

BaVignan Presents

Dada Bhagwan

Part-2



Foreword

Dada Bhagwan was an outstanding atma-gnani of the modern age. Since childhood, he was interested in realising the soul and the ultimate truth. He used the scientific approach of analyzing the events of daily life, breaking free from rigid wrong beliefs and emphasizing on true understanding. In this way, he molded his life in a very unique fashion. Many episodes from his childhood & youth give voice to the 'inquisitive' urge in him.

His life's episodes can become a beautiful way of showing the direction and encouraging everyone to find the true goal of life and also in finding a way out of unhappiness and life's problems. This book will give a hearty introduction to several such inspiring episodes of his life.

An attempt has been made to present the episodes from Dada Bhagwan's life in a pictorial manner in a way that's as close as possible to his own narration of his life. If you find any mistake in the book's pictures of text, it's due to compiling inefficiencies. We apologise for any such inadvertent mistakes.

Jai Sachidanand

Publisher:

Shri Ajit C. Patel
Mahavideh Foundation
5, Mamta Park Society, B/H Nav Gujarat College,
Usmanpura, Ahmedabad - 380014, Gujarat, India
Phone: (079) 27543979, 27540408

Printer:

Mahavideh Foundation (Printing Division)
Parshwanath Chamber's Basement,
Near new Reserve Bank Bldg,
Income Tax, Ahmedabad-380014, Gujarat, India
Phone: (079) 27542964, 300004823

Available at:

Trimandir, Simandhar City, Ahmedabad-Kalol Highway,
Adalaj, Dis-Gandhinagar-382421, Gujarat, India.
Phone: (079) 39830034

email : balvignan@dadabhagwan.org
website : www.dadabhagwan.org
kids.dadabhagwan.org

First edition : 3,000 copies, December'2009
Price : India Rs. 35/- US \$ 3.5 / GB £ 2.0

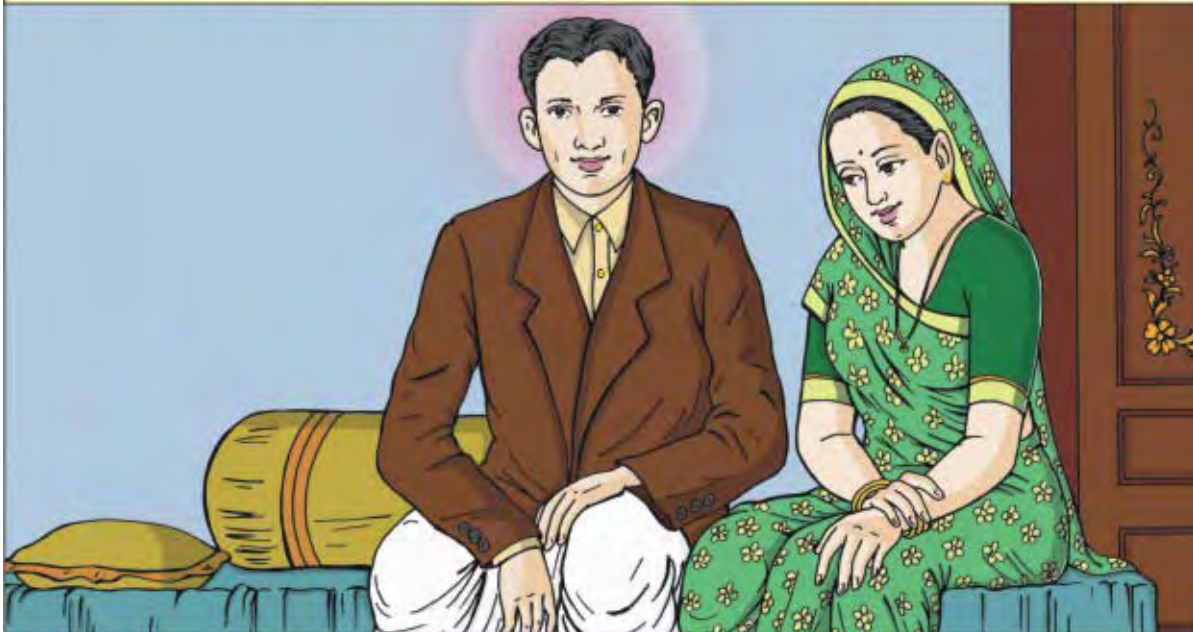
© : All Rights Reserved - Mahavideh Foundation
Address as above

DADA BHAGWAN

PART-2



Ambalalbai Muljibhai Patel, who in his later years was acclaimed as Dada Bhagwan, got married at the tender age of 18. He was still studying while he entered into matrimony with wife "Heeraba".



Heeraba was exactly as Ambalalbai, in his previous birth had desired his wife to be. Although she was hardly educated, she was expert at cooking and other household activities. She was very innocent and noble lady untainted by the ill effects of modern age.



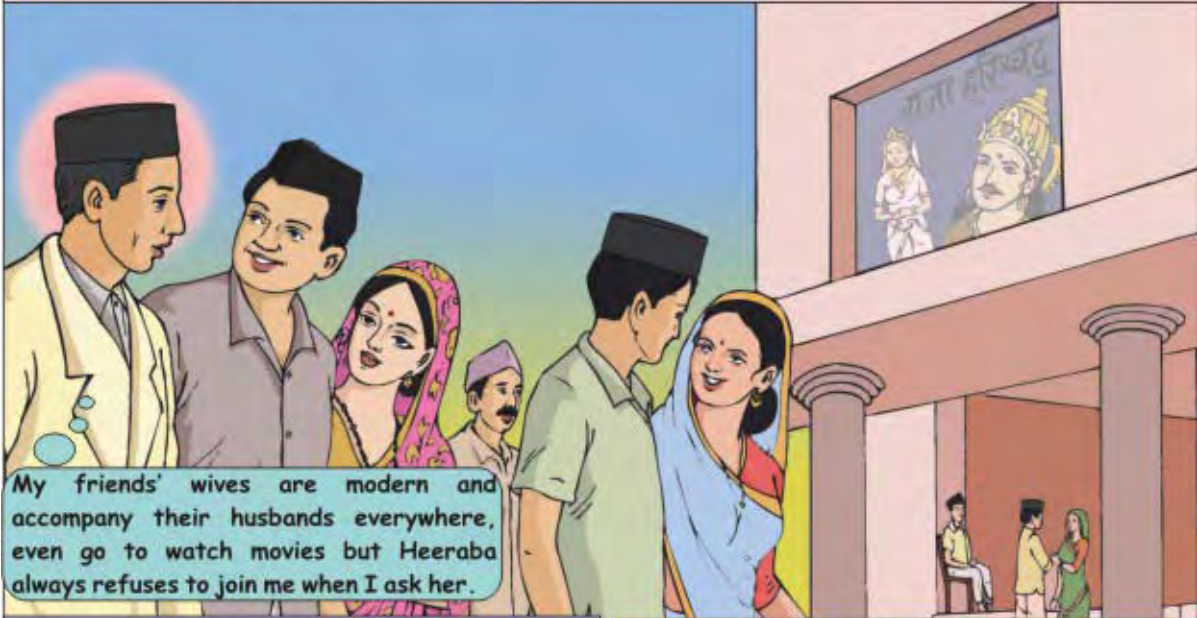
His wife Heeraba was not interested in shopping. She never complained or demanded for clothes, jewellery or any other things. She had no such materialistic desires.



The only thing Ambalalbai was fond of, was good clothes! He had a habit of wearing well stitched clothes. Right from the age of 17, he used to wear long coat.



Unlike the wives of his friend who would dress up and accompany their husbands to watch movie, Heeraba would never join Ambalalbai on these outings.



My friends' wives are modern and accompany their husbands everywhere, even go to watch movies but Heeraba always refuses to join me when I ask her.

Once a friend had dropped in to meet Ambalalbai. While they were busy chatting, Heeraba served them tea.

Oh! This has cleared my confusion. Since Heeraba is not modern, I am really better off!

Oh Ambalalbai! You are one lucky guy! Your wife served tea promptly without any complaints. She never argues with you too!

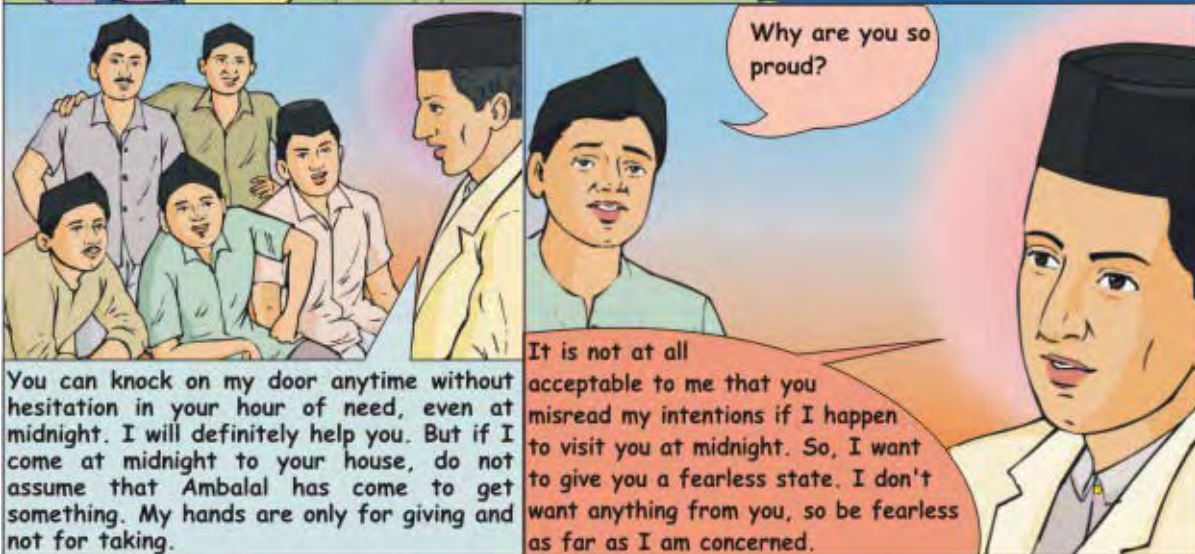


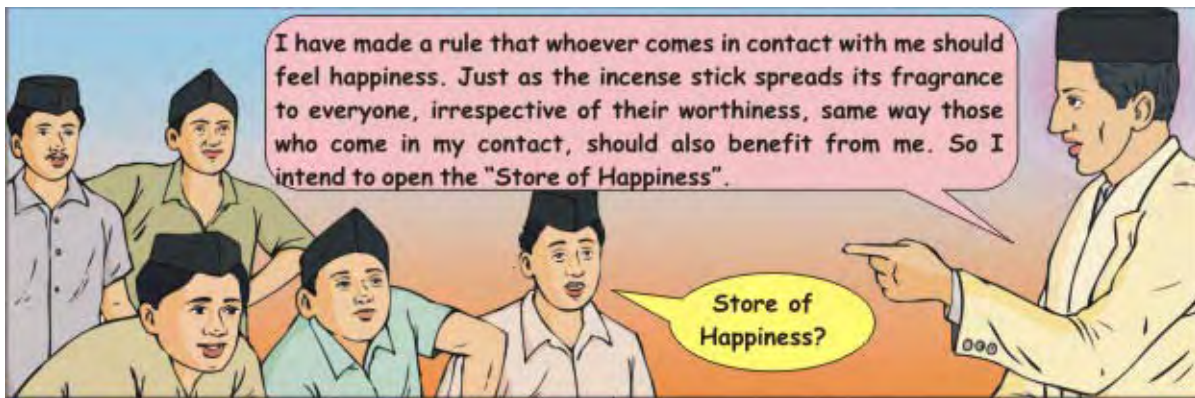
Once, past midnight after watching a late night movie, Ambalalbai went to meet his friend.



