

Dada Bhagwan Parivar's

February 2023

Price per copy : ₹ 20/-

AKRAM Express



Editorial

Friends,

If you had said to someone fifty years ago that it would be possible to see anyone in any part of the world, without leaving your home, then they would have considered that to be a miracle. However, in today's day and age, would anybody now think of that as a miracle? No, because we know that science is responsible for the video calling technology which makes this possible.

So, is there really such a thing as a miracle? Or do we only see something as a miracle when we do not know the science or the reasoning behind it?

In this edition, let's obtain the right understanding about miracles as given to us by Dadashri. And together with Aaloo and Chilly, let's get to know the mysteries behind miracles through interesting stories and activities.

- Dimple Mehta



Hocus Pocus... Are Miracles Bogus?



Editor : Dimple Mehta

Printer & Published by

Dimple Mehta on behalf of
Mahavideh Foundation
Simandhar City, Adalaj - 382421,
Ta & Dist - Gandhinagar.

Owned by
Mahavideh Foundation
Simandhar City, Adalaj - 382421,
Ta & Dist - Gandhinagar.

Printed at
Amba Multiprint
B-99, GIDC, Sector-25,
Gandhinagar - 382025.

Published at
Mahavideh Foundation
Simandhar City, Adalaj - 382421,
Ta & Dist-Gandhinagar.

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Akram Express

Subscription (English)

Yearly Subscription

India: 200 Rupees

5 years Subscription

India: 1000 Rupees

Send D.D./M.o.in the

name of 'Mahavideh Foundation'.



Vol.: 14, Issue : 7

Conti. Issue No.: 161

February 2023

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Dadaji Says...



What is considered a miracle? A miracle is something that no one else can do. It is not possible for humans to perform a miracle.

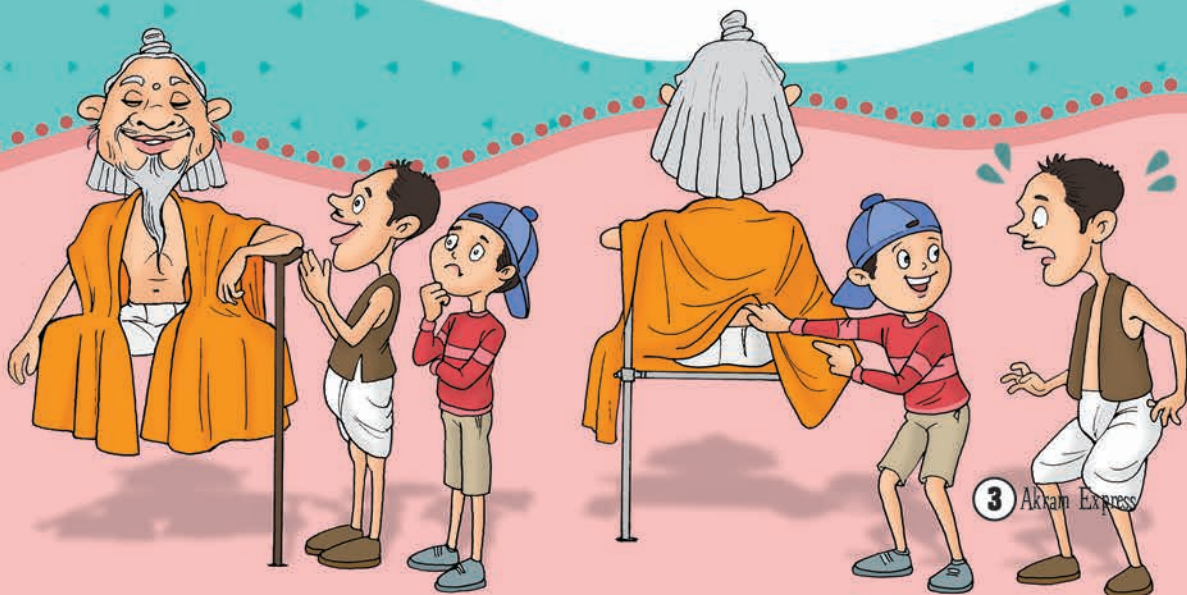
Questioner: So, what exactly is a miracle?

