

AKRAM Express

HOLIDAYS...

FUN...

are ...





Editorial

Friends,
Have fun, have fun when it's vacation time, have fun ...!
Everyone eagerly looks forward to the month of May, don't they?
Well..... Not for the exams but for the time off after the exams!
There you are then, it is vacation time. Have fun!
And along with the vacation we are here too, with a brand new edition for you!
So friends, enjoy this light reading and the vacation too!
- Dimple Mehta

Holidays...



are...Fun



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Dadaji Says...

Why donate?

Questioner: What is the purpose of making a donation?

Dadashri: Well it's like this: people give to get something in return. They give happiness in order to get happiness in return. They are not donating to attain spiritual upliftment or 'ultimate liberation'. If you give happiness to others you get happiness in return. Whatever we give, we get back - that is the rule; whatever we acquire is because of what we give. By taking away something from someone or depriving them of it means that we will eventually lose that thing too.

Questioner: Is it better to fast or to donate something?

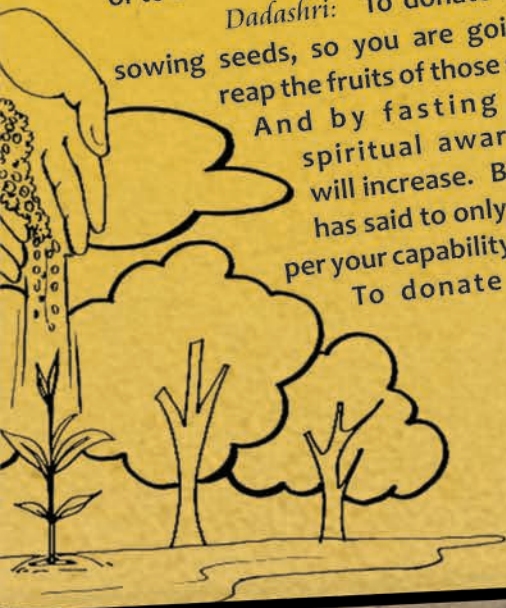
Dadashri: To donate is like sowing seeds, so you are going to reap the fruits of those seeds. And by fasting your spiritual awareness will increase. But God has said to only fast as per your capability.

To donate verily

means to give happiness!

To donate means to give happiness whether it is to a human being or to an animal. That is the act of donating. And if happiness is given to everyone around us, the 'reaction' of that is nothing but instant happiness in return!

If you donate you will gain happiness within. Although you are giving away your own money you will get happiness because you have done a good deed. If you do a good deed you feel happy and if you do a bad deed then instantly you will feel unhappy. And it is from that feeling that we can recognize which is a good deed and which is a bad deed.





Blessings

Before leaving for America, Swami Vivekanand went to see his mother, Sharma Devi to get her blessings. He said to her, “I am going to America, please bestow your blessings unto me.”

He bowed down to his mother but she did not do as he asked and just stood there in silence. Swamiji asked for blessings again, but still his mother remained silent. After a while she asked Swamiji to bring a knife from the room. He could not understand the connection between the knife and the blessings but he fetched it anyway. As soon as he handed his mother the knife she showered him with her blessings.

Swamiji was surprised and asked his mother what all of this meant and she replied, “My son, when I asked for the knife you held it from the blade as you handed it to me. From this, I understood that you will endure harsh things yourself and always look after the welfare of others. You might have to drink poison but you will always give nectar to others. For that reason, I give you my heartiest blessings.”

After hearing this, Swamiji said, “But I do not think like that. I kept the sharp edge towards me thinking that I did not want you to get hurt.”

Then the mother was happier and said, “That is even better. It is in your nature to think of others. You will never do any wrong to anyone. My blessings are always with you.”

And truly, Swami Vivekanand’s whole life was devoted to the welfare of others.



Don't give prize, give punishment!



Gopal Krishna Gokhale was a minister of our country. This is a story from his childhood.

One day his teacher praised him and said, "You have written correct answers to all the questions. Therefore, here, I am giving you this book as a prize."

But the surprising thing is that after hearing this Gopal started crying instead of being happy. The poor teacher was confused.

