

Balvignan Presents

Dada Bhagwan

Part-4

Pictorial
story



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 analysing the events of daily life. He broke free from rigid wrong beliefs behind them and adopted true understanding. He adopted an amazing way of solving world's puzzle by asking logical questions to himself and contemplating on them. Many inspiring incidents of his personal and professional life give us insight of 'inquisitive' urge in him.

His life's episodes will inspire one and all to give beautiful direction for learning the art of living. 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 to his own narration of his life as possible. If you find any mistake in the book's pictures or text, it's due to compiling inefficiencies. We apologise for any such inadvertent mistakes.

Jay Sachidanand

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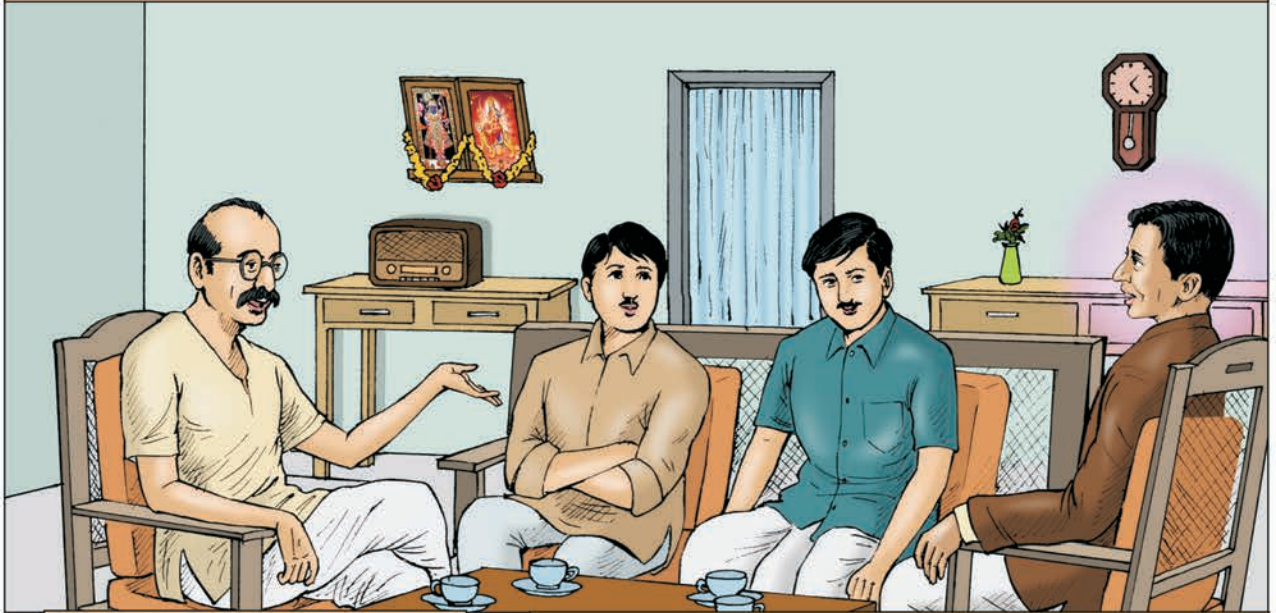
Dada Bhagwan

Part-4

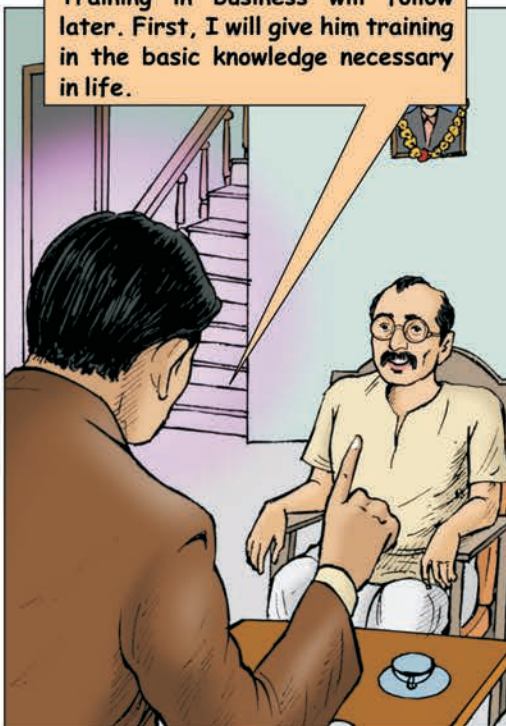


Shri Ambalalbhai Muljibhai Patel, who later became well known as 'Dada Bhagwan', during his construction business in partnership...

Kantibhai was Ambalalbhai's partner. Kantibhai's brother Jayantibhai was a graduate. Their father requested Ambalalbhai to train Jayantibhai in business.



Training in business will follow later. First, I will give him training in the basic knowledge necessary in life.



In this way, Jayantibhai came to stay with Ambalalbhai. To begin with, Ambalalbhai asked him to go and buy some bhindi.*



Jayantibhai became agitated.

* bhindi-ladies finger/okra

I am a well-educated graduate and he has assigned me this task? There are servants in the house and yet I have to do this kind of work? But how can I tell him?



Fuming, he set off to buy the vegetables.



I brought what she gave me.

