

March 2013

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Dada Bhagwan Parivar's

AKRAM

Express

**The Power of
Determination....**





Friends,

Many times, we decide that this time I must get a first class in my exams, get a trophy in sports etc. However, we tend to change our minds when we face difficulties. We think, "Forget it, I don't think I can achieve this," thus giving up by admitting defeat. Have you ever thought, "What is essential in order to attain our goal?" "How can we strengthen a wavering goal?" "When we face hardships, how should we remain firm in our resolve to achieve that goal?"

In this issue, Param Pujya Dadashri has shown the importance of firm determination in achieving any goal. The wonderful understanding behind questions such as, "How can we identify our lack of resolve? How can we overcome this weakness? What frame of mind should we maintain instead of becoming frustrated? etc, has been included in this issue.

So come, let us understand this beautiful explanation on unflinching determination and thus acquire the strength to achieve our goal.

-Dimple Mehta

Akram Express

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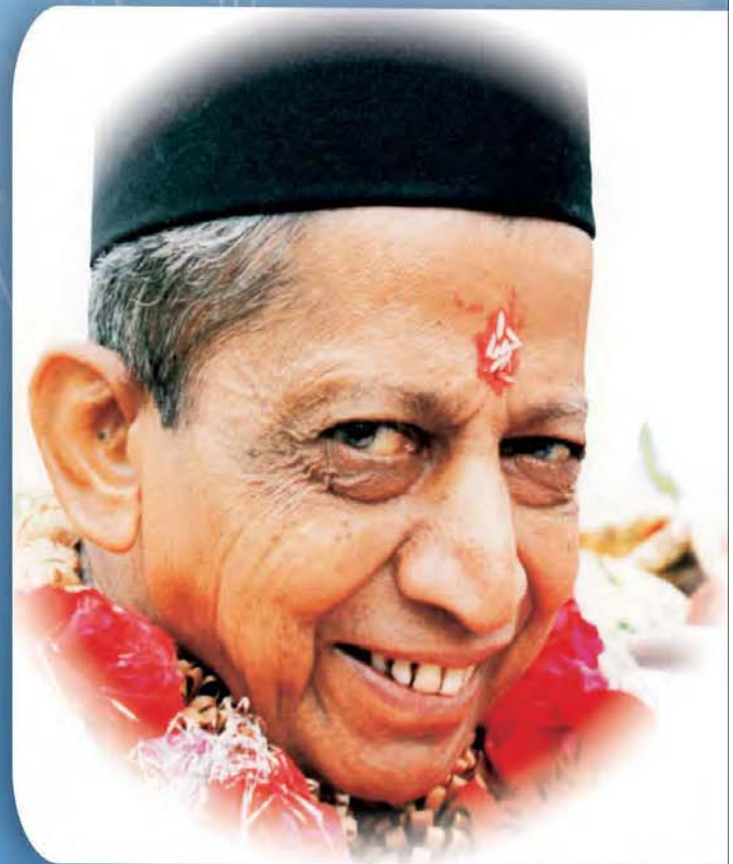
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The Power
of

Determination....

Determination is something that leads you to your goal. If you are thinking of achieving something, then you should make a firm decision that 'this is what I want to do' and you will see immediate success. Once you make a firm resolution about that particular thought, make a strong decision that this is the only thing you want to do and nothing else, then it finds a link and gets accomplished.

Questioner: But not everyone's resolutions give the desired results.

Dadashri: Irrespective of whether you get desired results or not, you should make a resolution! Otherwise, you will not get anywhere.

Questioner: That's true.

Dadashri: If you are determined, then nobody can stop you. There is no need to have a wavering mind. If you come across a mile-long slippery path and you start thinking, "What if I fall?", then, there is no solution for that. You need to have the resolve that, "I will certainly not fall, why should I fall?" As a result, your legs will get prepared and your mind will remain firm. Once you have made up your mind, "Why should I fall?", then all will be clear!! However, eventually if you do fall, then whatever has happened is correct.

Questioner: Even though I have the desire to complete the work, I still find it difficult to accomplish it.

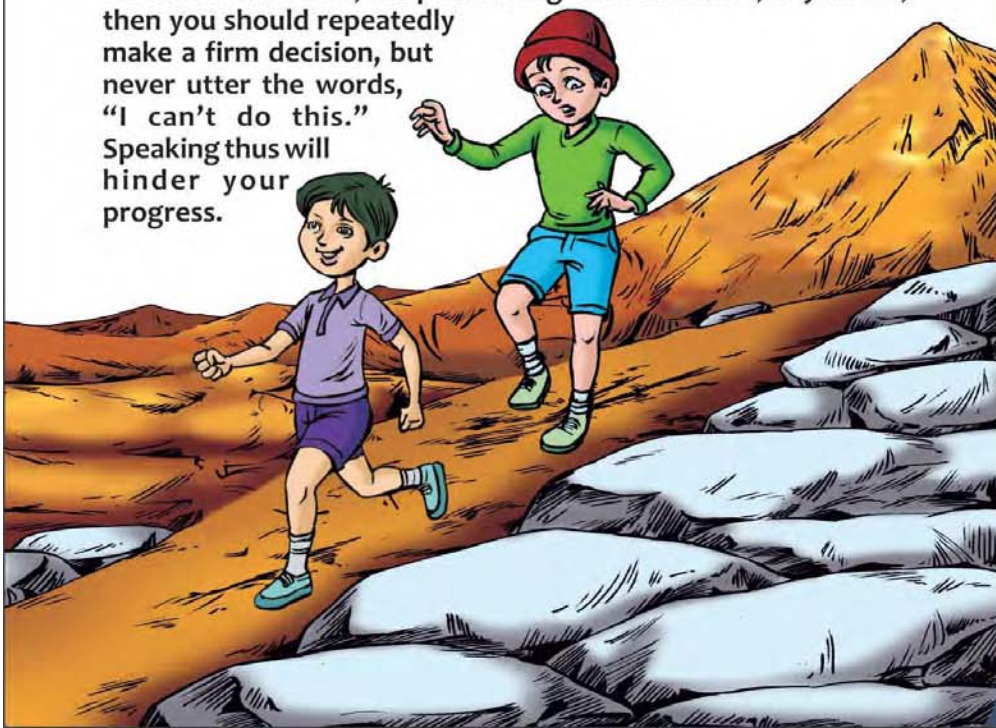
Dadashri: If you have a strong intent, then all obstacles can be overcome. You should check within if your inner intent is firm. If you make a firm decision, it will happen. If you have unflinching determination to do something, then everything is possible.

Questioner: Dada, does that mean that determination has the strength to overcome obstacles?

Dadashri: Yes, it dissolves all the obstacles. It will not allow any obstacle to hinder the work.

Questioner: So, when we face obstacles, does it mean that we are lacking determination?

Dadashri: Yes, it is a lack of determination. If one has the strength of determination, then one can definitely overcome the obstacles. However, despite having determination, if you fail, then you should repeatedly make a firm decision, but never utter the words, "I can't do this." Speaking thus will hinder your progress.



