

September 2015

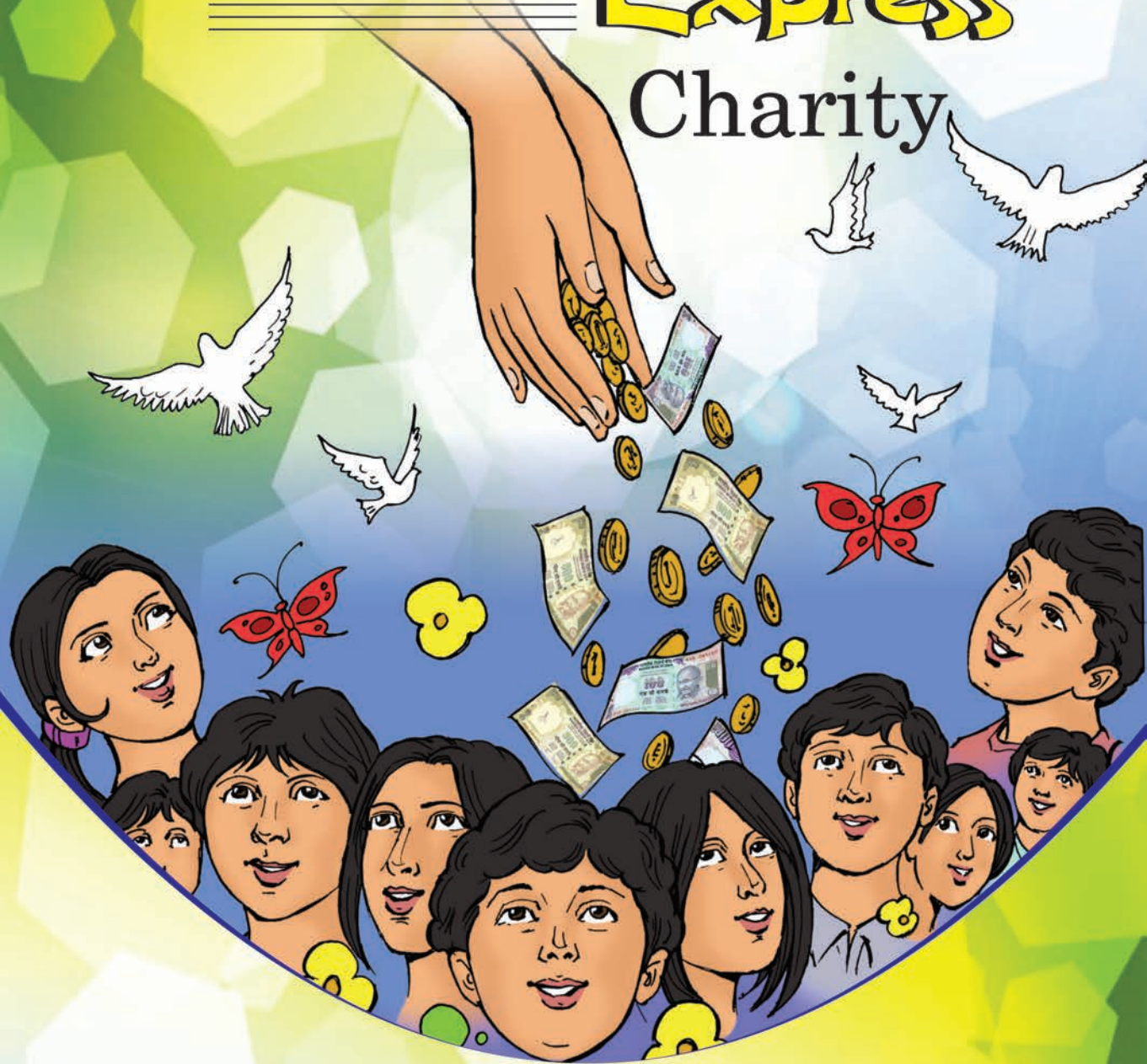
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Dada Bhagwan Parivar's

# AKRAM

## Express

### Charity



# Charity

Akram Express

## Editorial

Friends,

You must all be familiar with the word 'charity'. In our culture, values like these are passed on to children from a very young age. When a child accompanies its parents or grandparents to a place of worship, they unfailingly place a few coins in a child's hand to put in the donation box. It is also common for food to be given to the hungry and homeless, chapatti to stray dogs and seeds and grains to pigeons. In this way, the value of charity is ingrained in children right at an early age.

