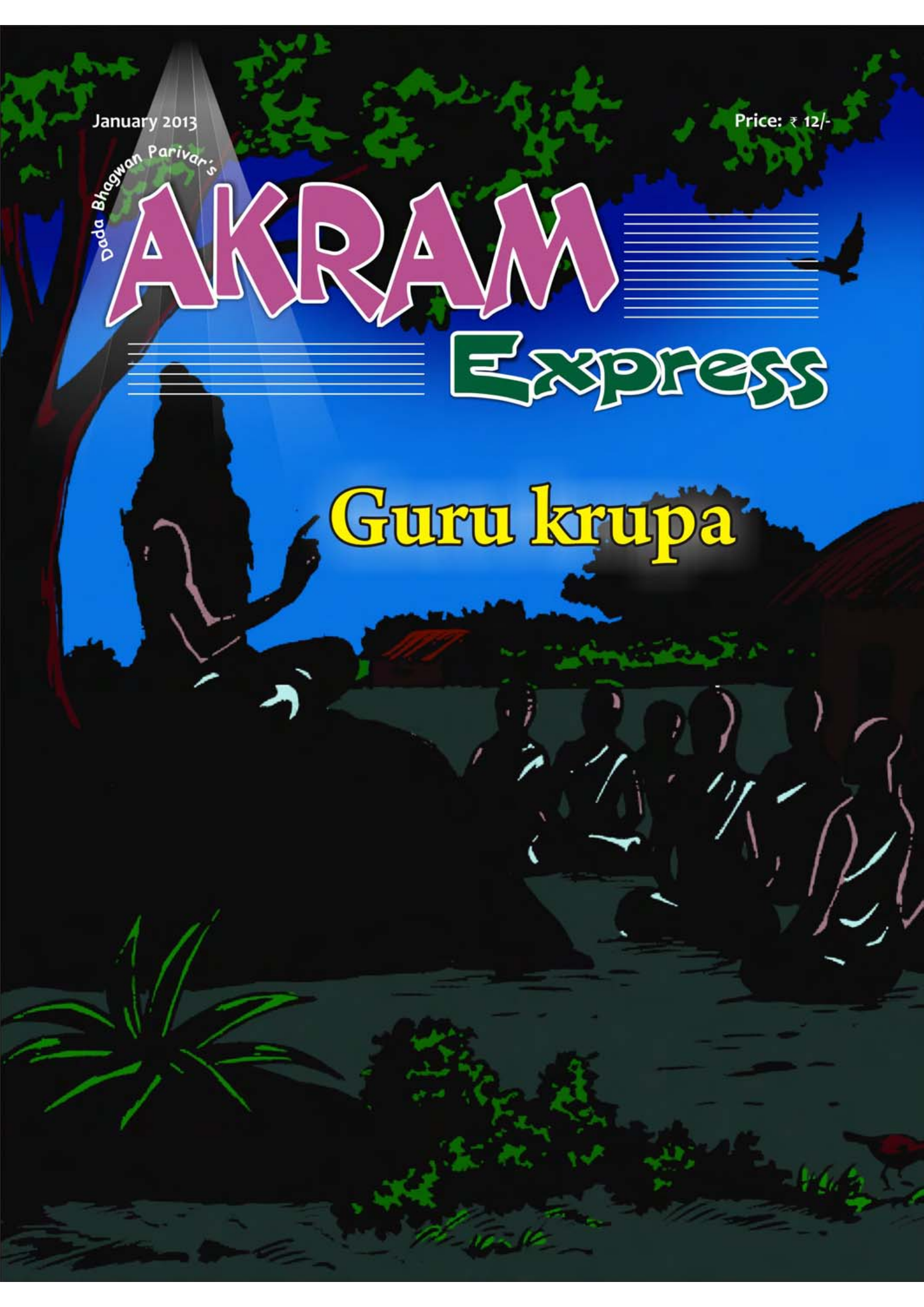
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Dada Bhagwan Parivar's

AKRAM

Express

Guru krupa



Guru krupa

Editorial

Friends,

Kavi, the poet, has written a beautiful verse on the grace of a Guru,

The speechless gain speech; the cripple climb mountains,

The power of the Guru's grace is extraordinary, the blind gain sight.

Amazing! The Guru's grace works wonders!

Here, we are talking about spiritual Gurus. But, a Guru is a Guru, whether he is of religion or of a school. The Guru's grace removes all obstacles and helps one reach right up to his goal. There is no doubt about that.

If the Guru's grace is so powerful, then how should one prepare himself to become worthy of deserving it? In this issue, Param Puja Dadashri has given us the wonderful understanding about this.

So come, let's also apply this understanding and become worthy of the Guru's grace so that we can attain our goal with ease. What's more, don't forget to share this precious 'key' with your friends as well.

-Dimple Mehta



Akram express

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You will need the help of a Guru right to the end. Even if you want to go to the station, you need the help of a guide. Moreover, when do we need teachers in a school? When we need to study, right? And what if we don't want to study? If you wish to achieve something then need a Guru. If you want to study, then make someone your teacher. A student cannot do anything by himself. With the grace of a Guru, one can progress. Therefore, it is not possible to attain any knowledge without a Guru.

Questioner: What should a student do to become worthy of the Guru's grace?

Dadashri: To be worthy of his grace, the student should keep the Guru happy. If that happens, the student is automatically blessed! What is 'Krupa Drashti'? When the disciple follows what the Guru asks, it keeps the Guru happy, that is 'krupa drashti'. However, if the disciple goes against his wishes then the guru is unhappy. If the disciple is obstinate, then the Guru may not shower his blessings.

The disciple may think, "The guru is not very intelligent. I will think it over myself and do things!" Therefore, when the Guru asks the disciple to do something in a certain manner, the disciple will outwardly reply, "Yes"; but then he will do something different. Additionally, the disciple will comment, "Guru may say, but he is a bit crazy." This is what is happening. When the Guru asks you, "Do not go anywhere at 11 o'clock from here." Then you should obey him even if your mind jumps up and down.

You should never see the Guru's fault. Sometimes, if the Guru tells you something convoluted, or gets annoyed with you; then you should ignore that. Once you have made a Guru, you should never see even a single fault of your Guru.