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It was Sunday morning. Grandpa was enjoying the morning, sitting on the swing in the balcony, with a newspaper and a hot cup of tea.



The Power of Determination

Sitting besides Dadaji, Aman started reading something with great interest.



I am reading my horoscope. Wednesday's horoscope is useless. I have a science test on Wednesday. This time I will have problems in the test again.



Do you want to achieve good marks in your science test?

These horoscopes don't decide your results. If you make a firm decision that you want a good result, then no one can stop you. Not even these horoscopes.

I want to, but now I don't think there is any chance.

I will definitely try, but I don't know if I will be able to study properly. I have lost my mood after reading this.



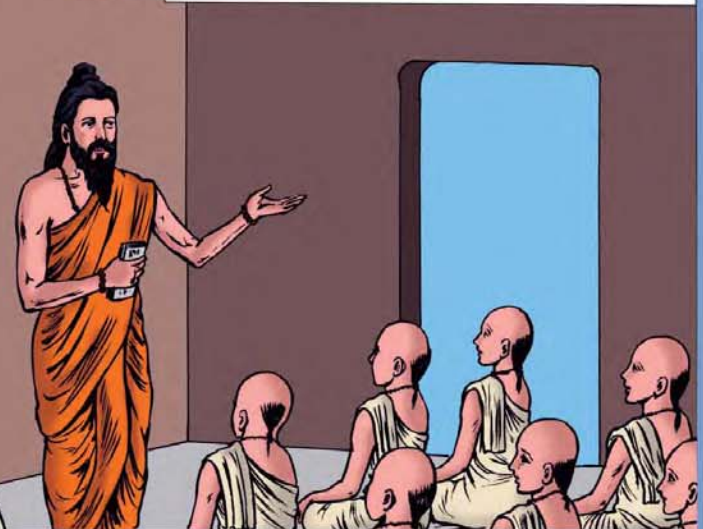
If you remain hesitant, thinking whether it will happen or not, then things will definitely go wrong. However, if you firmly make up your mind that, "I will achieve it, it is possible", then you will certainly get good marks. If you make a firm decision that I want to do this, then everything is possible.



Let me tell you a story. This story is about a great sage Panini. He produced the famous volume on Sanskrit grammar 'Ashtadhyayi'. He managed to fit the entire grammar of Sanskrit language in this booklet. He must have been extremely intelligent!



You will be amazed to know that the intellect of such a great scholar of Sanskrit had not flourished at all in his childhood. He couldn't comprehend whatever was taught in the class by his teacher.

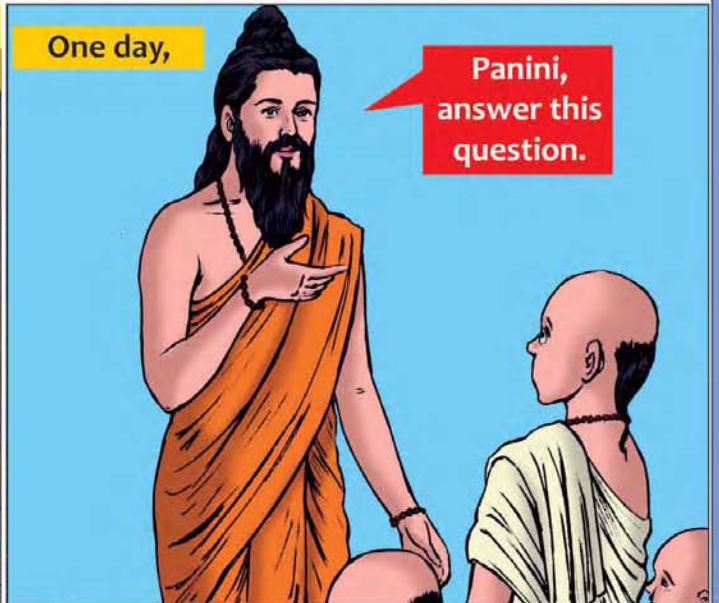


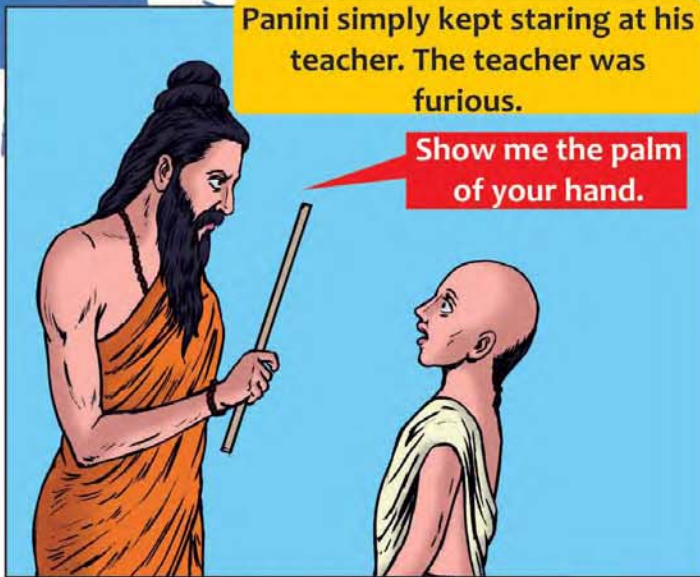
Hence, his classmates would tease him, calling him, "leader of fools."



One day,

Panini, answer this question.

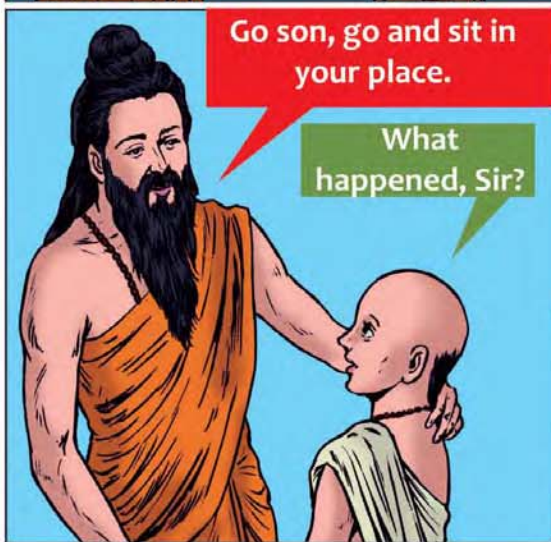




Panini simply kept staring at his teacher. The teacher was furious.