After tea and snacks, they parted away.

The only purpose of Ambalalbai's visit was to meet his friend and not to ask for money. He was restless even after coming home. He spent the whole night turning and tossing thinking about the incident.





His sole aim was to oblige others without having any expectations. Such an extraordinary kindness was one of the characteristics of Ambalabhai's personality.

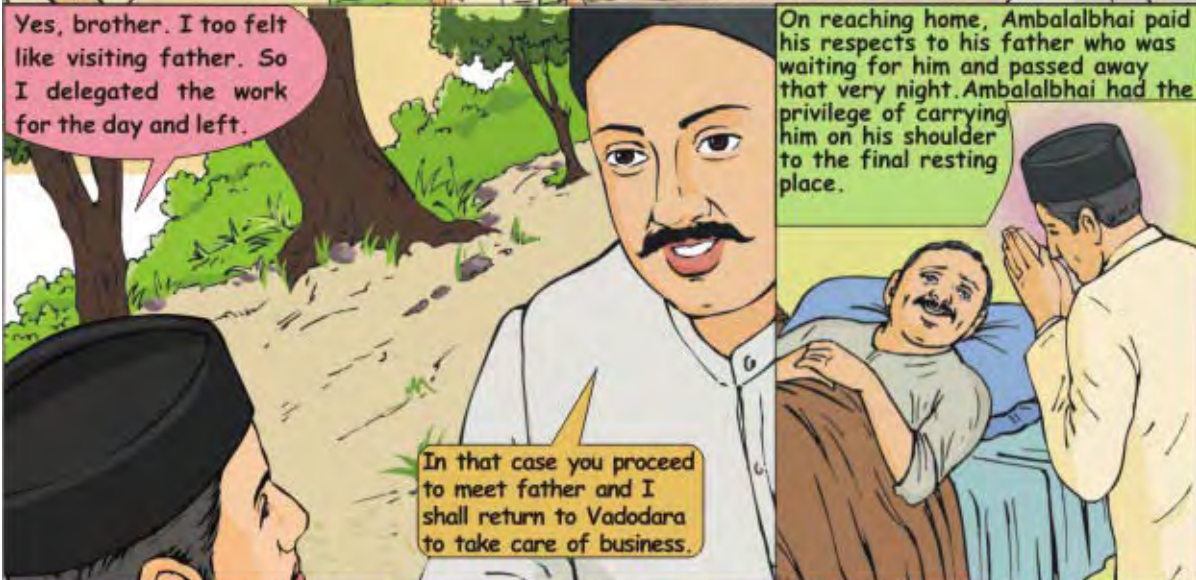
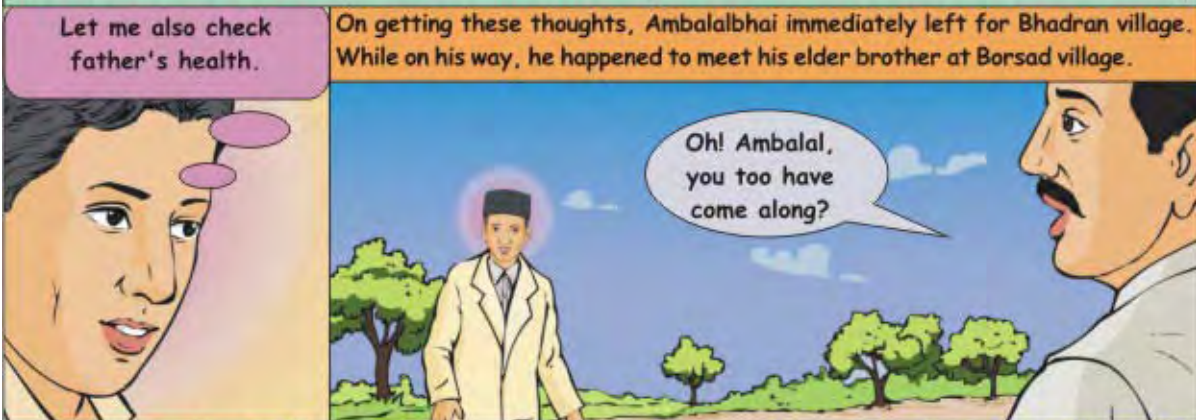
Intentions to work for the betterment of all and that none was hurt by him, were strongly imbibed in him. Along with this obligatory nature, Ambalabhai also had deep compassion for all living creatures. Once, when he returned home late night, he saw a dog sleeping in the street.



Once when Ambalalbai was 19 years old, his father Muljibhai fell sick. His elder brother Manibhai told him...

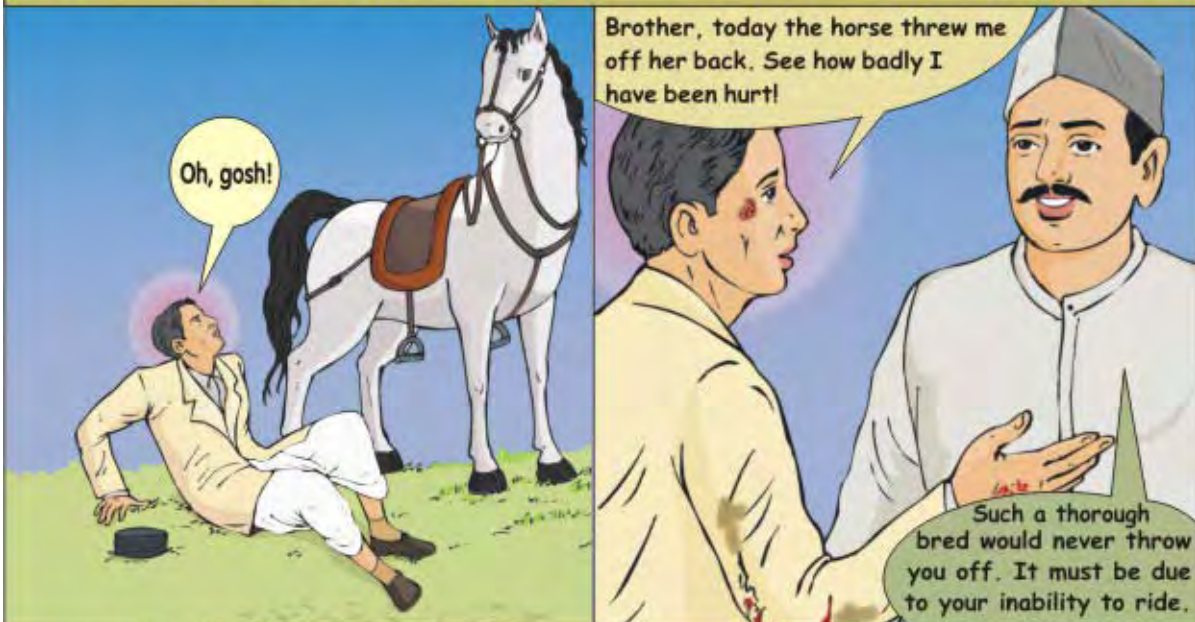


After his elder brother's departure, Ambalalbai delegated the work to staff members for the day.



Ambalalbai lost his father at the young age of 19 years. He did not have the good fortune of serving his father for long. He believed, "Service to one's parent is service to God". Serving our parents whole heartedly, helps protect us from misery and sorrow and we also earn merit karma in plenty!

Ambalalbai's elder brother owned a horse on which he used to move around in the fields of Bhadran. At times Ambalalbai too felt like trying his hand at horse riding. On one such attempt, he fell off the horse.

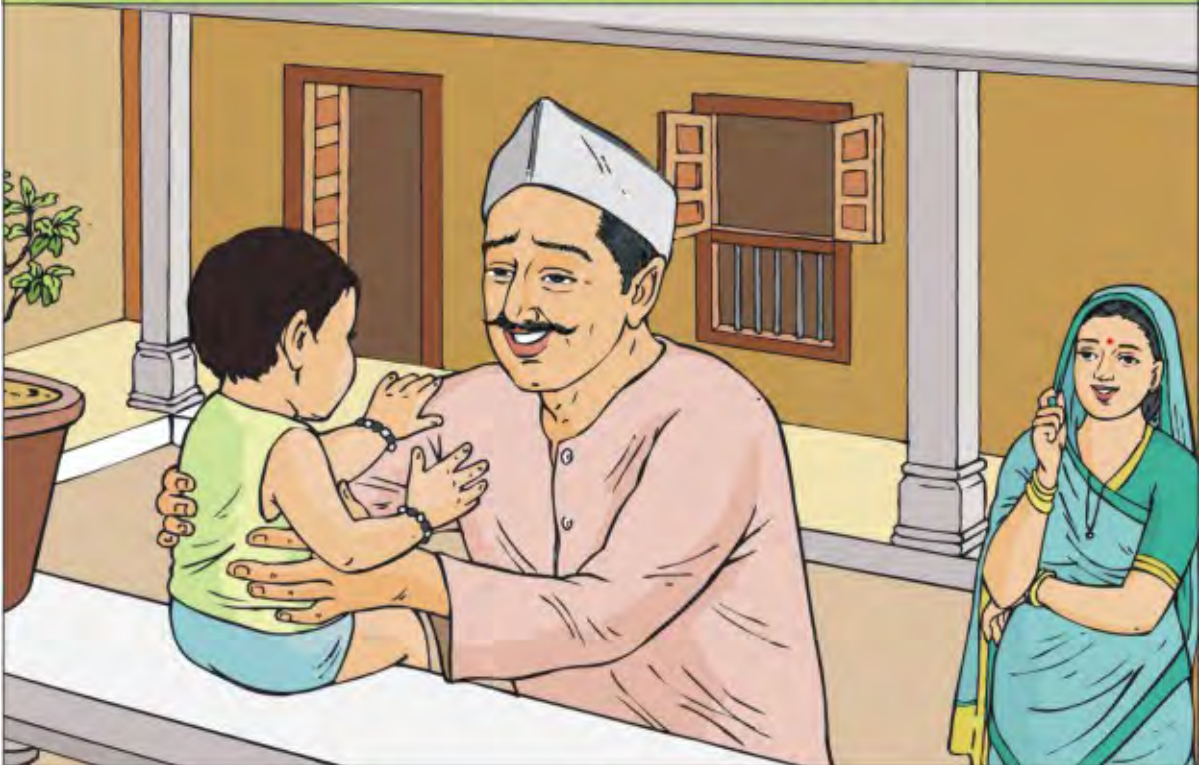


Ambalalbai used to say that who so ever enhances our knowledge, must be acclaimed as our 'guru'(teacher). Due to these high values inherent in him, he was ready to become the disciple of the entire world.

