

July 2013

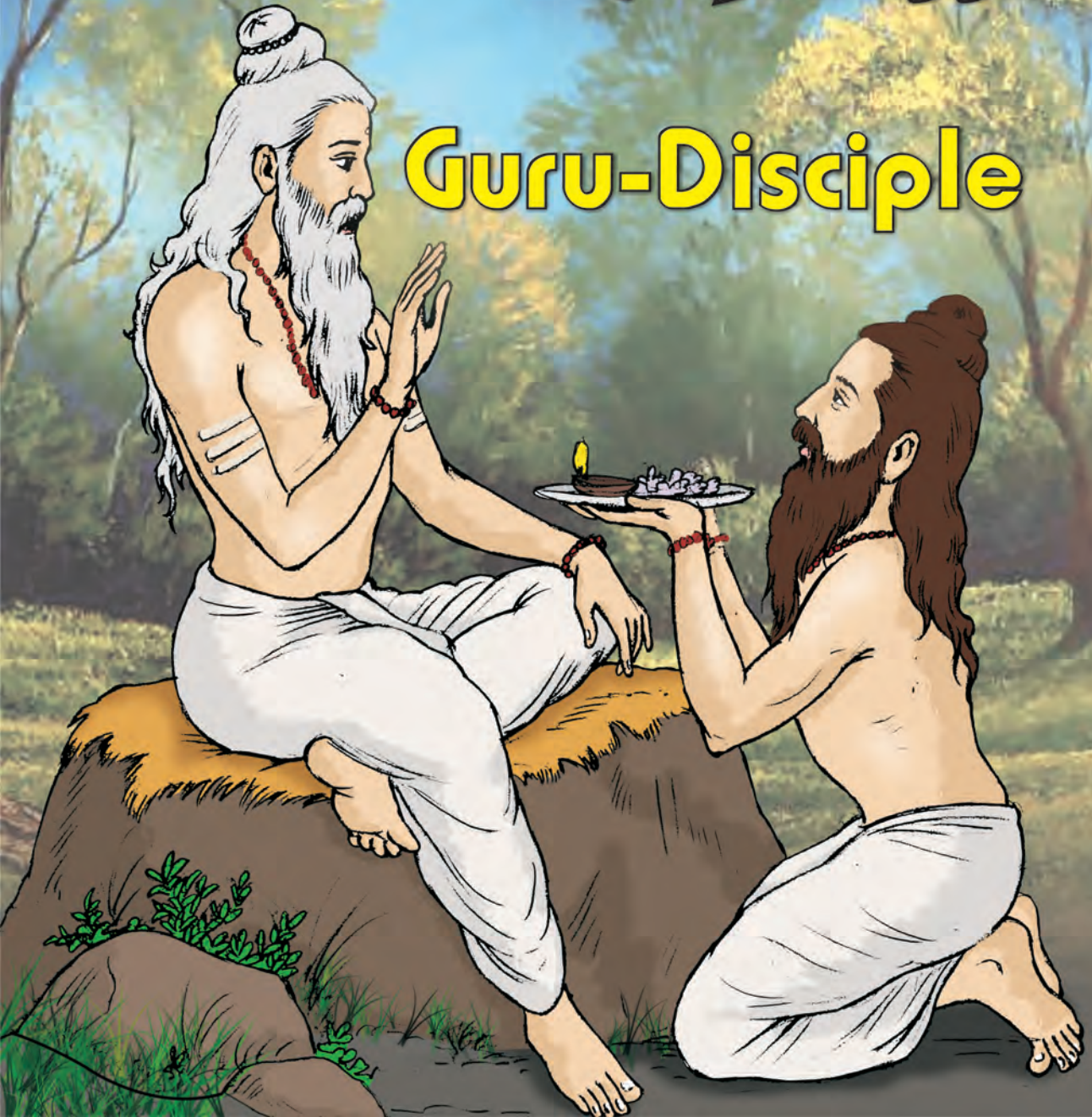
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# AKRAM

## Express

### Guru-Disciple



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## Guru - Disciple

### Editorial

**A**

Friends,

**k**

In our culture, people are involved in various types of delicate relationships, one of which is between guru and disciple. The relationship between guru and disciple is one of unconditional love, oneness, true and total surrender.

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A stain should neither fall upon nor be seen on such a sacred relationship. Warning about this, Param Pujya Dadashri used say that a guru should not have any impurity whatsoever especially regarding money or sexual matters. If one notices such behavior then one should immediately walk away from there.

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Many examples of this sacred relationship have been presented in this issue. The fine understanding of why we need a guru, what a true disciple (student) should be like, how a guru moulds a student, what intentions should a student have towards the guru, etc has been weaved together in the form of short stories.

So come, let us enjoy this excellent issue, and get the inspiration to become true disciples.

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# Dadaji says...

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A teacher (guru) is a guide, the one whose teachings we follow. Whomever we have taken advice from or benefitted from is our guru.

**Questioner:** Does that mean that, if we acquire (learn) something from someone, that person is our guru?

**Dadashri:** Yes, a guru is like a beacon. A guru is necessary everywhere, at every step. If you do not have a guru and you come to a junction with seven roads, which road will you select?

**Questioner:** I would select the road that my instinct sides with.

**Dadashri:** No, that is not the right way; you should appoint someone as your guru, and ask him to show you the right path! Who else, but a guru, can guide you? It's fine even if you make any one person your guru. If that person is older to you, looks after you and if you feel that, "my heart feels pacified here," then settle there and make that person your guru. If that person is elder to you, then he/she will definitely take you to a higher place. A student cannot attain knowledge by his own endeavor. It is with the grace of a guru that things keep on progressing. As one follows the guru's instructions, one will not have to endure any suffering.

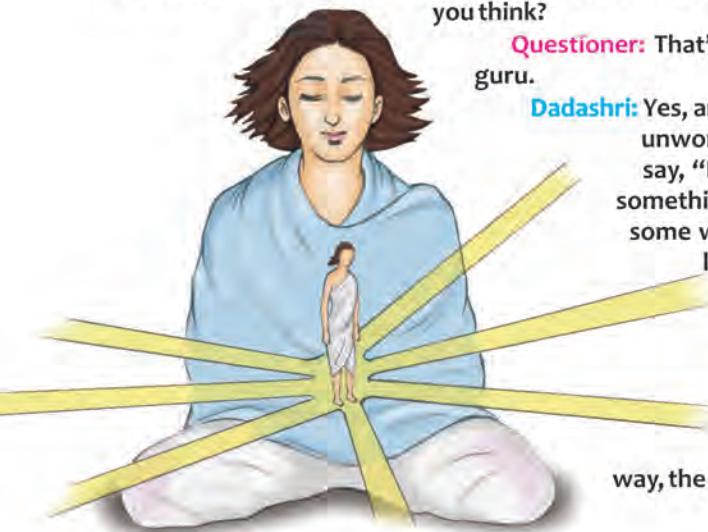
**Questioner:** What should a student do to attain the grace of the guru?

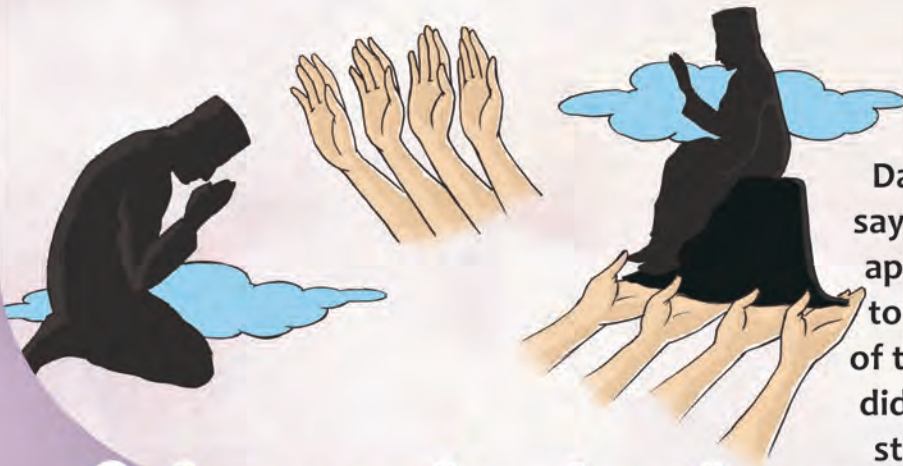
**Dadashri:** One should attain his 'krupadrashti'. What is krupadrashti? The guru will remain pleased when one (student/disciple) abides by his instructions, that is called 'krupadrashti'; whereas if one disobeys the guru, then the guru will be dissatisfied. In order to obtain the guru's blessings, the student should keep the teacher pleased; he should observe humility. These days, when the guru tells the student, "You don't have any sense," the student will walk away. He would retort stating, "You don't understand anything and you are being my teacher!"

