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Dada Bhagwan Parivar's

AKRAM



Express

Greed knows no bounds!





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Dear Friends,
Greed knows no bounds!
This saying is so true! Once the greed to acquire something arises, we lose all our peace and contentment as we strive to obtain that thing at any cost. Moreover, we even become ready to compromise our principles and values. How appropriate is this? So come, let us recognize the real nature of this terrible mistake. In this issue, Param Puja Dadashri has given a detailed explanation on greed, its dangers, how to come out of it, etc. Let us read this issue and free ourselves from this weakness too.

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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
Website: kids.dadabhagwan.org

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Dadaji Says

Greed (Lobh) is when we keep on accumulating even though we have enough. The feeling of desiring for more is greed. Getting something when it is needed is not greed, however, when you have everything you need and still you buy more, that is greed. For example, if you have a school bag that is in good condition, yet you go buy another one. That is greed!

When you see someone hoarding things, you get an illusion that he is enjoying possession of so many things and then even you start doing the same. When one starts accumulating, it is the beginning of greed. He thinks that he will be happy if he has many things and he will never have to suffer, but in this process of accumulating, he becomes greedy. For example, one buys new dresses but stores the old ones in the cupboard instead of giving them away to the needy, with the thought that if one has a few dresses, then a different one can be

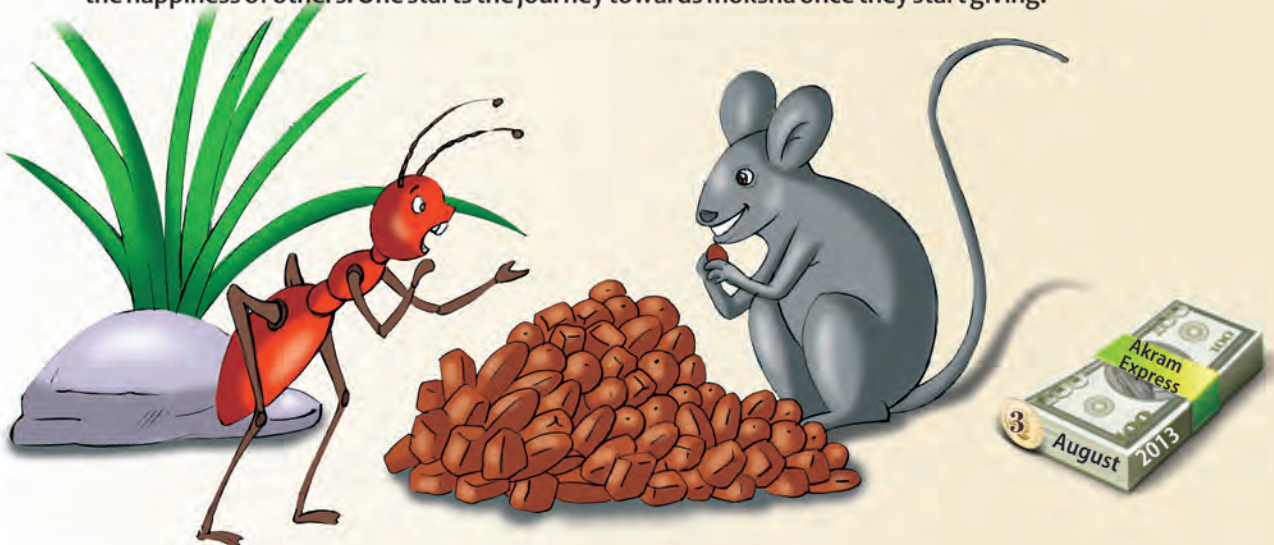
worn every time. Even if one has not worn those dresses even once within a span of two-three years, yet one does not have the heart to give them away. One has become greedy by imitating others.

Questioner: What should one do to break this (karmic) tuber of greed?

Dadashri: The tuber of greed can only break if one experiences an enormous loss or if one uses his wealth or things for the benefit of other people.

An example of enormous loss is when these ants demonstrate extreme greed by spending all day carrying sugar particles, grains or any other edible items to their storehouse. The ants accumulate enough to last for fifteen years and what happens in the end? One day, a rat will come and raid the whole year's collection! This is what happens to a greedy person.

This tuber of greed can dissolve if we use our possessions for the benefit of others. Some people use things for others rather than for themselves, such people come under the category of 'Saints'. They will never suffer. Who suffers? Those who spend only for themselves. So spend for the happiness of others. One starts the journey towards moksha once they start giving.



When I was doing business, I had made an agreement with my partner. I would send back home only as much money as I would have earned in a job. Not more than that.

- Dada Bhagwan



What is the meaning of greed? It is to deprive others from having something. For example, if we desire to have more money, how is it going to come to us? Someone will lose some amount so that we can have it. That is called depriving others from having something.



To be human is a great accomplishment. He can get everything. He is bound, according to his karmic account, as to how much ghee, oil, vegetables, milk etc, he will consume. That is why he gets all these things; otherwise, nobody would get it, not even the wealthy.



New and Different !

When does contentment arise? It arises when one is satisfied from within. Then, even if a pot full of gold is placed in front of him, he will not be affected.