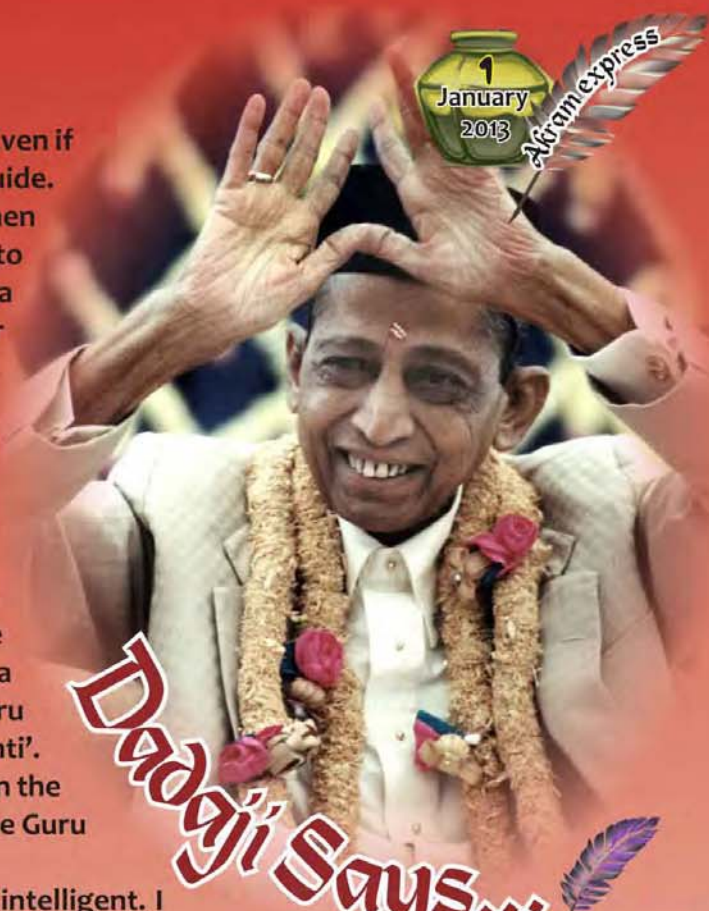
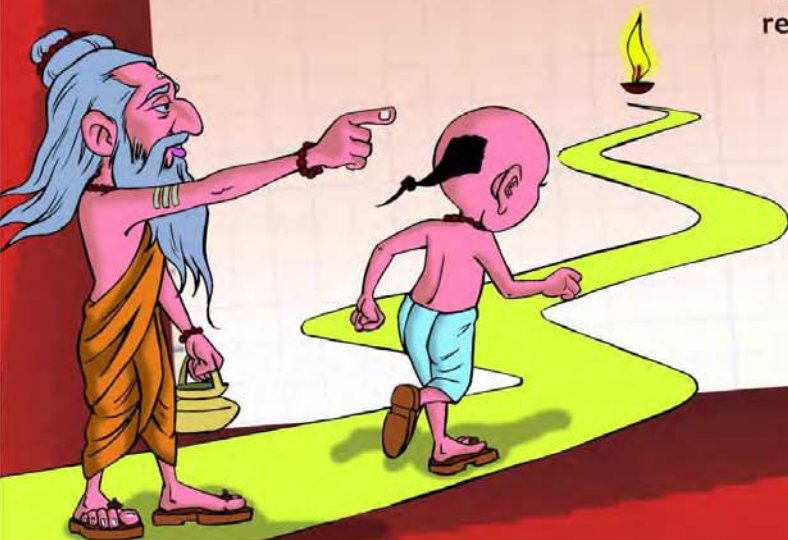
If you do not feel dislike for your Guru, then you will reap the benefits of your faith. Even if the Guru behaves foolishly, yet you do not feel dislike for him, then your faith will reap rewards. That is, if you do not spoil your inner intent towards him; because God, the living God, resides within your Guru.

Questioner: We need the grace of the Guru, but the disciple has to accomplish the deed?

Dadashri: You do not have to do anything, but have respect. What is there to do in this world anyway? Have respect; is there anything else to do? Take care never to spoil your mind towards him. Also, ensure to live in a way that you don't see a single fault in him.

No matter how the Guru behaves, the disciple should remain obedient. If the disciple follows the Guru's instructions; then his work will be done!

Dadaji Says...



The significance of 'Krupa'

In the city of Songadh, Guru Dayanand's school on the Art of Sculpting was very famous. People used to travel from different cities to see Dayanandji's sculptures. Dayanandji had also passed this knowledge on to his students with a lot of care.

Dayanandji's favourite student Utpal, had mastered this art very well. At a very early age, Utpal used to play in the school compound with a chisel, and he did not even realize when he had begun to carve sculptures out of stone. Just like his guru, Utpal's sculptures were the talk of the town. Utpal had made many sculptors such as a farmer ploughing land, a child at play, birds pecking away at seeds, etc. His touch brought the stone to life. Whenever people saw his idols, they felt as if the idols were about to speak!

Whilst everyone would praise Utpal's sculptors, the guruji's perceptive eyes would find some mistake or other in his workmanship. The guruji would ask Utpal to correct his mistakes. Utpal found it difficult to accept the guruji's remarks. However, when he corrected his mistakes as per his guruji's instruction, his sculpture turned out even better. As Utpal's work improved, the guruji's observation became more scrupulous, and he managed to find some fault or other with Utpal's work.

Once, Utpal made an exact replica of the King. It was difficult to differentiate between the real King and the statue! When the guruji scrutinized this statue, he found one mistake and asked Utpal to correct it. Hearing this, Utpal lost his cool, "You are always finding fault in my work! The whole town feels that this has turned out to be the best statue and all you do is find faults. You don't have any appreciation for my efforts. You are only



interested in degrading me. You wish that I look inferior to you, is that so? You can't bear to see my progress." He went on lamenting angrily.

The guruji was shocked to hear this. He had never imagined that his most talented student would ever behave with such disrespect towards him. Dayanandji himself had never shown disrespect for his own guru. He had always attributed the grace of his guru as the reason for his expertise. He strongly believed that whatever progress he had made was due to his guru's 'krupa drashti'. Therefore, he felt deeply upset today on hearing such insulting remarks and discourteous behavior from Utpal. It was as if his 'krupa drashti' over Utpal had disappeared. He became very silent.

Thereafter, Utpal made a few more statues. The guruji didn't find any mistakes in them. Seeing this change in the guruji, Utpal thought to himself, "Hmmm, now his ego has come down. Now he has come to his senses. He has now acknowledged me as one of the best sculptors."

A few days later, the King saw the statue made by Utpal. He was very delighted to see his true to life replica!

Praising Utpal's skill, the King said, "Utpal, we are impressed with your sculpting skill. A temple for the Goddess is being constructed in our kingdom. We are assigning you the task of creating a grand idol of this Goddess."

"If we show disrespect towards the guru, then his grace will disappear. The guru does not need respect or courtesy; it is for our own progress."



From the next day itself, Utpal started working on the Goddess's idol. One month passed, two months passed, but no matter what, Utpal was not satisfied with his work. Even after completing the idol, he felt as if there was something missing. He was feeling utterly confused. In this state of suffocation, he realized that he missed the guidance of his guruji. He understood that when his guruji used to show him his mistakes, he used to progress. Whatever mistake the guruji showed him, he used to correct it with acute attention and enthusiasm. Ever since the guruji stopped finding his mistakes, his progress had stopped.

In order to make improvements on the idol, Utpal approached his guruji for guidance. The guruji heartily showed him the oversights and suggested a few changes. Then, the guruji said affectionately, "Son, I am always happy when you progress. My intent is for your progress only. It would only give me pleasure if my student surpasses me. The world can praise without any issue, right? However, only a connoisseur can distinguish the mistakes!"