Ambalalbai became the father of a son in 1928. He distributed sweets among his friends to celebrate the arrival of the new family member. His son was named Madhusudan and was very cheerful and lively.



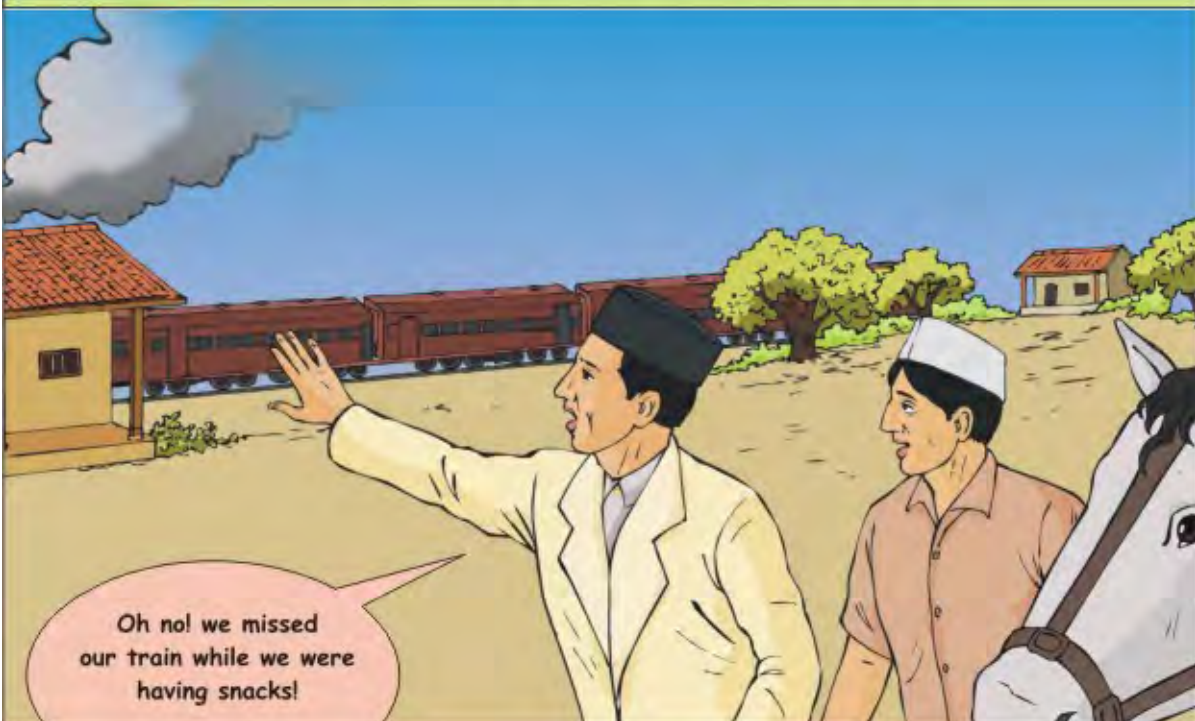
Ambalalbai's elder brother Manibhai had no children. He used to play lovingly with little Madhusudan.

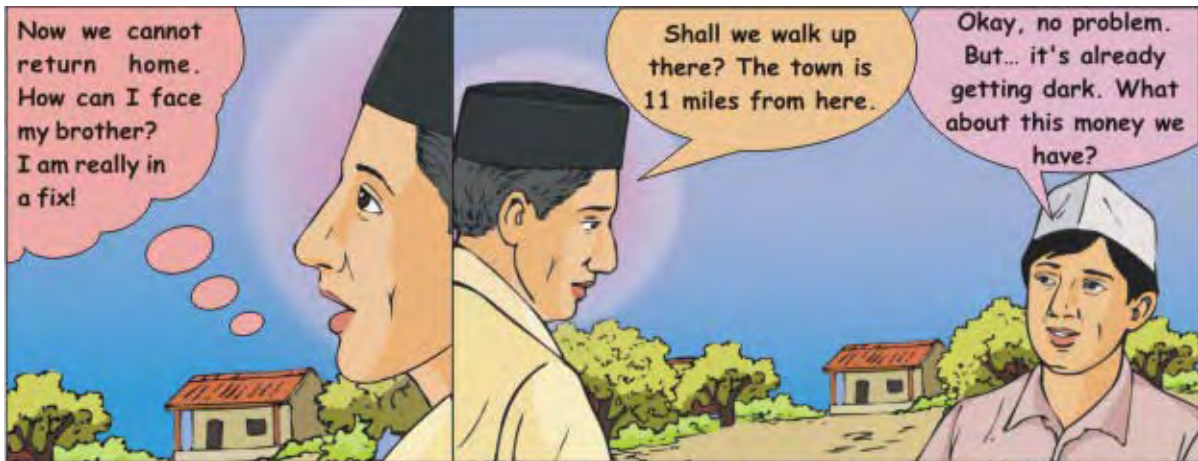


Manibhai had great personality. Everyone, even high ranking officials were afraid of him. Ambalalbai's brother and sister-in-law were called the king and queen of the neighbourhood. His towering personality had the power to disperse the crowd of 100 people. Even Ambalalbai was afraid of him.



Once, Ambalalbai had to catch a train from Vishwamitri station at 5:00 o'clock in the evening to attend to some business dealing at a nearby village. He was accompanied by one servant.





Whenever Ambalalbai was in trouble, his inner intuition would guide him and find a way out. He was carrying along one thousand rupees for business, an amount equivalent to one lakh rupees of present time.

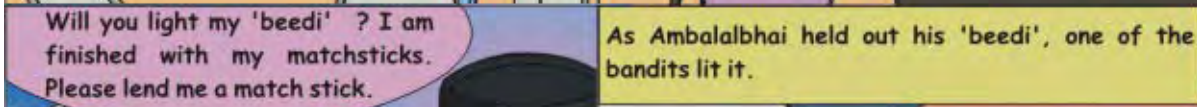
Both men started walking and after having covered 8 miles, they reached a village name Padra. They took a break to have tea and snacks.



Both men started walking along the rail tracks in the darkness. Now they were just a quarter hour's walk from the village rest house. Just then they arrived at the pond where they saw few men sitting nearby. The masked bandits looked terrifying under the starlit sky in the pitch dark night.



Ambalalbai walked down the slope besides the rail track and approached the bandits fearlessly. The servant too followed him.



* beedi - local cigarette

Ambalabhai followed by his servant walked away from there.



Ambalabhai's inner intuition guided him that if you act this way, they will let you off. So he acted. This whole world is itself a drama! And Ambalabhai was very skillful.

Although he had moderate wealth, Ambalabhai had high ego as is customary of young blood. He could not tolerate anyone's comments. One day, his sister-in-law inquired him about the business accounts.



Then while having meal.... Ambalabhai was fond of good food. He was used to having 'ghee'* freely.



* Ghee- liquified butter

In those days Ambalalbai used to wear long coat like all wealthy men. Ambalalbai emptied his pockets of the few rupees that he had and placed them in the pocket of his elder brother's coat.

Brother should not feel that I have taken along the cash withdrawn for business. Anyway, this money belongs to him rightfully. And nobody should blame me for having taken the money.



Ambalalbai walked up to Vadodara station.



Ambalalbai, where are you going?

Oh! It's Jayanti. He shall be a big help.

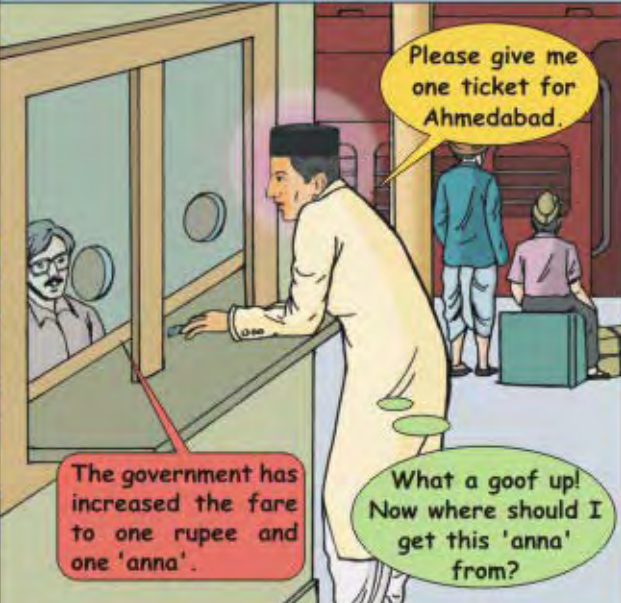


My coat got exchanged. My money has been left behind in the other coat. If you have a rupee, can you lend me one?

Oh! Take two!

Ambalalbai who had never taken anyone's obligation in his lifetime, had to take a rupee from his friend.

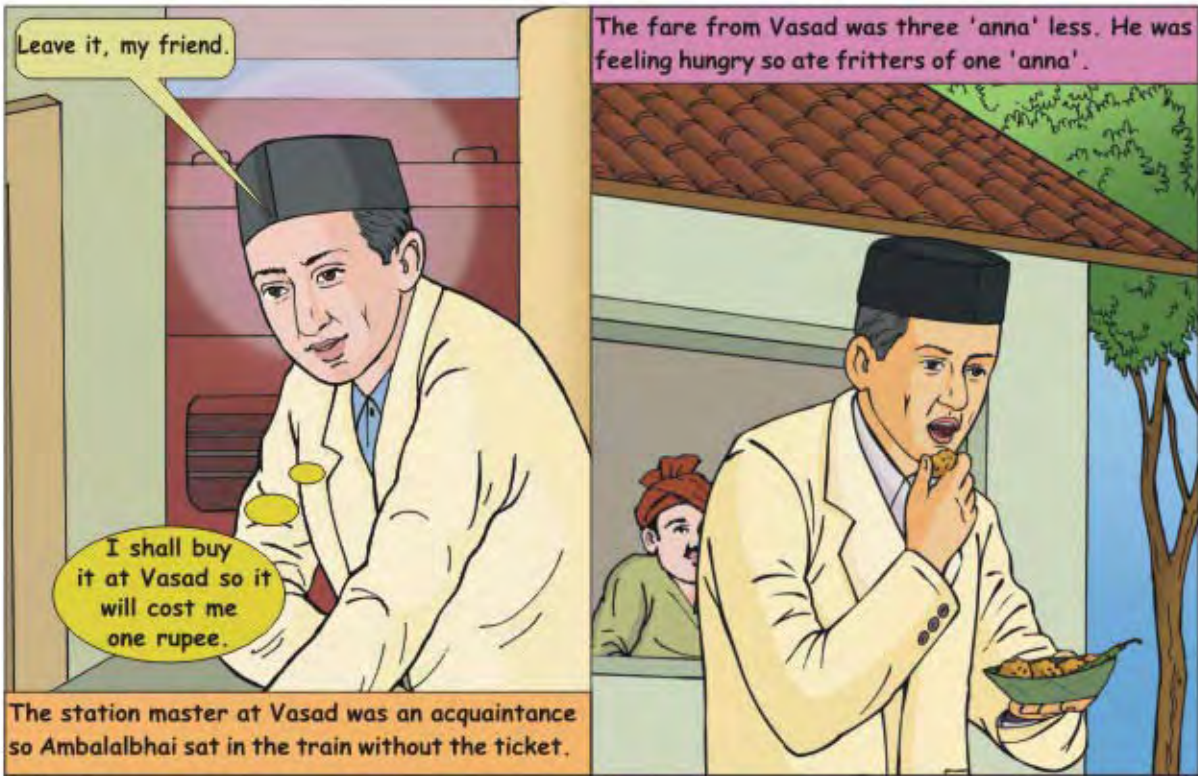
He went to the station to buy a ticket for Ahmedabad. A friend named Jamnadas whom he had helped in his hour of need, resided in Ahmedabad. Ambalalbai did not have his address but had thought he would find him out.