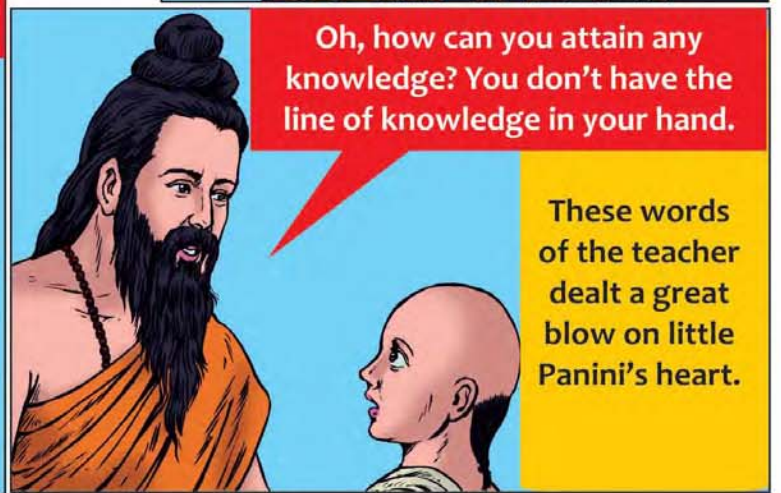
Show me the palm of your hand.

Panini started trembling. Quivering with fear, he held out his hand in front of his teacher! The teacher was about to smack him when his glance fell upon Panini's palm. He was stunned. His stick held hand froze in mid air.



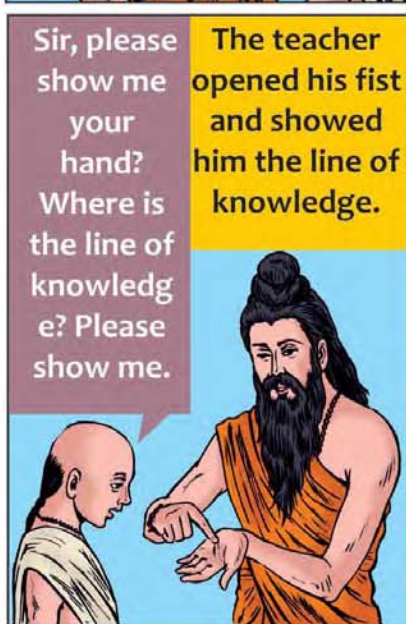
Go son, go and sit in your place.

What happened, Sir?



Oh, how can you attain any knowledge? You don't have the line of knowledge in your hand.

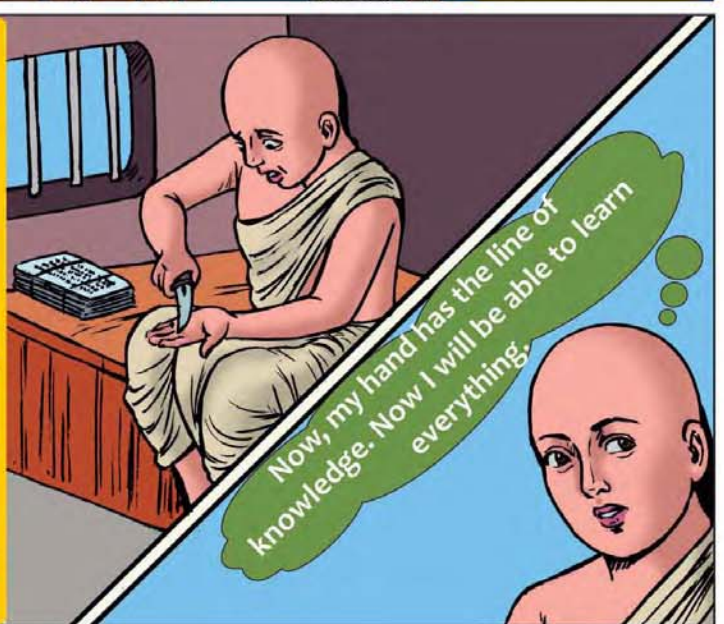
These words of the teacher dealt a great blow on little Panini's heart.



Sir, please show me your hand? Where is the line of knowledge? Please show me.

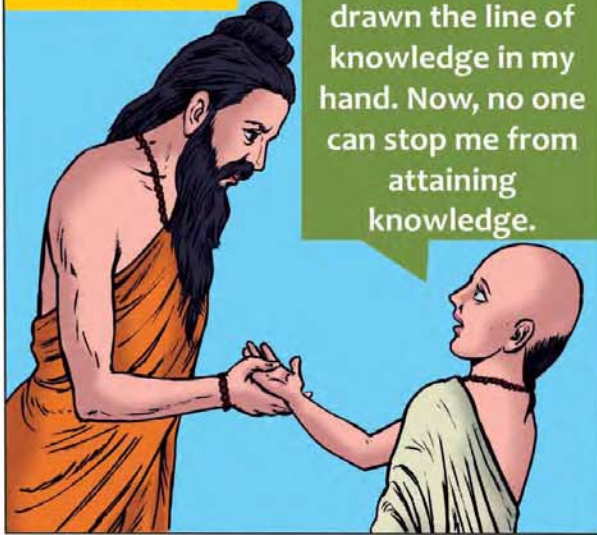
The teacher opened his fist and showed him the line of knowledge.

That night, Panini took a sharp stone and engraved a line on his tender palm. It was the line of knowledge. His palm was red with blood.

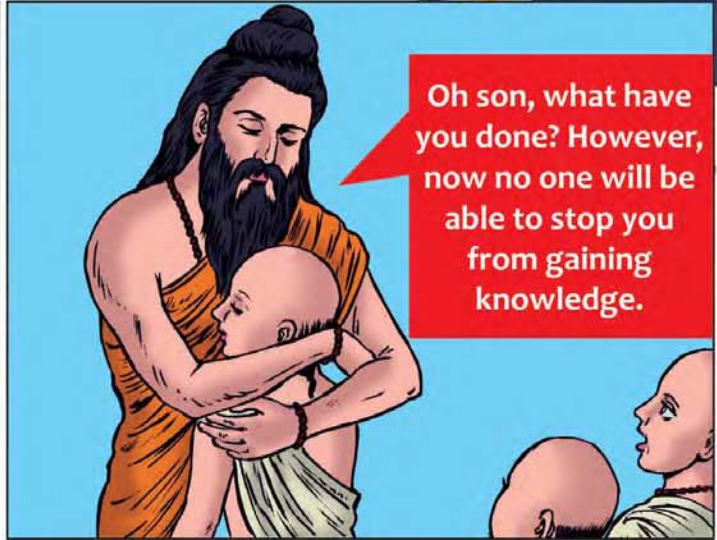


Now, my hand has the line of knowledge. Now I will be able to learn everything.

बीजा दिवसे



Sir look, I have drawn the line of knowledge in my hand. Now, no one can stop me from attaining knowledge.



Oh son, what have you done? However, now no one will be able to stop you from gaining knowledge.

As time went by, the white line disappeared and his hand became normal like before. However, the line of strong determination that had been engraved in his heart became deeper and deeper with time. He would not eat, drink or sleep until he understood his lessons. Due to his firm determination to achieve his goal, the one time 'leader of fools' became a great scholar of grammar in Sanskrit language.



Now you tell me, if Panini had relied upon the lines on his palm, then would he have achieved his goal?



No

Just then, Papa stepped into the balcony. So, Sir Aman, what does your horoscope say?



My future appears terrible. However, I will make it rewarding with the strength of my determination.

Hearing this Dadaji chuckled and putting on his specs, he continued to read his newspaper.

What??!!