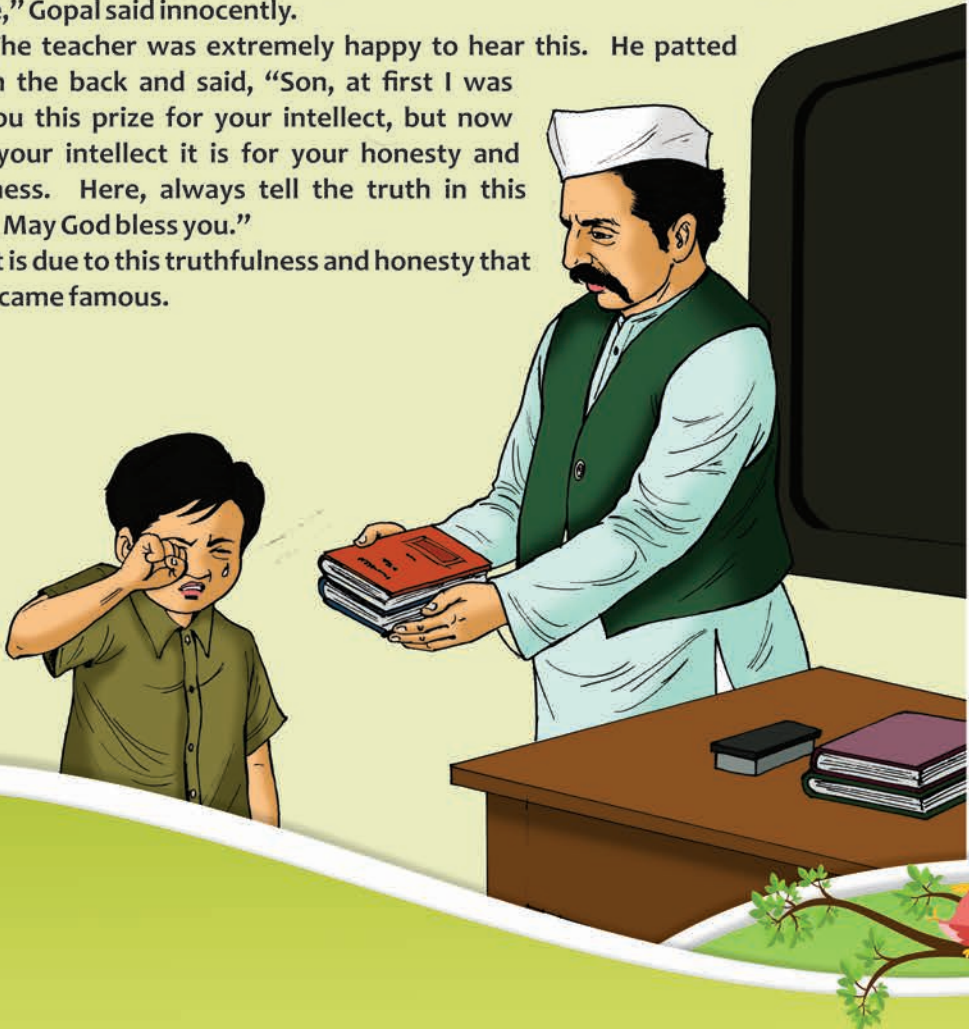
Gopal said slowly while crying, "Teacher, give me punishment, not a prize."

"Why punishment, son?" The teacher could not understand.

"The thing is that I did not know the answer to one of those questions. I answered that question with the help of a friend. So I do not have the right to keep this prize," Gopal said innocently.

The teacher was extremely happy to hear this. He patted Gopal on the back and said, "Son, at first I was giving you this prize for your intellect, but now besides your intellect it is for your honesty and truthfulness. Here, always tell the truth in this manner. May God bless you."

It is due to this truthfulness and honesty that Gopal became famous.



Absolutely New

Gnani Purush (the knower) has 1008 good qualities out of which four are prominent ones which no one can have.