Please give me one ticket for Ahmedabad.

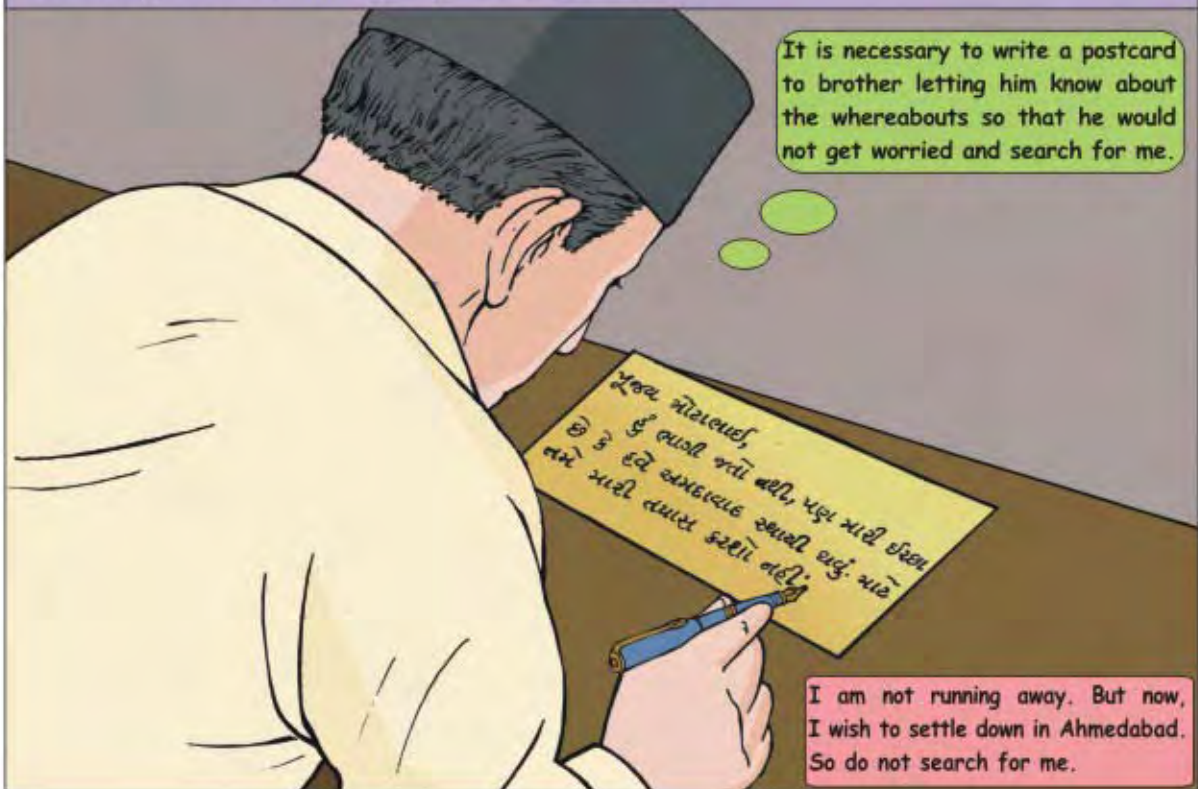
The government has increased the fare to one rupee and one 'anna'.

What a goof up! Now where should I get this 'anna' from?



The station master at Vasad was an acquaintance so Ambalalbai sat in the train without the ticket.

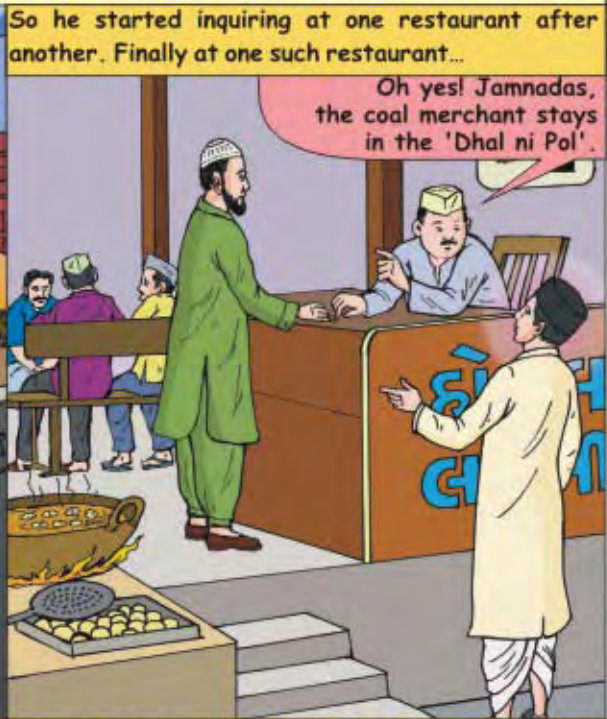
And on a postcard worth two paise, he wrote to brother.



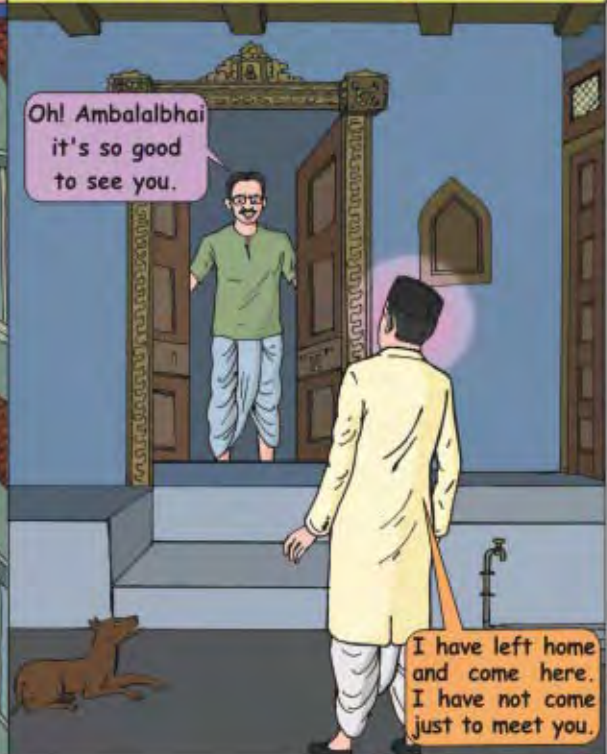
when the train reached Ahmedabad, it was dark. Now the question arose that without address and money, where should one stay? The only way out was to find where friend Jamnadas, a charcoal merchant, lived.



On reaching the 'Dhal ni Pol'...

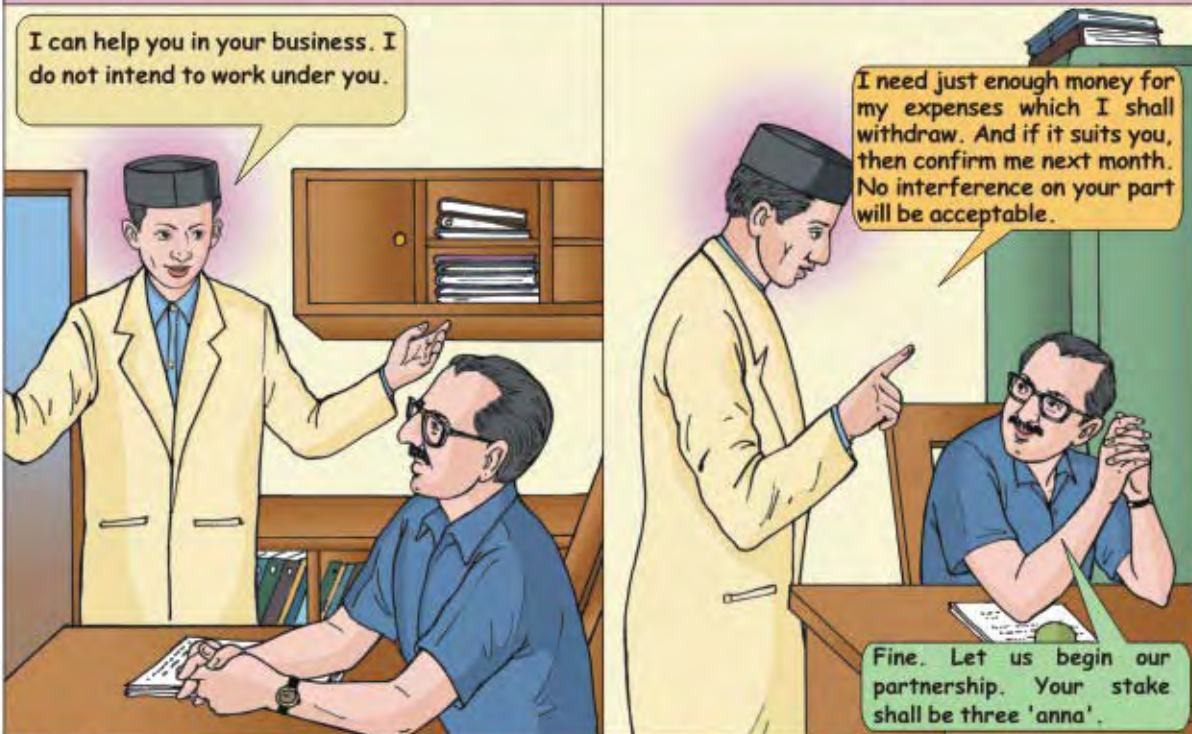


Jamnadas ran down enthusiastically to welcome.