Did you select the [★]bhindi yourself or did you just get the one that the vegetable vendor gave you?



Hmm... So now let us try breaking these bhindis from their tips.



Jayantibhai tried to break the tips. However, five - six of them didn't break.



Now tell me, these bhindis which could not be broken, can they be eaten?



No, we can't eat.

Then why did you bring them? Do you want to eat bhindi shaak or not?



Yes, but I didn't know all this.

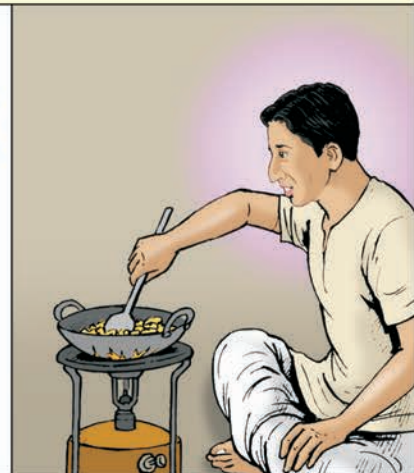
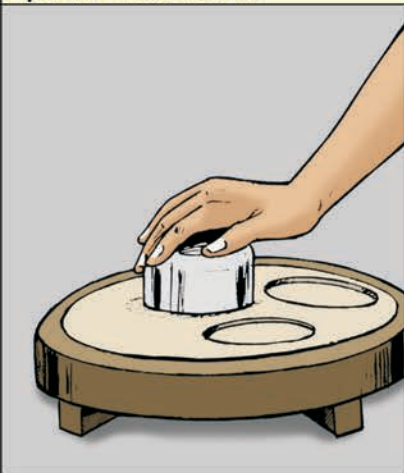
Shouldn't you know? Once you are married, your wife will ask you to get vegetables, then what will she say if you bring something like this?



The next day, Ambalalbhai started training him to cook. He was asked to roll out chapattis, but that was too difficult for him and they turned out uneven.



Then he taught him how to make puris by rolling out the dough and cutting out round shapes using a small bowl. He also taught him the art of frying in order to make puffed up puris. He showed him how to make potato shaak as well.



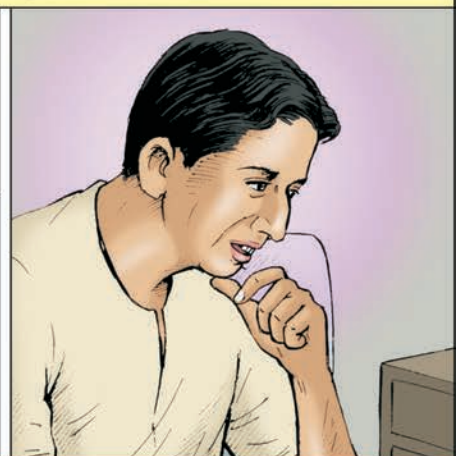
After Jayantibhai had learnt all this, Ambalalbhai gave him some petty cash for the business.



This is the petty cash for the business. Note & keep account of all the expenses. If you have tea, coffee, have addiction or given donation to anyone- take note of all.



He even credited the money he had to the account. Thereafter, Jayantibhai would debit the account whenever he spent some money. But, Ambalalbhai's sharp observation noticed something odd. Every day after lunch, Jayantibhai would go downstairs and return after sometime.



One day, when Jayantibhai had gone out of town for the day, Ambalalbhai went downstairs to the paan counter at his usual time after lunch.

Upon his return, Jayantibhai went downstairs to smoke a cigarette. The owner of the paan counter told him that Ambalalkaka had already taken his packet of cigarettes upstairs.



On another occasion, Ambalalbai sent Jayantibhai to buy fourteen, 2.5 inch long bolts for the workshop. He brought the bolts from the designated shop, but when Ambalalbai was shown the bill, he immediately sensed that the shopkeeper had not given bolts as per the weight mentioned in the bill; he had given less.

You haven't brought the bolts equivalent to the weight mentioned in the bill. You have paid the full amount for fewer bolts.

No, no, how can that be? I haven't brought fewer bolts.



Ambalalbai asked for the scale and confirmed that they weighed less than what was mentioned in the bill.



Noble man, how can you stand outside by the table, with hands in the pocket, while the shopkeeper goes inside to weigh the bolts? Shouldn't you be more cautious and check whether he is weighing correctly or not?



Ambalalbai was teaching him the lesson of being precise in all types of work. Isn't being alert and cautious the basic training to accomplish any work successfully? But, rather than taking note of his mistakes and making improvement, Jayantibhai became fed up and ran away from there.

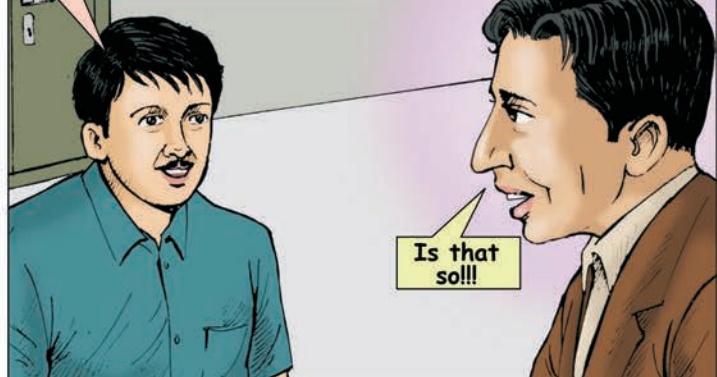
After few years, he understood training's importance!