Hearing this, Utpal fell down at his guruji's feet. He felt a lot of remorse for his disrespectful behavior. With tears of remorse, he heartily asked his guruji for forgiveness. As per his guruji's guidance, he corrected his mistakes with great care and made a grand idol of the divine Goddess. The whole town was deeply moved to see this wonderful heavenly idol. When, even the king was impressed by Utpal's exceptional skill, Utpal clarified, "This was only possible because of my guruji's grace; I have not done this."

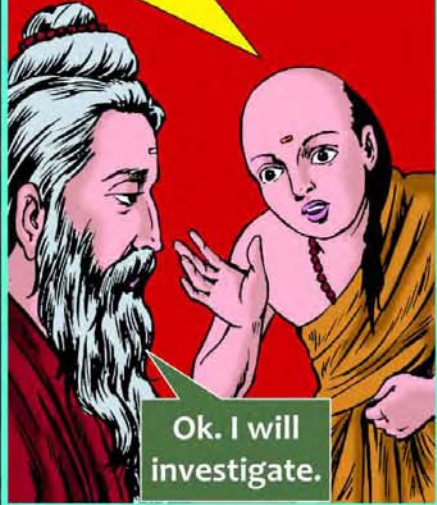
In this way, with a lot of joy and enthusiasm, the arrangements for the Pran Pratishtha (installation of the idol) ceremony were made.

See, if we show disrespect towards the guru, then his grace will disappear. The guru does not need respect or courtesy; it is for our own progress.



Reverence for the Guru

Guruji, today Raghav was cheating during the exam.



Ok. I will investigate.



This is an ancient story. In those days, the students used to go to 'Gurukuls' to study. They used to stay with the Guru and learn spiritual practice among other disciplines.

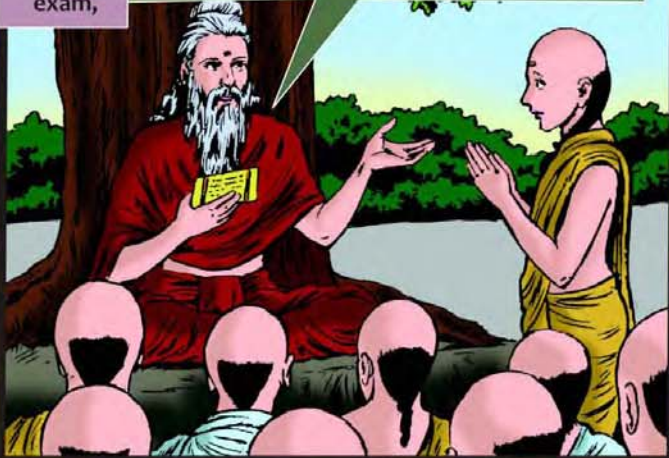
After a few days,

Guruji, today I saw Raghav stealing fruits from the neighbour's orchard.



Announcing the results of the exam,

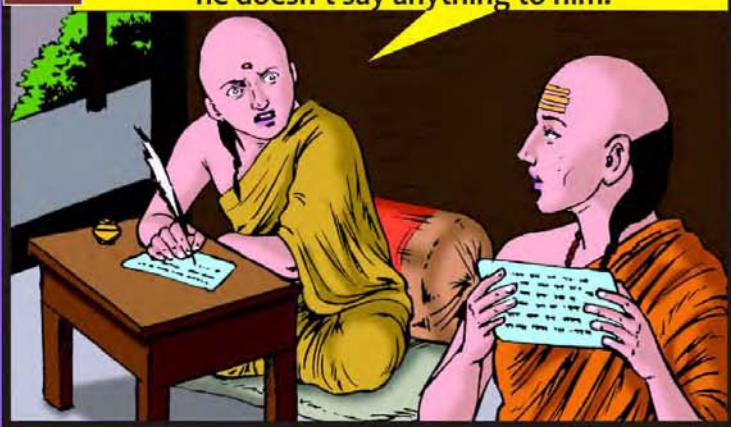
Mahipal, I didn't expect this from you. I had no doubt at all about your skill in Math. However, I am very disappointed in reading your answers. Write all these tables a hundred times by tomorrow.



I will punish him accordingly. However son, please concentrate on your studies. Have you prepared for tomorrow's Math exam?

Guruji is partial! For such a small mistake, I got such a big punishment! While Raghav steals, even though he is so wealthy, and yet the Guruji never tells him anything. He certainly must be getting gifts from Raghav's father. That's why he doesn't say anything to him.

In the room

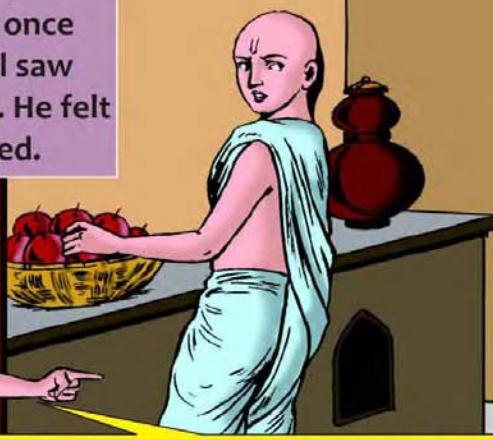


Mahipal, do not speak of the Guruji like this. Sometimes we may not understand the Guruji's reasoning, but that does not mean we should be disrespectful to him. If you insult him then how will understand any knowledge from him?

Ok, ok. When you get punished, I will remind you of your big lecture.



The next day, once again Mahipal saw Raghav stealing. He felt very annoyed.

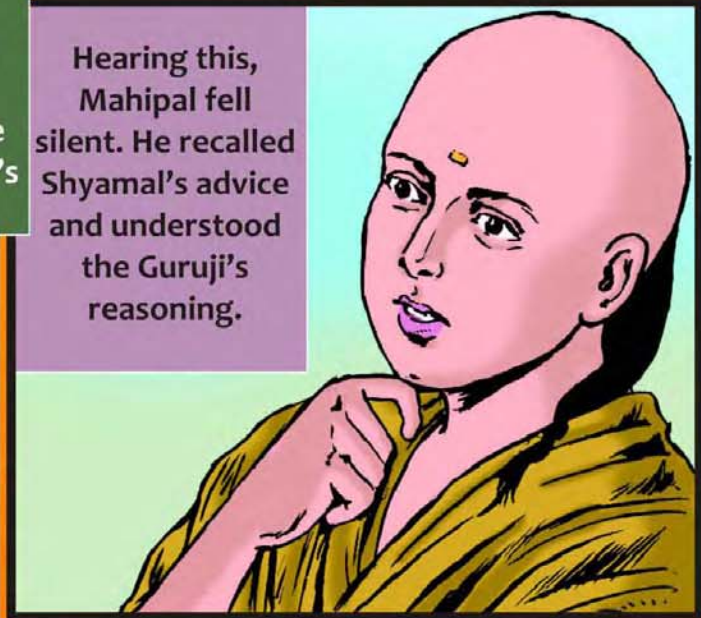


Guruji, we cannot overlook such behavior from Raghav. Expel him at once from this school.