An extraordinary cave

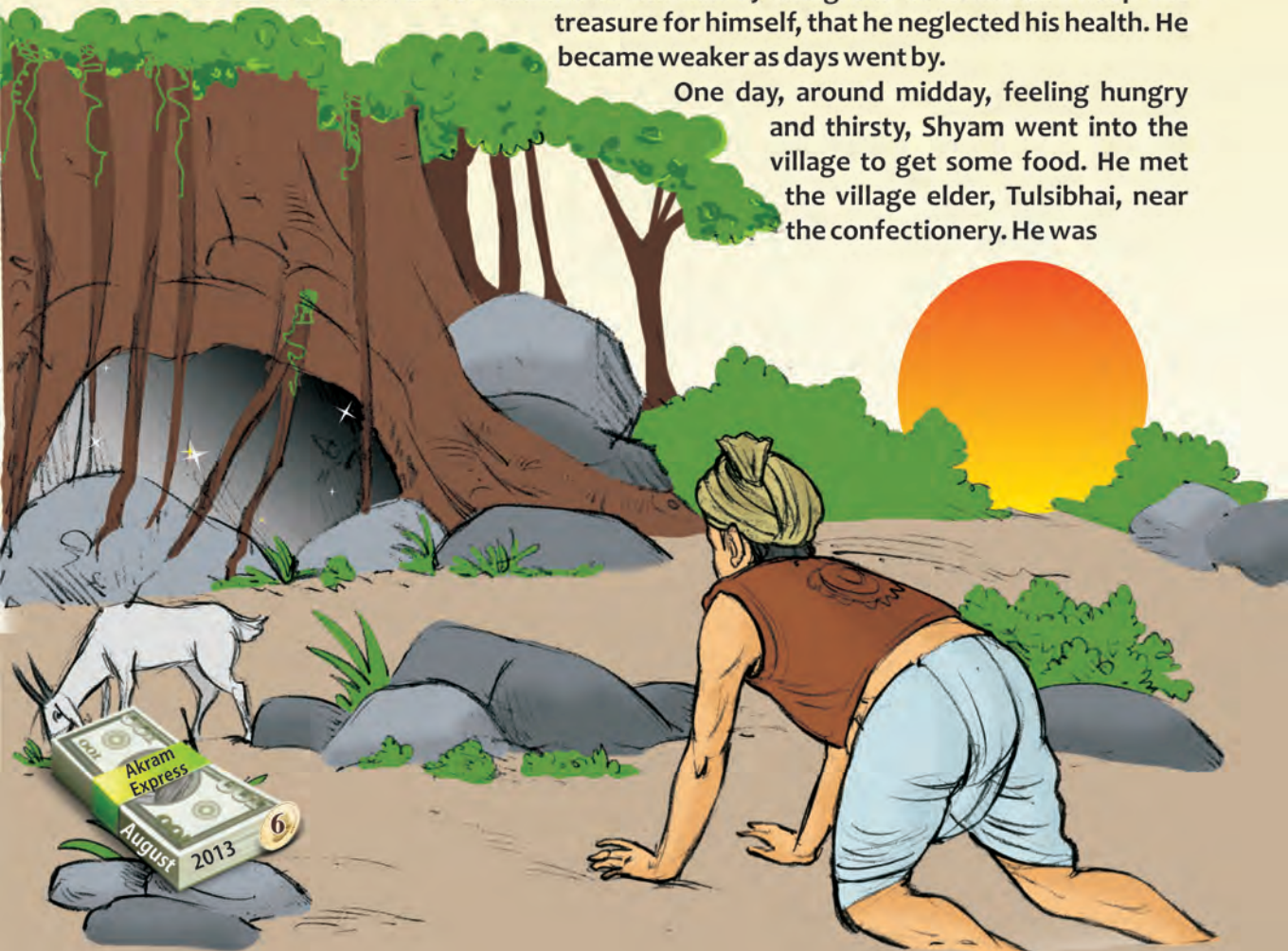
Once upon a time, there was a famous cave near the village of Madhavpur. The people of this village did not know the exact location of the cave, but there was a well-known belief that this was an elusive cave with hidden treasure, including precious gems, gold and silver. Some of the villagers had tried to look for this cave, but had been unsuccessful.

One day, at dusk, just before the sun was about to set and there was a crimson glow in the sky, Shyam the shepherd was returning home after grazing his goats. Incidentally, one of the goats strayed towards a cave that was completely covered with various kinds of ivy, plants and bushes. Shyam naturally followed the goat into the cave. He was amazed when he looked around him.

In every direction, there were heaps of precious stones and gems, diamonds and pearls, gold and silver. His happiness knew no bounds. He struggled with the thought, 'How can I gather all this treasure?' He decided, 'It would be foolish to leave this cave. So, from now on I will protect this cave and its treasure.'

Thereafter, he started guarding the cave day and night. He made a dwelling for himself outside the cave. In order to keep this cave a secret, he distanced himself from his friends and relatives. He became so blinded by the greed to hoard and keep the treasure for himself, that he neglected his health. He became weaker as days went by.

One day, around midday, feeling hungry and thirsty, Shyam went into the village to get some food. He met the village elder, Tulsibhai, near the confectionery. He was





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shocked to see Shyam's condition

He asked Shyam compassionately, "Brother, what have you done to yourself? Come to my house, we will have a meal and chat." Shyam tried to find an excuse, but Tulsibhai insisted and eventually took Shyam to his house.

After lunch, Tulsibhai asked Shyam gently, "Brother, I hope your work is alright. Why have you become so thin?"

Shyam felt a little ashamed by Tulsibhai's question. He stammered, "These days I have a lot of work to do. That is why I have become weak. I think it is better to work hard now and earn enough money in order to sustain myself when I become old."

"That is true. However, of what use is that wealth which does not leave you healthy enough to enjoy it? Many times people have enough wealth, but in the greed to accumulate more they end up losing everything."

Shyam was not interested in what Tulsibhai was saying, and he became restless. He kept on thinking, 'When can I leave this place and go back to the cave.' But, Tulsibhai was in the mood for chatting. He sat down cross-legged on the bed, taking a sip of lassi (buttermilk) he laughed, "Many years back, even I had this obsession for accumulating wealth. My mind was focused on how I could earn more. At that time, my father mentioned an incident that had occurred in the village" and Tulsibhai started narrating the incident...

"There was a farmer. He had enough to sustain himself. One day he heard about a strange offer put forward by the landlord. The offer was to take as much land as possible in one day, in exchange for a thousand rupees."