Determination means that we remain steadfast in whatever we decide, right until the end. Then we can get the links that take the work forward. If we waver in our decision, then we don't get the further links. For instance, if I have made a firm decision that I want to become a doctor then I will come across all the favourable evidences for the same. However, later on, if I change my decision to become a doctor, then the favourable evidences will disperse.



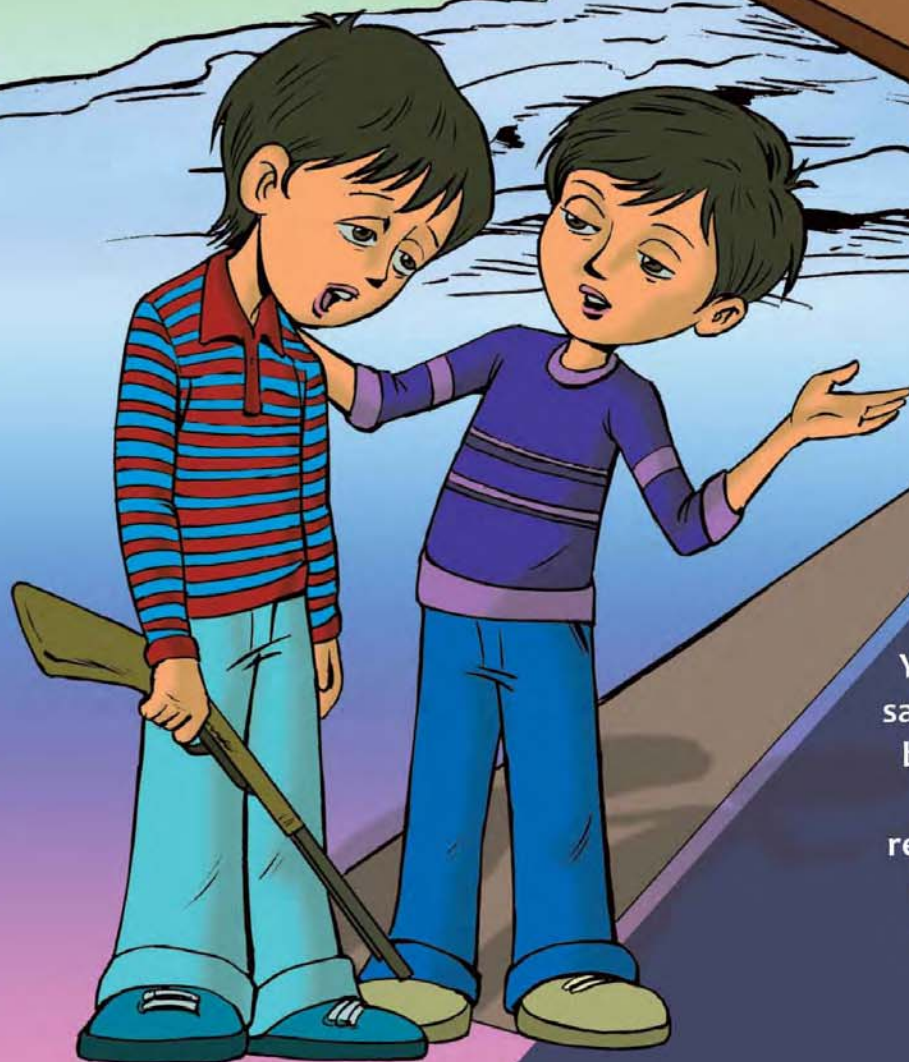
New Absolutely



If you decide on one thing and then you make another decision, then you can get appropriate evidences, but not constantly. For instance, if you decide that you want to study, then you constantly get the necessary evidences to study. However, in-between you make another decision that, "You ought to play as well! It's not practical to study all day." In that case, you will not constantly get favourable circumstances for studying.

What sort of decision would you make if you have to walk along a narrow plank of wood, where you can easily fall, and with water on both sides? There, you do not need to make a decision now and again. In that instance, you make a firm decision only once and then you remain fully aware! That sort of determination is required.

and
different



You should never say, "I want to do it but I can't". This breaks your resolution and you meet obstacles along the way.

.....and Prisha attains success



Mummy could hear Prisha's laughter coming from the kitchen. On entering the kitchen, she saw Prisha had stuck photos of Kulu-Manali on the fridge. With a smile her mother asked, "What is this? Today, it seems that my daughter is in a mood for decoration or do these photos imply something else?"

"Mummy, this summer my friends are planning to go trekking to Kulu-Manali. Even I want to go. We have to register within three months. Please mummy, will you allow me to go?" Prisha asked her mother while handing her the brochure.

Mummy leafed through a few pages of the brochure and then placed it on the dining table.

"It looks good, but I will have to ask your father," saying this, her mother glanced at the watch. Come on, hurry up! You will be late for school. We will discuss this in the evening".

In the evening, on returning home from school, Prisha threw her bag on the sofa and ran to her mother in the kitchen.

"What have you decided? Can I go trekking?" Prisha asked her mother eagerly.

Her mother smiled at Prisha, and replied calmly, "You may go but only if you are fully prepared from your side."

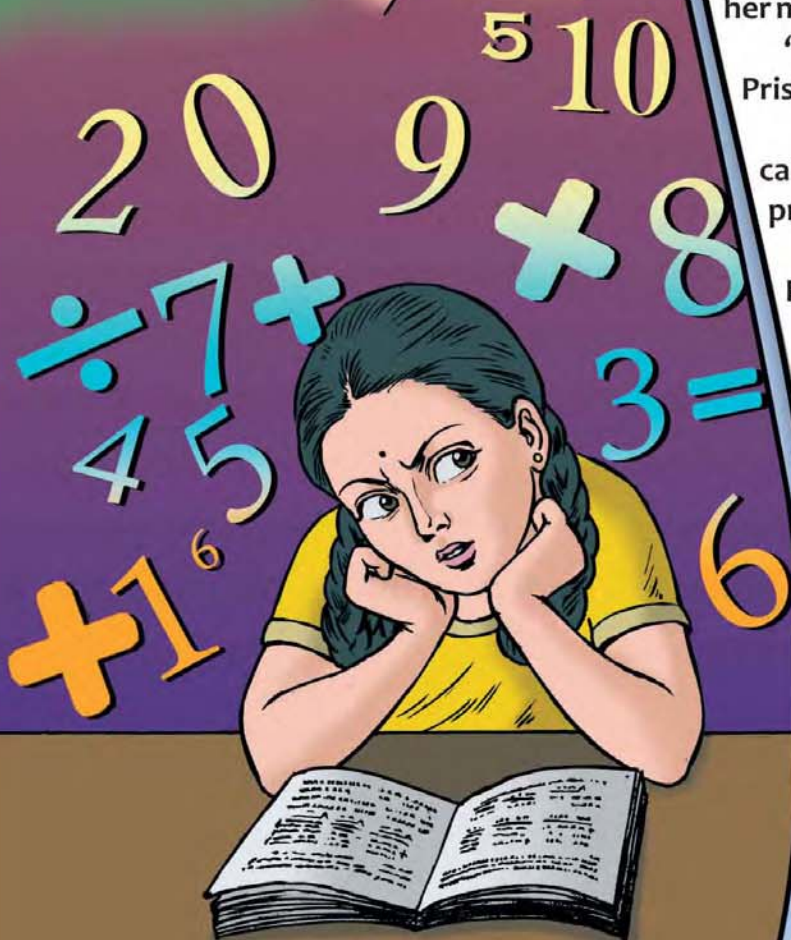
"Prepared? What kind of preparation?" Prisha asked with impatience.