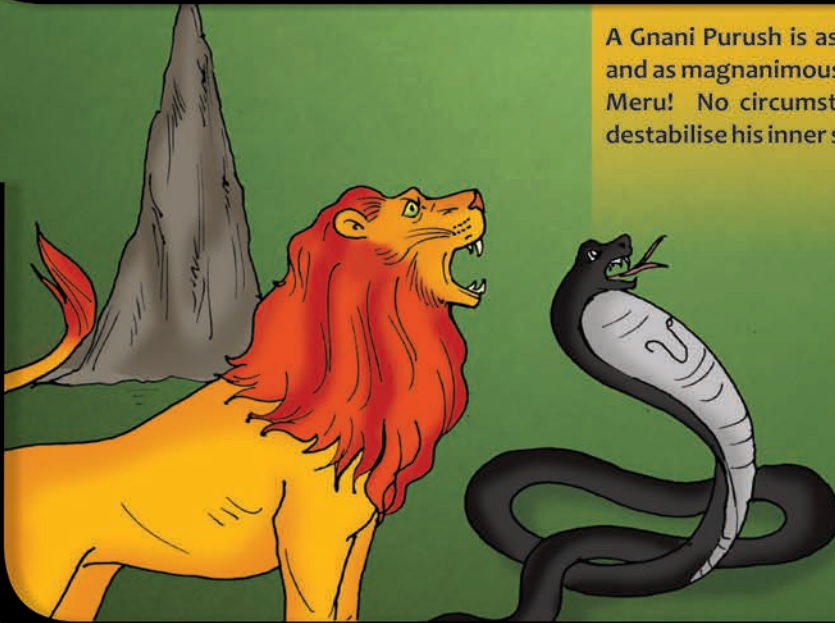


A Gnani Purush radiates the same level of brilliance and energy as the Sun God. That impressive 'heat' is only in His eyes. We can experience that 'heat' when He so wishes.

Gnani



A Gnani Purush is as steadfast and as magnanimous as Mount Meru! No circumstances can destabilise his inner stillness.



And Different !

A Gnani Purush is as gentle and pleasing as the moon. The calming and cooling effect of his peaceful aura make all 'mahatmas' (Self-realized ones in Akram Vignan) want to be near him at all times. His gentleness is enough to reduce the sun's temperature! No matter how annoyed a person is but as soon as he sees the gentleness in the Gnani's eyes he becomes really calm. Magnificent like the sun and gentle like the moon are the two qualities only a Gnani Purush can have. Otherwise normally one would have either one quality or the other. It can be said that a Gnani Purush radiates the 'heat' of the sun from one eye and the 'coolness' of the moon from the other.



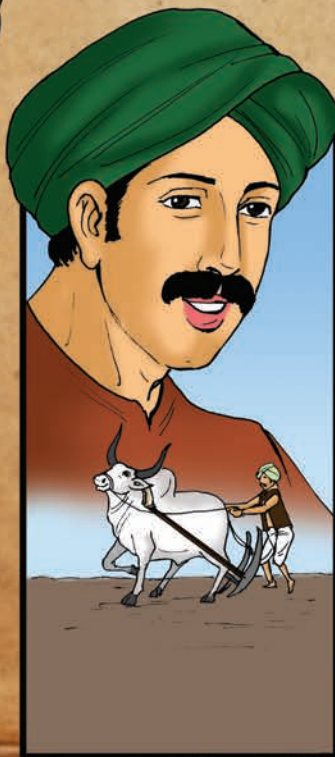
A Gnani Purush has capacity and depth of an ocean. Whatever may come his way is absorbed by him and on top of that he gives blessings in return.

[Mystery of Success]

There were two farmers, Kanjibhai and Raghubhai. Kanjibhai came from a wealthy family. His ancestors had left him a lot of land.

Raghubhai's family was poor. He had inherited only one farm, but he was industrious and sensible. He worked extremely hard every year to run his household. His wife, Ramaben was also very sensible and hard working. She understood their situation and lovingly attended to all the household chores. She would prepare food from any ingredients that were available; she ran the household economically and they were very happy.

Raghubhai would wake up early in the morning and go to the farm after completing his tasks at home. He did not have any bulls of his own so when he needed to plough the field he would borrow them from Kanjibhai.



Kanjibhai's farms were spread out. He was financially comfortable so he was not bothered about earning money. Sometimes he would just go for a wander in his cart to his farms. In the morning he would gather all the farm labourers and give them various jobs on different farms. Then he would arrogantly say, 'Make sure that you do a good job on the farms. Don't be lazy; don't smoke cigarettes all day long; don't stand around engaging in idle gossip; and don't be work shy'.

As soon as all the labourers were taken to the farms with all their tools, Kanjibhai would go back home and enjoy a long, leisurely breakfast. Then he would lie on a bed in the veranda and smoke his pipe.

When it was sowing or harvesting time even Raghubhai had to employ labourers. Raghubhai would gather the labourers then take the sickle in his hand and say, 'C'mon brothers, let's go to the field'.

Raghubhai worked really hard alongside all his labourers. Seeing him work hard made the labourers work sincerely too.