The farmer was puzzled when he heard about this deal. He approached the landlord and asked with curiosity, "What do you mean by this offer?"

The landlord explained, "Whatever distance you walk in a day that much land will be yours. However, the only condition is that before sunset you must return to the place where you started off from; otherwise you lose the offer as well as the one thousand rupees given to me."

The farmer thought this to be quite a profitable deal. The next day at dawn, as the sun rose, he gave a thousand rupees to the landlord and set off walking. By midday he had covered a long distance. He thought, 'I should go back now.' However, he could not turn back due to his greed to acquire more land. 'Let me get some more land. Only a foolish person would let go of a beautiful land like this,' he thought and kept walking on.

The scorching sun was overhead. Due to extreme heat, he was sweating profusely. He thought of taking a rest, but his greed made him discard that thought and he continued to walk. He started getting blisters on his feet. Even his heartbeat increased and his mouth became dry of thirst. Sometime before sunset, he turned around to return to the starting point. Now he did not have any strength left in him, he was dragging himself.

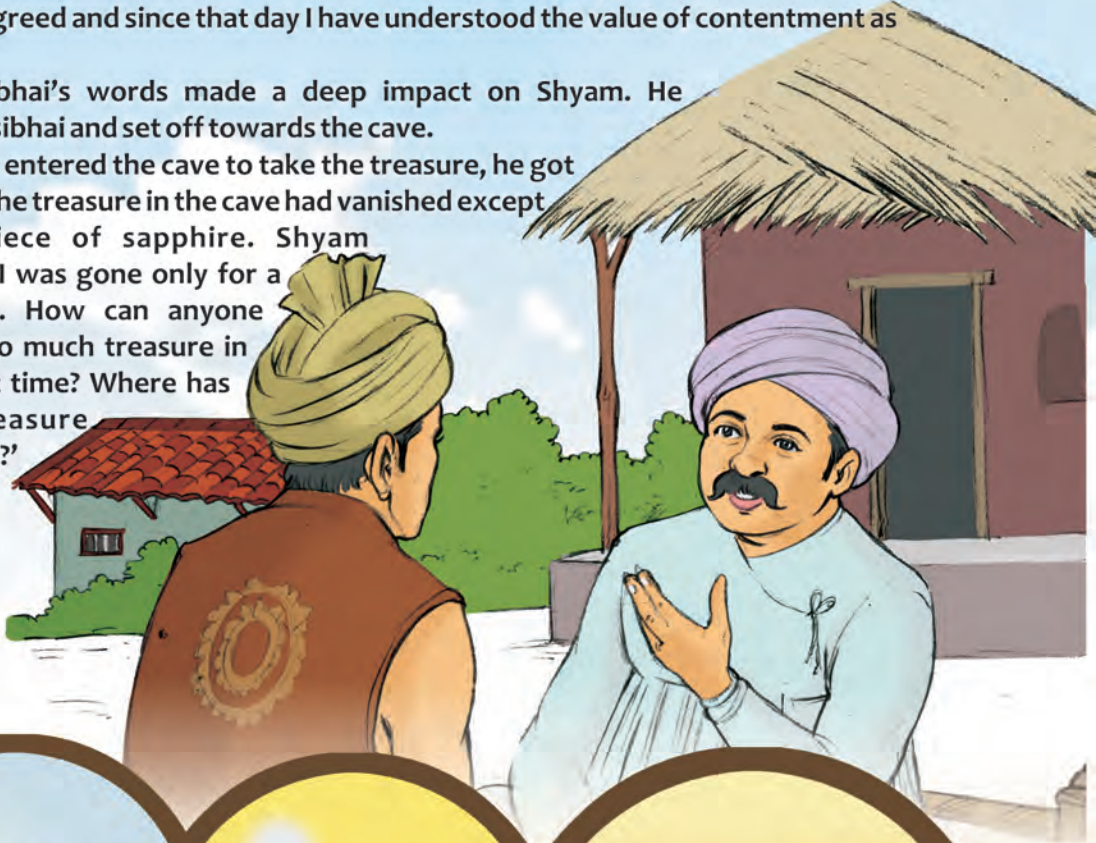
He made it back to the starting point just before the sun set and spectators applauded him. But, he collapsed just as he touched the border. He started bleeding from his mouth and in a few moments he died."

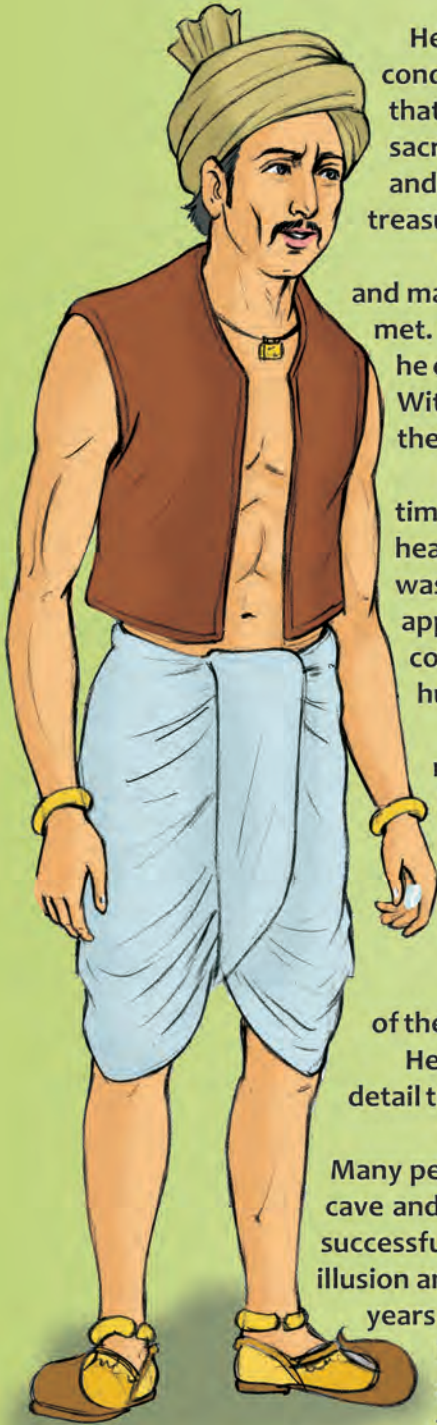


Shyam was dismayed to hear such a sorrowful end to the story. Tulsibhai went on to relate his own experience and said, "With this tale my father freed me from the bondage of greed and since that day I have understood the value of contentment as a wealth."