Once you have made someone your guru, you should not have any ill feelings for him to the slightest extent. Just be careful, that's all. You should not see any shortcomings of your guru, as there is a great liability in doing so. Otherwise, it would be better if you do not make anyone your guru. Who is a real student? A real student would not lose faith even if his guru behaved as if he has gone mad! What do you think?

**Questioner:** That's true; one should never see any faults of the guru.

**Dadashri:** Yes, and if you have any negative thoughts like, "he is unworthy, he is so bad," then at that time you should say, "He is very useful." Wouldn't you have received something from him? Wouldn't you have benefitted in some way? He would surely have helped you climb at least one step therefore you should be grateful to him. If one forgets even the slightest help he has been given, then one cannot be called a true human. Even if one serves you just a cup of tea, you will not forget him. If your mind keeps saying, "He is crazy", then you should say, "He is a benefactor." In this way, the negative belief will be ruled out.





Dadashri used to say, "Only after we applied the vision to be the student of the entire world, did we receive the status of a gnani (spiritual master)."

# Absolutely

Whomever you surrender to, you will acquire whatever strength they possess. Once you have surrendered, you will acquire all that he has; for example, if you join a pipe from an empty tank to a full tank, then the water will filter into the empty tank and level up. The intent to surrender is like that.



# New

All the people whom you have learnt something from can be considered your guru.



We can learn from a dog as well, so even the dog is considered our guru. When a dog has been sitting around for one and a half hours and you give it a fair amount of food, it will eat only what it can and then it would walk away, leaving the rest aside. It doesn't think of hoarding and say that, "Let me take some with me in case I don't find something to eat tonight!"



# Different



You study from books, and you benefit from them. You should consider any book that has given you guidance, your guru.

# And



We can even learn from the trees. What do we do to the mango tree? Even though we thrash the tree to eat mangoes, it still gives us its fruit. Even after undergoing a beating, it still gives us fruit! If we adopt these virtuous qualities from the tree, how well we would progress! If we consider the tree to be our guru, then we can acquire its virtues.

# Amardas - Ramdas

When Amardas, the Sikh Guru (teacher), realized he was getting old, he decided to appoint a successor. "To whom should I assign this responsibility?" this thought troubled him greatly. Therefore, he decided to test all his disciples.

He gathered all his disciples and asked them to make platforms out of mud. All of them made the platforms as per the guru's directive.

When the task was over, the guru examined all the platforms and said, "These platforms are not up to my expectations, break them and make them again."

The disciples did as the guru told them. Then the guru said, "I think, this is not the right place to make the platforms. Make them in that corner."

The disciples made new platforms as per the guru's instructions; however, once again the guru did not find the location appropriate and asked the disciples to make the platforms elsewhere.

Upon hearing this, some of the disciples got annoyed. "This guru has gone mad." Thinking thus, some of them left the task. Of the few disciples who stayed back, the guru many a times did not accept their work. Eventually, all the disciples got fed up and left the task, except one. The name of this disciple was Ramdas.

Ramdas was following the guru's directive with utmost faith. He kept on making platforms without having any negative feelings towards the guru. The rest of the disciples started teasing Ramdas, "Fool! This guru has gone mad; why are you working so hard to please him?"

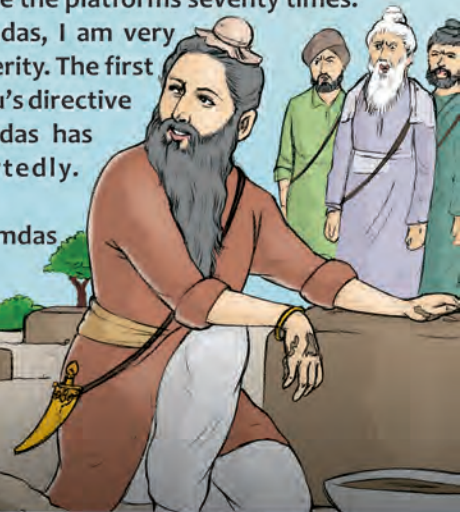
"Brothers, the world is blind. Only the true guru can have the right patience and direct us. The ultimate guru is the only one in the entire world who has this wisdom." Ramdas answered his fellow disciples with great humility.

Hearing this reply, some of his colleagues criticized Ramdas saying, "It seems that he has also become crazy, just like our guru."

When he heard this, Ramdas expressed sternly, "You are free to say whatever you like about me, but I will not tolerate a single negative word about our guru. I will happily make platforms all my life if our guru so wishes. His directive is everything for me. That is my moral duty."

In this way, Ramdas happily made the platforms seventy times. Finally, the guru told him, "Enough, Ramdas, I am very pleased with your total surrender and sincerity. The first obligation for a disciple is to follow the guru's directive with firm determination and faith. Ramdas has fulfilled this obligation whole-heartedly. Therefore, I appoint Ramdas my successor."

This is how, on 30th August 1574, Guru Ramdas became the fourth Sikh Guru.



# Dattatrey

Dadashri says that one should keep the intent to be a student in all circumstances. You should make all the living beings in the entire world your guru. This is because you can learn something from every one. Dattatrey also had this intention. In the course of his life, he had twenty-four gurus. Do you know who they were? Included in his list of gurus are earth, wind, water, child, bee etc.... So come, let us find out what Dattatrey learnt from his gurus.

When Dattatrey was young, a king came to his ashram. Dattatrey's parents were not present in the ashram at that time, so he himself welcomed the king. Seeing the sparkle on Dattatrey's face, the king perceived this child to be endowed with great genius and started conversing with him.

King: My child, are you learning from your parents?

Dattatrey: I learn from everything, not only from my parents.

King: So, do you have a guru?

Dattatrey: Yes, I have twenty-four gurus. Let me name a few of them.

The mother earth is my guru. She has taught me to accommodate with love even those who trample or crush me, and give them refuge like she does.

Water is also my guru. Water cleans everything that it touches and gives life to those who drink it.