Ambalalkaka, your training has been very useful to me.

Oh! In what way?

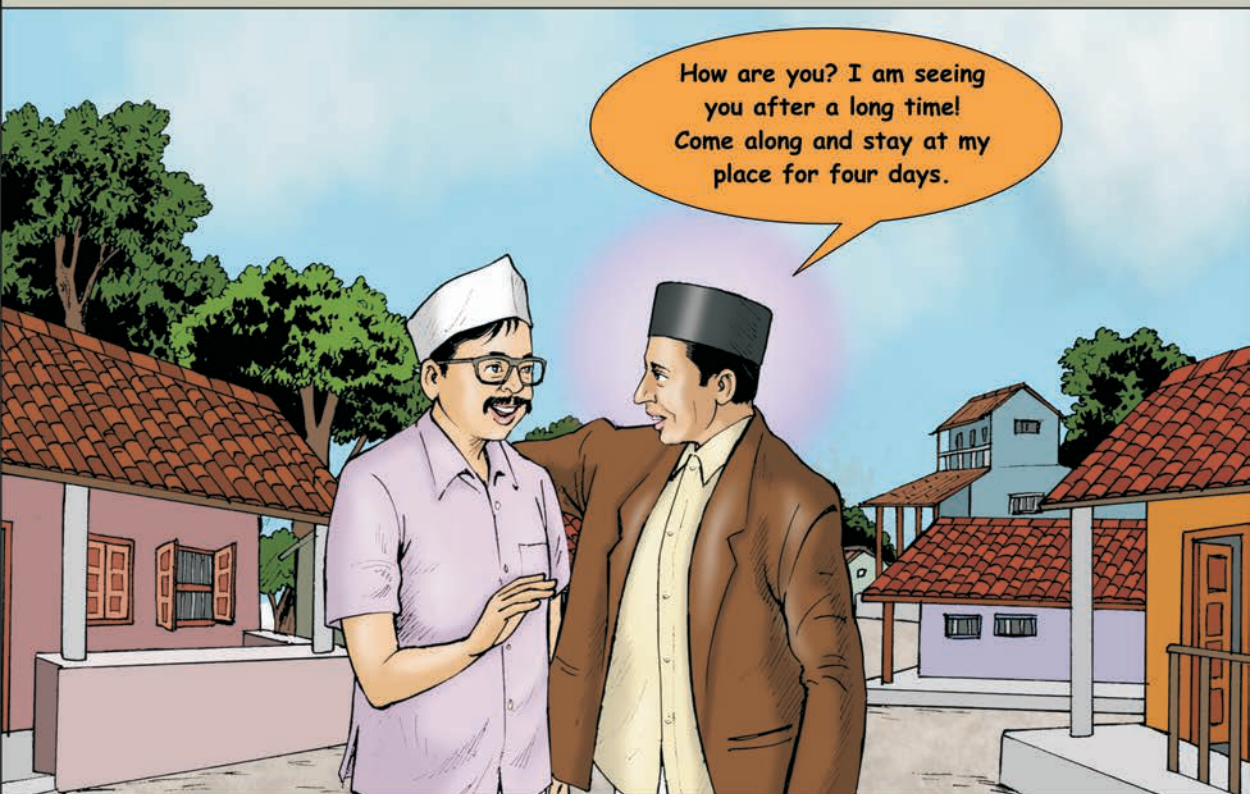


My wife has gone for delivery to her mother's place. So, I am cooking my own meals like you had taught me to do.



Is that so!!!

Ambalalbhai had a very friendly character. He used to earnestly invite his friends and relatives to stay at his place.

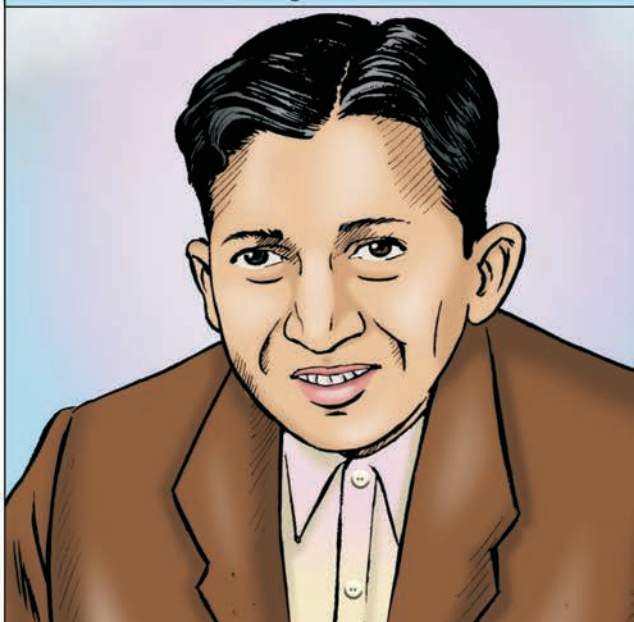


Whenever he met a familiar person along the way, he used to eagerly urge them to come and stay at his place.