Dadashri: A miracle is the business of fooling everyone! If we do not understand something then we call it a miracle, but what is it actually? It is science.

Questioner: But Dada, some people actually perform miracles before our eyes.

Dadashri: That looks like a miracle because we do not know the science behind it. It is science, not a miracle! It is either science or it is a sleight of hand (quick and clever use of the hands like a magician).

Miracles cannot take away our unhappiness or worries. And so, there is no place in life for miracles. Lord Krishna, Lord Rama and Lord Mahavir never gave any importance to miracles. They just lived an ideal life.





What is a miracle? A miracle is that in which you do not need to use any object or any tools.

"By keeping these leaves in your books, you will be able to remember everything you study."

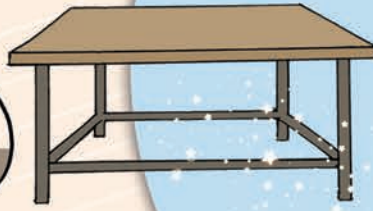
Absolutely

New



Who gets caught up in miracles? Those who are greedy!

For example: Only greedy people would fall for a trick where they are told that by keeping a certain type of leaf in a book, they will miraculously be able to remember everything without studying.

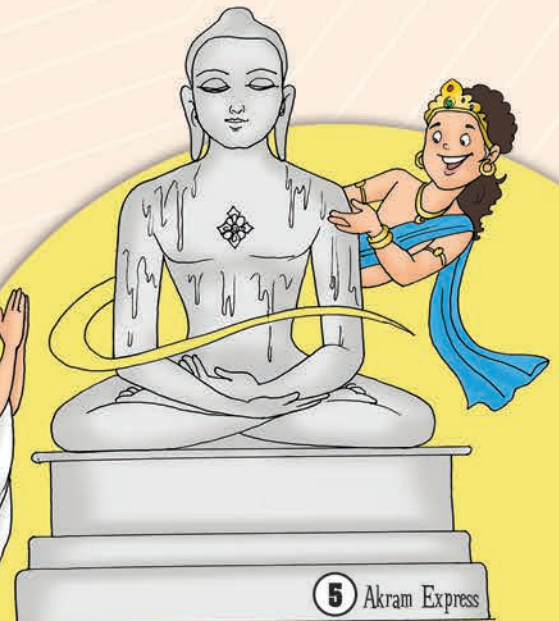


People will say, "It was a miracle! The idol at that location actually moved!" But how does that benefit you? We should look at what benefits it has on us. If it lessens our worry, then that counts as a benefit.

For example: If someone appears to be able to levitate a desk with the power of their mind, how does that benefit us? Would it help lessen the stress of exams? No!

and Different!

In some places, during *Pran Pratishtha* (life-instillation ceremony in an idol), there appears *ami jharna* (nectar flowing from the eyes of an idol). It is the *shaasan dev-devi* (the celestial beings who guard/protect the spiritual reign of a particular God) who make this happen in order to increase the importance of the idol in our eyes.



Cause & Effect

“All these books and clothes must be put away in their place! The science homework needs to be done! And yes, for dinner I will have a falafel sandwich, cola and a banana walnut muffin!” Aneri gave out her orders while sat in her chair. But the orders disappeared into thin air because there was no one there to receive them.

Just then she heard Mum’s voice, “Aneri, where are you?”

Aneri sat up straight. No, Aneri had not been dreaming. She had been engrossed in an imaginary world, where she did not have to study science or do any chores, and where she could just be served delicious food on demand!

“Coming, Mum...” Aneri braced herself for her mum’s scolding. She could predict exactly

what her mum was going to say. She could hear the exact words in her head, ‘Aneri, look at the state of your room! Who’s going to tidy all this up? There’s not going to be some miracle. You have to do it yourself.’

Aneri was well aware that in the real world there was no magic. It was to be found only in movies and in the fantasy world of books. However, she was enjoying living in her dream world because in the real world she was bored of doing daily chores and studying.

But this time Mum added something new to her usual words, “But yes, there is going to be a magic show!” Aneri’s ears pricked up.