However, as one grows up, do you think the inner desire to donate remains as pure in an adult as it perhaps is during childhood?

Sometimes yes, sometimes no? Isn't it?

Let us read this issue and understand the precise concept of charity and also find out more about different types of charities. Param Pujya Dadashri has given immense importance to one's inner intent while giving any donation. So come, let us grasp this importance which will help us to maintain the highest inner intent every time we donate.

-Dimple Mehta

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## Dadaji says...

Charity means to give something of what we have to others, be it human beings or animals, which will give them happiness. This is the definition of charity.

**Questioner:** Why does one donate?

**Dadashri:** One wants to give happiness and, in turn, receive happiness. This world is akin to an echo. There will be echoes of whatever you do and will return to you with interest. Therefore, if you give, you will definitely get the returns. If we give happiness to all, in reaction to this, we will definitely get happiness.

**Questioner:** What if a donation is given with the expectation of getting something in return?

**Dadashri:** It is best if there are no expectations. Donations made with expectations are rendered futile. Give less, but give without any expectations.

Some people may not truly want to donate, but in their speech they say they want to donate and they even end up donating. But, because the mind is not in favour of making the donation, they will not reap any fruits just from the act of donating.

**Questioner:** Dada, why would something like this happen?

**Dadashri:** That is due to an underlying greed for fame and reputation. One would do this to show off and earn more respect for themselves. In his mind, he would be thinking, 'It's not worth donating, but then I will look bad if I don't'. Some might say, "That person pressurised me, hence I had to donate." Thus, he will get the returns according to his intent. Thus, a charitable act done happily, with positive intent, is worthwhile. It is your inner intent that has 'value', rather than what you physically give.

One man goes to the 'derasar' (Jain temple) and puts only one rupee in the donation box, whereas another businessman puts a few notes of a thousand rupees. Watching the businessman do this makes the other person think, 'If only I could afford it, I would certainly give as much'. Such a thought will definitely bear fruits as it is equivalent to giving a donation. God has accepted it.

# Types of Charity

## 1 Ahaar-daan (charity of food)

To feed the hungry, is ahaar-daan. When someone comes to your door and says, 'Can you give me some food? I am hungry,' and you say, 'Please sit, I will serve you food.' This is charity of food.

## 2 Aushadh-daan (charity of medical help)

To give medicines and medical treatment free of cost to those who need it is aushadh-daan. Charity of medicine is considered to be of more 'value' than charity of food because it keeps a person alive longer, maybe for a few more months. It also gives him relief from pain and suffering.

## 3 Gnan-daan (charity of spiritual knowledge)

Money donated towards books that guide people on the right path towards their salvation is called 'gnan-daan'. Through this charity one can progress to a better life form in his next life or can even attain 'moksh' (final liberation).

## 4 Abhay-daan (assurance of safety)

One's mind, speech and action should be such that it does not cause fear to any living being. That is 'abhay-daan'. It means that you do not hurt any living being in the slightest degree. No money is involved in this charity. This is the most superior form of charity.



## Dada's understanding... in his own words...



When I was 22-25 years old, I used to go to the cinema to watch movies. I would usually return after midnight. Whilst walking back home my shoes would make noise with each step. This was because I had 'chakti' (an extra piece of wood for better support) put on the soles. This would startle the poor dogs sleeping on the roadside and they would cock up their ears at the sound of footsteps. I understood that the poor animals were being disturbed because of me. What type of a person was I to scare those poor dogs? From then on, I would remove my shoes beforehand and carry them in my hands every time I walked past them. I would sneak in quietly, and wouldn't let the dogs be disturbed. This was my experiment at a young age.

# Absolutely New and Different! •



When you are doing charity, you will also unfailingly feel happy within. Even though you are donating your own money, you feel happy because you have done a noble act.



Charity should be done discreetly. It bears results only if it is done without announcing it to anyone. And the one who does it discreetly will definitely gain the returns out of it. Whether you accept it or not, there is a repayment associated with it.



Everything goes down the drain if one donates with the expectation of appreciation and fame. The one who does charity with the objective of the other person's welfare is alert. He is alert about what is beneficial to himself, he/she is aware of what is advantageous to the Self and what is not!