In a couple of years Raghubhai was able to afford two bulls. He even bought a cow to keep at home. He also managed to buy the neighbouring farm that came up for sale. Both he and his wife worked really hard day and night. Soon he even had a house built.

On the other hand Kanjibhai's situation started becoming weaker day by day. The farms were not giving enough crop yields and his health started deteriorating too. If he did a little work, he would start to get out of breath.

However, Raghubhai would wake up smiling while chanting the Lord's name. He always had milk and fresh bread for breakfast and would excitedly go to his farm with his bulls and a plough.

One day Kanjibhai started thinking while lying in his bed, "Not long ago Raghu had a small farm and was very poor. I used to help him now and then but I can see that his situation has improved tremendously in these last few years. He has bought two or three farms and also bought two bulls and a cow and even had a house built. How did all this happen? Raghu and Rama are so happy!

And look at me! I have so many farms, ample money and as much food as anyone could ever want. I even have labourers and servants but it's no good!! My health is not good! My wife is also poorly. Why has this happened?"

One day Kanjibhai could not help himself. With his walking stick in hand he slowly went to Raghubhai's house. Raghubhai was very surprised to see Kanjibhai suddenly turn up at his house! He ran towards him. He folded his hands in reverence and said, "Hello Kanjibhai, Hello! Welcome! Welcome!"

Raghubhai held Kanjibhai's hands with affection and guided him to take a seat. Ramaben also came running and brought a glass of cool water for him.

Raghubhai said to Ramaben, "Listen, bring a nice cup of hot milk for Kanjibhai."

After a little tete-a-tete (chitchat)

Kanjibhai expressed his confusion.

Raghubhai became serious and said, "Kanjibhai, all this is the result of two words - 'go and let's go.'" You say 'go' to your labourers whereas I tell my labourers 'c'mon, let's go'. You leave all the work to the labourers, while I work with the labourers. When the labourers see me working they too work conscientiously. That is why all my work gets done on time and in an orderly fashion. The crop is also looked after because I am there to keep an eye on it. Kanjibhai, this is the mystery of my success."

Kanjibhai thanked Raghubhai and with a lump in his throat said, "Raghubhai, thank you very much. I have now learnt a true lesson. Until now I was leaving all the farm work to the labourers. I used to lay in my bed like a lazy person! This is why I have suffered double losses. The income from my farm has really reduced and my health has also deteriorated! Raghubhai, from today I will also start going to the farm."

And with this lesson, Kanjibhai went home with enthusiasm and started his new life.

It is nature's law... 'Use it or lose it'

If we use our strengths in the right direction then they increase but if we do not then we lose those strengths



Let's Play

1) Solve the puzzle

$$\text{Pizza} + \text{Pizza} + \text{Pizza} = 60$$

$$\text{Pizza} + \text{Fries} + \text{Fries} = 50$$

$$\text{Fries} + \text{Taco} + \text{Taco} = 59$$

$$\text{Pizza} + \text{Fries} \times \text{Taco} = ?$$



2) Can you help Naksh to reach the waterfall?





JJ 111 Updates Corner

Hey Friends!

Welcome back to the JJ111 update corner. This time we bring you news from across the oceans. Did you know, our beloved Pujyashree inaugurated the logo of this year's Janma Jayanti at the Pontins shibir over Easter in London UK. ?

The UK shibir was the very first one to kick off the international JJ111 celebrations! Have you seen the logo yet? It is truly very unique.

JJ111 is going to be 'A world worth exploring!' A world that will have a children's GNC theme park catering for all ages, ranging from 3 to 19 years.

It will showcase Akram science with lots of interesting things to do and explore science through puppet shows, multi media shows, theme based exhibits an outdoor fun zone, story-telling activities area, selfie zone, games and a lucky draw. There will even be a children's book zone, where you will get the next four parts of Tales Of Origs, which we are all waiting impatiently for!

UK kicked off the JJ111 celebrations with an amazing carnival and fun activities too. They even performed a drama on JJ 111, "World worth exploring!"

Let's scroll through their photos and catch a glimpse of their excitement and fun.

Well, that's all for now. Do stay tuned to get more updates on the celebrations for JJ111 next time!

We are sure you are going to come to Simandhar City and explore the world worth seeing by yourself and participate in all the fun in November this year.



Adios for now..