“There is a magic show at the Town Hall today. Dad is going to buy tickets for the show, but you can only come if you finish your science homework.” Mum laid down a condition.






Aneri happily agreed to the condition. After all, it was going to be her first time seeing a magic show. How could she miss it?

Out of the whole audience Aneri was probably the most excited one there. The show was about to start. On the stage, a lady dressed in a shiny golden dress suddenly appeared in a cloud of smoke. Aneri was mesmerised.


On the stage was a table with two glasses placed on it. The lady went to the table and poured water into one of the glasses. She raised the glass to the audience and then poured its water into the other glass. She raised that glass and turned it upside down, but the water seemed to have disappeared. There was a big round of applause. Aneri was overcome with a sense of wonder. She had only ever seen magic in movies or read about it in books.

“Is magic possible in real life too?!” Aneri was more impressed with the lady performing the magic than with the magic itself. For Aneri in that moment no one in the world was more powerful than that lady.


Next the lady went to another table on which there were two large glass bowls, which appeared to be filled with water. She



put a glass bottle into one of the bowls and the bottle sank. Then she went to the other glass bowl. Everyone watched intently as she placed a glass bottle into the bowl. She then shut her eyes and uttered a spell and the bottle vanished! Again there was a round of applause. Aneri was enchanted. She watched the whole show with her eyes peeled.



That night Aneri went home and instead of conjuring up her usual imaginary world, she engrossed herself in conjuring up a world of magic. She put her science books on the table and, like the lady in the magic show, she waved her hands up and down. Somewhere inside her heart she was hoping her science