The benefits of charity multiplies manifold. But, how is that? When in his mind one intends to donate, in his speech also one intends to donate and then he actually donates in action. When there is unity of the mind, speech and behaviour, the results are beyond measure!

# What is Real Charity?

“And thus, it is our moral duty to help the poor and the needy as much as we possibly can,” said Dharamdaas Seth standing on the dais, addressing a large gathering.

The crowd gave a thunderous applause to the Seth’s speech on ‘charity’ and ‘kindness’. (The word ‘Seth’ is a respectful way of addressing a prominent figure of society.)

The villagers were discussing amongst themselves about the plentiful donations made by Dharamdaas Seth. Just then, strong winds started blowing across the village.

“Dear villagers, it seems that a storm is closing in. All of you should go back to your homes as soon as possible,” the Seth’s assistant announced from the stage. The crowd dispersed and



they all started walking back towards their homes.

That evening, a traveller knocked at the Seth’s house. “Respected Seth, I am a poor traveller. The weather outside is very bad and I am extremely hungry. Could you please give me shelter in your home for tonight?” the traveller requested with folded hands.

“This is not a lodge! Go away from here! I don’t understand why such people just turn up.” Saying so, the Seth slammed shut his door.



A little further away, a lantern could be seen burning inside Kishandas' house.

The traveller went there to seek shelter. Kishandas lovingly held the man's hand and welcomed him inside. "Come brother, come on in." Immediately on touching the man's hands, Kishandas felt alarmed, "Brother, your body temperature is high. Please take some rest. I will arrange some medication for you."

Kishandas' wife Radha boiled a medicinal concoction for the traveller and gave him some medicines. And later, she prepared and served him a tasty dinner.

The traveller decided to continue his journey the next morning, but the storm hadn't calmed down yet.

Without any hesitation, Kishandas insisted that the traveller stays put until the storm calmed down.

The traveller ended up staying with Kishandas and Radha in their hut for a week. Radha heartily cooked food items of his choice.

Months passed by after this episode. The festival of Diwali was approaching. One morning, while Radha was cleaning her courtyard, her neighbour called out to her, "Hey Radha, do you know that this Diwali a famous saint by name of Shri Damodar is going to visit our village?"

"Really? This is great news!" said Radha expressing her joy.

"All the ladies in the village are busy preparing for his welcome. They are cooking a variety of delicacies for him," said the neighbour filling her in with more details.

Radha felt delighted to hear this. But at the same time, she felt worried. After talking to the neighbour for a couple of minutes more, she went inside her kitchen. After wiping clean her hands, she opened the 'ghee' (clarified butter) pot. The worst of her fears had come true; there was not a single drop of ghee left.

Radha felt restless. Her mind was flooded with thoughts: 'What will I prepare for the saint? How will I welcome him?' Every year Radha would save small quantities of ghee for months in order to save enough to make Diwali sweets. But this year, she had used up most of the ghee to make food and remedies for the traveller.

There were grand preparations going on at the Dharamdaas Seth's mansion to welcome the saint. On the day of Diwali, it appeared as though the entire village had turned up at his palace for the saint's welcome.

Saint Damodar's chariot and horse-carriages arrived at the mansion. There was no sign of the saint in spite of waiting for him for a long time. The Seth was getting anxious. Finally, he asked the coachman, "Why hasn't the saint graced us with his presence yet? What is causing this long delay?"

"Sethji, the saint arrived some time ago. He is at Kishandas' place," said the coachman politely. He instructed us to park the chariot and the horse-carriages at your place." Said the coachman politely.

Upon hearing this, the group of villagers started walking towards



Kishandas' hut with the variety of delicacies prepared by them. The Seth felt extremely agitated. Inside the hut, Kishan and Radha were devotedly sitting at the saint's feet.

Seth bowed down to the saint and asked, "Sir, you had decided to visit my place. I was to be your host. Why did you humiliate me like this?" The pain of insult was evident in the Seth's voice.

"Seth, please be seated here first." The saint made the Seth sit beside him. Then he spoke up, "You are still a host. You are still a host of that which you desire to host." The Seth couldn't make anything out of this remark by the saint.