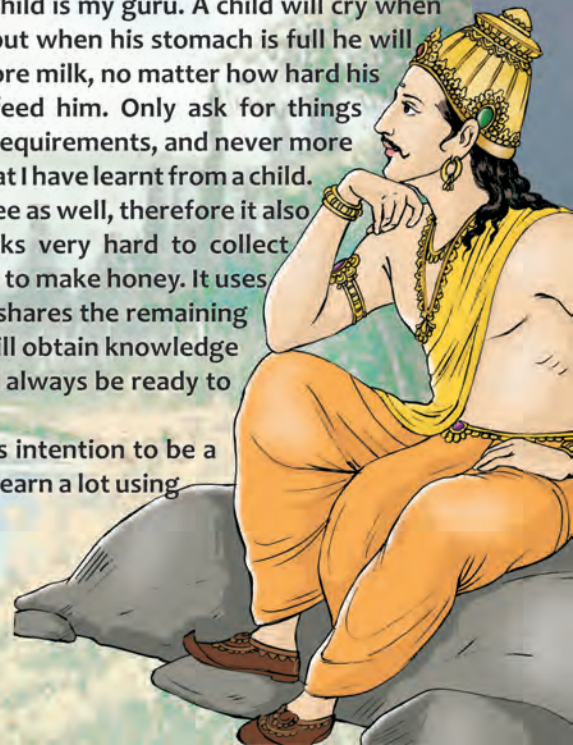
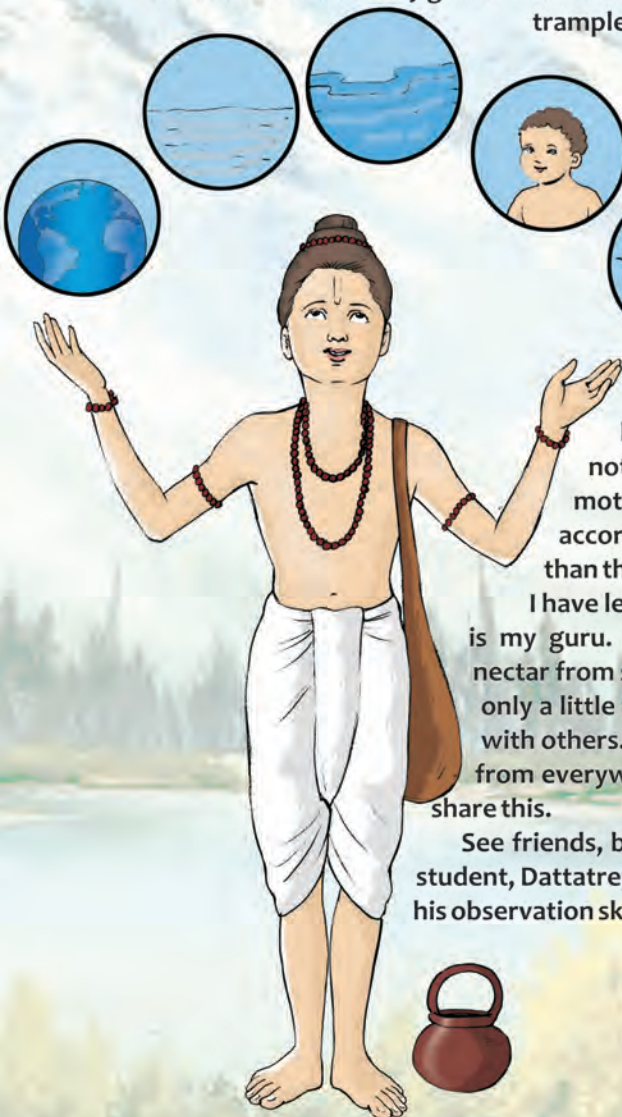
Water can never be stopped; it keeps on flowing. Similarly, one must keep on progressing in life.

The wind is my guru too. The wind blows evenly over the flowers and thorns alike without any discrimination. Just like the wind, I want to spread vitality to all without being partial.

Even a child is my guru. A child will cry when he is hungry but when his stomach is full he will not drink any more milk, no matter how hard his mother tries to feed him. Only ask for things according to your requirements, and never more than that. That is what I have learnt from a child.

I have learnt from a bee as well, therefore it also is my guru. The bee works very hard to collect nectar from several places to make honey. It uses only a little for itself and shares the remaining with others. Similarly, I will obtain knowledge from everywhere and will always be ready to share this.

See friends, by keeping this intention to be a student, Dattatrey was able to learn a lot using his observation skill!



# Ramakrishna Paramhansa - Swami Vivekanand

“Sir, have you seen God?” asked an enthusiastic youth, who caught Maharishi Devendranath Thakur’s eye.

“Sir, have you seen God?” The same question was asked again, from a confused soul filled with an intense yearning to see God.

When he did not get a reply from the Maharishi, who was surprised by this sudden question, the youth asked a third time with the same enthusiasm. It was then, that the sage replied, “Son, your eyes are like an ascetic.”

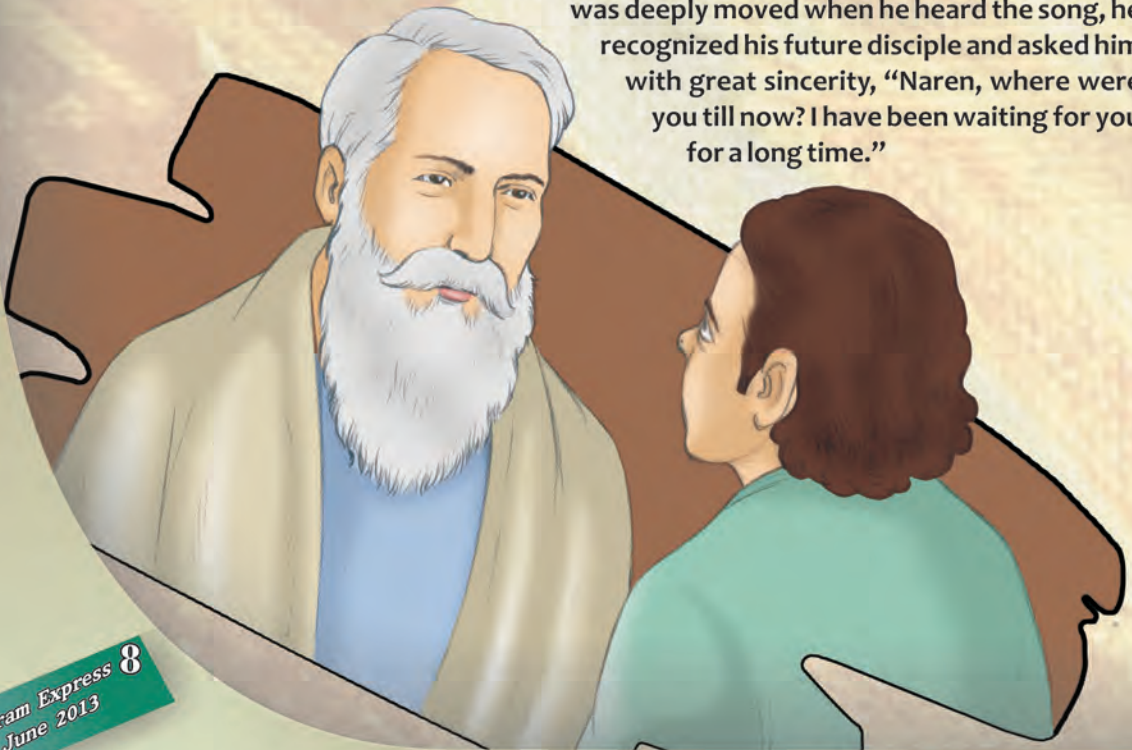
“Oh dear, instead of giving me an answer, he is praising me! Like all other great men, does he also not have an answer to my question?” thinking thus, the youth walked away from there. This young man was Narendranath Dutt (Swami Vivekanand).

When this incident occurred, he was in the first year of college. Due to cultural values given to him by his religious mother during his childhood, he yearned to see God. As a result, he had asked this question to many saints and sages, but to date, no one had said to him, “Yes, I have seen God.”

Around that time, one day, there was an English class going on at the college. Principal William Hasty was in the process of explaining the meaning of a poem when he made reference to the high spiritual status of Shri Ramakrishna Paramhansa.

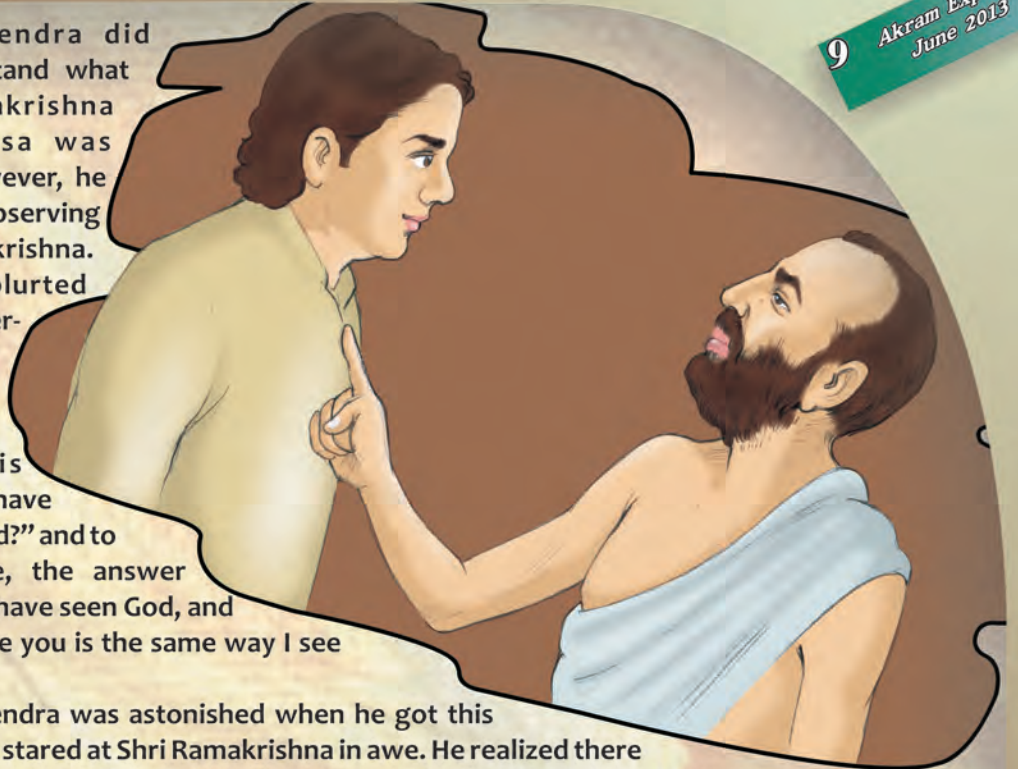
When he heard this, there was flash in Narendra’s mind urging him to go and see this great saint and get an answer to his question. At the first meeting with Shri Ramakrishna Paramhansa, Narendra sang a beautiful devotional song. Shri Ramakrishna Paramhansa

was deeply moved when he heard the song, he recognized his future disciple and asked him with great sincerity, “Naren, where were you till now? I have been waiting for you for a long time.”