Tulsibhai's words made a deep impact on Shyam. He thanked Tulsibhai and set off towards the cave.

When he entered the cave to take the treasure, he got a shock. All the treasure in the cave had vanished except for one piece of sapphire. Shyam wondered, 'I was gone only for a short while. How can anyone take away so much treasure in such a short time? Where has all the treasure disappeared?'





He recalled Tulsibhai's advice. He started thinking, 'Even my condition has become the same as that farmer's. The treasure that I was constantly looking after came of no use to me. I sacrificed my joy, my health, and my relationships with my family and friends in order to preserve the treasure. How can such treasure be of any help to me?'

Without thinking further, Shyam took the piece of Sapphire and made a strong decision to give away the gem to whomever he met. He thought, 'This is the only way I can get rid of my greed.' As he came out of the cave with the sapphire, he met an old woman. Without hesitation, as per his decision, he immediately gave her the sapphire gem.

Before going home, Shyam glanced into the cave for the last time. Once again, he was stunned by what he saw. There lay a heap of gold coins. He rubbed his eyes, opened them wide, and was awe stricken. What a magical cave where treasure not only appears but also vanishes by itself! As per his decision, Shyam collected the gold coins and secretly left them at a poor man's hut.

This went on for a few days and gradually Shyam realized that as he gave away from the treasure, it kept on increasing! However, he couldn't figure out the significance of this miracle.

Around that time, he met Tulsibhai once again. He was pleased to see Shyam looking healthier; however, he couldn't help noticing Shyam's perplexity. When Tulsibhai asked him the reason for this, Shyam shared his experience of the cave.

Hearing this, Tulsibhai laughed lightly and then he explained in detail to Shyam the secret meaning of this cave....

"This cave is known as 'The Cave with Thousand Treasures'. Many people before you have been caught in the trap of this elusive cave and greed. However brother, you are the first person who has successfully managed to come out of this cave's mysterious web of illusion and greed. The historical significance of this cave is that many years ago, a saint had done a lot of penance inside this cave and had bestowed upon it a boon that treasure will remain in this cave as long as no one becomes greedy. If anyone becomes greedy then gradually the treasure will disappear."

After this, for a long time the treasure did not deplete. Consequently, the village of Madhavpur flourished. However, Shyam considered the wealth of contentment as his true wealth and he spent the rest of his life for the benefit of others.



Entrapped

Today the 'Monkey Festival' was being celebrated in the jungle. A great variety of fruits and plants were being served.

Madaniya, the food looks very tempting!! I can't make up my mind what to eat!



Chimpu grabbed whatever he could carry. Bananas, apples, guavas, oranges, tangerines...



This is a feast, so of course I will eat! But, I will take only what I can eat.

But friend, today we are free to eat as much as we want.

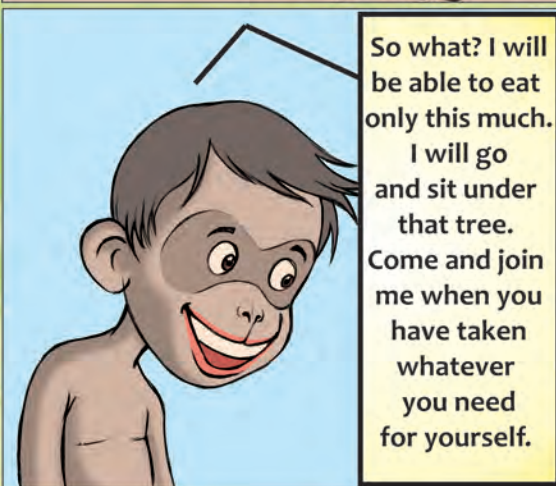


So what? I will be able to eat only this much. I will go and sit under that tree. Come and join me when you have taken whatever you need for yourself.

Chimpu made a heap of different types of fruits and plants under the tree and settled down to eat. After a little while,

Really uh... Oh dear... My stomach is really full.

That was good! Everything was so delicious!



Now, let us go and play with our friends.

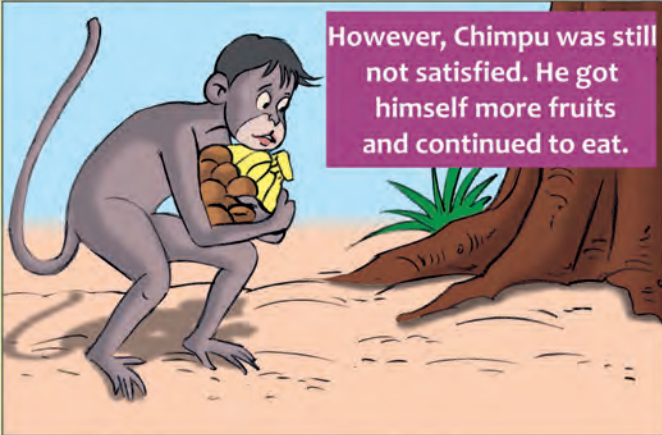


So soon? It's only my stomach that is full. My mind is not satisfied. I still have many other fruits left to taste. We are free to eat as much as we want, remember?