Oh uncle, come right now to my place with me! Otherwise, when will you come? I won't take no for an answer!



In this way, he used to invite many people to his house. Ambalalbhai satisfied his ego by creating a good impression for himself so that people would think that he has such a good nature!



However, later on, he encountered some bitter experiences with such guests.

Ambalalbai, please take us around the town today. And we will also go and watch that new film.

Today, I have to go for some business work.

No, no, it will be fun only if you accompany! You do business everyday! One day away from work won't matter!



Hence, Ambalalbai's day would pass by in going around with guests. He could not find enough time for his business or personal work. Moreover, it was Ambalalbai who ended up paying for the film tickets for everyone!



This is becoming a burden on me. It is alright to go out sometimes, but just gossiping every day is just not acceptable! Time as well as money is wasted! Even the work load increases for women at home and they have to work hard all day! This habit of mine has backfired! I tried to feed my ego to look good and have ended up deceiving myself!

Whenever Ambalalbai was confused or puzzled, he would analyse the situation, while lying down in bed.



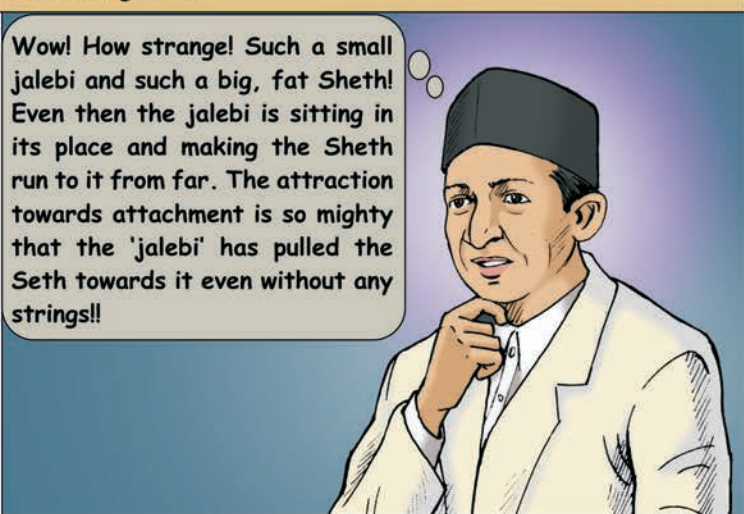
All these guests were invited by me only. I had urged them to come. There is no need to force people to come. That was my foolishness. From now onwards, I will forego the habit of inviting people. Yes, if they come at their own will, they are called guests, or 'atithi'. There are very few of them who come for some urgent work or to meet! So those who come as an 'atithi', should be fully (hundred percent) taken care of.

Ambalalbai had a wonderful quality of accepting his mistakes as soon as he recognized them. He would examine the situation, ponder over how to come out of it and then put it into practice. Thus, add to his experience for self improvement.

Once, Ambalabhai was walking towards his home late at night. At that time, he saw a 'sheth' running in the street 'Mama ni Pol'. Since the sheth was very plump, he was panting while running.



Panting and mumbling something, the sheth disappeared down the lane in an instant. Pannalal's 'jalebi' was very famous. Sheth reached there just before closing time.



Once, Ambalalbhai, Jhaverba and Heeraba were having lunch on a hot summer's day. Just then, four guests arrived at the doorstep. They were about to finish, so Jhaverba couldn't help uttering...



Jhaverba was very noble. However, the thought of preparing lunch all over again for the guests in the middle of the blazing summer heat, just when they had finished having lunch, made her utter such words.

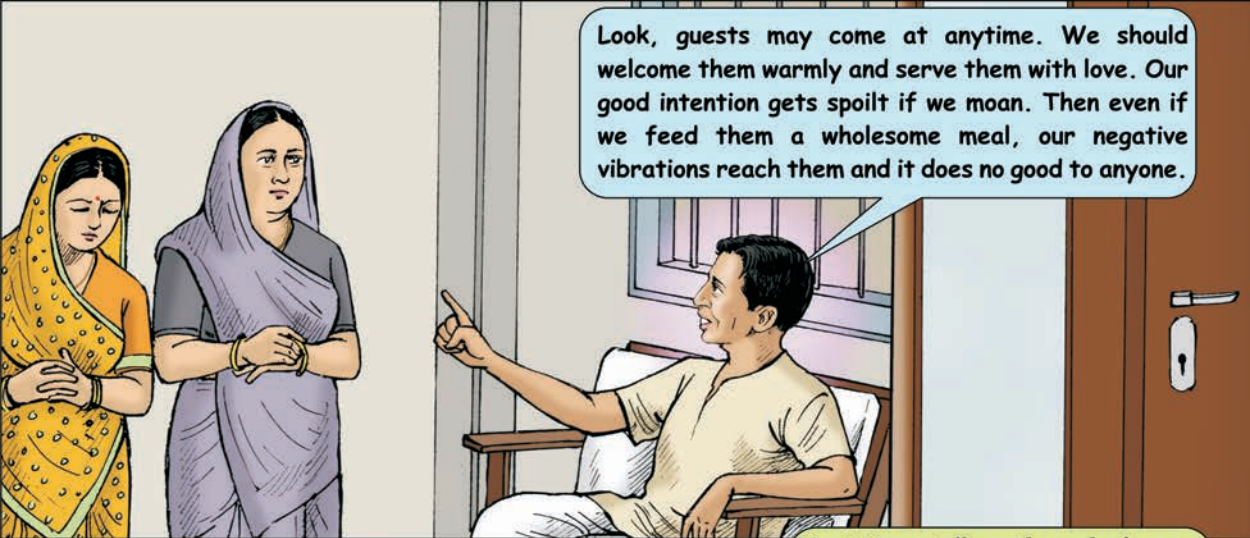
Guests used to come frequently to Ambalalbhai's house and he would never let anyone go without having food if it was meal time. On that day also, Heeraba and Jhaverba boiled daal and rice at once and cooked a meal all over again and fed the guests.