Mahipal, you are wise and you can discriminate between right and wrong. You will be able to go and study anywhere. However, Raghav has not yet understood the difference between right and wrong and that's exactly what I have to teach him.

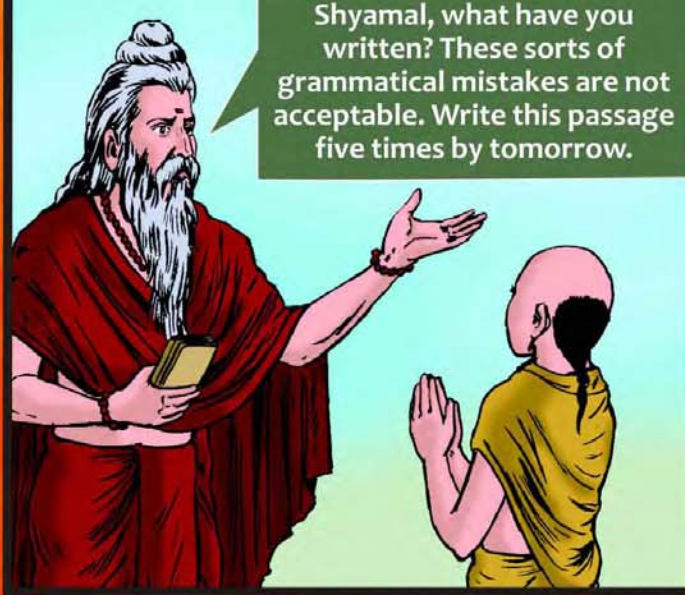


Hearing this, Mahipal fell silent. He recalled Shyamal's advice and understood the Guruji's reasoning.



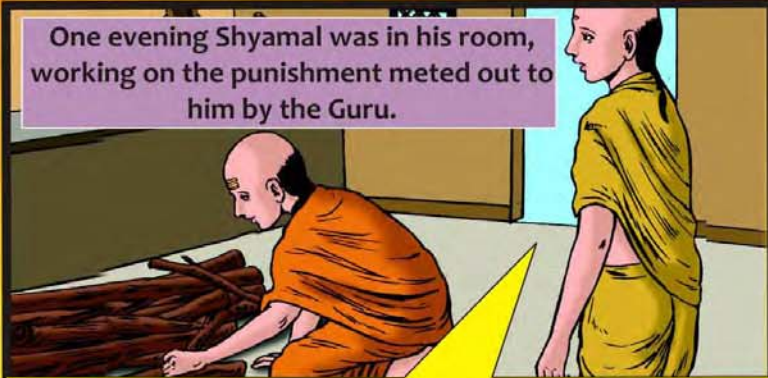
After a few days,

Shyamal, what have you written? These sorts of grammatical mistakes are not acceptable. Write this passage five times by tomorrow.



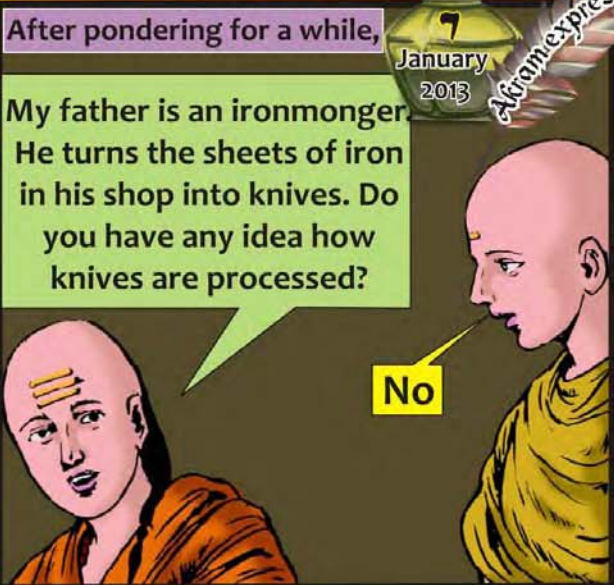
Back in the room, Shyamal completed the punishment meted out to him by the Guruji with great care. The next day, the Guruji once again dealt him a punishment for mistakes in another subject and this went on for many days. Shyamal used to get penalized for one thing or another, but he would always follow the Guruji's instructions with humility.





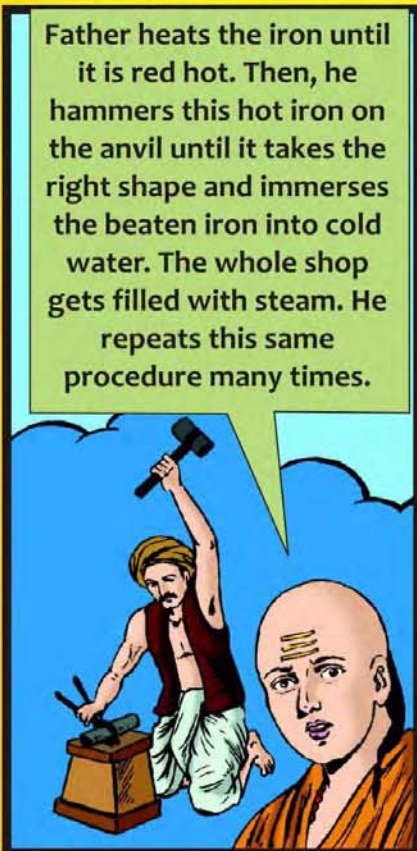
One evening Shyamal was in his room, working on the punishment meted out to him by the Guru.

Shyamal, Guruji is punishing you so much; don't you have any negative feelings towards him? I became irritated for such a petty reason. What understanding are you setting from within that you do not feel any disrespect for him?

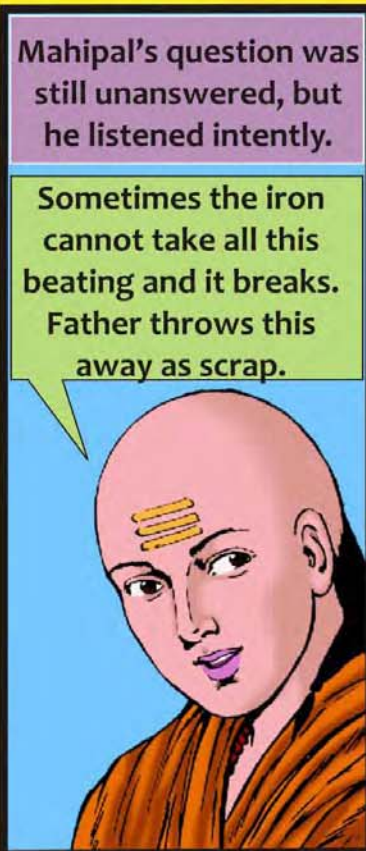


After pondering for a while, My father is an ironmonger. He turns the sheets of iron in his shop into knives. Do you have any idea how knives are processed?