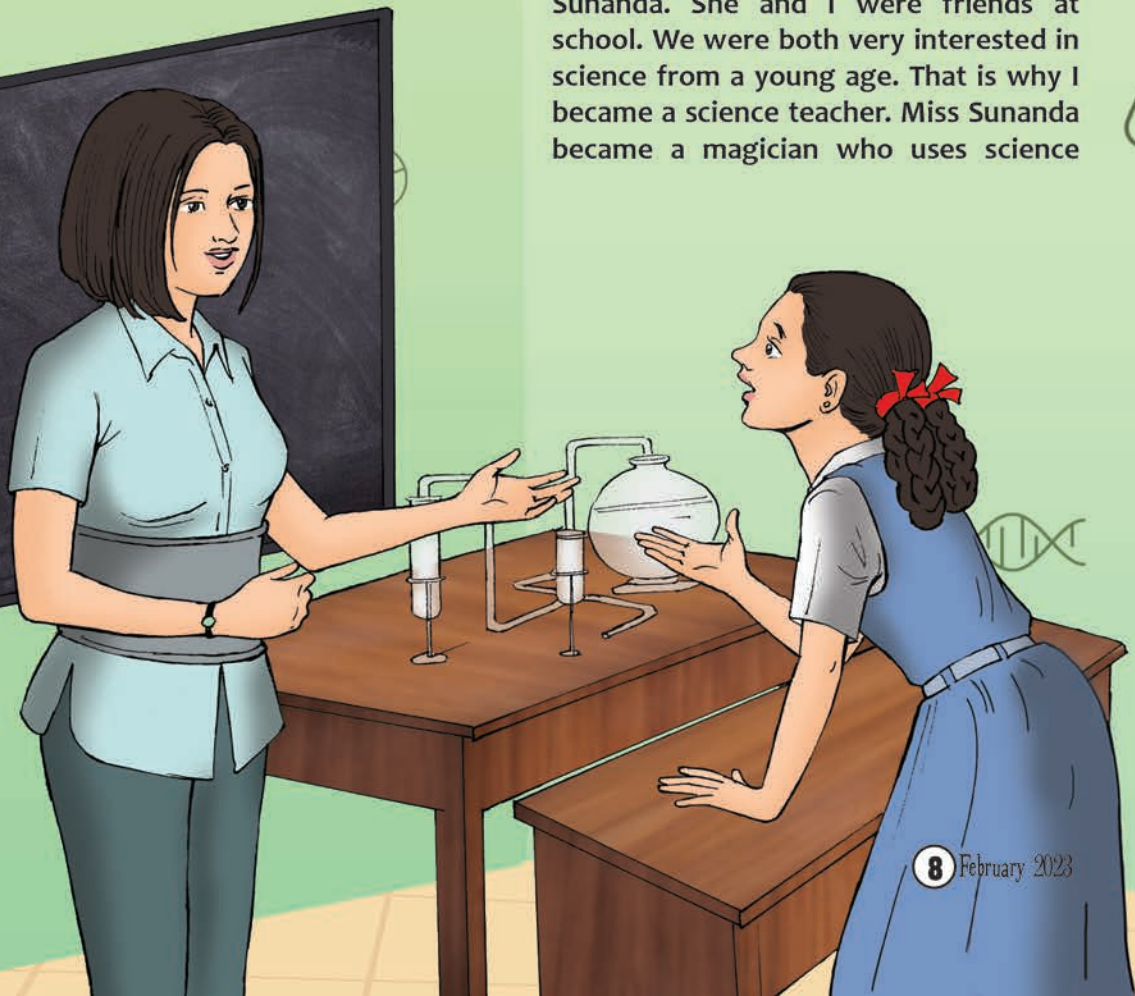



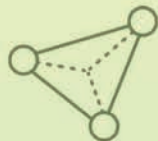
books would disappear. Her hands got tired, but the books did not budge.

“Never mind, stay here. I’m not going to pack you into my school bag today. Tomorrow we’ve got a guest speaker during science class, so I will not need you,” Aneri said to the books as if they were listening to her.

The next day in science class, Aneri could not believe her eyes when she saw who the guest speaker was. The lady magician, who to her had seemed the most powerful person in the whole world yesterday, looked very ordinary today. Yes, it was the lady from the magic show who was the guest speaker!

The science teacher introduced the magician to the class, “This is Miss Sunanda. She and I were friends at school. We were both very interested in science from a young age. That is why I became a science teacher. Miss Sunanda became a magician who uses science





experiments in her magic shows. Today Miss Sunanda will talk to us about the science behind magic.”

Sunanda Madam performed some of the magic tricks from her show. “Ooh!...ahh!” All the children in the class gasped with amazement throughout. There was no end to the children’s wonder. Aneri was just as taken aback as the first time.

“So, what do you think of the magic tricks?” Miss Sunanda asked the class.

The children shouted out words like “Amazing”, “Superb”, “Fantastic”.

Aneri plucked up enough courage to ask, “Madam, can I ask a question?”

“Yes, yes, why not?! We have gathered here today to have a discussion.”

“Madam, can you make anything and everything disappear with your magical powers?” asked Aneri.

Miss Sunanda burst out laughing. “If I had magical powers to make things disappear then would I not have made my pain disappear first and foremost?” said Miss Sunanda, pointing to the back support belt she was wearing. “I have to wear this belt to ease the pain. There is no such thing as ‘magic’ in this world. This is all science.”

“Science?!” Hearing this word made Aneri’s face drop.

“Yes, science. The glass in which I poured the water, contained a chemical called polyacrylic, which sucks up the water. Hence you all thought the water had disappeared.

In the second trick, where the glass bottle seemed to have disappeared, there was glycerine in the second bowl. Because

of the way light travels through glycerine, the bottle was not visible,” explained Miss Sunanda, revealing the scientific explanations behind the magic tricks.

“Friends, this world is run by scientific laws. For example, for every single effect there is a cause (action and reaction). The same rule applies in magic. Every effect is due to a cause. The magic you saw was an effect. I needed the ‘causes’ of glycerine, polyacrylic etc to achieve the desired effect. In the same way, the problems of life can be solved through the right understanding of cause and effect, and not by waiting for magic! If you want the ‘effect’ of good grades then you need to apply the ‘cause’ of hard work.”

The children asked Miss Sunanda many more questions. The children’s interest in science grew when they learned that it was through science that such interesting magical tricks could be performed.

That day, Aneri also understood the importance of science for the first time. Once we understand the importance of something, our interest will naturally grow for that subject. Gradually, Aneri became more and more interested in the world of science and less so in her dream world. She started applying the rules of cause and effect. Due to the ‘cause’ of hard work, not only did Aneri’s science homework get done in time but also her mum’s scolding started becoming less and less!