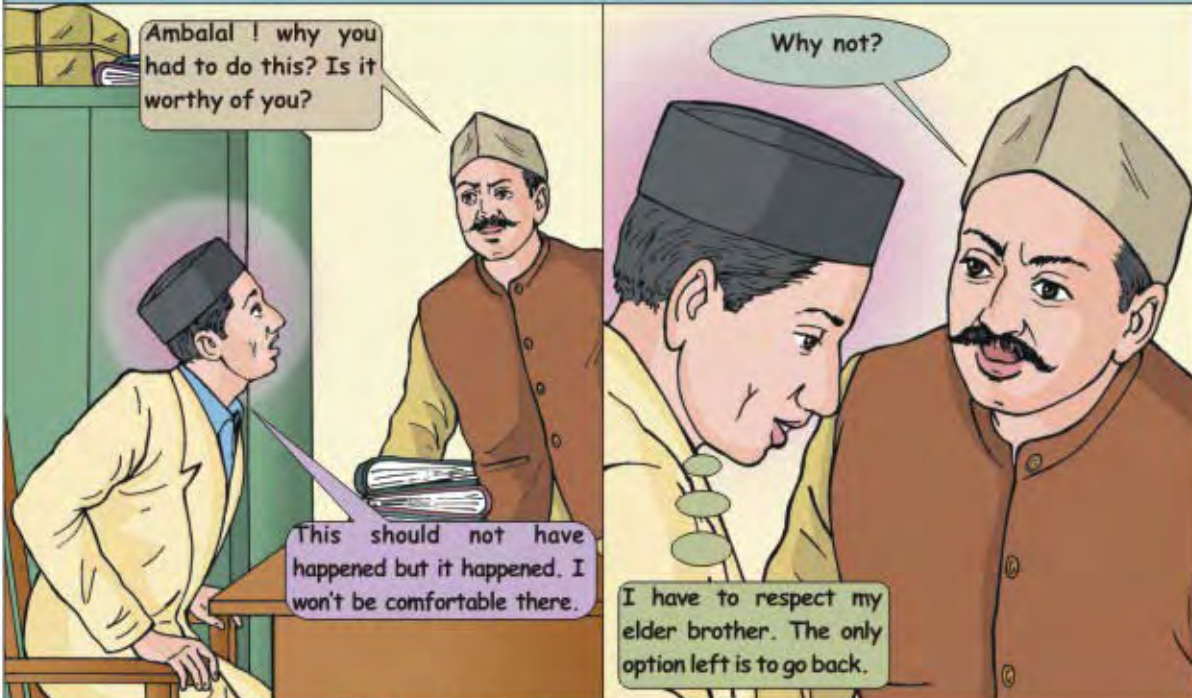


★ Dhal ni pol - name of the street

Jamnadas invited Ambalalbai to join him in his business. But he being comfortable with the business of contract work, did not wish to venture into any other business. The next morning he went to meet a contractor.



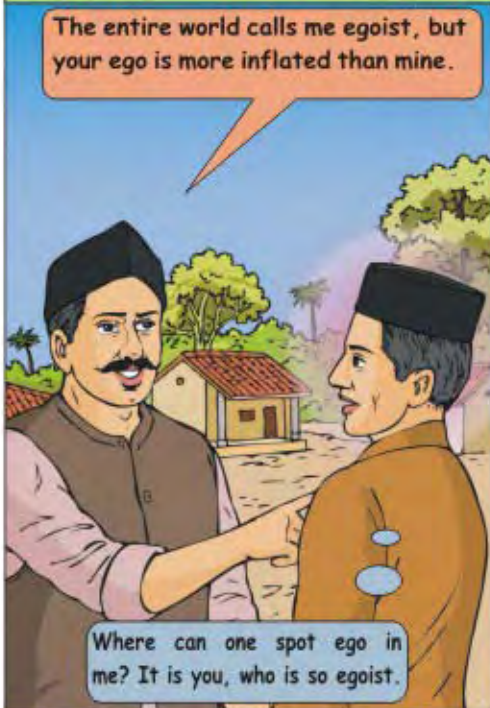
But the very next day itself brother came down to take him back home.



Ambalalbai returned home with the elder brother.

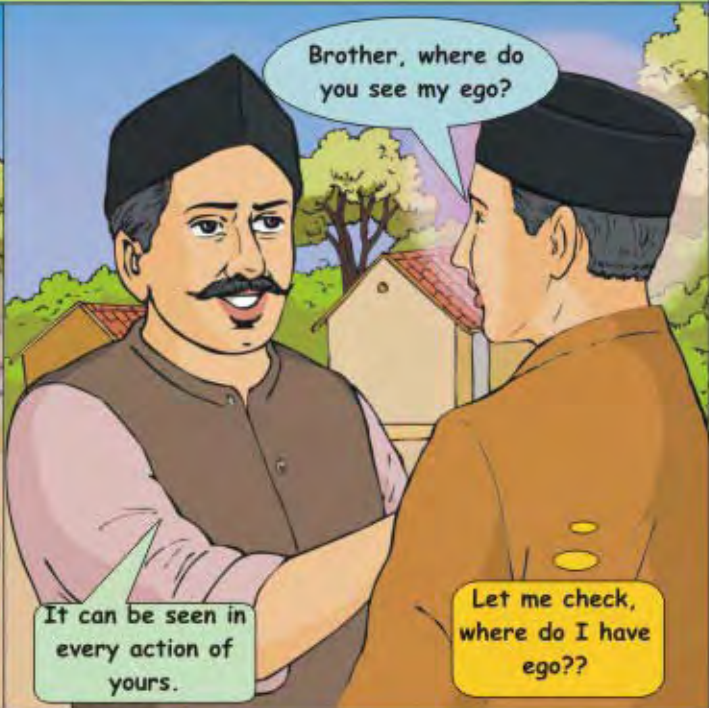
One time....

The entire world calls me egoist, but your ego is more inflated than mine.



Where can one spot ego in me? It is you, who is so egoist.

Brother, where do you see my ego?



It can be seen in every action of yours.

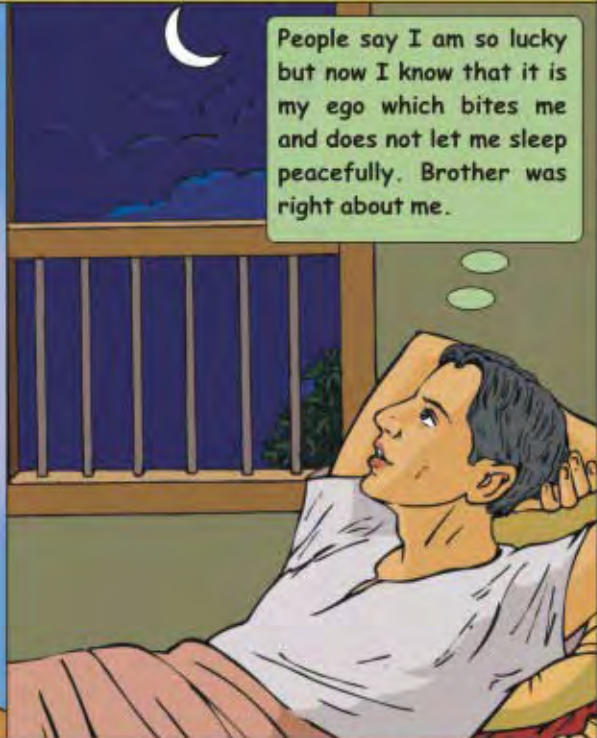
Let me check, where do I have ego??

On introspection, he found ego in all his acts and deeds like when...

Everyone calls me 'Ambalalbai' while he called me 'Ambalal'. What does he think of himself? Can't he say 'Ambalalbai' with respect?



People say I am so lucky but now I know that it is my ego which bites me and does not let me sleep peacefully. Brother was right about me.



From that day, Ambalalbai realized that ego was not his friend but foe and that it's not worth having ego.

Ambalalbai and a few of his friends would get together every evening and discuss various topics. At times discussions would revolve around various religions and faiths.



One amongst his friends was Kantibhai, whose nature matched that of Ambalalbai.



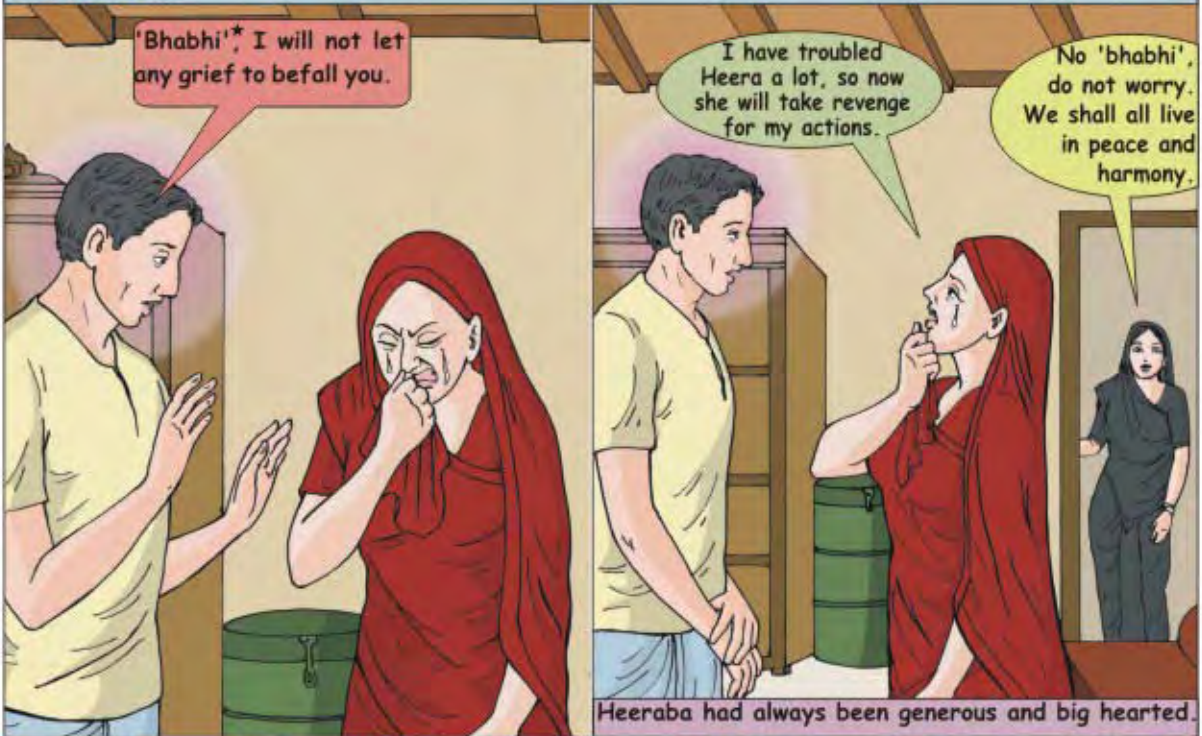
Ambalalbai, shall we start a business of contract work in partnership?



Okay...
I accept.

One cannot find the kind of partnership they had in the whole world. They never ever had an argument with each other nor did they question each other regarding bills and accounts.

One day Ambalalbai's elder brother expired all of a sudden and his sister-in-law became a widow at a very young age.



In the year 1928, Ambalalbai went to watch a movie along with his friends.



Do we have a solution for these thoughts ? Do we have power to change ? That which is out of our control and we keep striving to resolve it, is only a form of ego.



But his thinking was always influenced by positive vision. So he could always find positive out of adversity.



Today we see Ambalalbai's wishes being fulfilled. With the help of TV, VCD's and DVD's, satsang programs having positive impact are being viewed by the general public in every corner of the world.



In those days, people who cleaned streets and picked up garbage, were considered to be lowly in society. They were always scorned and insulted. On witnessing such scenes, Ambalalbai would feel deeply hurt and his fearless nature would vow to fight against such injustice in the society.

Also disrespect towards widows affected him deeply.