No

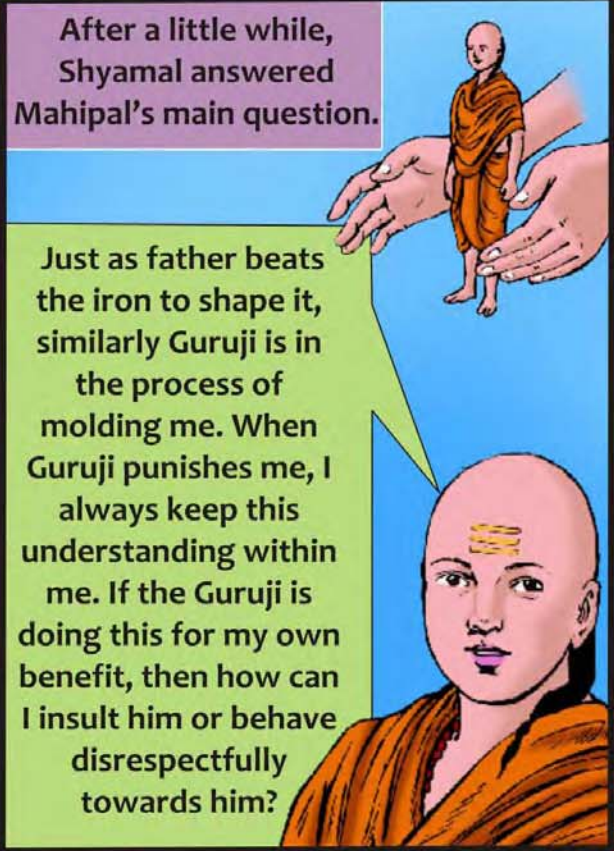


Father heats the iron until it is red hot. Then, he hammers this hot iron on the anvil until it takes the right shape and immerses the beaten iron into cold water. The whole shop gets filled with steam. He repeats this same procedure many times.



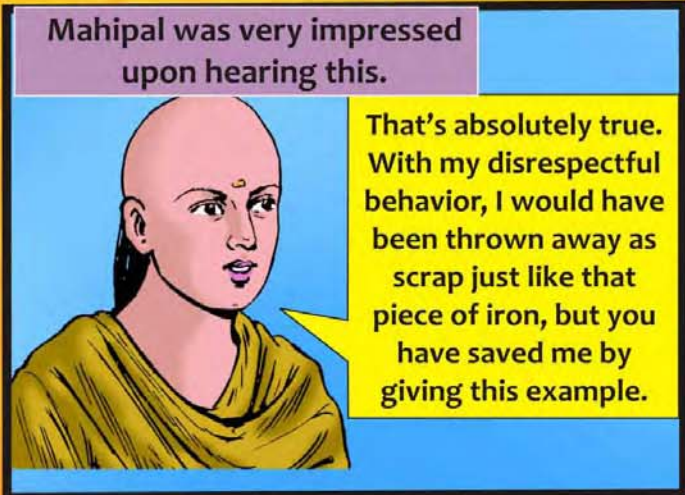
Mahipal's question was still unanswered, but he listened intently.

Sometimes the iron cannot take all this beating and it breaks. Father throws this away as scrap.



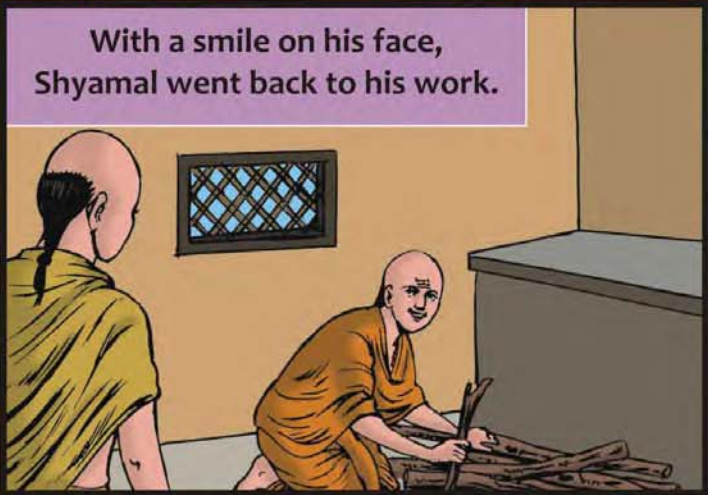
After a little while, Shyamal answered Mahipal's main question.

Just as father beats the iron to shape it, similarly Guruji is in the process of molding me. When Guruji punishes me, I always keep this understanding within me. If the Guruji is doing this for my own benefit, then how can I insult him or behave disrespectfully towards him?



Mahipal was very impressed upon hearing this.

That's absolutely true. With my disrespectful behavior, I would have been thrown away as scrap just like that piece of iron, but you have saved me by giving this example.



With a smile on his face, Shyamal went back to his work.

Absolutely

New

If we follow the Guru's instructions, then the Guru automatically receives 'Guru Dakshina' (the Guru's fees)



The bond of love between the Guru and disciple should be so divine that the disciple loves whatever the Guru says.



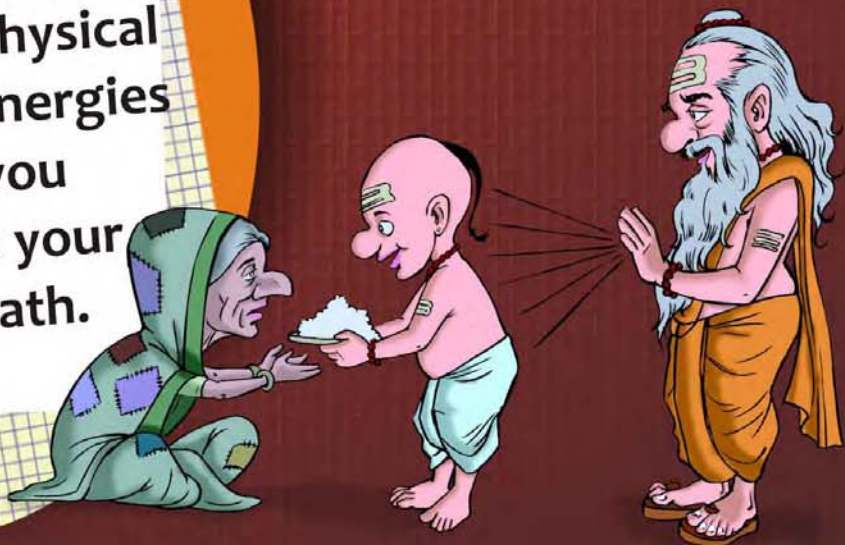
and

Different!



After getting fed up, the disciple may say, "What an incompetent Guru I have found!" Even if he says this only once, he loses whatever he has gained from the Guru! Therefore, if one has not remained subservient to the Guru even for a moment, he can lose everything in an instant!