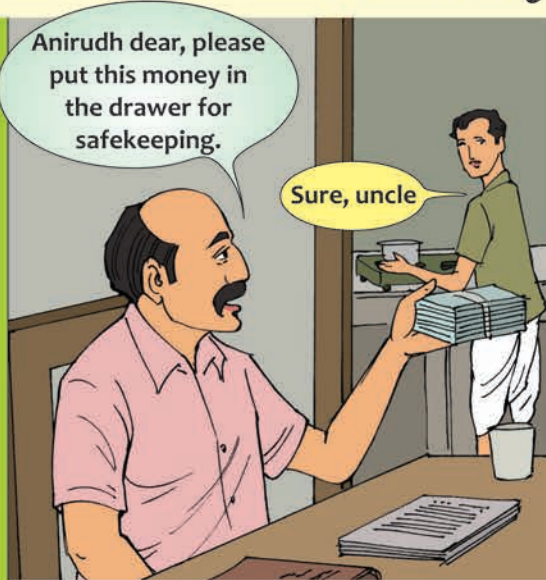
Clarifying his point further, the saint said, "Sethji, in order to investigate the condition of the villagers I often visit the village in a disguise. Last time, I had come to your place as a traveller. At that time, I didn't have my chariot or horse-carriages along with me. That is why you'd turned me away. You were interested in being a host to the chariots and horse-carriages. Hence, today I sent those to your palace." The Seth hung his head down in shame.

"Seth, you were willing to become my host today with the expectation of attaining fame. But such a welcome and generosity carries no value for me. If you had given food and medication to that traveller that day, who in reality was me only, then its value would have been many times more than your plentiful donations of money!" Thus, the saint imparted to the Seth and the villagers the understanding of what real charity meant.

That day, the saint passed on to Kishan and Radha the 'prasad' of all the different variety of food that was offered to him by the villagers.

The little hut, which didn't have a drop of 'ghee' to cook food, was today brimming with the saint's blessings and the aroma of sweets.

# Charity of Knowledge



Today, Vallabh uncle's joy knew no bounds. For many months he had been collecting money for the Free Education Fund for poor children and at last there was now sufficient money in the fund.



Anirudh had helped his uncle a lot in this charitable cause. But now it was time for him to leave for another town where he would get married and settle into a new life.

After a few months, the construction work for the school began. A down payment had to be made for this purpose.

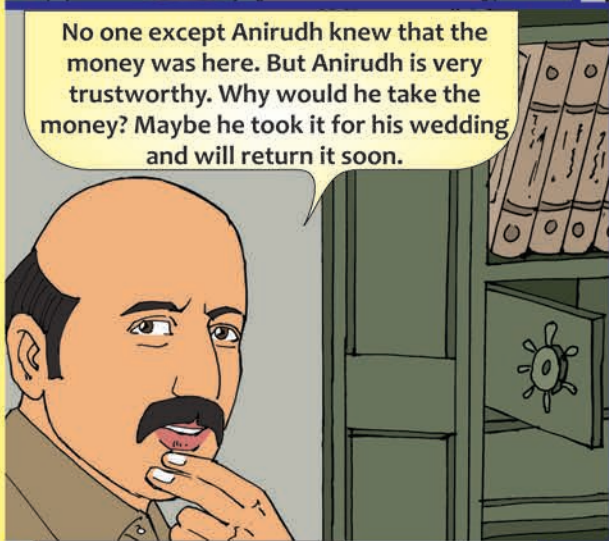




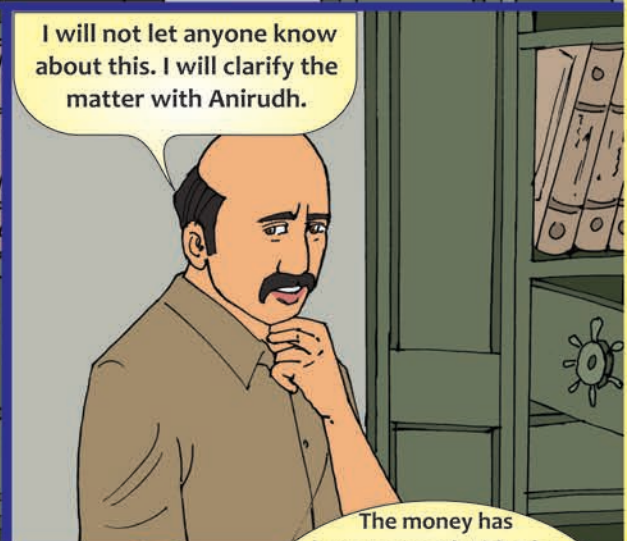
What is this?!  
I had kept the money right here.