Narendra did not understand what Shri Ramakrishna Paramhansa was saying, however, he kept on observing Shri Ramakrishna. Then he blurted out the ever-burning question that was still in his heart. "Sir, have you seen God?" and to his surprise, the answer was, "Yes, I have seen God, and the way I see you is the same way I see God."



Narendra was astonished when he got this reply and he stared at Shri Ramakrishna in awe. He realized there was no hypocrisy in that speech. There was no inclination to impress. He was saying this in a very straightforward manner. Then Shri Ramakrishna added, "The way I am seeing you and speaking to you is the same way one can talk with God." Narendra had never heard anything like this before! Here, you do not only see or worship God, but you can also speak to him!

Narendra listened to everything in amazement. "Yes, you can certainly talk to God, but who is bothered? People lament for a wife, son, wealth, prosperity, but who laments for God? If a person laments sincerely with a pure heart, he will certainly see God." These words made a huge impact on Narendra's mind. It seemed as if his heart had been eagerly yearning to hear these words for years. He thought, "finally, for the first time in my life I have found a great person who can confidently say that, yes, I have seen God." Narendranath was greatly impressed by Shri Ramakrishna's purity, truth, renunciation, and oneness with God. He started to associate more and more with him and eventually surrendered himself absolutely at the feet of this great saint and accepted him as his guru.

Once, a debate arose between two disciples of Swami Ramakrishna. They had a query, "Who is the greater of the two?" Finally, to get some closure to the debate, they went to the Guru and said, "A difference of opinion has arisen between us that, which of two is greater?"

Paramhansa answered with a laugh, "This is such a simple matter, the one who considers the other to be greater, is the greater one." The Gurudev's answer changed the nature of their discussion. Until now, their discussion had been, "I am greater... I am greater..."; and now the same disciples began to say, "You are greater... you are greater..."

Ramakrishna Paramhansa had the extraordinary common sense to easily dispel any quarrels by transforming their (people quarelling) vision.

# From darkness to light

“The most important day in my life is the day I met my teacher, Miss Sullivan.” These are the words of world prominent, Helen Keller.

The life of Helen Keller is an inspiration, but the one person who helped transform her darkness-filled life and made it inspirational, was her teacher Miss Annie Sullivan. Today Annie Sullivan is considered one of the most famous teachers in the world. So come friends, let us become acquainted with Helen Keller and her teacher Annie Sullivan.

When Helen was 19 months old, due to a severe illness she became blind and deaf. She became trapped in the cage of darkness at such a young age. However, when Annie Sullivan came into her life as her teacher, she was freed from this darkness.

On 3rd March 1887, when Helen was six years old, Miss Sullivan met her for the first time. At that time, Helen was a stubborn, obstinate, and discourteous girl. Due to her deafness and blindness, she was unable to speak too. Hence, she had no means to communicate with the world. She was not even aware of the existence of language in order to communicate and as a result, she experienced a lot of confusion, agitation and frustration.

Upon seeing Helen, Miss Sullivan had realized that teaching her was not going to be an easy task, but she made a firm decision that she will not back out and will strive to fulfill her obligation as a teacher successfully. Although it seemed inevident, Miss Sullivan perceived a dormant strength in Helen.

One morning, Miss Sullivan took Helen into her room and gave her a doll. Helen played with that doll for some time. Then, Miss Sullivan slowly wrote the letters ‘d..o..l..l.’ on Helen’s hand. Helen enjoyed this finger game and tried to imitate without any realization that she was making words or that there was such a thing like words. Like a monkey, she was just imitating without understanding.

Once again, one day when Helen was playing with her new doll, Miss Sullivan placed a big rag doll in her lap and wrote ‘d..o..l..l.’ She tried to make Helen understand that the word ‘doll’ relates to a thing, but Helen was not able to grasp this concept and became frustrated. Nevertheless, Miss Sullivan patiently, using her skill, persevered in trying to make Helen understand.

She took Helen outside and placed her one hand under a trickle of water and simultaneously, on the other hand, she wrote the letters that make the word ‘water’. At first, she wrote this slowly and then she started writing with vigor. Helen stood there motionless, with full concentration on the movement of the fingers.

Suddenly, at that moment, she understood



the hidden significance of language, and realized that 'w..a..t..e..r' meant the cool substance that was flowing over her hand. Helen experienced immense freedom on that day. Everything had a name. She finally understood this, and now she was curious to know the names of all things. That day, she learnt many new words. For the first time in six years, she was eagerly looking forward to a new day!

Helen's enthusiasm to learn new things and Miss Sullivan's patience, made it possible for Helen to learn six hundred words, multiplication tables and Braille (text for the blind) within a few months. Then, with Miss Sullivan's help she also managed to obtain a college degree. Helen was the first blind – deaf person to get a college degree. She became renowned all over the world. She also met with famous scientists and authors such as Thomas Edison, Alexander Graham Bell, and authors like Mark Twain.

This would have been impossible without the help of her teacher, Miss Sullivan. In her autobiography, with whole-hearted appreciation for her teacher, Helen has written:

"At first I was a bundle of immense dormant strength. My teacher awakened it and helped it to blossom. She came and gave meaning to everything around me. Ever since she came, she never lost a single opportunity to make me recognize the beauty in everything and she has devoted her mind and body to make my life beautiful and worthwhile.

The reason for the beautiful passage of the early years of my development has been my teacher's genius, continuous compassion and affectionate insight. I was able to grasp the knowledge with so much enthusiasm and pleasure because she was cautious and waited until it was the right time for me to receive that knowledge. My teacher and I are so close that I

cannot think of myself as separate from her. Whatever achievements I have made, are all hers!"

See friends, what an amazing example of a teacher and a student! With firm determination and faith, is anything impossible?



# Sahajanand Swami

Dadaji says that Sahajanand Swami was a true guru. Sahajanand Swami had asked his guru Ramanand Swami that, “Not one of my disciples should ever be without food or clothes. Let the devotees suffering be mine, but may they always be free from misery.”