Whoever you surrender to, you will gain whatever strengths they possess. Not physical strength, but energies that help you progress on your spiritual path.



Let's

Play

1.

Rewrite the jumbled sentences correctly

- right!" the mistakes can only a connoisseur the world can distinguish praise without any issue? However
- progress our own it is for respect or courtesy. The guru does not need;
- you will gain energies. surrender to physical strength not, but whatever strengths that you they possess, whomever help you progress on your spiritual path
- If Guru's the disciple how the Guru behaves No matter should. the disciple follows the instructions then his work will be done! remain obedient

3.

Connect the sentences together

- God resides within the Guru. a. it is not possible to attain
- If you do not feel dislike for your Guru, b. You will fall from his Grace
- any knowledge without a Guru c. the Living God
- By disrespecting the Guru d. then you will reap the benefits of your faith

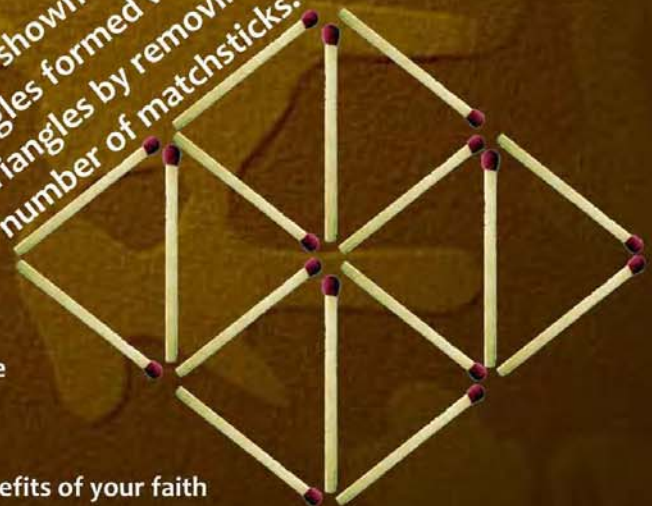
2.

Count the number of faces that you can see in this image

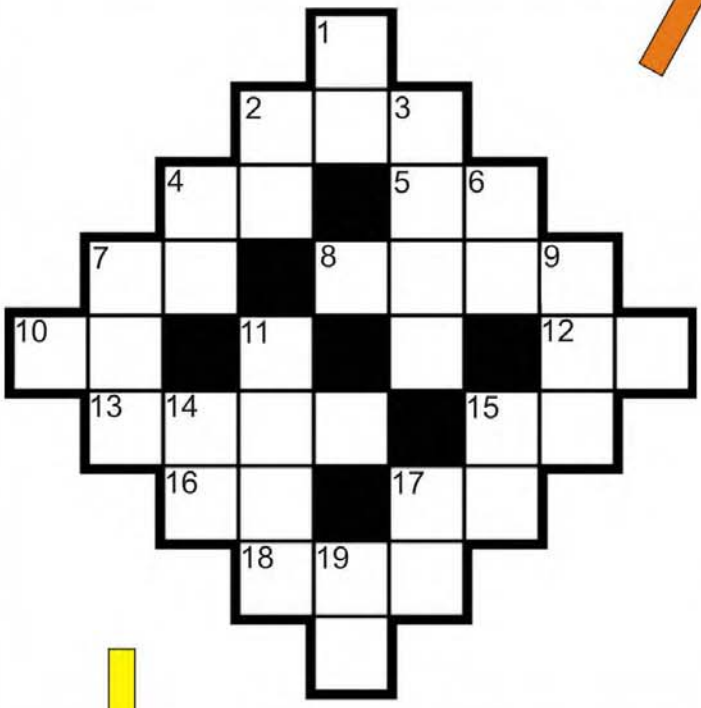


4.

In the figure shown below there are 10 similar triangles formed with matchsticks. Make 4 triangles by removing the least number of matchsticks.



5. Complete the crossword given below using the clues given



Across clues

- 2. 7 down minus 482.
- 4. The number of weeks in a year.
- 5. The number of days in 4 weeks.
- 7. 7×9 .
- 8. Arrange the numbers 8617.
- 10. 15 down + 42.
- 12. $\frac{1}{4}$ of 100.
- 13. $\frac{1}{2}$ of 10486.
- 15. $\frac{1}{2}$ of 10 Across.
- 16. $\frac{1}{4}$ of 4 Across.
- 17. 4×22 .
- 18. $82 + 62 + 78$.

Down clues

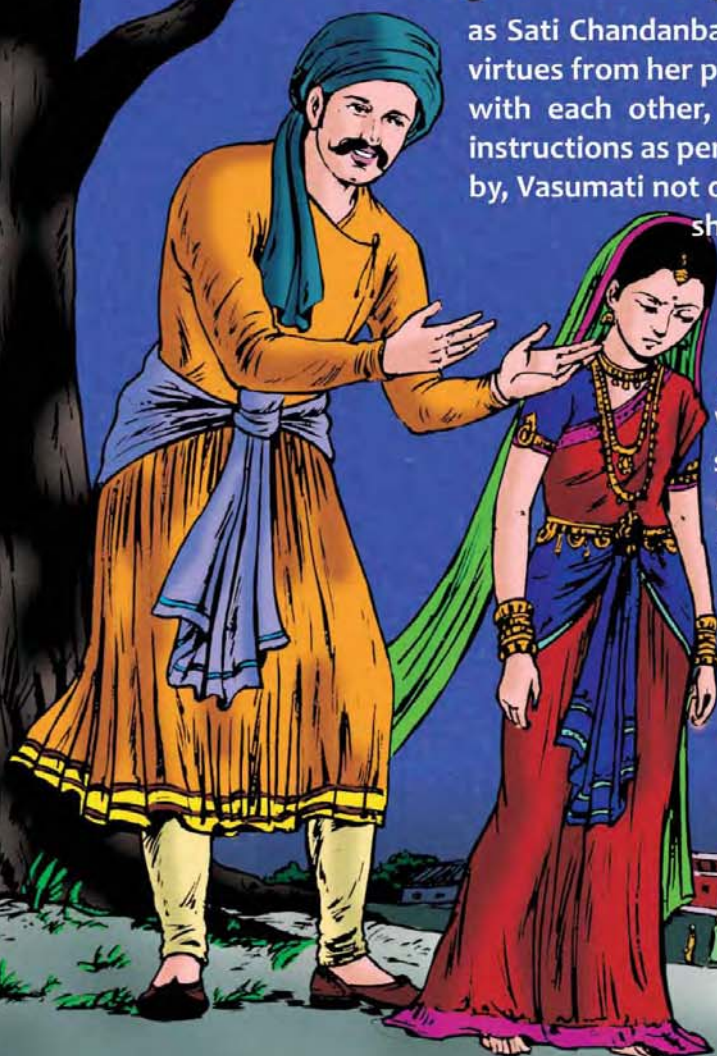
- 1. 4×8 .
- 2. 12 Across - 16 Across.
- 3. 1640×2 .
- 4. 6 Down - 5 Across.
- 6. 9×9 .
- 7. 5×121 .
- 9. $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1450.
- 11. 716×2 .
- 14. $\frac{1}{3}$ of 63
- 15. The number of hours in 2 days.
- 17. $\frac{1}{2}$ of 16.
- 19. $100/5$.