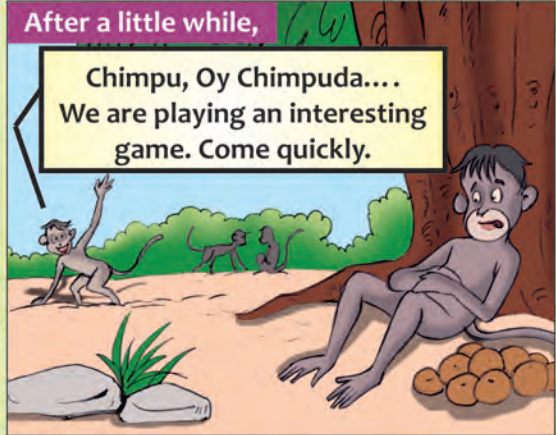


But Chimpu, that does not mean you keep eating even though you are not hungry.

There is something like satisfaction, isn't there? I am off to play.

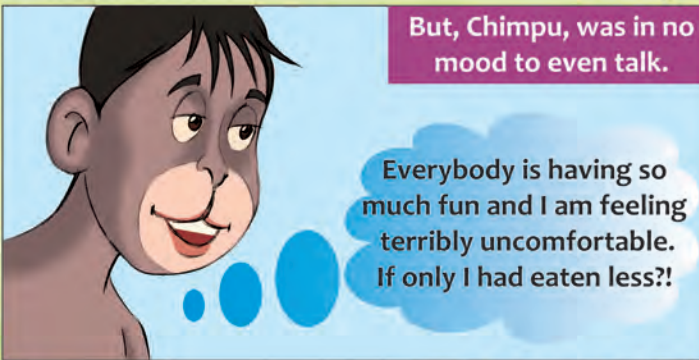


However, Chimpu was still not satisfied. He got himself more fruits and continued to eat.



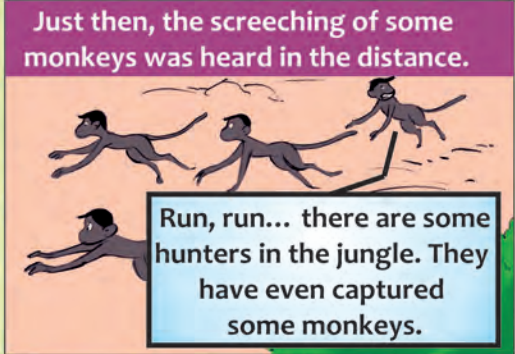
After a little while,

Chimpu, Oy Chimpuda.... We are playing an interesting game. Come quickly.



But, Chimpu, was in no mood to even talk.

Everybody is having so much fun and I am feeling terribly uncomfortable. If only I had eaten less?!



Just then, the screeching of some monkeys was heard in the distance.

Run, run... there are some hunters in the jungle. They have even captured some monkeys.



Terrified, all the monkeys started scrambling around. Shabbhu monkey was old and smart. He hid himself in the dense bushes.

Chimpu could hardly jump with a full stomach and he got scared. Just then, he saw a jar full of peas. He was about to go near it when...

Don't put your hand in it.

But there are 'chana' (peas) in it.



Traps?

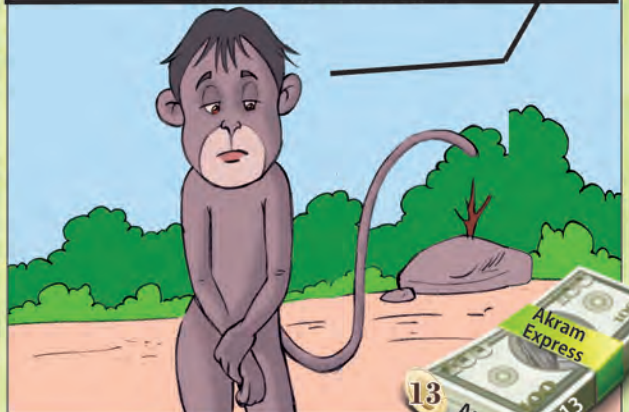
Yes, these hunters are very clever. They fill up the jars with 'chana'. The greedy monkeys try to remove the chana with their fist full of them, but their fist becomes stuck in the jar. They don't let go of their fist, and so the hand cannot come out. They try to lift the whole jar and eventually they are caught.

No, no come back. These hunters' traps are successful because monkeys are greedy.



Chimpu couldn't say anything. He looked down in shame. Today, he himself had experienced the uneasiness of the entrapment! From that day, he decided never to take more than necessary.

The hand will not become stuck if they take out only a little amount, but how can they save themselves if they take a fistful? This is indeed the entrapment of greed, isn't it?



Happy Birthday

Akram Express

Akram Express is completing 5 years this month. So, on this occasion, let us take a glimpse of some of the responses it has had....



અકમ એક્સપ્રેસ વાંચવાની સાથેજ ખૂબ જ મજા પડે છે. તેમાં આવતી વાર્તા, ઉપાણાં, જોક્સ વગેરે પાકું કરીને સ્કૂલમાં પ્રાર્થના સમયે બીજા બાળકોને પણ ઘણીવાર સંભળાવું છું. મનોરંજન અને જ્ઞાનનો ખજાનો એટલે અકમ એક્સપ્રેસ. અકમ એક્સપ્રેસની હું આતુરતા પૂર્વક રાહ જોઉં છું. મારી એક નમ્ર વિનંતી છે કે અકમ એક્સપ્રેસ દર મહિને એક જ આવે છે. તો શક્ય હોય તો બે આવે એવું હું ઈચ્છું છું કારણ કે જલદીથી વંચાય જાય છે.

મેં બધા જ અકમ એક્સપ્રેસ સાચવીને રાખ્યા છે અને ફાઈલ બનાવી છે. અને વારંવાર વાંચવા પણ ગમે છે. અકમ એક્સપ્રેસની વાર્તાઓ હું વાંચીને મમ્મી-પપ્પાને પણ કહું છું. આઈ લવ માય અકમ એક્સપ્રેસ.