"Preparation of studying sincerely for your final examination to obtain over 70 percent marks in Math. If you get marks over 70 percent, then you can go," her mother answered firmly.

Prisha was upset when she heard this, "What? This is not on. You know that I barely pass in maths. It's impossible for me to obtain over 70 percent.

After listening to Prisha's reaction, her mother replied encouragingly, "Nothing is impossible. If you really want to go, you will definitely be able to obtain good marks."

Just then, the phone rang. It was Sneha.



She eagerly asked Prisha, "What happened? Did you get permission for trekking?"

Scratching her head, Prisha answered, "Yes and no." Then she related to Sneha the condition put forth by her parents.

Hearing this, Sneha said, "Oh come on, of course you will be able to come. Don't be skeptical. If you make a firm decision that you want to go trekking and you want to attain over 70 percent marks in your exams, then it is possible. It's a fact."

Sneha's motivating words were of no consolation to Prisha. "Ok, I have to go now. I have homework to finish." Cutting Sneha's conversation short, Prisha hung the phone.

After a little while, mummy entered Prisha's room. Prisha was lying on her bed and writing something in her notebook.

"Hot samosas and gulab jamuns." Mummy announced, placing the plate on the table. "You must be hungry after doing all that homework?" She glanced at Prisha's book and noticed the whole page was full of doodles. There was not a single Math sum solved on the page. Mummy asked with surprise, "What is this? You still haven't started your homework?"

"These sums are too difficult. Nothing is entering my brain. I will never be able to finish this homework," said Prisha dejectedly.

Mummy sat down beside Prisha. Stroking her head gently, she said, "I understand how you must be feeling right now. However, you must never say, 'I can't do it, I can't do it.' Let me tell you my experience. I did not know how to make samosas or gulab jamuns, but as

these were favourite items for both you and your father, so I learnt from your grandmother, how to make them. Initially, I found it very difficult. But, after setting a goal that, 'I want to make the best', I started practicing and soon I was able to make very tasty food!



However, if I had just sat back and said that 'I can't do it', then would you get to eat such tasty food? If you keep on saying, 'I can't do it, I can't do it', then all your strength will dissipate. Instead, if you make a firm decision and start working towards your goal, then everything is possible."

"Come, have something to eat and start doing your homework." Saying this, her mother left the room.

Prisha ate a samosa and glanced at her Math notebook. She reluctantly started solving the sums. After making some efforts, she was amazed to see that she could solve the sum correctly. "Wow! This sum wasn't that easy, yet I managed to solve it. Well done, Prisha, well done!" She complimented herself.

However, after a while she got stuck. She thought again, "I knew that Mathematics is not my cup of tea." In that instant, she recalled her mother's words, "In spite of making a firm decision, if you falter, then make the same firm decision again and again. But, never say, 'I can't do it.'" Hence, Prisha changed her thought. She even managed to complete her homework in a short while.

After that day, with a strong determination that she wanted to get over 70 percent marks in Math, Prisha began to practice regularly. There were times she had to struggle, but without losing hope, she continued practicing.

Finally, the day of the Math exam dawned. Before going for the exam, when she bowed down to her parents for blessings, her mother offered her an envelope.

"What is this?" Prisha asked in surprise.

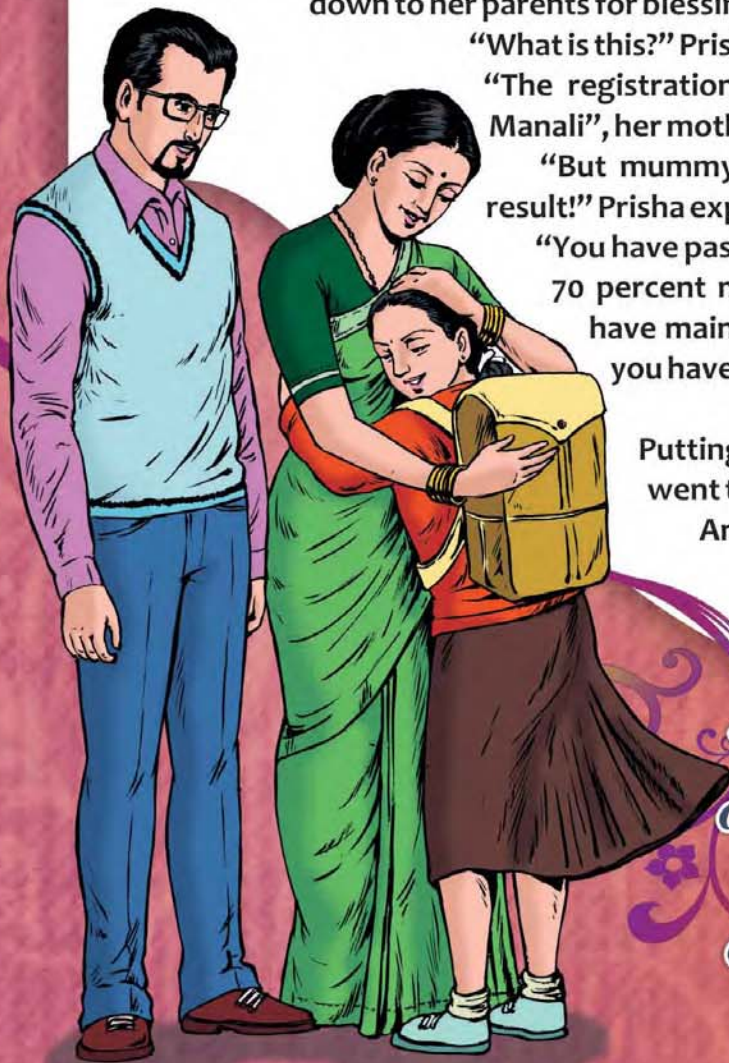
"The registration form and a cheque for your trip to Kulu-Manali", her mother said happily.

"But mummy, the exam is today. I haven't even got my result!" Prisha expressed her surprise.

"You have passed our exam. We have already given you over 70 percent marks for the strong determination that you have maintained for achieving your goal and the effort you have put in," said her mother laughing.

Prisha hugged her mother on hearing this. Putting away the envelope safely in her bag, she went to give the exam with confidence.

And indeed she scored 75 percent marks in Math.



"In spite of making a firm decision, if you falter, then make the same firm decision again and again."

(1) Dadaji says that determination is something that leads you to your goal. Analyse the incident given below and find out what Devyani's goal was and how she created obstacles for herself while pursuing her goal.