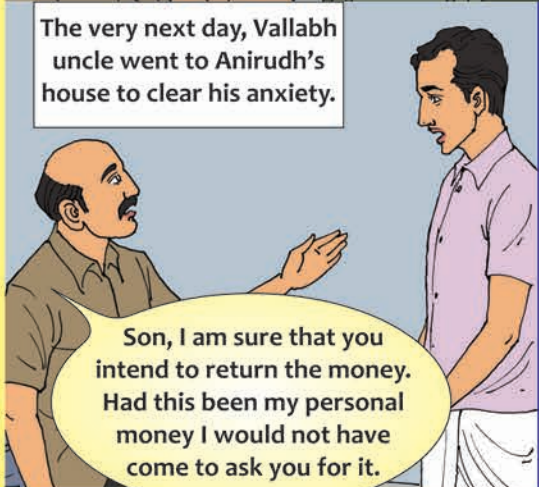
He searched everywhere,  
but the wallet was  
nowhere to be found.



No one except Anirudh knew that the money was here. But Anirudh is very trustworthy. Why would he take the money? Maybe he took it for his wedding and will return it soon.

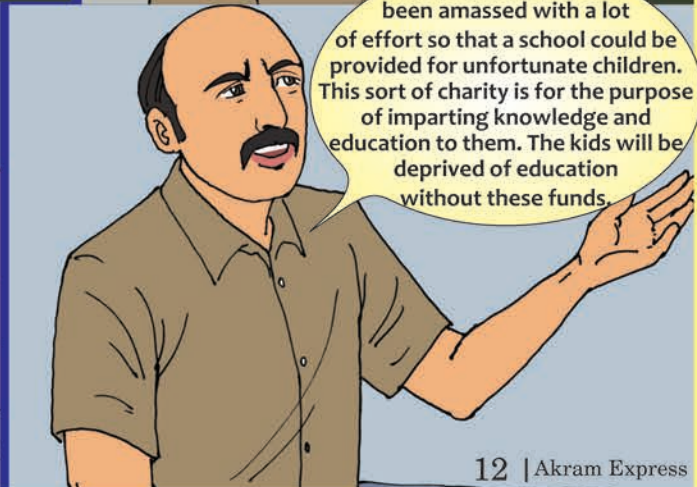


I will not let anyone know about this. I will clarify the matter with Anirudh.



The very next day, Vallabh uncle went to Anirudh's house to clear his anxiety.

Son, I am sure that you intend to return the money. Had this been my personal money I would not have come to ask you for it.

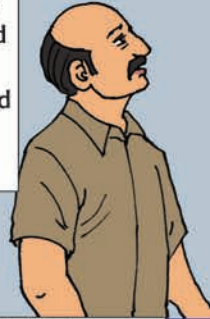


The money has been amassed with a lot of effort so that a school could be provided for unfortunate children. This sort of charity is for the purpose of imparting knowledge and education to them. The kids will be deprived of education without these funds.



After hearing all this, Anirudh's face turned pale and tears welled up in his eyes.

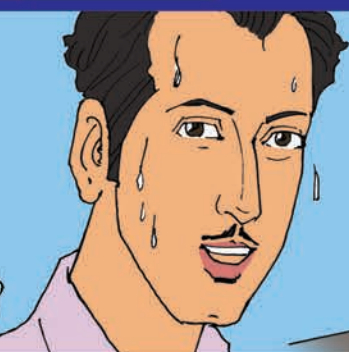
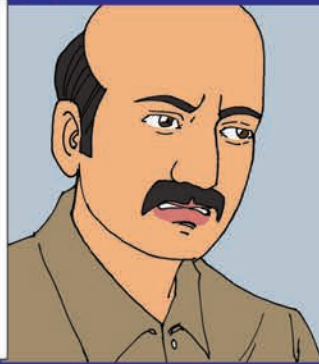
Without uttering a single word, he fetched his wallet.



Please take this uncle. Right now I only have this much money. But little by little I will soon repay the rest.



Vallabh uncle calmed down, but he also felt a little sad. Anirudh hadn't uttered a word in defence. The tears in Anirudh's eyes spoke of his guilt.



Thereafter, Anirudh worked hard, day and night, and kept sending money to Vallabh uncle for the school project.