દાદાજી આપણી દરેક ભૂલને સુધારે છે. આપણે હંમેશા વડીલોનું માન જાળવવું જોઈએ. મુશ્કેલીમાં તેઓ હંમેશા આપણને સાચો માર્ગ દેખાડે છે આપણે પણ તેમની વાતોને માન આપીએ છીએ. દાદાજી જ આપણને સારા સંસ્કાર આપે છે. ખરા-ખોટાનું ભાન કરાવે છે. આપણા સમાજમાં એવા ઘણા લોકો છે કે જેઆ આ અકમ એક્સપ્રેસ વાંચી શકતા નથી. મારા જેવડાં નાના-મોટા દરેક મિત્રોને હું વિનંતી કરું છું તે તમે અકમ એક્સપ્રેસ સાથે જોડાવ, અને બીજાને જોડાવવા પ્રેરણા કરો. અકમ એક્સપ્રેસ વાંચજો, સાચવજો, સમજજો અથવા બીજાને વાંચવા જરૂરથી આપશો.

અકમ એક્સપ્રેસ વાંચવાથી ખરેખર અમારા જેવડા નાના બાળકોના જીવનમાં જરૂરથી પરીવર્તન લાવી શકે છે. મારું ગમતું મેગેઝીન એટલે અકમ એક્સપ્રેસ એ કસ્ટોમર. અકમ એક્સપ્રેસએ મારો સૌથી બેસ્ટ ફ્રેન્ડ બની ગયો છે.

સમગ્ર દાદા પરિવારને હની ના એક્સપ્રેસ જય સચ્ચિદાનંદ. મને અકમ એક્સપ્રેસ વાચવું ખૂબ જ ગમે છે. મમ્મી પપ્પા જેમ દાદાવાણી અને દીપકભાઈના સત્સંગની રાહ જુએ છે એમ હું અકમ એક્સપ્રેસ અને બાળકોની શિબિર ક્યારે આવશે એની રાહ જોતી રહું છું. અકમ એક્સપ્રેસમાં મને દાદા કહે છે, મીઠી યાદે, મારી વાતો અને પઝલ ખૂબ જ ગમ્યા.

હની કક્કર
ઉંમર : ૧૦ વર્ષ
કલિયા (વાસણા)

જય સચ્ચિદાનંદ
હું મારો અકમ એક્સપ્રેસનો અનુભવ કહેવા માંગુ છું. અકમ એક્સપ્રેસમાંથી મને શીખવા મળ્યું કે, આપણે કોઈને દુઃખ ન આપવું જોઈએ. જો ભૂલથી પણ દુઃખ અપાય જાય તો માફી માંગી લેવી જોઈએ. અને પ્રતિક્રમણ કરી લેવા જોઈએ. આપણે વડીલોનો વિનય રાખવો જોઈએ. આવી રીતે મને અકમ એક્સપ્રેસમાંથી ઘણું બધું શીખવા મળ્યું છે. અને અકમ એક્સપ્રેસથી મારા જીવનમાં ઘણો બધો ફેરફાર થયો છે. પહેલા મારાથી મારા ગુરૂનું ઘણું નેગેટિવ બોલાઈ જતું પણ અકમ એક્સપ્રેસ વાંચવાથી મને ખબર પડી કે ગુરૂનું કદી પણ નેગેટિવ બોલાય નહી. આવી રીતે ઘણી બધી વાતમાં મારા જીવનમાં ફેરફાર થયો છે. આવી જ રીતે અકમ એક્સપ્રેસ છપાતી રહે, જેથી હું હજી વધારે કંઈક મેળવી શકું.

સિંઘાળા હેપી અરવિંદભાઈ
૧૩, વર્ષ
સીમંદરસીદી

આગમ સ્વપ્નભાઈ સંદરી
ઉંમર : ૮, વર્ષ
અમદાવાદ





Dear (Akram Express) Editor

Jay Sachitanand,

I like reading Akram Express.

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!!!!

Parita H. Patel
age : 11 year
Anand

જય સચ્ચિદાનંદ,
મને અકમ એક્સપ્રેસમાંથી ઘણું શીખવા મળે છે. માર્ચ મહિનાની અકમ એક્સપ્રેસમાંથી મને અદ્ભુત અનુભવ થયો. મને મારા મમ્મી ભણતા પહેલા 'દાદા ભગવાનના અસીમજય જયકાર હો' બોલવાનું કહેતા, પણ હું બોલતી નહીં. પણ અકમ એક્સપ્રેસમાં મેં વાંચ્યું કે ભણતા પહેલા દસ મિનિટ 'દાદા ભગવાનના અસીમ જય જયકાર હો' બોલવાથી ચિત્ત એકાગ્ર થાય છે. તે દિવસે હું 'દાદા ભગવાનના અસીમ જય જયકાર હો' બોલીને ભણવા બેઠી અને બીજે દિવસે જ્યારે સ્કૂલમાં સવાલ લખાવ્યા ત્યારે મને બધા જ સવાલના જવાબ આવડ્યા. કાયમ હું ત્રણ-ત્રણ વાર વાંચ્યું તો પણ યાદ રહેતું નહતું. તે દિવસે મેં એક જ વાર વાંચ્યું તો પણ મને યાદ રહી ગયું. મને તે દિવસે સવાલનો જવાબ જેમ આપેલો હતો તેમ મને દેખાયો. મને આ વખતની અકમ એક્સપ્રેસ ખૂબ જ ગમી.