Hello Friends, we have come to hike at the Shenandoah National Park in the USA. The Wi-Fi signal here is weak. Theo keeps telling me to enjoy the natural beauty around us.

I've managed to find a little network reception, so I am sharing what I read last week in Washington DC's science museum. It was about Hedy Lamarr, the 'Mother of Wi-Fi'.

Friends, 11th February is celebrated as the International Day of Women and Girls in Science.

Thousands of women have contributed to the field of science and one of them was Hedy Lamarr.

Hedy was born in Austria. From a young age she showed a keen interest in science. Whenever little Hedy used to go for walks with her father, she liked to talk about how different machines worked.

At the age of five, Hedy had dismantled all the parts of her music box and then put them all back together again, just to see how it worked.

In her youth, Hedy developed interests in other fields





such as film, acting, music and others, but she did not lose her passion for science.

One day Hedy was sitting and chatting to her friend, Howard Hughes. Howard was a businessman. While chatting, Howard said to Hedy, "I want to make the fastest aeroplanes in the world. Ones which I can donate to the Air Force." Suddenly Hedy stood up and went into her library. She brought out two books: *Amazing Birds* and *Under Water Life*.

She found pictures of the fastest bird and the fastest fish from the two books. Combining the fins of the fastest fish and the wings of the fastest bird, she quickly sketched an innovative wing design for

an aeroplane and gave it to Howard. Howard was amazed!

This was just a small glimpse of Hedy's sharp brain.

Today one of the scientific inventions created by Hedy Lamarr around eighty years ago, is used in wireless communications such as Wi-Fi, GPS and bluetooth. Hedy Lamarr is known as the "Mother of Wi-Fi" because of her extraordinary inventions in the field of science and technology.

You will not believe it, but it was really hard work to get Zoey out of this museum. In the end Giffy had to pick her up and take her out.

Now I've got a meeting on where to go on our next trip. So, bye for now and see you again soon!



Magical River

I am Tom Cooper from the USA and with me is Cameraman Lee.

We are broadcasting 'Magical River' from a jungle in Africa. Please stay tuned.

Really?
Any wish?

What is your name?
And what is so miraculous about this river?

My name is Rompi. If you throw a copper coin in the river and make a wish, then that wish will come true.

Well, not all of them. But mostly all of them!

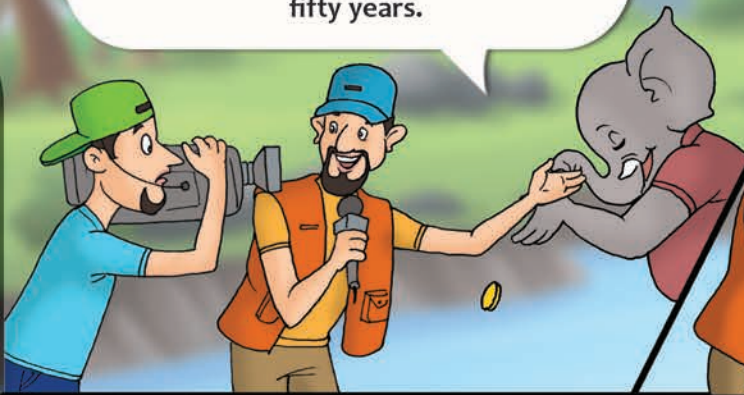


Oh! I see. We can see Mr. Elephant here. Let's see what he's wishing for.



O Magical river, I am fifty years old. Please extend my life by fifty years.