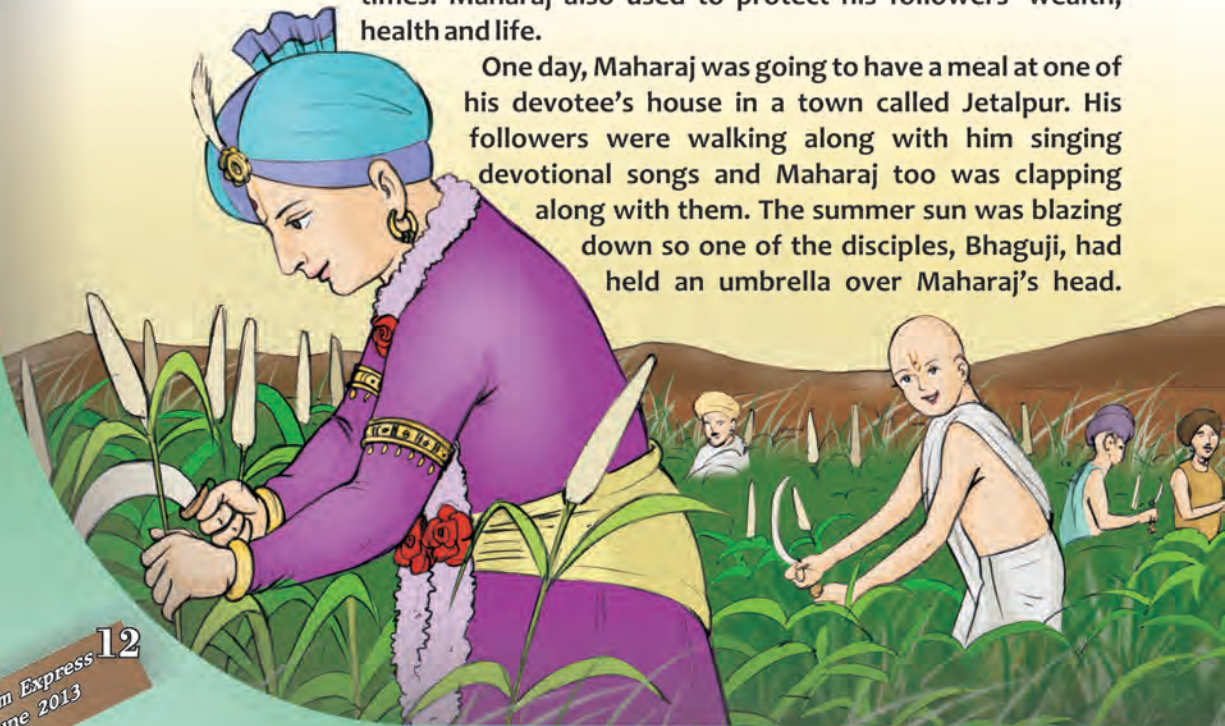
Come let us learn a bit more about this noble guru Sahajanand Swami. He always took great care of his devotees’ welfare. He would resolve quarrels and sacrifice himself in order to help his devotees with their worldly dealings and stood up to be their true relation.

Sahajanand Swami was known as “Maharaj” amongst his disciples. There was an old disciple of Maharaj, by the name of Mayaram Bhatt. When Maharaj was travelling from one town to another, Mayaram Bhatt expressed his desire to accompany him, but at the same time he very humbly explained his problem, “Oh Maharaj! I have 37.5 acres of land full of millet, which still needs to be harvested.” Upon hearing this, Maharaj together with his entire group went to Mayaram’s village. There, he arranged for some sickles, gave one to every saint and devotee and picked up one himself. Together they harvested the acres full of millet and resolved Bhattji’s problem.

Maharaj had warned everyone beforehand when the famine was about to come. In order to get this message across to all his devotees, he set off on a horseback by himself, never staying in one place for long, he would travel from village to village, and house to house, alerting all the disciples, “There is going to be a terrible famine, so ensure you start storing enough grain from now. If you don’t have enough money, then sell your household things. Sell your cattle, horses, whatever you have to buy grain.”

In this way, by cautioning his disciples in advance, he helped them through difficult times. Maharaj also used to protect his followers’ wealth, health and life.

One day, Maharaj was going to have a meal at one of his devotee’s house in a town called Jetalpur. His followers were walking along with him singing devotional songs and Maharaj too was clapping along with them. The summer sun was blazing down so one of the disciples, Bhaguji, had held an umbrella over Maharaj’s head.



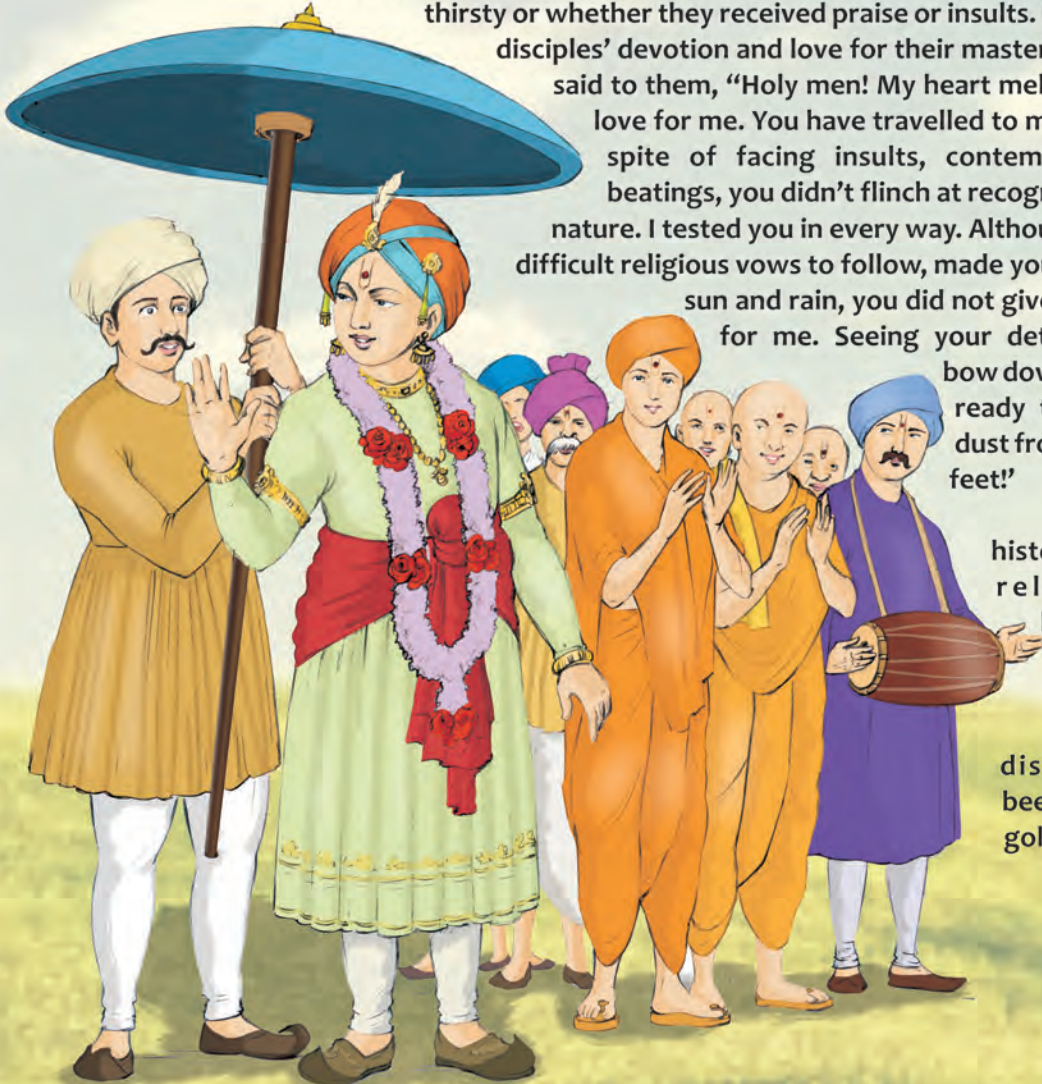
Even though Maharaj tried to push it away a couple of times, but Bhaguji held it firmly. Therefore, Maharaj walked ahead a few steps, stopped suddenly and said firmly to Bhaguji, "Why are you holding an umbrella over me while everyone else is walking in the hot sun?"