Ambalalbhai was not pleased with his mother, Jhaverba's remark.



After the guests had left, he called his mother Jhaverba and wife Heeraba and reprimanded them...



Look, guests may come at anytime. We should welcome them warmly and serve them with love. Our good intention gets spoilt if we moan. Then even if we feed them a wholesome meal, our negative vibrations reach them and it does no good to anyone.



Next time, tell me if you feel weary of cooking. I will cook and feed them. What is the point of feeding them with spoilt intentions? I will renounce this world if anything like this happens again.

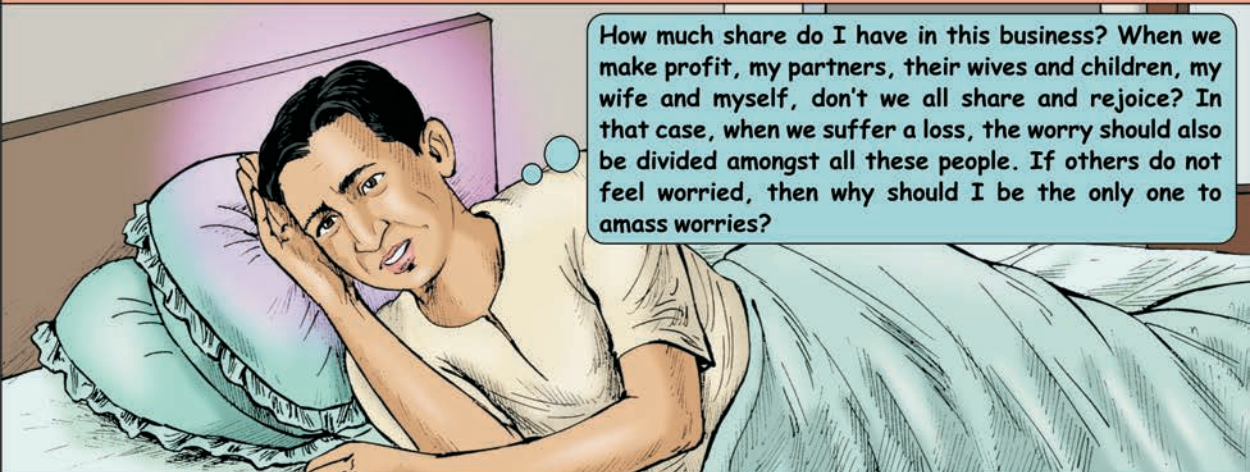
Ambalalbai's personality greatly impacted Jhaverba and Heeraba and their thoughts changed.



I do not insist on preparing any special meal. Even simple food will do. But we should feed everyone with love. We should not have negative feelings or get tired. That does not suit us.

There was immense clarity in Ambalalbai's heart for fulfilling best 'Aatithya dharma*'.
*Aatithya dharma-offering hospitality to guest

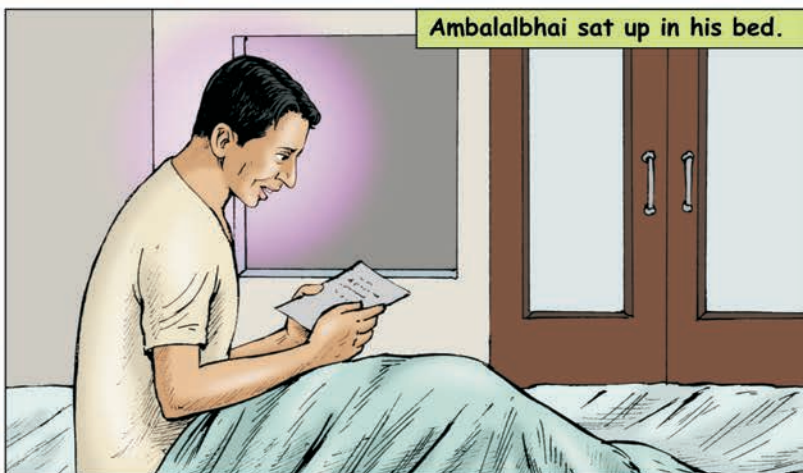
Once, it so happened that an officer disapproved one of his project unexpectedly. As a result a sudden loss of Rs.10,000/- was incurred. In those days, a loss of Rs. 10,000/- was considered very huge. Because of this, Ambalalbhai was affected right to the core of his heart and he was gravely shaken up. One night, he couldn't stop worrying and he could not sleep.