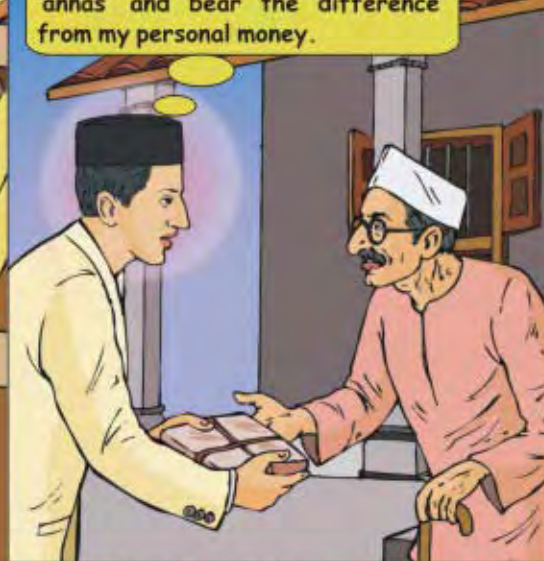
Ambalalbai felt that the pitiable state of India was solely due to the disrespect of such people. India would have to be free from such bad customs. Then only will the country develop and progress.

Ambalalbai had an unique quality. One that was beyond one's imagination. He would get cheated knowingly! He had learnt to imbibe this quality from his mother by observing her closely. Once he went to shop for an old uncle in the neighbourhood. Whenever he would go shopping, he would never bargain.



He is surely swindling me of 2 extra 'annas'. But it doesn't matter. By doing this he will earn well and he too shall remain happy.

If I tell this price to uncle, he might feel bad. I can not do that. I shall tell him the price, less by two 'annas' and bear the difference from my personal money.



Ambalalbai's principle was to get cheated knowingly from both ends, otherwise he was not the one, who could be fooled. And by doing this, his intellect got highly developed. It worked even in those areas where even a top most judge could not find a solution. To get cheated knowingly just in order to give peace and happiness to others exhibits remarkably high nobility of Ambalalbai!

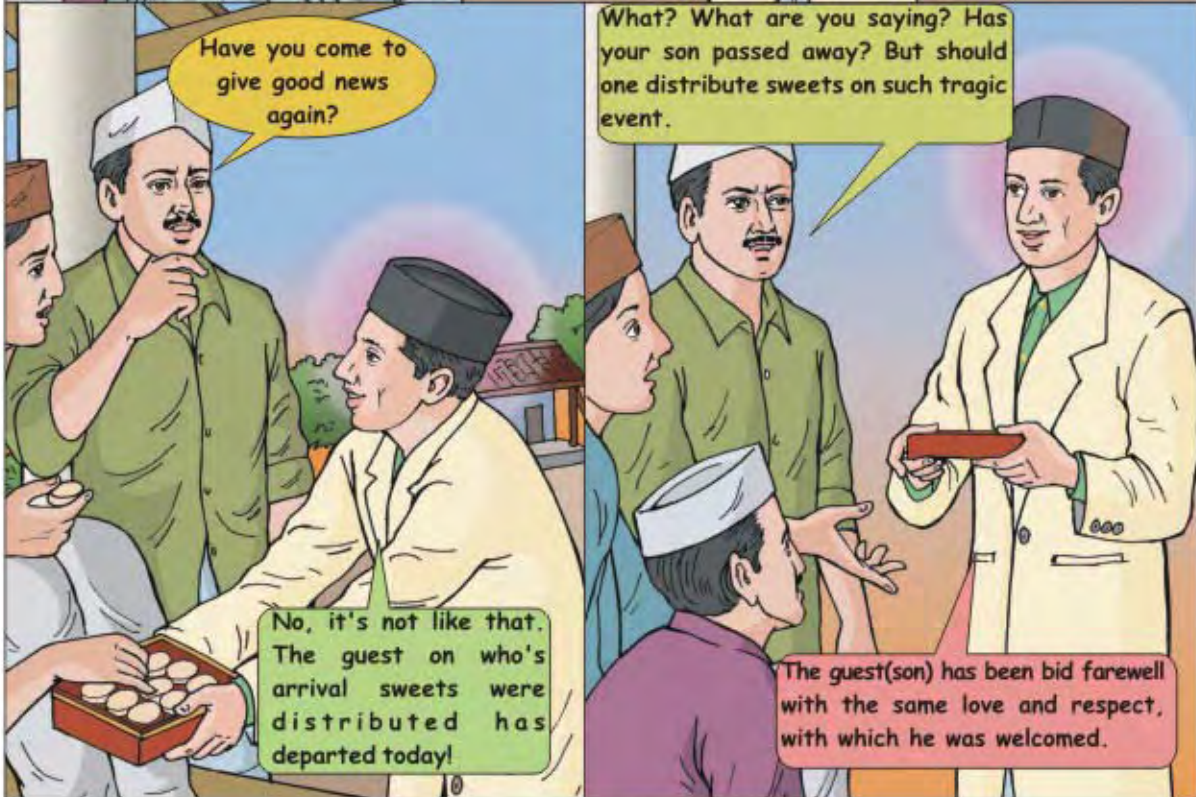
* Dhoti - loin cloth wrapped around waist

Around 3 years after the son's birth....



Oh Ambalabhai, for which good news are you distributing sweets?

First have the sweets. Then I'll tell you everything.



Have you come to give good news again?

What? What are you saying? Has your son passed away? But should one distribute sweets on such tragic event.

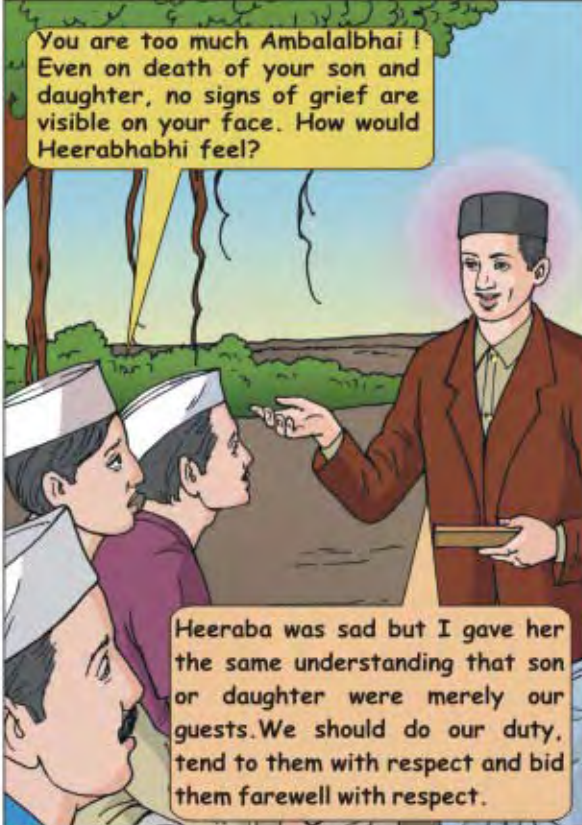
No, it's not like that. The guest on who's arrival sweets were distributed has departed today!

The guest(son) has been bid farewell with the same love and respect, with which he was welcomed.

Later a baby girl was born to Heerba. She was very beautiful and named Kapila. She too passed away when she was just 6 months old. Ambalabhai distributed sweets on the birth as well as passing away of his daughter, just as he had done for his son.



You are too much Ambalabhai ! Even on death of your son and daughter, no signs of grief are visible on your face. How would Heerabhabhi feel?



Heeraba was sad but I gave her the same understanding that son or daughter were merely our guests. We should do our duty, tend to them with respect and bid them farewell with respect.

When their account gets finished with us, they leave us and move on to the next life. Don't we have to leave some day from this world too ?



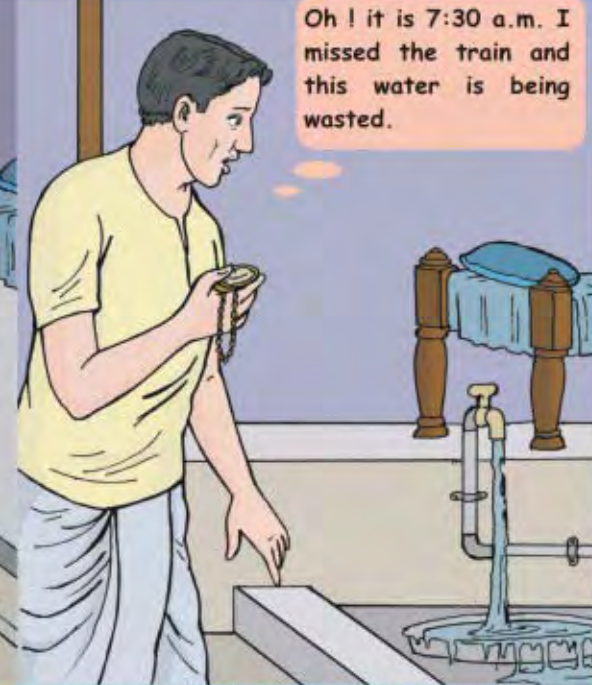
This was such a beautiful and unflinching vision to be free from the burden of sorrow. Ambalabhai had inculcated the understanding that it was okay whether he had children or not. Every being in this world is a guest of nature. After this, there were just the two of them left. They did not have any more children.

For once Ambalalbai had to wake up early to catch an early morning train. In those times alarm clocks were not invented. But Ambalalbai had great inner intuition. He decided to experiment something new.

Water supply begins at 6 in the morning. I will leave the tap open and put a metal plate under it, which will make enough loud sound to wake me up.

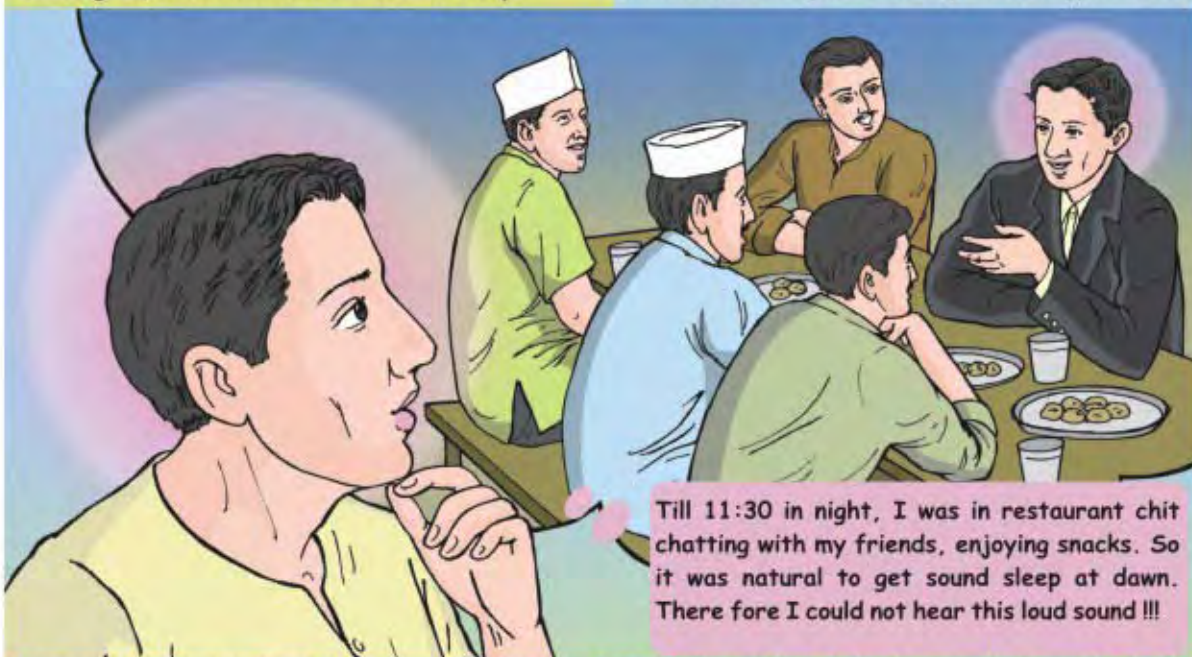


Oh ! it is 7:30 a.m. I missed the train and this water is being wasted.