Devyani had been selected to participate in the inter-school spelling competition. This was a great opportunity for her to fulfil her dream to win a prize for the school.

When Devyani reached home, she prepared a timetable to practise for the competition and decided to study sincerely. Just then, her cousin Shivani phoned.

She asked, "Devu, do you want to come and see a movie this Friday? I have some tickets.

Devyani thought, "Hmmm... let me go and see the movie this Friday. I will practice a bit more on Saturday."

As the day of the competition started approaching, she started losing confidence. In a rough test she got 6 incorrect spellings out of 10. She felt despair.

She thought, "I don't want to participate in this spelling competition. There is no scope of winning a prize in this one. Instead, what if I take part in the art competition?"

After a little while, Devyani altered her thought and started practising again. On the night before the competition she started feeling nervous, "I can't understand this spelling. What if I don't get it right?"

2. From the five sentences given below what strengths will help Devyani to overcome the hurdles she has created.

In the above incident which three sentences show lack of power of determination

1. I have infinite strength. Dada, please grant me the strength to have proper understanding.

2. If the mind weakens when faced with temptations and diverts you away from the goal, then make a firm decision to remain sincere to your goal and not to listen to your mind.

3. Instead of wasting time by going out for a movie, it's better to bring it home and watch it.

4. Determination means that we remain steadfast in whatever we decide, right until the end. If we waver in our determination, then we will lose the links leading to our goal.

5. Imagine that you will win the competition and then go to sleep.

In the last edition, we saw that Vasumati had started living like a daughter at Merchant Dadhivahan's home. Upon seeing the merchant's increasing fondness for Vasumati, the fire of jealousy began to burn in mistress Moola. Not finding any other solution, she began to make Vasumati do all the housework. Without harboring negative feelings towards mistress Moola, she fulfilled her duties, prayed with devotion and thus days passed by. Now let us read on.....

Around then, merchant Dadhivahan had to go out of town for business. Taking advantage of this situation, in his absence, mistress Moola called for the barber. She ordered Vasumati's beautiful long tresses to be shaved off. Hands and feet tied in heavy chains; Vasumati was locked up in a small dark room. Mistress Moola locked the house and left.

This Vasumati is none other than Chandanbala.

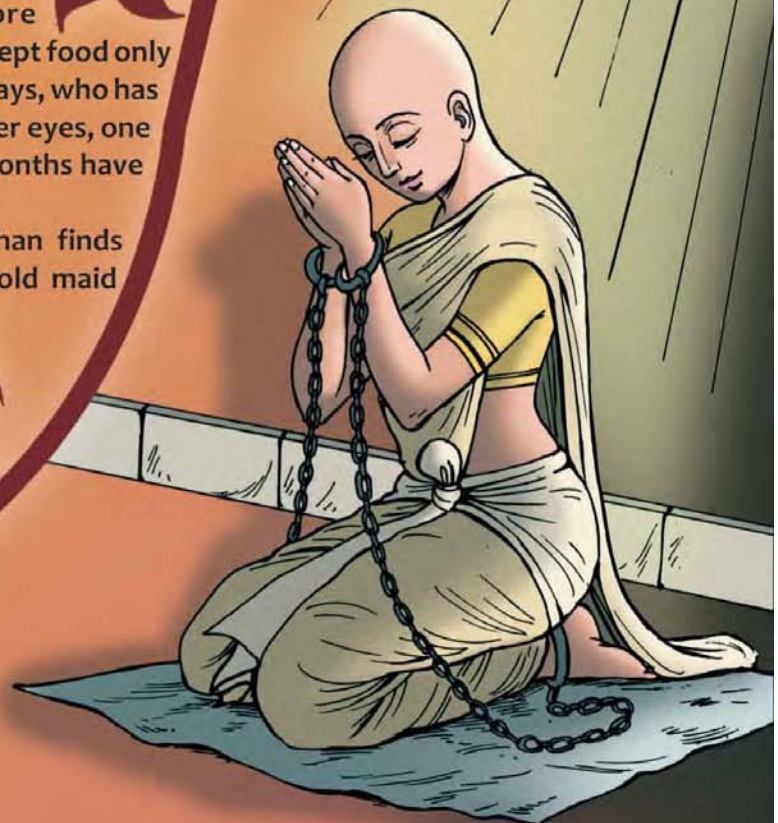
Three days have passed since Chandanbala has been locked up in the room. She has not put a single grain of food or a drop of water in her mouth. Continuously meditating on the Navkar Mantra, Chandanbala is engrossed in the soul. She is experiencing absolute peace while contemplating on the Jineshwar Bhagwan (the Enlightened One).

On the other hand, Lord Mahavir has been wandering around Kaushambi City, going from alleyway to alleyway, home to home for nearly six months, in search of alms but returns without accepting anything. The royal family and all the subjects are at a loss to understand why this ascetic is turning away without taking alms. Queen Mrugavati tries many alternative arrangements, but to no avail.

Bhagwan had imposed upon himself improbable stipulations (abhigraha) before accepting alms. He had vowed that he would accept food only from a princess who has been fasting for three days, who has black lentils to offer, her feet chained, tears in her eyes, one foot outside the doorway and one inside. Six months have passed, but this abhigraha has yet to be fulfilled.

Upon returning home, Merchant Dadhivahan finds the house locked and starts inquiring. An old maid gave him an account of all that had happened. He immediately broke open the lock. When he found Chandanbala, he was shocked to see her state. He found some black

Mythological



lentils in a winnowing pan for Chandanbala to eat, while he went to call an ironmonger to break the chains.