How much share do I have in this business? When we make profit, my partners, their wives and children, my wife and myself, don't we all share and rejoice? In that case, when we suffer a loss, the worry should also be divided amongst all these people. If others do not feel worried, then why should I be the only one to amass worries?

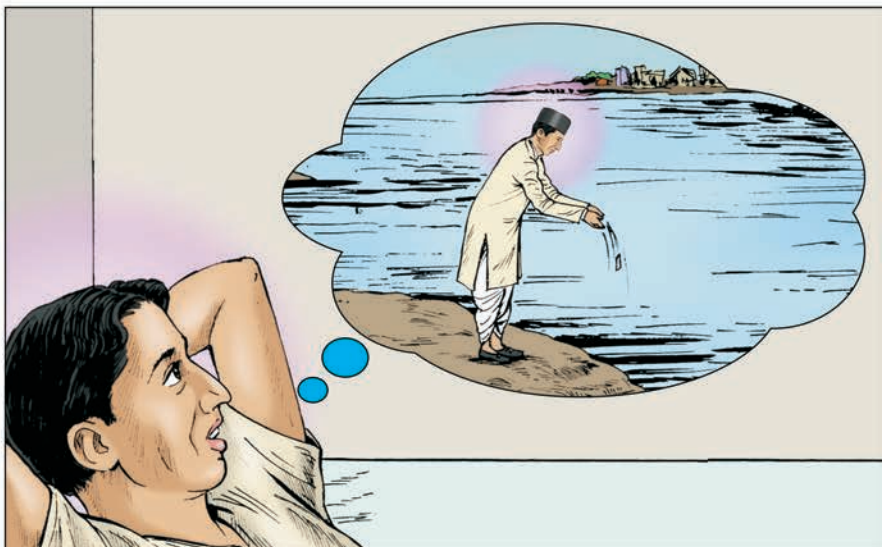


Let me find a solution.



Ambalalbhai sat up in his bed.

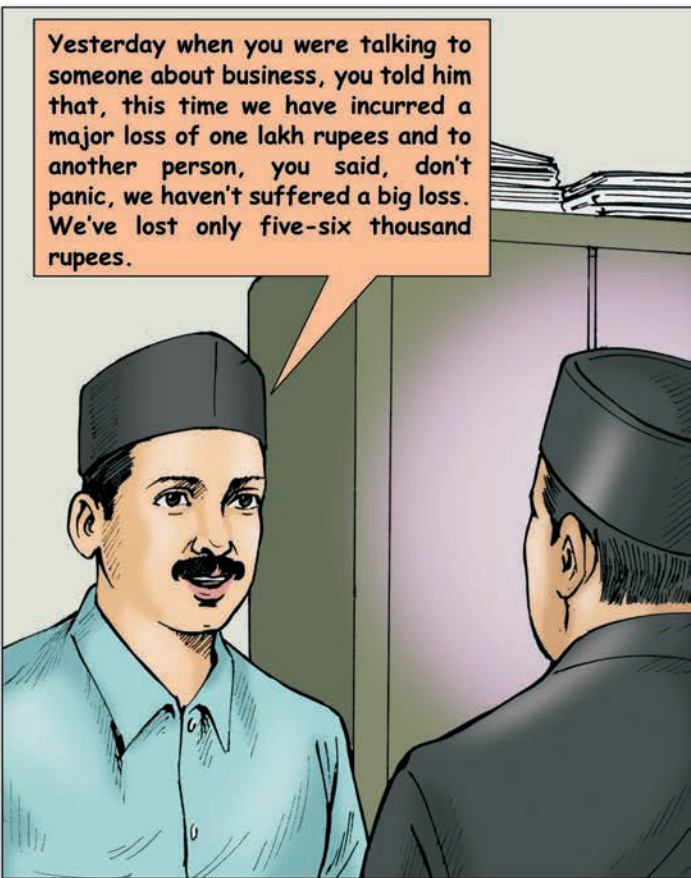
He took a sheet of paper in which he noted down all his worries. He then folded it and chanted a few mantras over it and did some vidhis. After that he placed it between two pillows and went to sleep. After this, he could sleep properly. Early next morning he immersed the folded paper mentally in river Vishwamitra. Since then, his worries diminished.



He had immense power to arrive at the positive and correct view point and get self satisfaction. Therefore, he could rapidly overcome grave situations by shaking off its effects. However, after attaining 'gnan*', all his worries were destroyed completely.