Thinking so, Ambalalbai went off to sleep.

Ambalalbai thought about why did it happened so ?



Till 11:30 in night, I was in restaurant chit chatting with my friends, enjoying snacks. So it was natural to get sound sleep at dawn. There fore I could not hear this loud sound !!!

Later Ambalalbai realised that even though it may be a loud sound but only the one who is awake (only an awakened person) can hear. Like wise we lose so much in the slumber of youth. Nature warns us in many ways but we do not understand.

Once on a visit to a construction site, he suddenly heard the painful cries of a hen being slaughtered in somebody's house.



For one who had a heart full of compassion for all living beings, it was an experience that had an impact so deep that the painful heart breaking cry kept echoing in his ears for 3 long years.



Non-vegetarian food invites misfortune, was inscribed in his heart there after. Later on, he told that "You can eat any living thing only if your heart agrees to slay it. Otherwise it would have an adverse effect on your heart."



Ambalalbai spent a considerable amount of time on reading books. Reading religious and spiritual books was his passion. His thirst to find 'God' made him read Lord Krishna's "Geeta", books on Lord Mahavir and Vedant and also books on Islam and other religions were not left unread.

He would very easily grasp the crux of all the books. He concluded that the common link amongst all religions was to realize the soul and attain permanent happiness. This led him to have an unbiased view of all religions. He accepted that they are right at their own levels.



At the age of 23, his partner Kantibhai gave Shrimad Rajchandra's "Vachnamrut". He went through the whole book with deep interest.



He accepted whole heartedly that the views of 'Thirthankars and Vitraag Lords' were nothing but the absolute truth. Thus after this he imbibed the principles of Jainism in his daily routine such as drinking preboiled water, refraining from food intake after sunset, giving up the vegetables which grow underground etc. He followed these principles strictly. In this way he obtained a totally new spiritual vision.

After that, he was constantly in awareness to spend every moment of his life in the search of the soul. Once he was to board a bus from a place near Halol.

There is still an hour left for the bus to depart. Let me have some refreshments.

But he got little late and when he returned, he saw the bus departing !

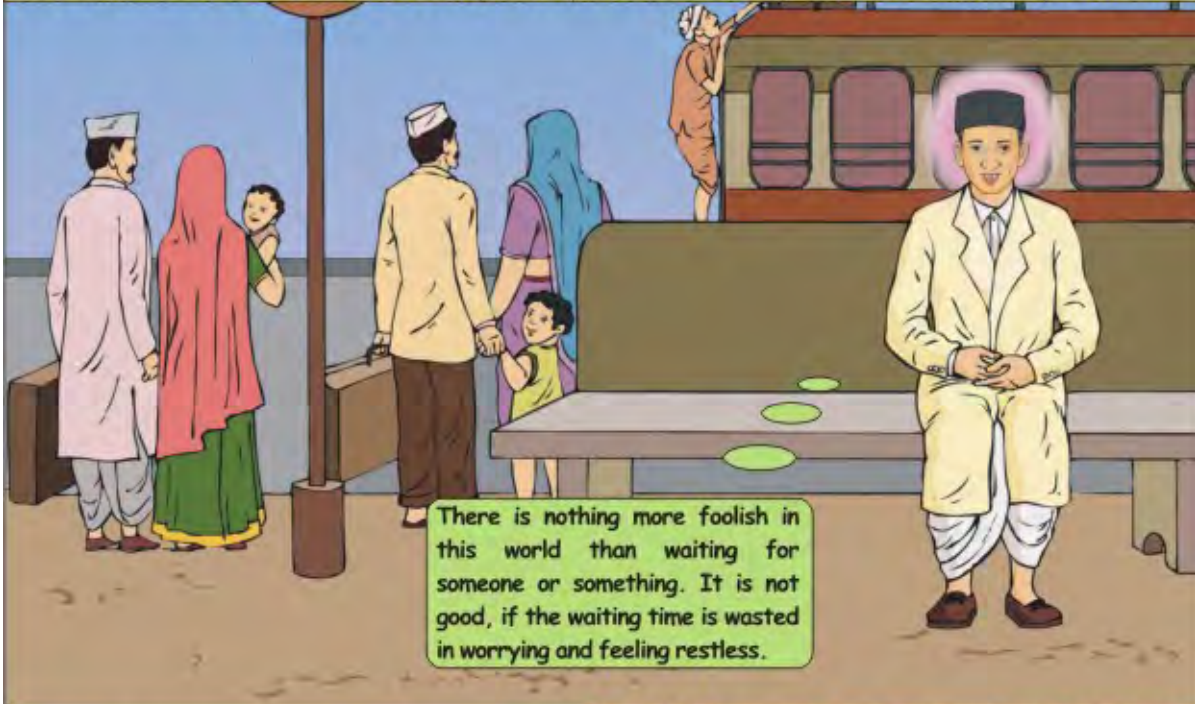


He hurried up to the ticket window and made an inquiry.

Oh God! Now I am done for! Now I will have to wait for another hour and a half. Although I had arrived an hour early, I made a mess of it.



"Now how shall I spend 1½ hour?", he thought. For one whose revolutions were so fast that thousands of thoughts would cross his mind in an hour, Ambalalbai felt this 1½ hour to be as long as 20 hours. Now what to do? He started feeling uneasy and immediately his inner intuition guided him.



Even in circumstances when there is no option left, why can't time be utilized positively? Let me sing a hymn.

Ambalalbai spent some time reciting Shrimadji's hymns, all the time reading each word within and then repeating it in reverse order.



Thus while reciting hymns, Ambalalbai realized that when the whole hymn runs across the eyes, word to word and letter to letter along with each punctuation mark, the mind stays engrossed in reading and thus stops getting any other thoughts. We can't see the words if the mind speaks the crammed words.

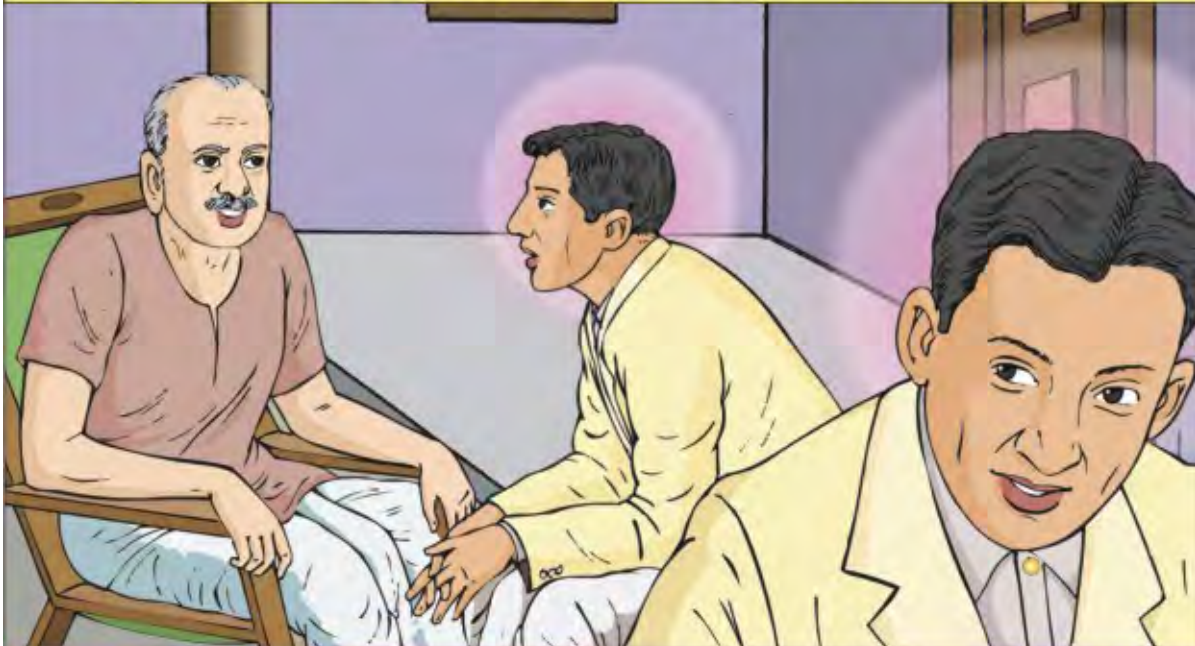


Ambalalbai was very happy with his new kind of discovery. After that his uneasiness vanished and he felt satisfied at utilizing his time positively. This method of reading while reciting hymns, is an invaluable gift to all.



After this incident, whenever he had to wait for a train or bus to arrive, he would not feel irritated. He could now spend his time happily reciting hymns or thinking deeply over them. If he ever got just 2 to 3 minutes, he would promptly use the time in praying for the soul.

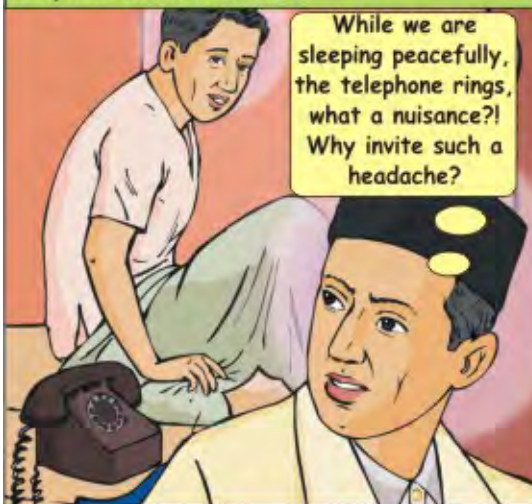
Right from childhood, Ambalalbai was fortunate enough to meet many a wise men. Amongst these, he had developed a strong liking for a 70 year old man's extraordinary personality. Ambalalbai asked him, " What is the reason behind your glow at this age?" To this the gentleman answered " I lead a very disciplined life". Ambalalbai came to the conclusion that the strength of celibacy was the secret of the glow on his face.



"All sorrows in life are due to the so called pleasure gained by non-celibacy". This understanding got rooted within his mind and he strongly started practicing celibacy. On the basis of such purity and high thinking, he could address his own wife as "ba" as in "Heera ba".

Right from childhood, Ambalalbai did not have a fancy for buying or using things. Even after growing up, he avoided installing a telephone at his residence.