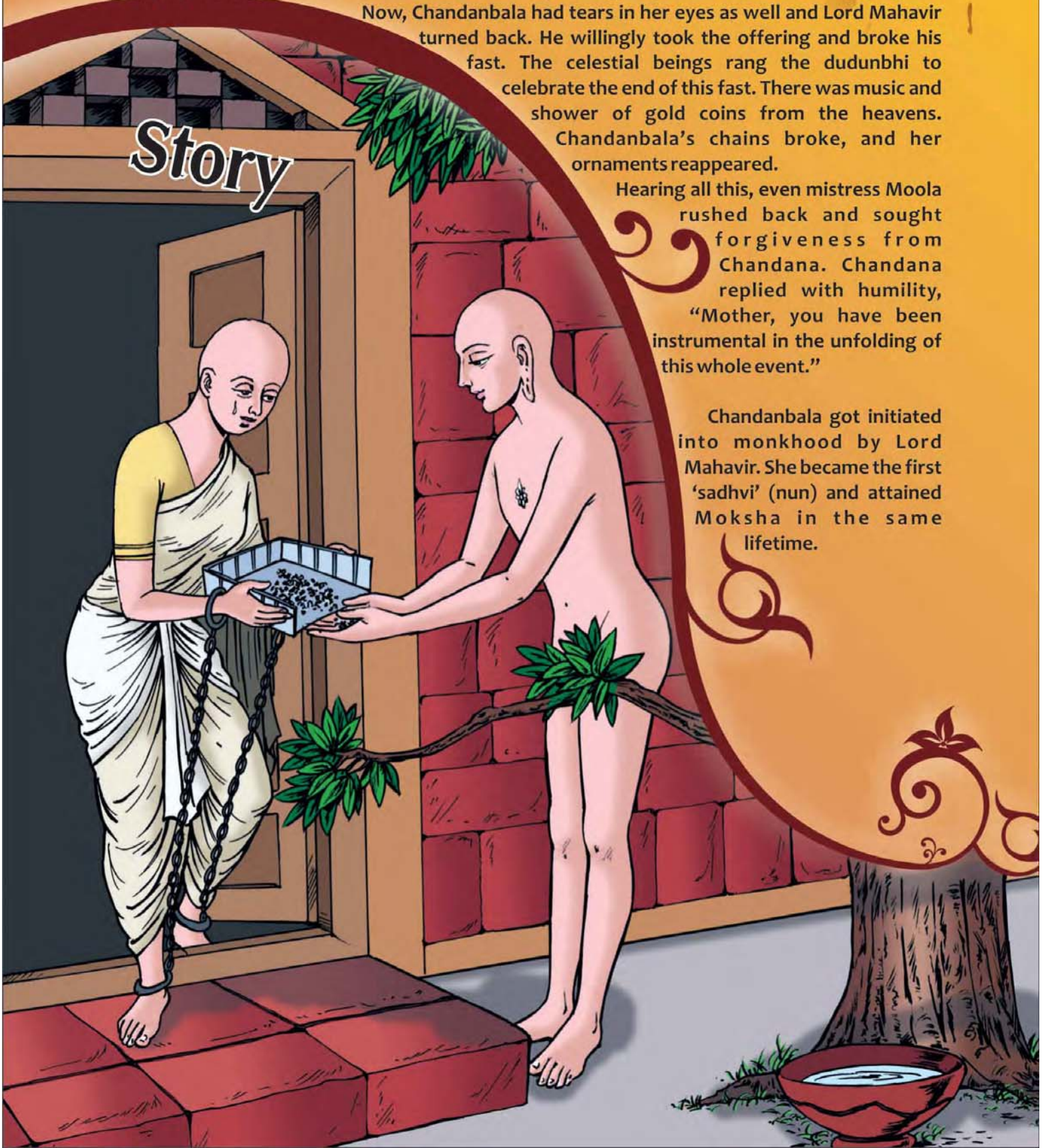
At that moment, Lord Mahavir arrived there. Chandanbala was delighted to see Bhagwan. He noticed that all the conditions of his abhigraha were fulfilled and so he stretched out his hand to take the offering, but he saw that her face was brimming with joy. There were no tears in her eyes, so he withdrew his hands and turned away. Seeing this, Chandanbala started crying.

Now, Chandanbala had tears in her eyes as well and Lord Mahavir turned back. He willingly took the offering and broke his fast. The celestial beings rang the dudunbhi to celebrate the end of this fast. There was music and shower of gold coins from the heavens. Chandanbala's chains broke, and her ornaments reappeared.

Hearing all this, even mistress Moola rushed back and sought forgiveness from Chandana. Chandana replied with humility, "Mother, you have been instrumental in the unfolding of this whole event."

Chandanbala got initiated into monkhood by Lord Mahavir. She became the first 'sadhvi' (nun) and attained Moksha in the same lifetime.

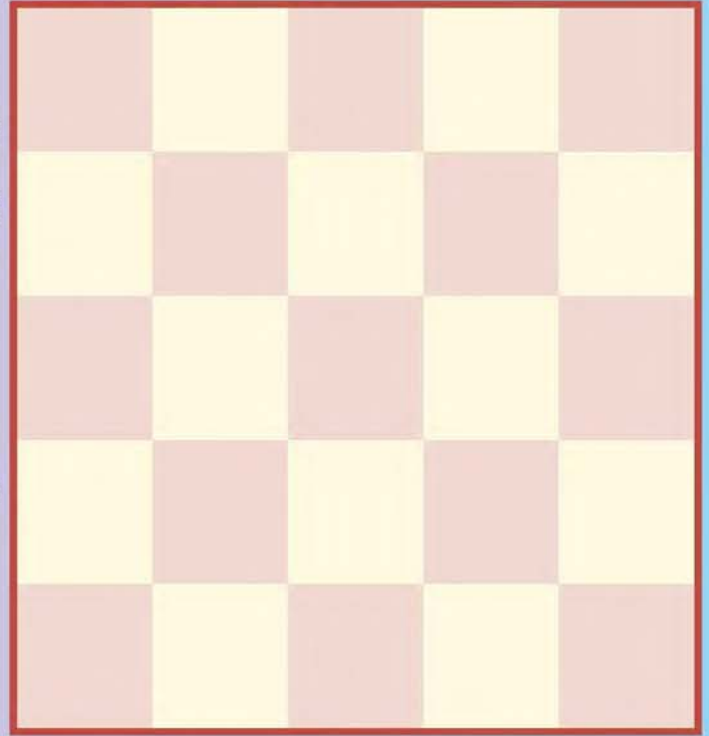
Story



Let's Play

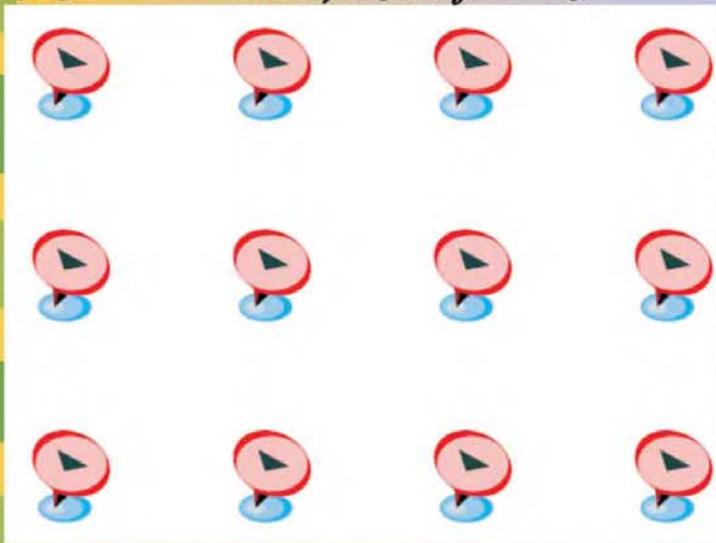
1

Arrange the 5 different shapes given here in such a way that it makes a 5 x 5 chess board.



2

Without lifting your pencil, connect the dots in such a way that you get exactly 5 straight lines.



3

Eight number cards have been arranged in two columns in such a way that the total of the right hand column is 20 and that of the left hand column is 19. The goal of this puzzle is to rearrange the cards with the least amount of shuffling such that both columns have the same total. Can you figure it out?



Come on children, let's count how many hand prints we can see in this figure.