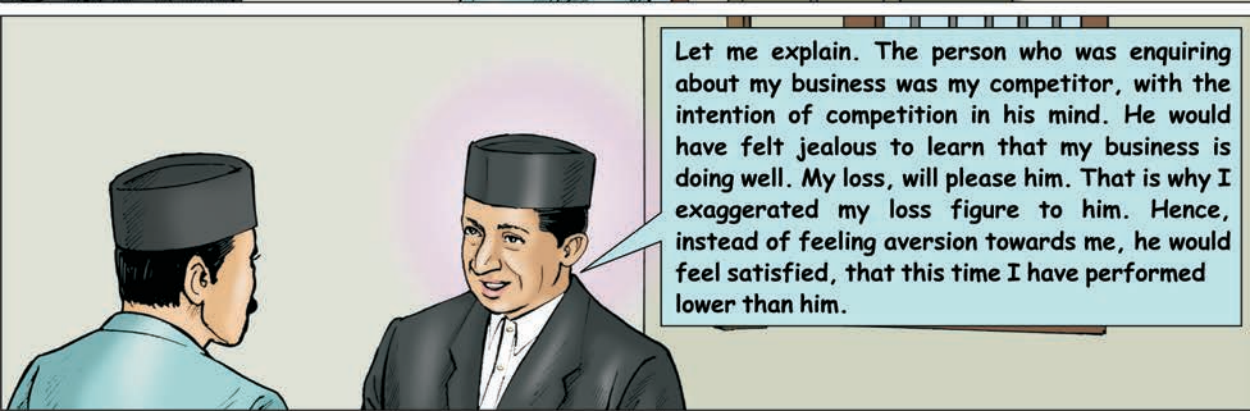
It is understandable that one feels elated when one hears about profit in the business and feels distressed when a loss is incurred. However, he remained cautious not to allow a situation to arise where the other person would feel upset or shocked upon hearing about his profit or loss.



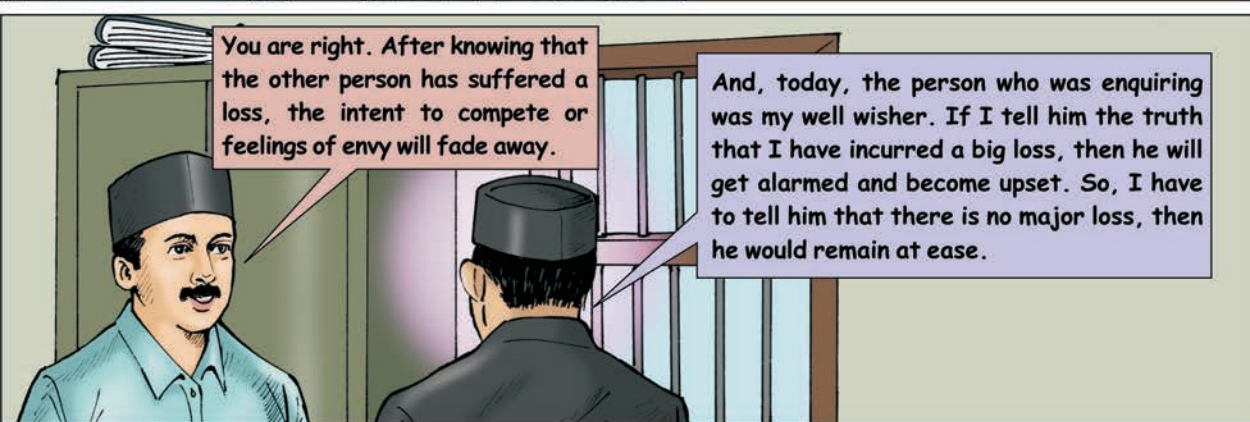


Yes, I gave different replies to two people, for a reason.

Why did you make two totally different statements? I don't understand.



Let me explain. The person who was enquiring about my business was my competitor, with the intention of competition in his mind. He would have felt jealous to learn that my business is doing well. My loss, will please him. That is why I exaggerated my loss figure to him. Hence, instead of feeling aversion towards me, he would feel satisfied, that this time I have performed lower than him.



You are right. After knowing that the other person has suffered a loss, the intent to compete or feelings of envy will fade away.