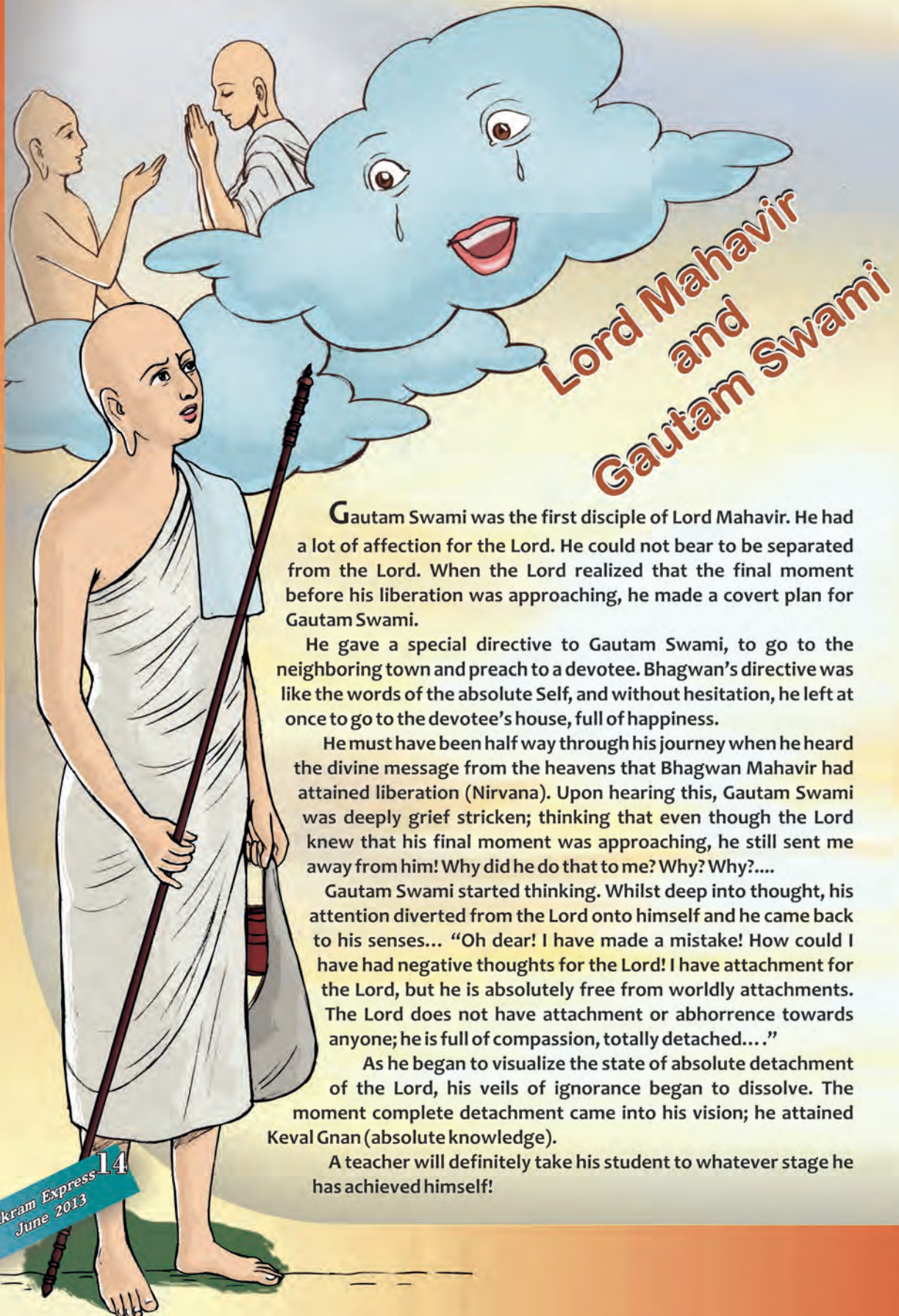
In this way, affectionate towards his devotees, Sahajanand Swami, would always humbly leave his guru status on one side and mix in with his disciples as sugar dissolves in milk.

Even in his final years, he did not forget his disciples and fulfilled all their wishes. In 1886, Maharaj had become very ill. He was bed-ridden and did not eat, drink or even talk or walk. At the same time, one of his disciples, Kakabhai, from a town called Rojka was also severely ill. He wrote a letter to Maharaj stating, "Oh savior! If possible, please come and give me your final blessings." Maharaj ignored his own illness, and dutifully went to Rojka to fulfill Kakabhai's wish and stayed with him for two days.

The attitude of the disciples towards such a powerful guru was that of total surrender. In order to please their guru, they would follow his directives in all situations whether it was extremely hot or cold, or whether they were hungry or thirsty or whether they received praise or insults. Observing the disciples' devotion and love for their master, Maharaj had said to them, "Holy men! My heart melts to see your love for me. You have travelled to many places. In spite of facing insults, contempt and even beatings, you didn't flinch at recognizing my true nature. I tested you in every way. Although I gave you difficult religious vows to follow, made you endure cold, sun and rain, you did not give up your love for me. Seeing your determination, I bow down to you. I am ready to revere the dust from under your feet!"

Thus, historically, such relationships between an ideal guru and his committed disciples have been engraved in gold!





# Lord Mahavir and Gautam Swami

**G**autam Swami was the first disciple of Lord Mahavir. He had a lot of affection for the Lord. He could not bear to be separated from the Lord. When the Lord realized that the final moment before his liberation was approaching, he made a covert plan for Gautam Swami.

He gave a special directive to Gautam Swami, to go to the neighboring town and preach to a devotee. Bhagwan's directive was like the words of the absolute Self, and without hesitation, he left at once to go to the devotee's house, full of happiness.

He must have been half way through his journey when he heard the divine message from the heavens that Bhagwan Mahavir had attained liberation (Nirvana). Upon hearing this, Gautam Swami was deeply grief stricken; thinking that even though the Lord knew that his final moment was approaching, he still sent me away from him! Why did he do that to me? Why? Why?....

Gautam Swami started thinking. Whilst deep into thought, his attention diverted from the Lord onto himself and he came back to his senses... "Oh dear! I have made a mistake! How could I have had negative thoughts for the Lord! I have attachment for the Lord, but he is absolutely free from worldly attachments. The Lord does not have attachment or abhorrence towards anyone; he is full of compassion, totally detached..."

As he began to visualize the state of absolute detachment of the Lord, his veils of ignorance began to dissolve. The moment complete detachment came into his vision; he attained Keval Gnan (absolute knowledge).

A teacher will definitely take his student to whatever stage he has achieved himself!

# Shrimadji - Ambalalbai

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Once Shrimadji gave a directive to Ambalalbai, "Ambalal, can you tidy up the courtyard." Ambalal did not understand Shrimadji's intention and he called the servant and said, "Please clean the outside courtyard and all the areas around it."

Hearing this, Shrimadji said with utmost compassion, "Ambalal, I know how to keep servants."

Ambalalbai got the hint and obediently cleaned the courtyard himself. In that instant he had realized his mistake that a directive or assigned seva (service) is for one's own good and it is foolish to ask someone else to complete it! It became clear to him that every seva assigned or directive given is for his own salvation, even if it meant cleaning the courtyard.

That day, Ambalalbai realized that by making him clean the courtyard, Shrimadji had in reality helped him clear his 'subtle vision' (chit).

There was another incident. One day, Shrimadji was giving a sermon during which he had mentioned some words to Ambalalbai. After 2 - 3 hours, when Shrimadji asked Ambalalbai to repeat these words, Ambalalbai said, "I can't remember them."