રીયા ગજ્જર,
અમદાવાદ

દરેક માસે આવતુ અકમ એક્સપ્રેસ મેગેઝીન જાણે મને જ અનુલક્ષીને આવતુ હોય એવું લાગે છે. દરેક બાબતોમાં દાદા જાણે મને જ મેગેઝીન દ્વારા હેલ્પ કરવા આવતા હોય તેમ લાગે છે. ધીરે ધીરે મારી સમજણ વધતી જઈ રહી હોય એમ લાગે છે. જે નીચે દ્રારા હું સમજાવી શકું છું.

મારી મમ્મી મને બહુ ગમે છે કારણ કે તે મને બધુ સારું સારું બનાવીને પ્રેમથી જમાડે છે. હું જે કહું તે બધું જ મમ્મી બનાવે છે. મમ્મી ઘણીવાર મારી પર ગુસ્સે થઈ જાય અને મને મારે પણ છે, ત્યારે પહેલા મને મમ્મીનો જ વાંક દેખાતો હતો. પરંતુ આ મેગેઝીનના બધા અંકો વાંચીને મને ધીરે-ધીરે સમજણ પડવા લાગી છે કે આમાં મમ્મીનો વાંક નથી કારણ કે હું જ ઘણીવાર ખોટું કહું છું અને મારા ભાઈ સાથે નાની-નાની બાબતોમાં ઝગડો કરી મમ્મી સામે ખોટી-ખોટી દલીલો કરું છું તો મમ્મી મને મારે જ ને! જે હવે મને સમજાય છે. પહેલા મને મારો વાંક દેખાતો જ નહોતો. મમ્મીનો જ વાંક દેખાતો હતો. હવે મને મમ્મી પર પહેલા કરતા પણ વધારે પ્રેમ આવતો થઈ ગયો.

જો મને પાંચ-સાત અંકો જ વાંચવાથી આટલી સમજણ પડતી હોય તો આવા વધારે ને વધારે અંકો વાંચવાથી મારી સમજણ ખૂબ વધશે જ એ ચોક્કસ છે. હવે મને દાદા નીરુમા પર ખૂબ જ વ્હાલ આવે છે અને દીપકદાદા તો ખૂબ જ ગમે છે.

પપ્પા મને નીરુમાના ફોટામાં એમનું વાક્ય બતાવે છે 'પ્રેમથી રહેજો, પ્રોમીસ?' હું પપ્પાને ઘણીવાર પ્રોમીસ આપી ચૂકી છું પરંતુ મારાથી પ્રોમીસ પળાતું નથી તો હું દાદા ભગવાન પાસે, નીરુમા પાસે, દીપકદાદા પાસે પ્રોમીસ પાળવાની ખૂબ શક્તિ માંગીશ.

આવી સમજણ અમારા જેવા નાના મગજને જો કોઈ મેગેઝીન દ્વારા પડતી હોય તો આ એક અકમ એક્સપ્રેસ થકી જ. એટલે જ 'અકમ એક્સપ્રેસ ઈઝ વન ઓફ ધ બેસ્ટ મેગેઝીન ઈન ઓલ મેગેઝીન.'

"નોર્થ એન્ડ સાઉથ, ઈસ્ટ એન્ડ વેસ્ટ,
અકમ એક્સપ્રેસ ઈઝ ધ બેસ્ટ."

હિનલ રાણા
ઉંમર : 10, વય
વાસદ

Jai Sat Chit Anand

I get very pleased after reading Akram Express. I am about to finish my Inter Science and each edition gives me more strength and understanding to become sincere and work hard with full positivity for my studies

My favourite section?...it is "Sweet Memories"

The examples, stories and satsang tidbits are so helpul and a "vitamin for the spirit"!

Also, you stick to the main topic throught the book which i really like...and sometimes i wonder how you finish such a cumbersome task of pubilishing Akram Express every month! it is truely remarkable!..it is my deep inner intent that may it become a weekly magazine!

I hope these words encourage you to perform even better and would be very obliged to help you as well!

Keep up the good work!

Nikhil Tiwari,
Dubai



changes! If there is another solution then kindly show me, I am ready."

Divakar replied, "Yes, I have another option where you won't have to do such laborious work. I am impressed by your humility and piety. I wish to use my supernatural power for the benefit of a virtuous person like you. My guru has bestowed me with a special 'dharnikalp' knowledge which makes it possible for me to know what is hidden beneath the earth and where to find it."

Vishakhadutt was listening intently so Divakar continued to talk about his supernatural powers, "About six miles from here there is a temple of goddess Durga Chandika. There is a holy treasure of five crore gold coins buried beneath the courtyard of this temple. I wish to acquire this treasure for you by worshipping the goddess with Pooja and aarti and pleasing her."

Vishakhadutt's eyes sparkled upon hearing this. His chit became absorbed in visions of the amassed treasure, yet he exclaimed, "Yogiraj! Since you knew about this treasure, how come you haven't taken it as yet?"

Divakar replied at once, "If I use this treasure for my own or some non-religious person's selfish motive, then, as per my guru's instruction, my 'dharnikalp' knowledge will disappear. Now that I have met a noble and pious person like you, my search is over. I wish to hand over this treasure to you and become free of my responsibility."

Hearing this, all of Vishakhadutt's doubts cleared. He now began to dream of prosperity and happiness. He was blinded with greed and desire. Divakar continued, "Now we must not delay in acquiring this treasure. I will give you a list of items that are required for worshipping the goddess Durga Chandika. At midnight, wait for me at the main entrance of the temple with all these items. We shall meet there."

Feeling excited, Vishakhadutt arrived at the main entrance of the temple on time as planned. Divakar was waiting for him.

"It is already time for pooja. We must hurry. You go inside the temple and start the ritual. I will

complete rest of the ritual over here near the entrance."

Vishakhadutt entered the temple. He was startled at what he saw inside the temple. He reasoned with the difference between the powerful goddess (Shakti) who can bring about salvation of the world and this goddess Durga Chandika who accepts the sacrifice of animals and humans! How can I worship such a violent goddess? I was overcome with greed, and became ready to commit such a sin! This does not suit my moral values. I am better off remaining poor.