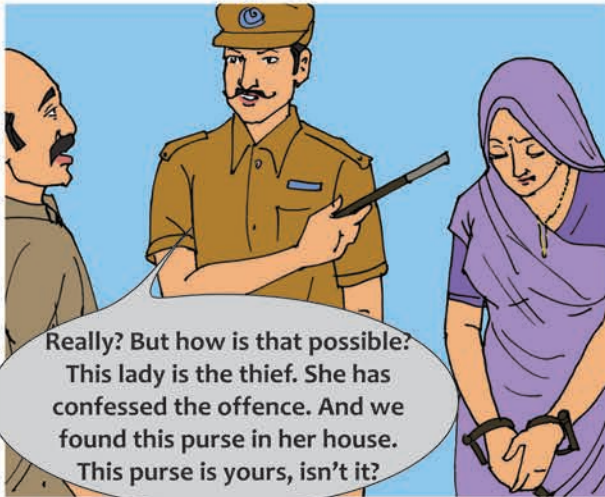
One morning...



Sir, did a theft take place in your house few months ago?

Oh yes, it had happened. But it is settled now. The thief has returned some of the money to me.





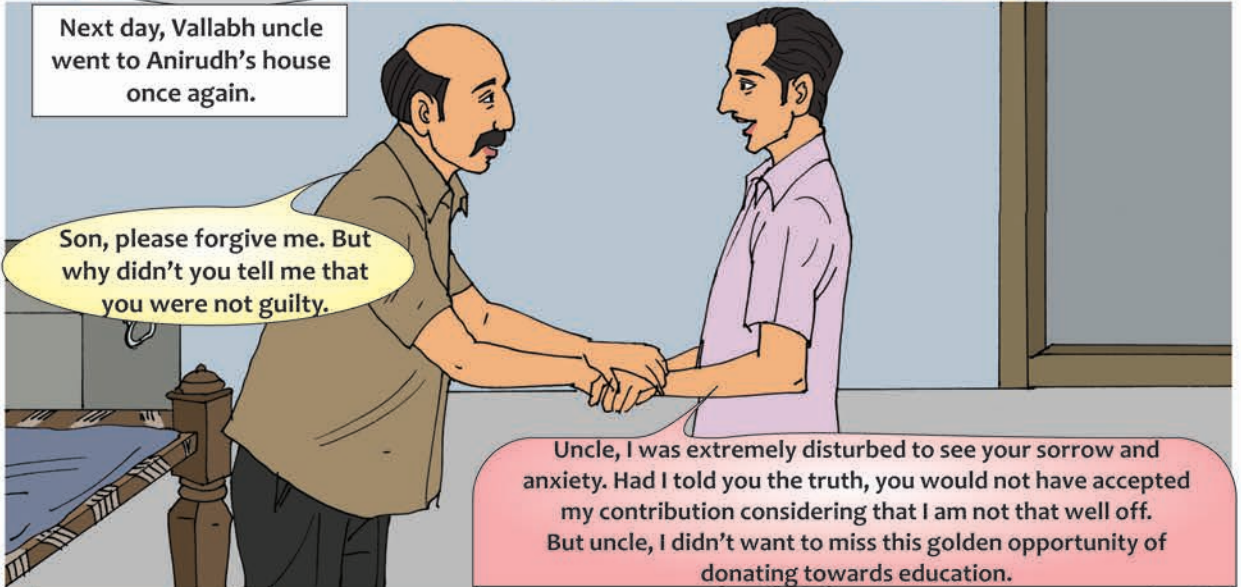
Really? But how is that possible? This lady is the thief. She has confessed the offence. And we found this purse in her house. This purse is yours, isn't it?



Then why did someone pay back your money without stealing it in the first place?

I don't know. But I will find out tomorrow.