6.

In the figure given below, using 3 lines make 7 parts such that there is one apple in each part



Mythological Story



King Dadhivahan reigned over Champa City. His Queen's name was Dharini. The King was religious and was well loved by his subjects. He had one daughter, named Vasumati who is well known as Sati Chandanbala. It seemed as if Vasumati had imbibed religious virtues from her previous life. During childhood, when friends quarreled with each other, Vasumati would calm them down by giving them instructions as per the teachings of the Enlightened Ones. As years went by, Vasumati not only grew up to be a very beautiful young woman, but she reigned supreme in spiritual growth as well.

One day, King Shatanik of Kausambi City, attacked Champa City. Defeated by this sudden attack, King Dadhivahan escaped in despair. One soldier captured Queen Dharini and her daughter Vasumati and drove them away in a chariot. The soldier's intention became immoral towards Queen Mother Dharini. He stopped the chariot in the deathly silent jungle. When asked why he had stopped the chariot, he laughed out loudly and asked Queen Dharini to become his queen.

Sensing danger due to the corrupt intentions of the soldier, she sucked the poison from her ring and killed herself in order to save her honour and chastity.

Vasumati



started lamenting on her mother's death whilst the soldier was completely bewildered. Vasumati pleaded to the soldier to let her go. The soldier thought, if Vasumati also dies like her mother, then he would be left with nothing. With such thoughts, he brought Vasumati to Kausambi City. He made her stand in the middle of the marketplace to sell her off as a slave girl.

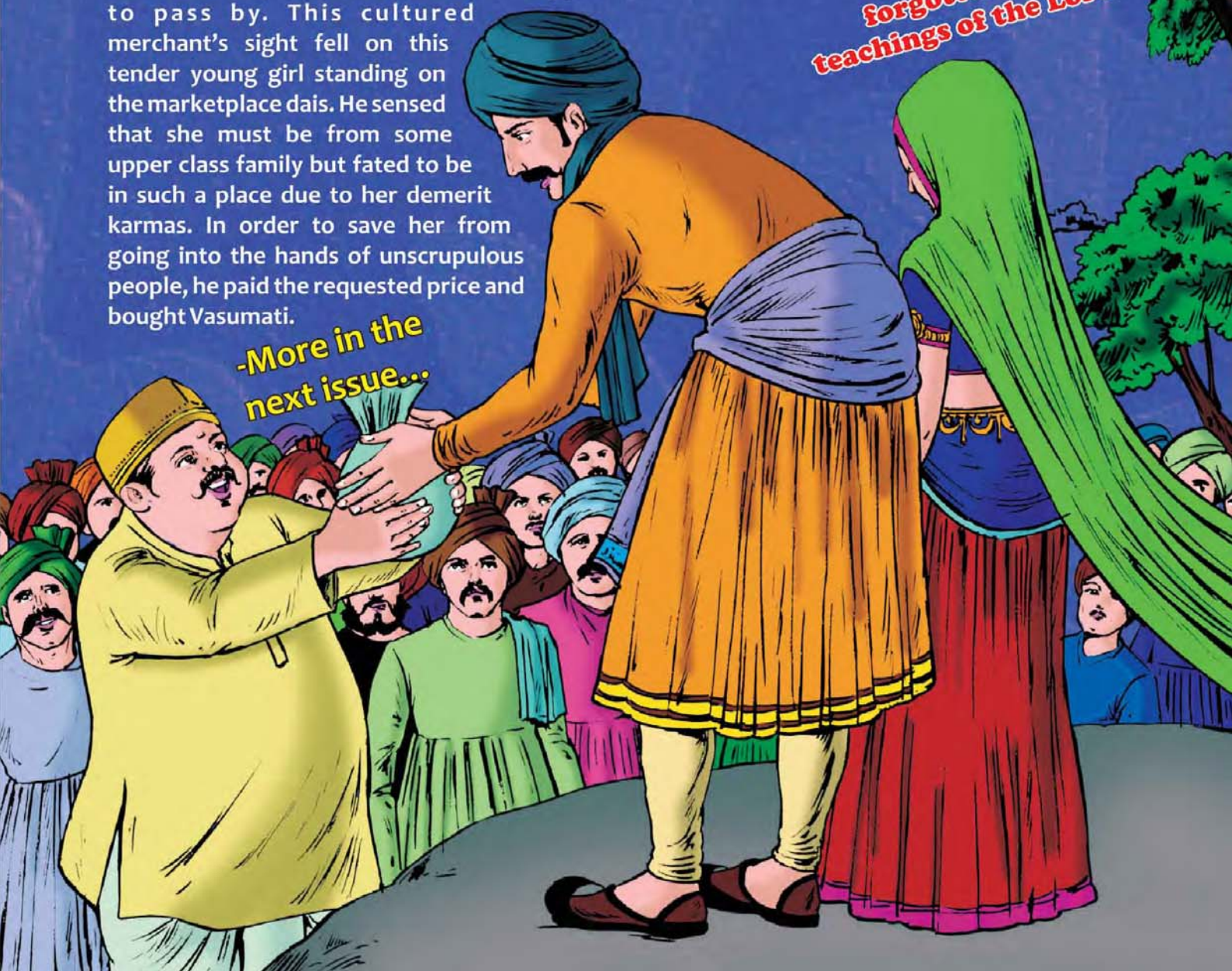
Oh! How karma unfolds! Born a princess, and brought up with so much love and pampering, today Vasumati stands alone and helpless in the marketplace. Even in this state, she had not forgotten the teachings of the Lord. In spite of her relatively distressing condition, she is at peace within herself. 'These are the effects of my demerit karmas; nobody is at fault. The soldier is just one of the evidences.' Imbibing such noble thoughts, she stood there.

Many people were attracted by her beauty and came to bid for her, but they couldn't afford to pay the price that was demanded.

Incidentally, merchant Dhanavah happened to pass by. This cultured merchant's sight fell on this tender young girl standing on the marketplace dais. He sensed that she must be from some upper class family but fated to be in such a place due to her demerit karmas. In order to save her from going into the hands of unscrupulous people, he paid the requested price and bought Vasumati.

“ Even in this state, she had not forgotten the teachings of the Lord. ”

-More in the next issue...



Test Yourself

From the incidents given below, find out who received the grace of the Guru and who was left devoid of it.

“Prepare for the Geography test planned for next Monday. This test is very important. So study attentively.” Kothari Sir announced in the classroom.