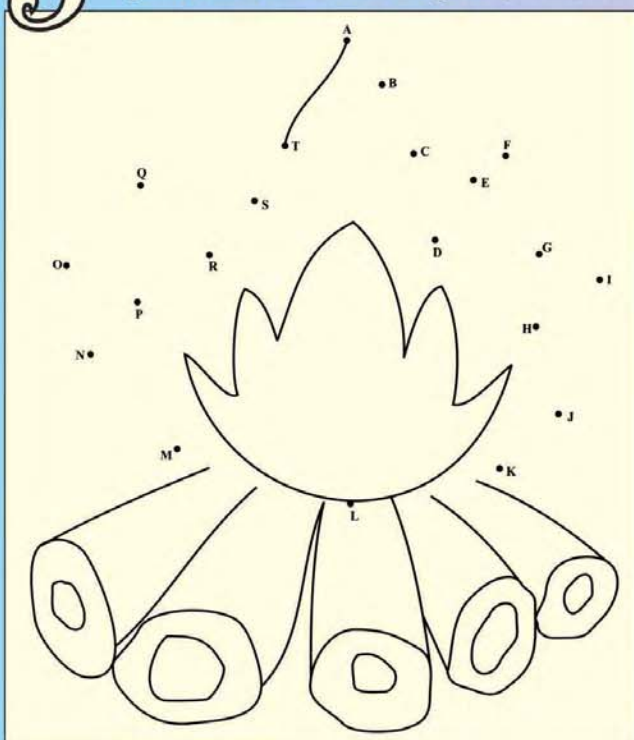
6

4



5

Join the dots to make a picture.



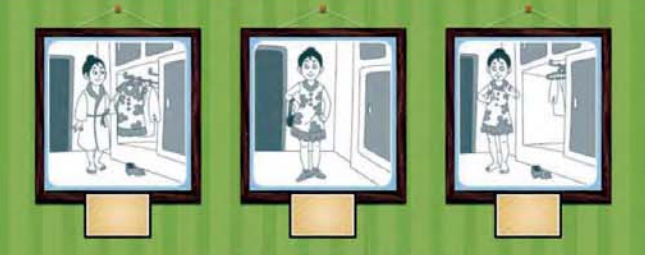
1 2 3



1 2 3



1 2 3




1 2 3



1 2 3

Sweet Memories



This incident happened during a jatra (pilgrimage). Everyone arrived at the designated dharmashala (a place to stay in a pilgrimage area) at night. After dinner, Niruma was relaxing with all the mahatmas. One bahen sat down near Niruma. Niruma was aware that she liked to do seva (selfless service). Therefore, towards the end, during darshan (seek blessings) time, Niruma asked her, "Tomorrow morning, please bring me some hot water." That bahen was extremely delighted.

Back in her room, she declared to everyone, "I have to wake up early tomorrow. I have to take hot water for Niruma. She has asked me to do so."

The next day, she woke up at five in the morning and went downstairs to get some water. She was surprised to see a long queue for water. A great many people had come to get hot water. Looking at the crowd, she wondered what she would do now.

So, she announced to everyone that she had to take hot water for Niruma. Would anyone object if something had to be taken to Niruma? They allowed her to jump the queue to fill the bucket with hot water. That bahen was quite pleased that she got the hot water without much effort.

She went upstairs and loudly knocked on Niruma's door. Deepakbhai came out and said, "Niruma is asleep. You will have to take this water back." Then he asked her, "Now what will you do with this water?"

The bahen said, "It's all right. I will give it to someone else."

Niruma overheard this conversation and immediately got up, came out and said, "No, no, I will bathe with this water. Don't send her back."

Taking the water, Niruma started questioning the bahen, "What time did you get up? How did you get the water? Did you have to wait long in the queue? Etc."

The bahen simply answered, "I told everyone that I have to take water for Niruma, so they immediately allowed me to jump the queue."

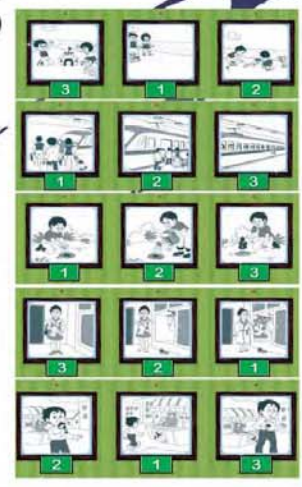
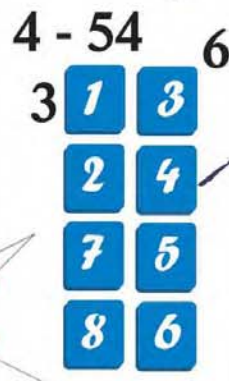
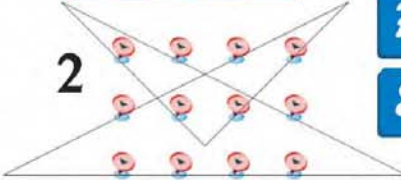
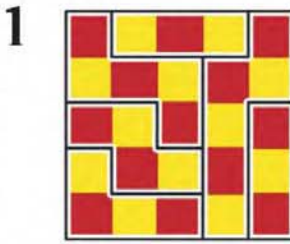
After listening to this, Niruma explained to her, "You should never do seva by taking advantage of Niruma's name".

The bahen realized her mistake. Niruma would lovingly point out and explain the mistakes that would normally go unnoticed.

Test your self Ans

- 1) 1. Hmmm... let me go and see the movie this Friday. I will practice a bit more on Saturday.”
2. I don't want to participate in this spelling competition. There is no scope of winning a prize in this one. Instead, what if I take part in the art competition?
3. I can't understand this spelling. What if I don't get it right?
- 2) 1. I have infinite strength. Dada, please grant me the strength to have proper understanding.

Puzzle Answers



Hanhanhiki...

Servant: Sir, will you employ me at your work place?
Employer: No brother, I prefer to do all the work by myself.
Servant: That is why I am looking for a job at your place.



Elephant boasted: There is no one in this world who is as strong and clever as I am.
Ant remarked: Really? In that case show me how you will enter my burrow!

Teacher: Chintu, what does your Papa do?
Chintu: Teacher, my Papa is the manager of H.D.F.C.
Teacher: Wow, but can you tell me what H.D.F.C. stands for?
Chintu: Heerlal Dabeli and Farsan Centre.



Chagan asked doctor, "how much money is spend to do plastic surgery".
Doctor replied, " you need 2 Lakh Rupees".
Chagan said, " and doctor, if I get plastic from home then."



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5. Editor's Name: Dimple Mehta Nationality: Indian Address: Same as above
6. Name of Owner: Mahavideh Foundation Nationality: Indian Address: Same as above

I, Dimple Mehta hereby declare that the above stated information is correct to my knowledge and belief.

Date: 08-03-2013, Ahmedabad Dimple Mehta on behalf of Mahavideh Foundation
(Signature of Publisher)

**Glimpse of Trimandir Pranpratistha Celebration organized at Morbi
Puujashree doing Prathishktha, Prakshal & Pujan of Three Bhagwans,
Gods & Goddess.**



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