Likewise, owning a car too was like a burden to him.



While we are sleeping peacefully, the telephone rings, what a nuisance?! Why invite such a headache?



while one driver may say that some spare parts has broken and need to be replaced, another may even steal petrol from the car! Why invite such trouble?

Ambalalbai never dreamt of showing off. He felt all these luxuries would unnecessarily burden him.

Once the 'kadhi' that Heeraba had prepared was slightly salty.

"What kind of 'kadhi' have you made ?" It wasn't in Ambalalbai's temperament to find fault and speak in this manner. Instead he gently poured a little water in it. Heeraba saw this when she came to serve Chapattis.

How should I have this salty 'kadhi'?



Oh no... what have you done ? Did you pour water in it?

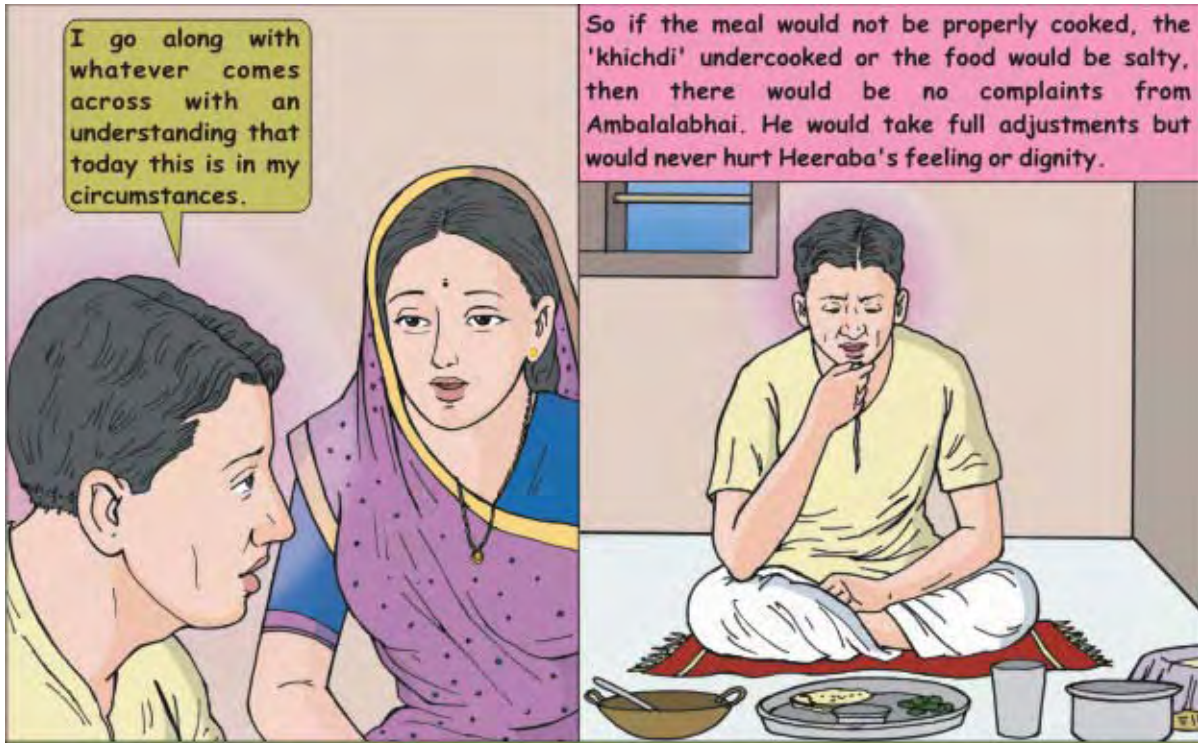


The other day I had forgotten to add sugar in the tea. You drank the tea just as it was! You didn't even tell me a single word nor asked for sugar!

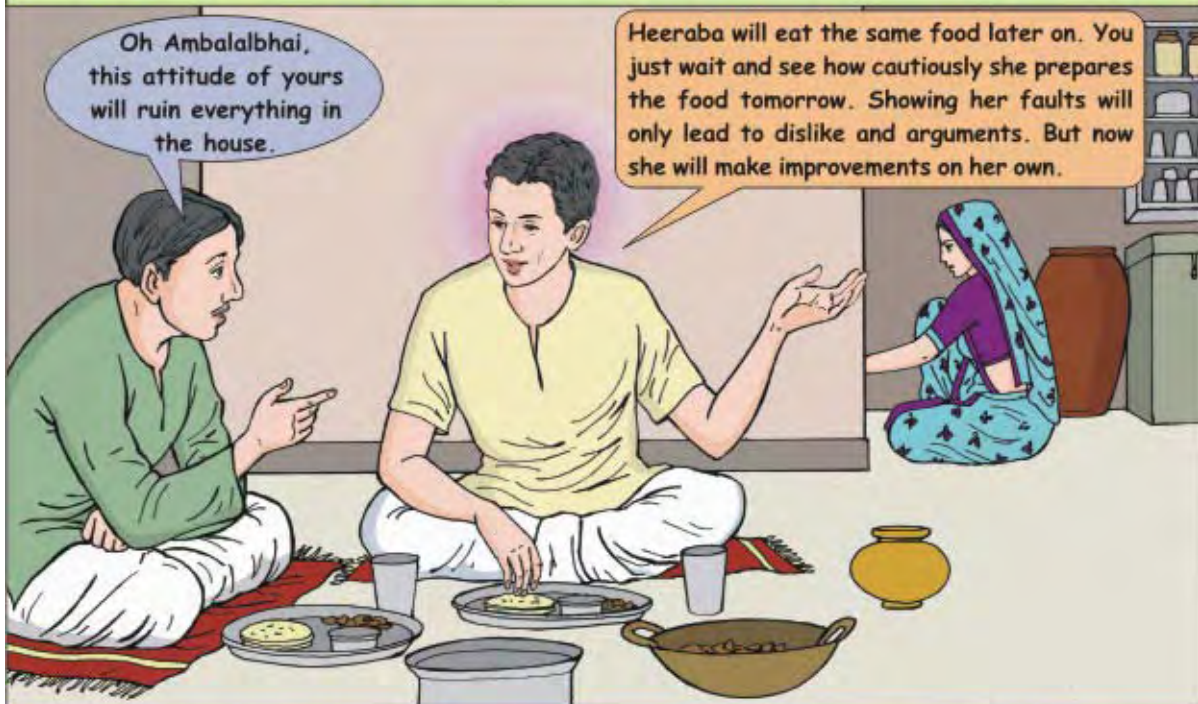


Just as you pour water in the vessel when you cook, I poured water in my bowl. It is just how one takes it.

* Kadhi - sweet and sour creamy soup



Once his friend commented to him...



And really due to Ambalalabhai taking such adjustments, Heeraba took extra care and made sure that the food she cooked was to his liking.

Once when Ambalalbai was chatting with his friends, the topic of miracles came up. The discussion was centered on whether there was anything like miracle or magic or is it just a gimmick to make a fool of everyone ?

Why are you so impressed with miracles? I too can perform one. Can anyone here fry fritters in a pan made of paper?



How can that be possible? What nonsense are you talking?

Why not? I can demonstrate frying fritters in a paper pan to you.



Then let's lay a bet of hundred rupees.

No, no. there is no need to bet such big amount. The one who loses shall treat the others to snacks worth ten rupees.



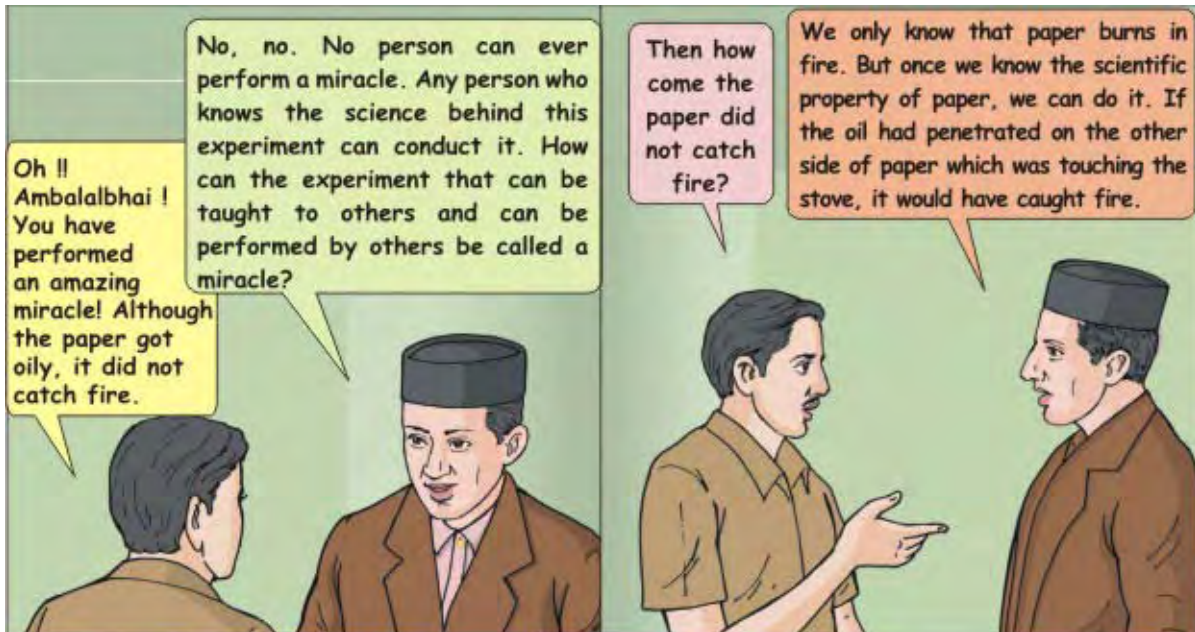
Ambalalbai arranged to demonstrate the experiment in the Central Hall of 'NyayMandir' at Vadodara with the help of an acquaintance. A few friends gathered to witness the scene. Ambalalbai made a pan from paper and kept the batter for fritters ready.



Ambalalbai poured oil into the pan and lit the stove. He moved his hands in a circle as if he was performing magic! Then he placed the pan on the lighted stove. The people watched frightfully expecting fire to blaze through any moment. With no blaze coming up, they concluded that Ambalalbai must have surely uttered some magical 'mantra'.



Then as the oil got heated, Ambalalbai placed a fritter in the oil to fry. He fried few more fritters and served them to everyone.



Dear kids, do not try to do the above mentioned experiment under any circumstances. It is very dangerous as we do not have the expertise and understanding like Ambalalbhai.



He would never rest without discovering the science behind every event. Due to this inquisitive nature of his, he could solve the mysteries of spiritualism and unfold a unique spiritual science for all.

Other Products of Balvignan



Story Books



Activity Book



Games



Picture Book



VCD/DVD



Monthly Magazine



Visit kids.dadabhagwan.org

kidskids.dadabhagwan.org.org



Dada Bhagwan was an outstanding Atma - Gnani (self realised) person of the modern age. Since childhood, instead of getting carried away by the common man's blind beliefs and superstitions, he possessed the quality of a researcher for true understanding. Several episodes from his daily life illustrate this scientific temperament of his.