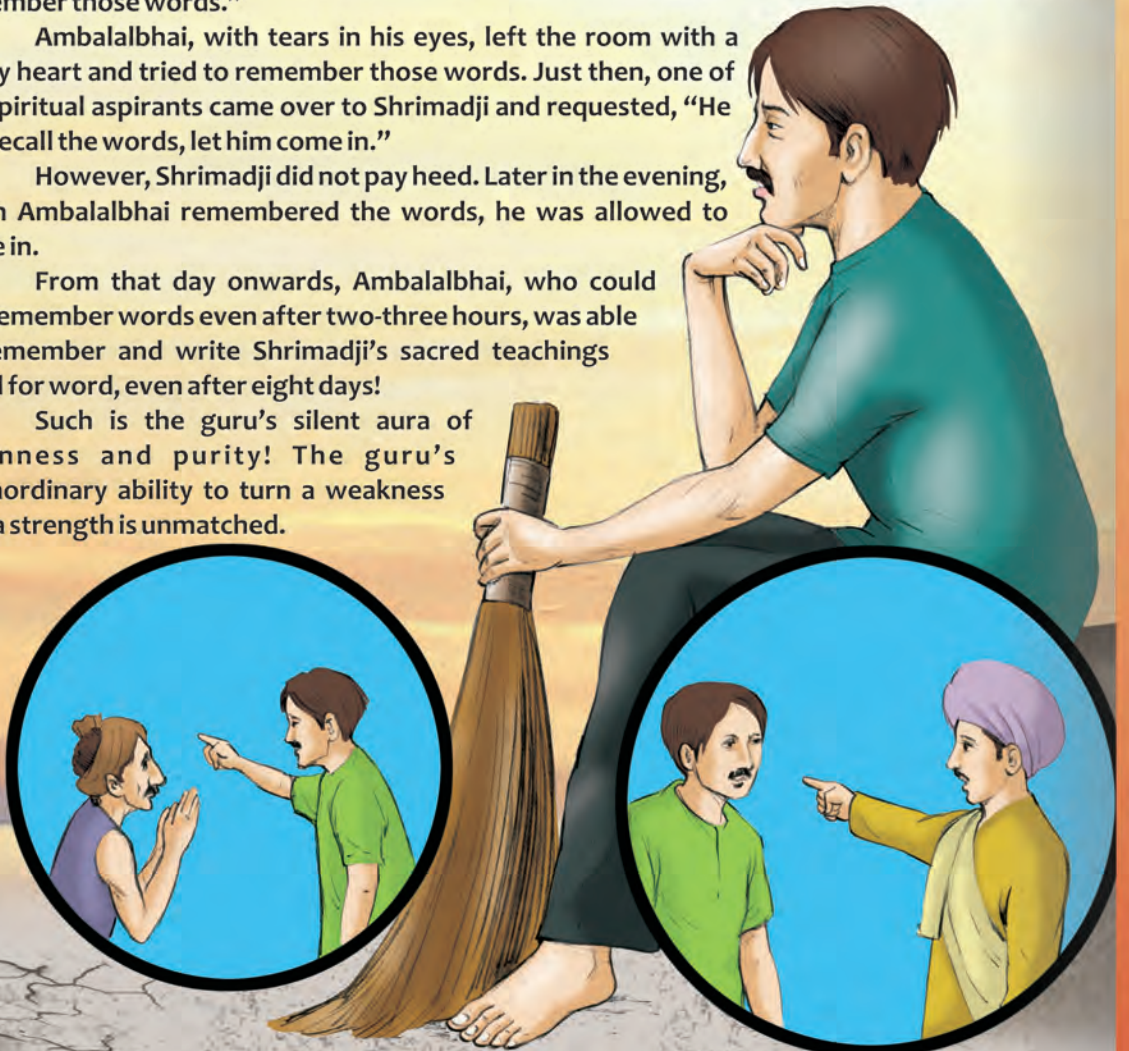
Shrimadji said to him, "Get up and go away from here. Return to me only when you remember those words."

Ambalalbai, with tears in his eyes, left the room with a heavy heart and tried to remember those words. Just then, one of the spiritual aspirants came over to Shrimadji and requested, "He will recall the words, let him come in."

However, Shrimadji did not pay heed. Later in the evening, when Ambalalbai remembered the words, he was allowed to come in.

From that day onwards, Ambalalbai, who could not remember words even after two-three hours, was able to remember and write Shrimadji's sacred teachings word for word, even after eight days!

Such is the guru's silent aura of sternness and purity! The guru's extraordinary ability to turn a weakness into a strength is unmatched.



# Sweet memories

**D**adashri trained Niruma for twenty years and molded her into Vatsalyamurti Niruma, an idol depicting the embodiment of love. Just like when a sculptor, sculpts an idol, he will first make a sketch on the stone, and then he gradually gives the idol shape and completes the idol by sculpting the eyes, lips, nose etc. He would then finish it off by painting and polishing. Finally, as the inauguration of the idol (pran pratishtha) takes place, it is ready to be worshipped as God.

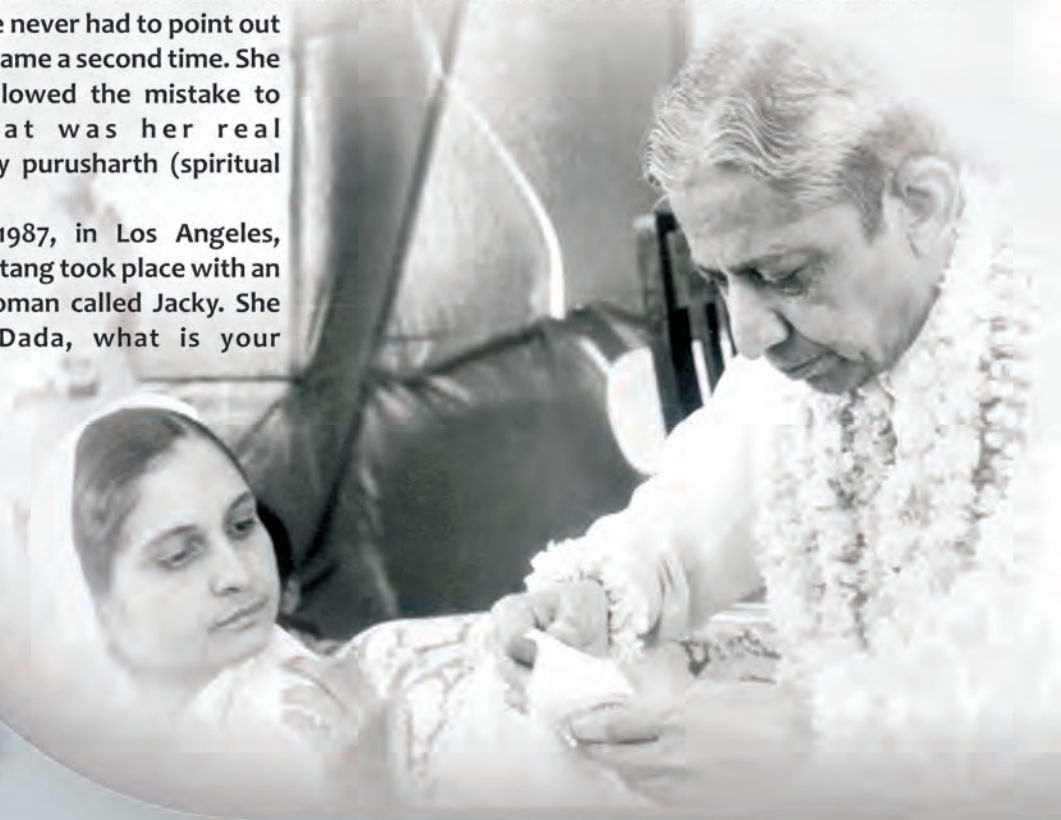
Similarly, Dadashri had the opportunity to mold our idol, Niruma. During the sculpting process, Niruma would steadfastly endure any difficulties that came her way. Her total surrender, dependency, and humility towards Dadashri always remained unperturbed.

In order to dissolve her pride, Dadashri often put her down in front of everyone by saying, “What do you understand? Who has taught you? Who made you a doctor?” When Dadashri used to say this in front of everyone, Niruma always felt that Dada was doing what was best for her.

No matter how much he provoked her ego, (that is, when he did an operation on her ‘pride’), Niruma never saw a single fault in Dadashri. They stayed together for twenty years, yet Niruma never had a negative thought even for a second for Dadashri. Even when Dadashri was stern with someone else, she always knew that it was for that person’s benefit.

Only one signal from Dadashri was enough for Niruma to get the message that she had made a mistake. She would ensure that the mistake was removed from its roots. Dadashri used to say that he never had to point out the mistake same a second time. She has never allowed the mistake to recur. That was her real extraordinary purusharth (spiritual effort).

In 1987, in Los Angeles, America, a satang took place with an American woman called Jacky. She inquired, “Dada, what is your







relationship with Niruben?" Dadashri replied, "Niruben is an M.D. doctor, and is constantly in my service. She lives with me, with oneness, just like two souls and one body.

Niruma had such unparalleled devotion towards Dadashri that for her Dada was everything. She never regarded it necessary to look after herself.

In this way, with total surrender and sincerity for Dadashri, Niruma pleased him immensely, received his boundless blessings and became worthy of his infinite grace. Finally, in the end attained the clear direct experience of the Self.

This incident occurred sometime during 1975 – 1976. One day Dadashri asked Pujya Deepakbhai, "If Hanumanji's heart is slit open, we will see Ram and Sita; what will we see in yours?"

Deepakbhai said, "Niruben or Mallinath." (Sometimes Dadashri used the name Mallinath to address Niruma)

Dada was very pleased when he heard this and said, "Really! In that case make sure that it remains like that."

After that, Dadashri had given Deepakbhai a special directive, "You must never see a single fault in Niruma." Dadashri explained to Deepakbhai, "If you see even one fault in Niruma, then you will at once fall down all the steps of spiritual progress that you have made due to her." Hence, due to the power of this special directive from Dadashri, Deepakbhai has never even once seen any fault in Niruma.

Dadashri explained the principle stating that if we cut (criticize) the ladder that we are using to climb, then how will we be able to advance upwards?