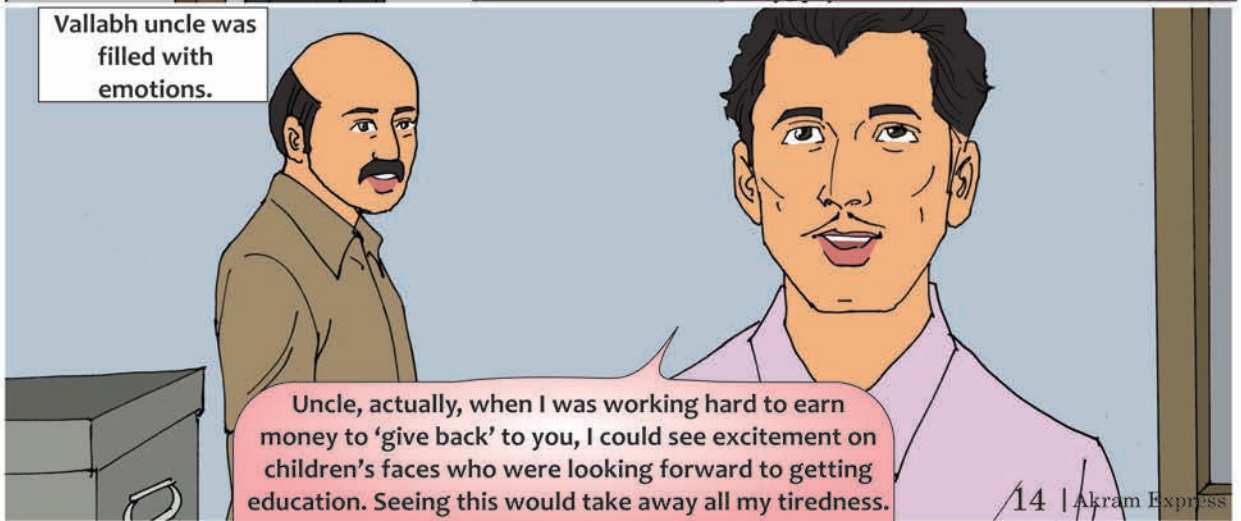
Next day, Vallabh uncle went to Anirudh's house once again.



Son, please forgive me. But why didn't you tell me that you were not guilty.

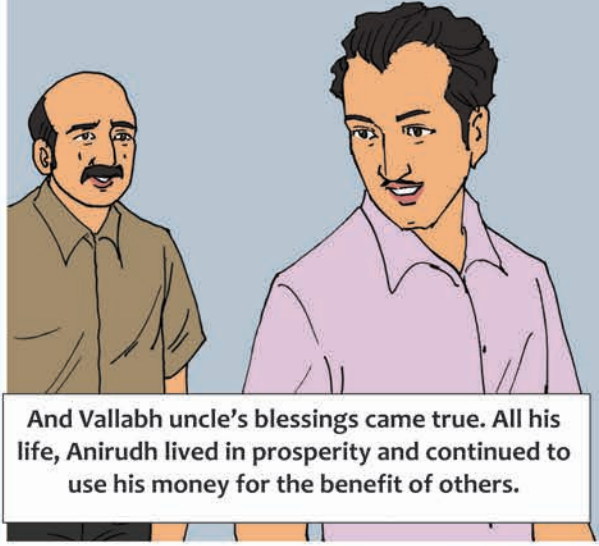
Uncle, I was extremely disturbed to see your sorrow and anxiety. Had I told you the truth, you would not have accepted my contribution considering that I am not that well off. But uncle, I didn't want to miss this golden opportunity of donating towards education.

Vallabh uncle was filled with emotions.



Uncle, actually, when I was working hard to earn money to 'give back' to you, I could see excitement on children's faces who were looking forward to getting education. Seeing this would take away all my tiredness.

Blessings to you, son. The generosity that you have shown for others' happiness, and that too without letting anyone know, will come back to you manifold.



And Vallabh uncle's blessings came true. All his life, Anirudh lived in prosperity and continued to use his money for the benefit of others.

## Ha Ha Ha ...He He Hee

**Ram:** There's a simple technique to lose weight. First move your neck towards the right, then towards the left. Do this twice....

**Bapu:** "What? Can you lose weight just by doing this?"

**Ram:** "Yes, just follow this exercise sincerely whenever someone offers you food".

A pair of identical twins were sitting in a room.

One was crying and the other was laughing. His father entered the room and asked him what was so funny.

"Mummy made him have a bath twice," he said gleefully.

One day the police went to arrest Bapu.

**Police:** We have surrounded you from all sides.

**Bapu:** In that case come, let's play Garba.

## A real life example

This is a true incident that took place in Stanford University in 1892.

An 18 year old boy was working very hard to earn money to pay his college fees. He was an orphan. He came up with an idea to raise money to pay his fees. He decided to organize a musical concert along with a friend in the college campus of Stanford University.