“Oh no! Another test again. It’s only ten days since we had our last Geography test. Why is Kothari Sir so cruel?” Shashank complained with a grimace as Kothari Sir’s class ended.

Pranay, “Kothari Sir is crazy. Let him talk! We will watch the cricket match tonight as planned. Deep, will you come to my house to watch the match?”

Deep, “No, mate, Sir has stressed that this test is very important. Therefore, I am going to study for this test tonight.”

In the evening, Shashank felt like watching the match, but then he thought, “Sir has said that the test is very important, so I must study. I should listen to my teacher.” So, he cancelled his plan to watch the match and sat down to study.

The next day, when Kothari Sir entered the class, there was a lot of noise. He expressed angrily, “Shashank, why have you been made the class monitor? Just to sit there? Why is there so much noise in the classroom?”

“I am very sorry, Sir. I was engrossed revising for the test. I will not make this mistake again.” Shashank answered respectfully.

When the class started, the teacher returned the marked homework to everyone. While doing this, he commended the drawing done by Suhas. Hearing this, Pranay thought to himself, “How partial he is! He always compliments Suhas.”

After a few days, while disclosing the results of the Geography test, the teacher announced, “Grade eight students are going on an educational tour. When I requested the Principal to take you all on this tour as well, he suggested that I should test you once more and whoever scores good marks will get a chance to go. That is why, you were tested again, children!”

Now friends, tell me who
was selected for this tour?



From the table below, find out from each of their thoughts, speech, or action, whether Shashank, Deep and Pranay got the teacher's grace, or were rejected. Anyone with 100 or more 'gurukrupa' points will be selected for the tour. Who do you think should be selected for the tour?

→ Evaluate each score in a few words

Deserving grace of
the guru (+ 100 points)

1. Follow the guru's instructions.
2. Respect the guru.
3. Never spoil your intent towards the guru.

Unworthy of grace of
guru (-100 points)

- Disobey the Guru.
Disrespect and dislike for
the guru.
See faults in the guru.

1. Shanshak:
2. Pranay:
3. Deep:

Shanshak and Deep will be selected for the tour
Shanshak: -100 (for calling him cruel), +100 (for revising as per teacher's
instructions although he wished to watch the match), +100 (for
answering the teacher's angry remark with humility)
Deep: +100 (for making sure that he studied as per teacher's instructions)
Pranay: -100 (saw faults of the teacher and thought of disobeying the
teacher), -100 (for seeing Sir's fault - Sir is partial) = -200

Answer

Sweet Memories



There was a mahatma bahen who had great devotion for Niruma. Whenever she met Niruma or went to satsang, she would place a garland that she made herself, around Niruma's neck. Seeing her devotion, Niruma would keep the garland on. The bahen would feel very happy seeing this.

After some time, the bahen's circumstances were such that she could stay with Niruma. Here too, she continued to weave the garland and place it around Niruma's neck. Gradually, as she became more pressed for time, the bahen continued to weave the garland during Niruma's satsang and she would put it round Niruma's neck at the end of the satsang session. In this way, she would weave the garland while listening to satsang. Sometimes, she would still be weaving the garland at the end of the satsang and at other times she would leave aside all her other work in order to make the garland.

One day, as usual, she put a garland around Niruma's neck. Niruma commented, "Now it's time you stop making this garland and start reading the Aptavani's (books containing Dada's spoken words)." From that day onwards, the bahen's attention diverted to reading and other important work.

See friends, Niruma encouraged devotion. However, if that devotion became an addiction, that is, when the addiction to make the garland by neglecting work or satsang set in, then Niruma at once put an end to the practice and brought her back to normality.



The work of compiling books and Dadavani magazines, was being carried out with great vigor. There were many new developments taking place in our foundation. One day, a gentleman had designed a cover page for one of the books and had come to Niruma for approval. This was his first attempt and he was quite excited about it. He showed it to Niruma. However, Niruma wasn't so convinced. She said, "The cover page does not seem show the gist of the topic explained in this book." The person explained, "No Niruma, the picture reads like this, it has this meaning." Immediately Niruma gave her approval, saying that the cover page was fine and the book was printed with that same cover page.

See friends, Niruma would never hurt someone's wish. She never gave importance to relative things, hence if anyone insisted on anything, she would immediately let go from her side. She would let go just to make the other person happy.

Puzzle Answers

1. The world can praise without any issue, right? However, only a connoisseur can distinguish the mistakes!
2. The guru does not need respect or courtesies; it is for our own progress.
3. Whomever you surrender to, you will gain whatever strengths they possess. Not physical strength, but energies that help you progress on your spiritual path.
4. No matter how the Guru behaves, the disciple should remain obedient. If the disciple follows the Guru's instructions; then his work will be done!

2. 10

1 - C

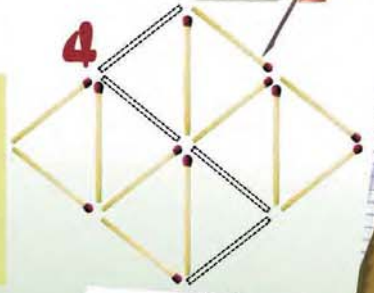
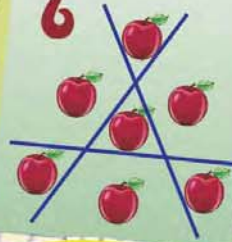
2 - D

3

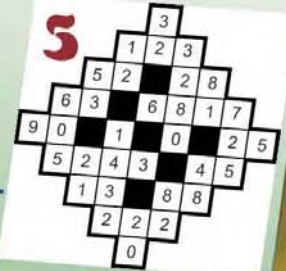
3 - A

4 - B

6

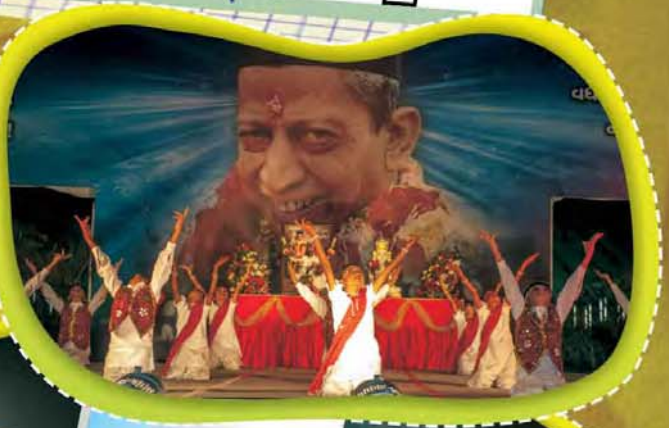


5



Glimpses of Param Pujya Dadashri's 105th Janma Jayanti Celebrations

Pujyashree doing puja of Param Pujya Dadashri



Inauguration of the Janma Jayanti through various cultural dances





Children's Park Glimpses



Puppet Show



Puppet Show



Puppet Show



Balvignan Dome



Balvignan Dome



Children playing games in the Balvignan Dome



Children overflowing for the Lucky Draw

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