Michael Jordan

Michael Jordan was an African American who was born in 1963 in a hut in the town of Brooklyn. His family was very poor. There was a lot of prejudice where he lived so his hope for the future was grim.



At the age of 13 his father gave him a used garment.

What do you think, how much would this garment be worth?



Maybe a dollar.

Would you be able to sell this for two dollars?



I can try but there is no guarantee that I will succeed.

Jordan carefully cleaned the garment by washing it. He did not have an iron to get rid of the creases so he used a flat board and a brush to get rid of the creases and then put it in the sunlight to dry.



The next day he came to a busy station with the garment. After six hours of hard work he managed to sell it for two dollars. Since that day he would look for used garments every day, wash them, iron them and then go to the busy station to sell them.



After 10 days,

Now, can you sell this for twenty dollars?



The maximum I would get for this garment is two dollars



If you try then you will definitely find a way.

At last, Jordan thought of a way. With the help of his cousin he painted a picture of Donald Duck on the garment.



Then he tried to sell it near a school where the children from wealthy families came to study. And really, one child bought it!



When he reached home his father gave him yet another garment.

Do you have capability to sell this at two hundred dollars?



Yes.

Two months later a famous actress, Farrah Fawcett, had come to New York for the promotion of her film. When the press conference finished, Jordan managed to get past security to go and speak to Farrah Fawcett.



Son, I am really happy that you have proved yourself. Now tell me, in this experience of selling the three garments what have you learnt about success?



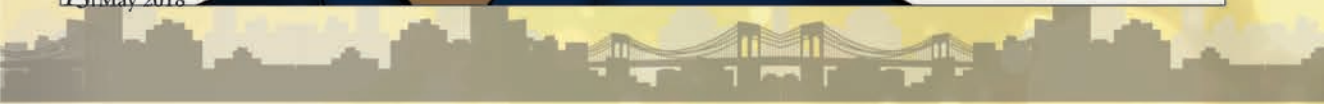
If you are determined then the success is in your hands.



Also that an old garment worth one dollar can be valued at more. We human beings have the ability to think. It makes no difference that we are black and poor.



This taught Michael Jordan a new lesson: If I can increase the value of an old garment then why not my own value? There is no question of considering myself as worthless. After this incident he experienced that his future would be bright and beautiful. We are capable of so much that we should not consider ourselves as being worthless based on our ranks, looks or wealth. Even a diamond is called a stone until it is polished! Always make an effort to improve yourself, try your best and go far in life.



Sweet memories

“

1.

One mahatma lady had joined seva in Unodari (food canteen) around eight months ago. During that time she was deeply hurt by what someone had said to her and she suffered tremendously. Her ego was hurt so badly that for five days she could not stop thinking about the incident. Not just that, she started taking it out on herself by not eating and walking barefoot in extreme heat.

Niruma came to know about this. She did not know exactly what had happened. But she came to know that this lady was upset about something.

It was the night of 31 December. Everyone was gathering in the temple for prayers. That lady came too. While was praying she started to cry. Niruma entered the temple at this point.

The lady was not aware that Niruma had come. Niruma saw from afar that this lady was crying. As soon as the lady turned around, Niruma was right there!

Niruma gave that lady a really nice hug and said, “Stop crying,” and comforted her by rubbing her back.

There was no conversation between the two. Niruma just kept stroking her back and the lady felt so much better that all her suffering vanished without any words!

Even today that lady remembers this incident without fail every New year’s Eve.

”



This was the magic of Niruma’s motherly love!!

“

2.

Every morning, Pujyashree practises yoga. The celibate brothers also join in. One celibate brother joined them for a few days in a row and then one day he was ten minutes late.

He didn't like to look bad in front of everyone and for that reason even before Pujyashree could ask he tried to cover up and said, "I was a little late going to sleep last night and that is why I got a little late waking up this morning."

Pujyashree asked, "So, were you reading, or doing 'samayik' (introspective analysis of the self), or 'satsang' (spiritual discourse), is that why you slept late?"

He replied, "No Pujyashree, a couple of us were chitchatting."

Pujyashree asked again, "So was the discussion related to 'Gnan' (Knowledge of Self)?"

He replied, "No, it was just general banter."

Then Pujyashree reminded him with utmost compassion that, "Anyone can point out to you your outer bad habits but who can point out this bad habit!"

After saying just this much he became quiet.