Vishakhadutt ran out of the temple as if a tiger was chasing him and gasped, "Divakarji! What sort of goddess did you want me to offer prayers to? You wanted me to commit such an ungodly and sinful act? Nevertheless, it is not your fault. It was I, who was blinded by desire for wealth, but now I have repented. I will only follow the path of true religion. From now, our paths diverge forever." Divakar was dismayed to hear this!

However, the real story was as follows: Divakar had vowed to sacrifice a human being for Goddess Durga Chandika. For that reason, he had entrapped Vishakhadutt by sweet-talking so that Divakar could sacrifice him. Divakar made a demon like face and roared, "Did you



Mythological story

A well-known merchant named Vishakhadutt lived in Kaushambi town near Alkapuri. He was as religious as he was wealthy. His business dealings were as sound as his worldly interactions. He was well reputed and respected by his family, community and society; he was a great inspiration for all.

However, circumstance and time play their role as well. If the sun rises, it sets as well. Similarly, the merchant's fortune changed as well. There ensued a great loss in his business and merchant Vishakhadutt became poor. He thought, 'It will be difficult for me to stay in Kaushambi. Because of my past reputation and fame, I will find it awkward to live as a labourer.' Now it had become arduous to live in Kaushambi and in order to provide for the family's livelihood, he decided to pack up and go to a foreign place.

Vishakhadutt had decided to go elsewhere, but where would he go? The town of Vajragar was famous for its diamond mines. Many aspiring people tried their luck to dig for diamonds. Vishakhadutt knew this, so he decided to go there. As soon as he arrived in Vajragar, he started the hard work of digging for diamonds. After a whole day's work, he barely earned enough to feed himself. However, he did not give up. He had confidence in determination and hard work only.

One day he became acquainted with a hermit named Divakar, who was famous in Vajragar for his knowledge and discovery of diamonds. Divakar, also known amongst the people as 'yogi', gradually became good friends with Vishakhadutt.

Impressed by Vishakhadutt's humility, modesty, and piety, Divakar began showing a distinct compassion for him. One day, he said in a sympathetic tone to Vishakhadutt, "I can't bear to see you work so hard digging for diamonds; we should find a solution."

Vishakhadutt said, "Yogiraj! No one can achieve anything without hard work and good fortune. So what is the point of getting upset and feeling unhappy? I must work hard until my fate



actually believe that treasure worth five crores gold coins is that easy to get? You have to sacrifice someone to get that. That treasure, you foolish man, I will get by sacrificing you. Your end has come. Remember whomever you want and then be ready to die. Saying this, Divakar pulled out a sharp sword to kill Vishakhadutt.

Seeing Divakar's true nature, and his own lurking death, Vishakhadutt felt dazed. Terrified, he waited for his premature death. Divakar raised his hand and used all his strength to give the final blow. But, astonishingly! He could not move his hand. He tried again but failed! Both Vishakhadutt and Divakar were surprised. They saw that a strong handsome young man had gripped Divakar's hand firmly at the last moment and then after a brief duel he ruined Divakar's plans.

Seeing this, Vishakhadutt bowed down and touched the feet of this young man. "I am extremely grateful to you for saving my life."

The youth remarked, "O virtuous one! Today, by saving your life, even I have atoned partly for a grave mistake I had once committed. Hence, even I am equally grateful to you, as I have become free from that much."

The youth continued, "You are wandering here and there looking for a

diamond mine. I have come to show you the real diamond mine, which lies within you. It is in your heart. The worldly diamonds will only give you suffering but discover the diamond mines of religion, knowledge, love and compassion in your heart and you will experience eternal happiness!"

Hearing this, Vishakhadutt bowed down to the young man with humility.



Sweet Memories

Once Param Pujya Dada Bhagwan's Janma Jayanti was being celebrated in Rajkot. So many mahatmas and aspirants from various villages had gathered here, it looked as if the place was an overflowing sea of people. Pujya Niruma used to give everyone 'darshan' (blessings) on the day of Janma Jayanti. All the mahatmas were queuing for 'darshan'.

One brahmachari bahen was standing near Pujya Niruma doing seva. All the aspirants were touching Niruma's feet as they did darshan. This brahmachari bahen thought that Niruma will feel discomfort if so many as aspirants touch her feet. Hence, with this thought in mind, she sat down right in front of Pujya Niruma so that everyone would have no option but to say 'Jai Satchitanand' from a distance.

In the process, a few people even requested this bahen, "Please move aside a little, let us do Niruma's 'darshan' properly." However, even then she did not budge. Later, when one gentleman asked her once again to move aside, she shifted in such a way that no one could touch Niruma's feet. Niruma watched all this, but did not say anything at that time.



After Janma Jayanti had passed, Pujya Niruma called all the brahmachari behnos for satsang. Niruma started with this particular incident where everyone was queuing for 'darshan'. She reprimanded this bahen, "What you did was not good! So many mahatmas must have felt bad! You were sitting there as if everyone had come for your 'darshan'. They had come to get blessings from me! Do you realize you will have to do a lot of pratikraman for this!"

That bahen was distraught upon hearing this, and felt, 'Oh oh! I have hurt so many people! Now I will never volunteer to help for this type of 'seva'. I have hurt

everyone with my behavior and upset Niruma. I do not want to do anything that will upset Niruma.' She was in repentance for her mistakes.

Then, in the end, Pujya Niruma also added, "We also need such strong characters to handle big crowds." Upon hearing this statement, the brahmachari bahen's negative

thoughts disappeared and with renewed confidence, she made a firm decision to do pratikraman and from now on would take care but would ensure that Pujya Niruma would not face any discomfort either.

See how the Gnani's keep everyone in balance, by showing people their strengths and weaknesses!



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