Both the friends decided to approach a famous pianist named Ignacy Paderewski. Paderewski's manager asked for a fee of 2,000/- dollars for the performance by the pianist.

The friends accepted the deal and started preparations to ensure that the concert turns out to be a big success.

Finally, it was the day of the long awaited concert. Unfortunately, the friends could not sell all the tickets. They managed to collect only 1,600/- dollars through sale of tickets. Paderewski himself had performed at the concert.

Both the friends went to Paderewski after the show and explained their situation. They paid him 1,600/- dollars and promised to pay up the balance 400/- dollars at the earliest opportunity.

"No," said Paderewski, "I will not accept this," saying this, he returned the 1600/- dollars to them and continued, "Deduct the amount that you paid for the expenses you incurred in







organizing this concert and pay your tuition fees from the remaining amount. And after that if you are left with anything, you can pay me.”

The boys were surprised to hear this. Both of them thanked Paderewski from the bottom of their hearts.

This was a small incident depicting one’s urge to do something for others. But this incident clearly shows that Paderewski was a great human being. Often in our lives, we also encounter such opportunities to help others. At that time, we might think, “What benefit will I get if I help him?” But, in such situations, great people think, “If I will not help him, then what will happen of him?” Such benevolent people extend help without any expectation.

Years later, Paderewski became the Prime Minister of Poland. He was a great leader. But unfortunately, the World War one was going on, and Poland was in shambles. The citizens of Poland faced a great food shortage. Paderewski didn’t know whom to ask for help! At last, he reached out to America’s ‘Food and Relief Administration’ for help. Herbert Hoover was the head of ‘Food and Relief Administration’ at the time. Later, he became the President of America.

Hoover immediately sent a large number of packets of food grains to the Polish people. A grave calamity was avoided. It was a relief to Paderewski.

Paderewski went personally to thank Hoover. While Paderewski was thanking him, Hoover interrupted him and said, “Mr. Prime Minister, please do not thank me. You may not recollect, but years ago you had helped two students to pay their college fees. I was one of those students.”

Isn’t this world like an echo! You will get happiness in reaction to your acts of giving happiness to others!



## Sweet Memories

Two 'benos' (female mahatmas lovingly referred to as 'sisters') intended to practice celibacy. They came from a small village and were not very educated.

With only their best interest at heart, Niruma would advise them, "What have you decided? Why don't you learn something that will help you become financially self-sufficient?"

The 'benos' started looking for some work. Niruma also made efforts from her end to ensure that they become independent. In this way, after persistently trying for some time, they finally landed themselves a job. They started working.

Thereafter, whenever they would meet Niruma, she would enthusiastically ask them, "How many hours do you work? Have you settled in? Do you get tired?" in this way, Niruma would take care of their well-being.

Gradually, with the increase in workload, their occasional visits to Niruma came to a halt. They started missing Niruma.

Almost after one and a half years, they happened to attend a satsang. They bowed down to Niruma from a distance and sat down quietly. Niruma noticed them during the satsang and immediately spoke up, "Oh you've come today? Since you've not been able to attend satsang for the past one and half years, listen to it with full concentration. Pay attention and try to understand everything."

On seeing Niruma's affection for them even amongst so many people, tears welled up in their eyes. When they thought about it, it was indeed one and half years since they had last seen Niruma.

They thought, 'So many mahatmas come to visit Niruma, and still, Niruma remembers that we have not met her since one and half years'.

They were deeply moved by Niruma's warmth. After that, whenever they met Niruma, they felt, 'Niruma is mine and only mine'.

Niruma's love and motherly affection always touched mahatmas in one way or the other.

And finally, at the end...



An eight year old girl went to an ice-cream parlor.

**Waiter:** What do you want?

**Girl:** How much is this ice-cream?

**Waiter:** It is Rupees 15/-

The girl checked her wallet and asked for the price of the smaller ice-cream cup.

**Waiter**(annoyed): That one is Rupees 12/-

**Girl:** Okay then, please give me the smaller cup.

The girl paid the money, ate the ice-cream and left.

When the waiter went to clear the table, he became tearful. The girl had left a tip of Rs 3/- for him.

**Moral :** Always remember to give a little of whatever you have to others.



## Gurupurnima celebration in Phoenix, U.S.A

Welcoming Puujashree

Cultural programme



### Creative galaxy exhibition

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