This last sentence of Pujyashree's got the brother thinking and he understood that the Gnani wants us to progress on this path. Just because we have come here, it does not mean that we have reached our goal. 'Seva' (selfless service unto others) is a tool, it is not the main goal.

How much time we do waste like this every day?

”



What an embodiment of compassion - that is our Gnani

Sant Guru Nanak

While travelling, Guru Nanak reached Baghdad. He came to know that the king of Baghdad was a tyrant and was very stingy. He amassed a lot of wealth by torturing the public.

Nanak settled just outside the king's palace and collected stones from the whole city and started making a heap there.

When people asked, "Baba, what are you doing?" He would say, "This is a secret between me and the king." As time went by, the king got to hear about this.

The king thought, "I am sure that this holy man has come here with a secret of mine." Therefore, one day he went to meet Nanak and asked, "Baba, why have you been collecting stones here?"

Nanak said, "This is my wealth, Your Majesty."

"Wealth? And what will you do with this wealth?" Asked the king as he smiled to himself thinking that the holy man was mad.

Nanak said, "I want to leave this wealth as a deposit with you. Will you keep it?"

The king said, "Yes, I will. But then when will you take it back?"

Nanak said, "When we meet in the court of God after death, I will ask you to give it back to me."

The king stared at Nanak momentarily. Then said, "After death? How will I take this wealth with me? Do you not realize that a person is born empty handed and leaves empty handed?"

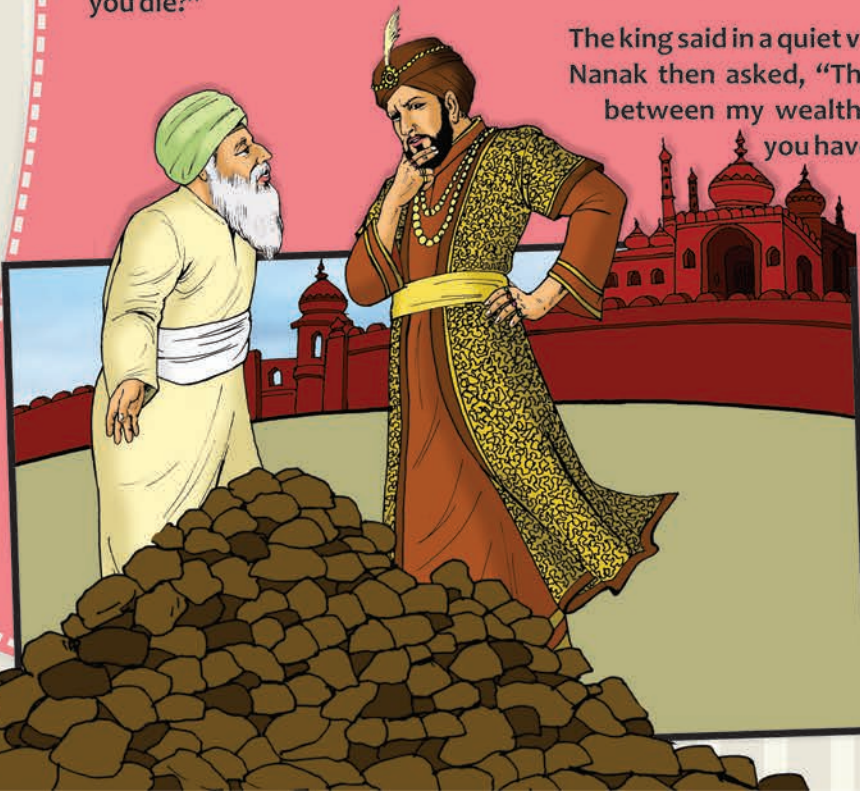
Nanak said, "Do you know that? I thought that the wealth you collect by hurting others is something which you are going to take with you. That is why I requested you to take my wealth along with yours too. Are you not going to take my wealth with you when you die?"

The king said in a quiet voice, "No".

Nanak then asked, "Then what is the difference between my wealth and your wealth? What you have is akin to stones too."

Now the king was able to understand what point Nanak was trying to make. He bowed down to Nanak and apologized. He donated all his wealth to the poor people and felt free.

Thus, Guru Nanak brought change to a lot of people's lives and guided them onto the right path.



Summer Camp 2018

*Glimpses of Summer
Camp
Simandhar City,
Surat, Mumbai,
Dhoraji*



Dance



Activity



Enjoying Drama



Puzzle Game



Pujan





Drawing



JJ 111 Invitation



Craft



Gift



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