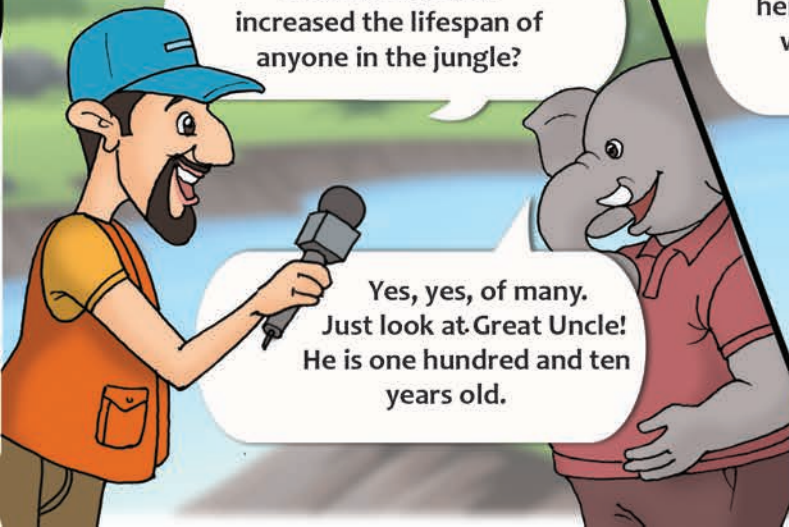
How can a river increase someone's lifespan?



That is precisely why this river is believed to be magical.


Has this river ever increased the lifespan of anyone in the jungle?

Okay folks, we'll take a small break here and when we come back, we will meet Great Uncle, aka Mr. Tortoise.




Yes, yes, of many. Just look at Great Uncle! He is one hundred and ten years old.






Miracles are not possible. There must be some sort of mystery behind this for sure.




So, we are back after the break and with us we have Great Uncle!

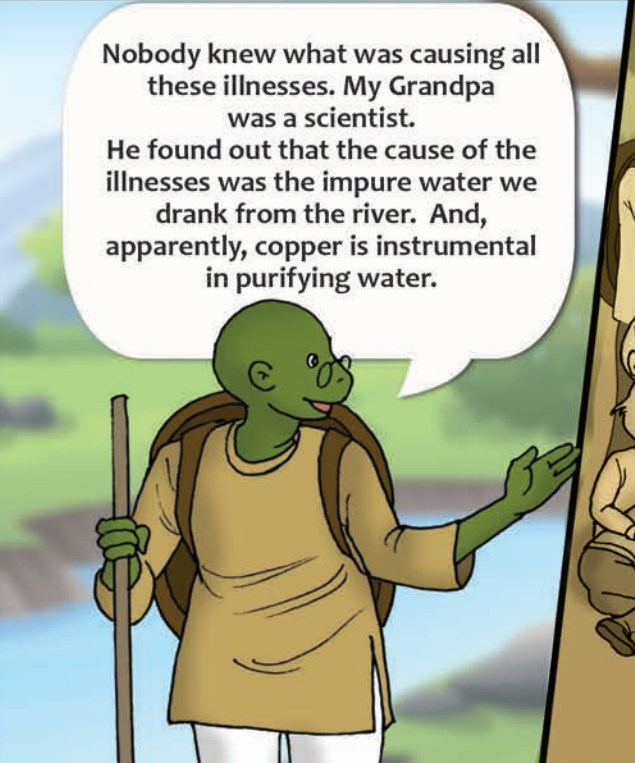
Hmm... We'll have to find out more from the tortoise.



Sir, what is the mystery behind this magical river?



This is a story from years ago. I was around fifteen years old. There were a lot of diseases spreading throughout the jungle.



Nobody knew what was causing all these illnesses. My Grandpa was a scientist. He found out that the cause of the illnesses was the impure water we drank from the river. And, apparently, copper is instrumental in purifying water.



If copper coins were thrown into the river, the river water would become purified.
But why would anyone throw their copper coins into the river just on Grandpa's say-so?