Friends, our teachers are like our ladders. If we cut that ladder, meaning that we see the faults in our teachers, then can we climb up? Can we progress?

# Gurupurnima

Kabir Saheb says:

“Guru Govind dono khade, kake lagu pay,  
Balihari Guru aapaki, jinhe Govind diyo batay”

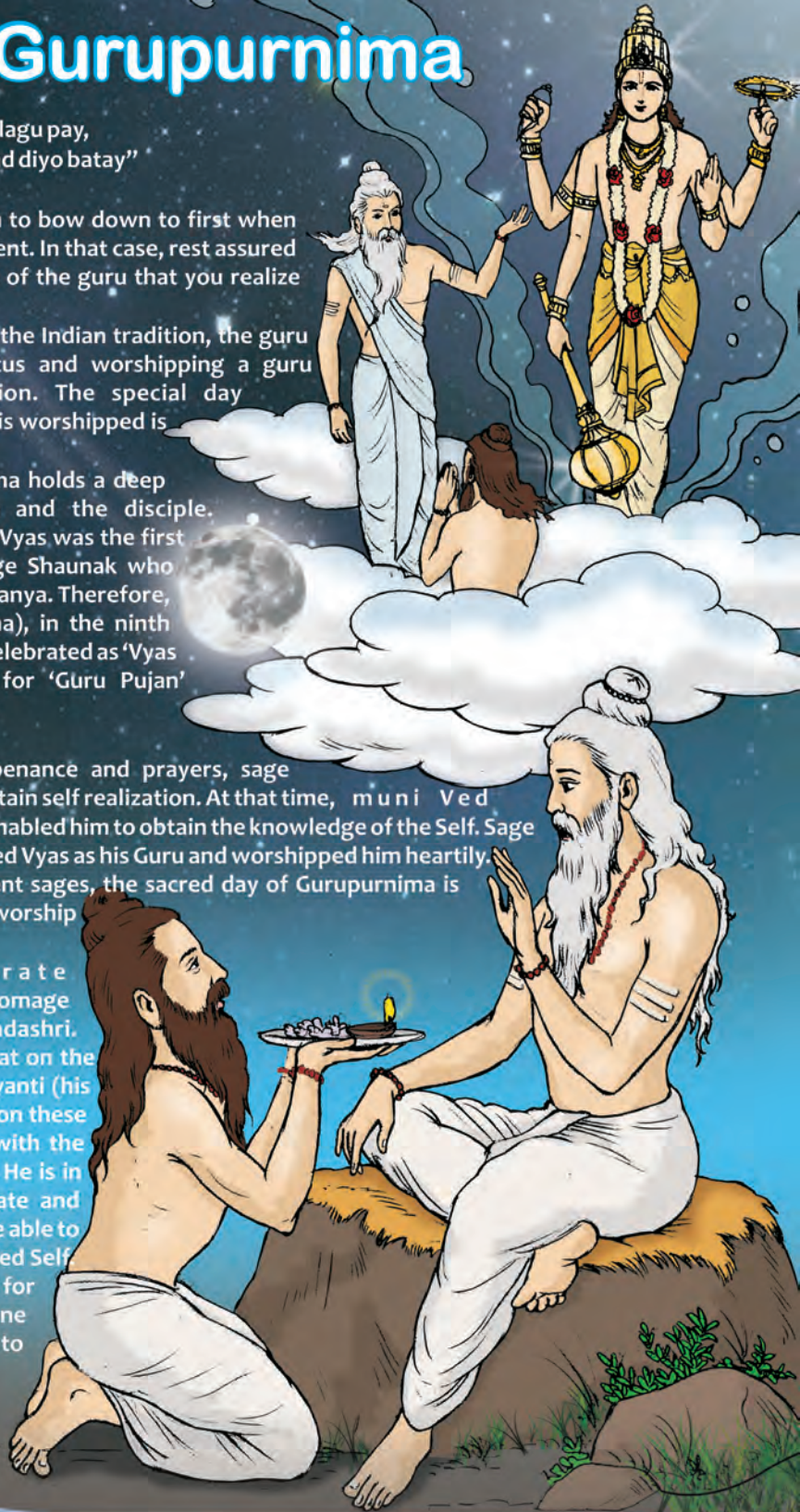
One will ponder whom to bow down to first when both the Guru and God are present. In that case, rest assured that it is through the grace of the guru that you realize God.

Since ancient times, in the Indian tradition, the guru has been given a sacred status and worshipping a guru occupies a prominent position. The special day dedicated to the guru when he is worshipped is called Gurupurnima.

The day of Gurupurnima holds a deep meaning for both the guru and the disciple. According to history, muni Ved Vyas was the first guru to be worshipped by sage Shaunak who lived in a town called Naimisharanya. Therefore, the day of full moon, (Purnima), in the ninth month (Ashadh), traditionally celebrated as 'Vyasa Purnima', is truly significant for 'Guru Pujan' (worshipping the Guru) in India.

Even after years of penance and prayers, sage Shaunak had not been able to attain self realization. At that time, muni Ved Vyas through his divine vision, enabled him to obtain the knowledge of the Self. Sage Shaunak acknowledged muni Ved Vyas as his Guru and worshipped him heartily. Hence, since the times of ancient sages, the sacred day of Gurupurnima is venerated in India as the day to worship the Guru.

Even we celebrate Gurupurnima by rendering homage with great devotion to Dadashri. Dadashri always used to say that on the days of Gurupurnima, Janmajayanti (his birthday) and New Year's day; on these three days he is in Oneness with the God within (Dada Bhagwan). He is in an absolute enlightened state and hence on that day you will be able to worship his fully enlightened Self. On that day, if one asks for whatever strengths one lacks then one is sure to receive them.



# Inspirational thoughts from great ... personalities... For Guru

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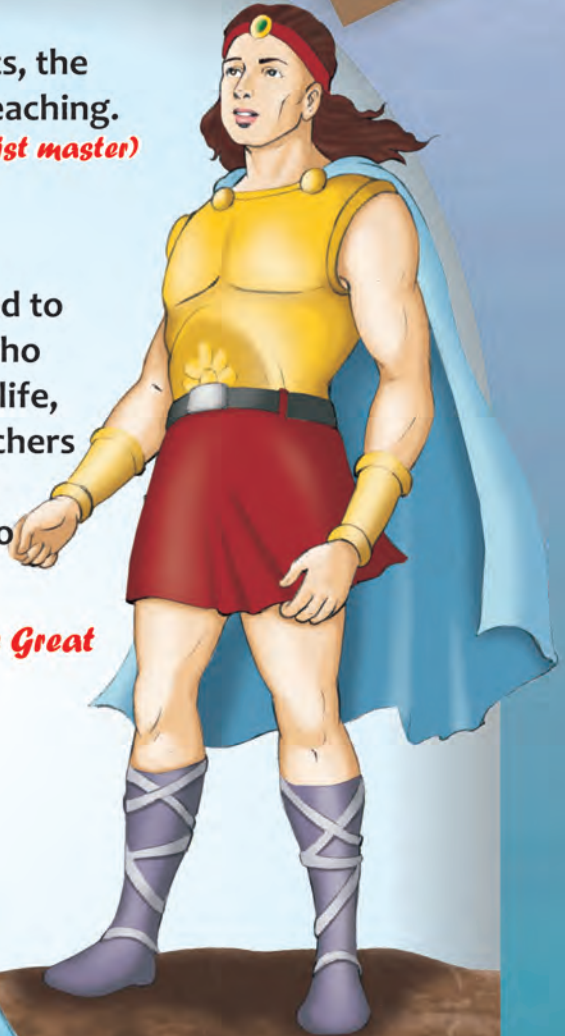
When a teacher finds faults, the intention is always that of teaching.

*- Bankei (Zen Buddhist master)*



"I am indebted to my father who gave me this life, and to my teachers who showed me how best to live life."

*Alexander The Great*



"The grace of the Guru is like an ocean. If one goes to the guru with a cup, he will only get a cupful. Is there any benefit in complaining about the stinginess of the ocean? The bigger the vessel, the more grace one will get. It depends entirely upon his vessel."

*-Raman Maharshi*





### Glimpses of the kids camp held during the summer vacation



Akram Express 20  
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## For Akram Express Readers....

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