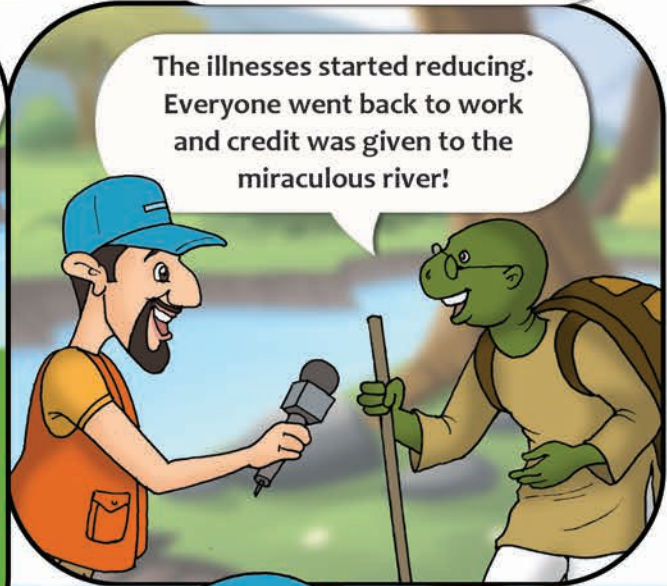


So, Grandpa came up with an idea. He told everyone in the jungle that, by throwing copper coins into the river, a miracle would happen and your wishes would come true.

So, everyone started throwing copper coins into the river to make their wishes. This scientific experiment worked! The water started to become clean and pure!



The illnesses started reducing. Everyone went back to work and credit was given to the miraculous river!



So, Friends, this proves that there is no such thing as miracles! This was Tom Cooper and Cameraman Lee reporting from the 'Magical River' in the African jungle.



AALOO CHILLY




Are you still not asleep?

What if I lose the contest tomorrow?

Chilly, have this magic drink. Coco Cuckoo wins every year because she drinks this.

Really?

Chilly has the drink and falls asleep straight away.



Aaaalooo!
I won! The magic
drink worked like a
miracle.

No, no. It was
you, not the
magic drink!

Chilly, the magic
drink was actually only
a milkshake. I put
camomile flowers in it,
which is what helped
you to sleep well.

Your throat
got good rest while
you slept. And so you
were able to sing
well!

Of course! You
are the world's
best singer!

So I won
due to my
efforts?!

Aaloo,
you are
so smart!

SWEET MEMORIES

This story goes back many years.

On March 5th, Niruma and Pujyashree were returning from a *satsang* trip to Mumbai. That night, Niruma remembered that the next day, March 6th, was Pujyashree's Gnan Day. Straight away she decided that this special day should be celebrated. She telephoned around seventy *mahatmas* (followers of Akram Vignan) to invite them to attend the celebration to be held the following day. She also made arrangements that same night for snacks and masala milk (a sweetened, spiced milk drink) to be served at the gathering the following evening. Niruma organised the whole event.

It turned out that instead of seventy *mahatmas* approximately three hundred and fifty people turned up!

The masala milk was in a barrel. Every so often Niruma would go and check to make sure that it was not running low, but the milk never ran out. In fact, there was enough left over to be shared with neighbours.

Was this a miracle? No. The vibrations of Niruma's purity and her great intent for feeding all the *mahatmas* were so great that once she touched the barrel, the milk never ran out!



Let's Play... With Magic...

A popular magic trick that crops up frequently in magic shows everywhere, is making a coin disappear. There are many different ways to perform this magic trick. Let's learn one way for ourselves and see if we also can perform 'magic' in front of others.



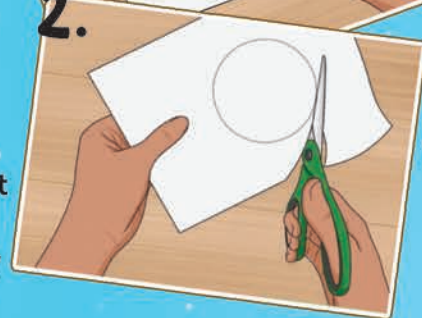
1. You will need:
a coin, a pair of scissors,
two sheets of paper,
glass, pencil and
some glue.



2. On one sheet of paper,
place the glass upside
down and cut out a
circle.



3. Now place this cut out
circle on the other
sheet of paper. Apply
glue to the brim of
the glass.



4. Now place the coin on the paper. Show the
empty glass to the audience. Now put the
glass, upside down, on the cut out paper circle
so that it sticks to the brim. Now slowly drag
the glass, and with a gentle tilt, cover the coin.
See! the coin has disappeared.

**Magician
Tip**

Friends, when you do this trick, don't show people steps 1, 2 and 3. Do those steps beforehand. Only show people step 4.

Are you ready to show your magic?