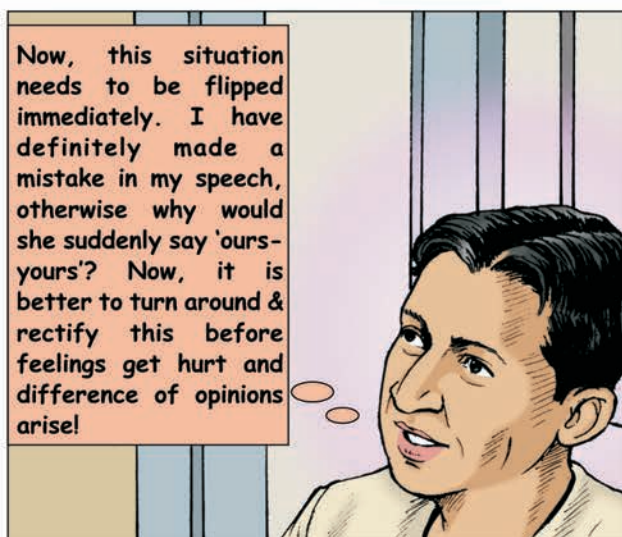
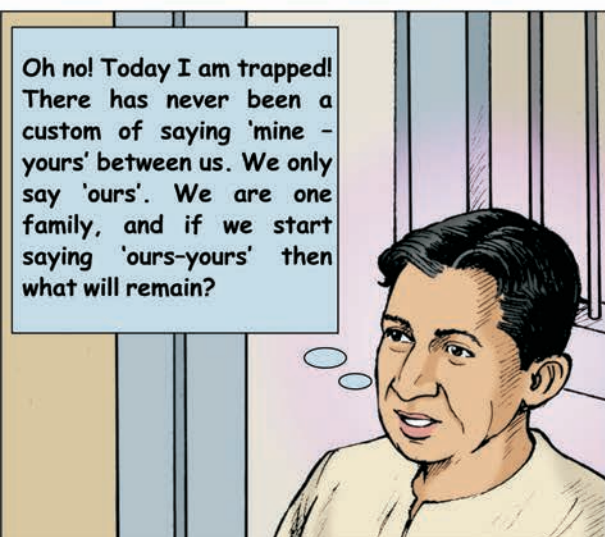
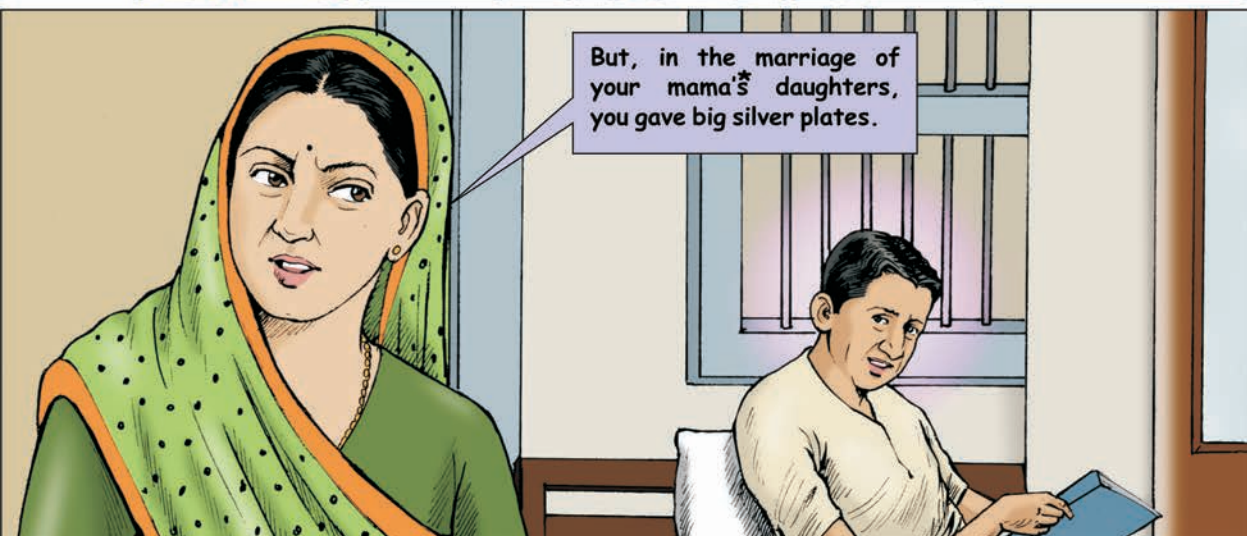
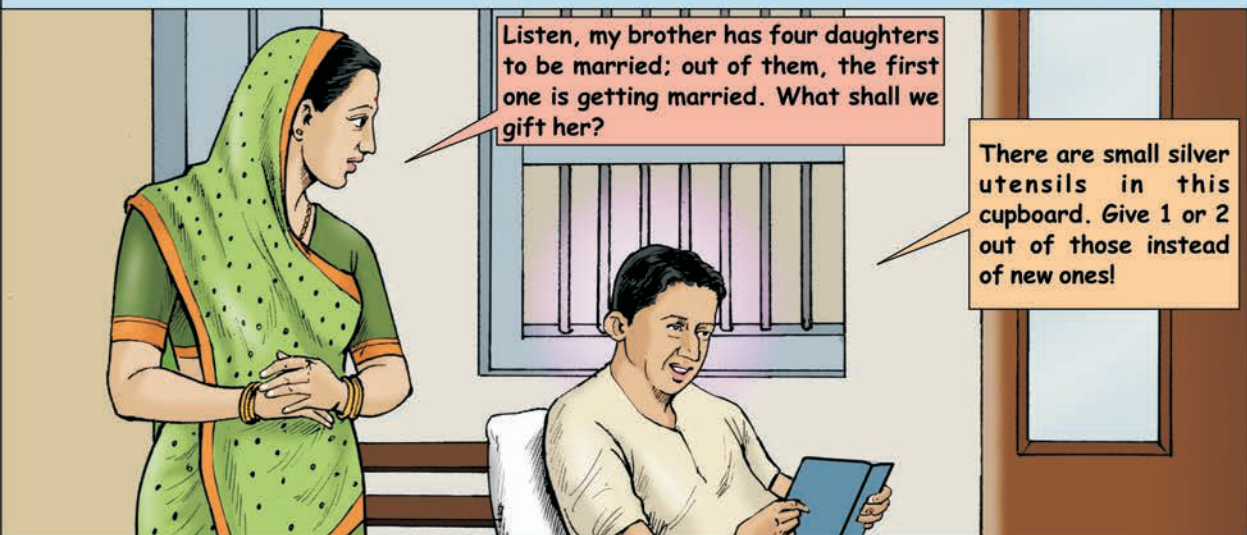
And, today, the person who was enquiring was my well wisher. If I tell him the truth that I have incurred a big loss, then he will get alarmed and become upset. So, I have to tell him that there is no major loss, then he would remain at ease.



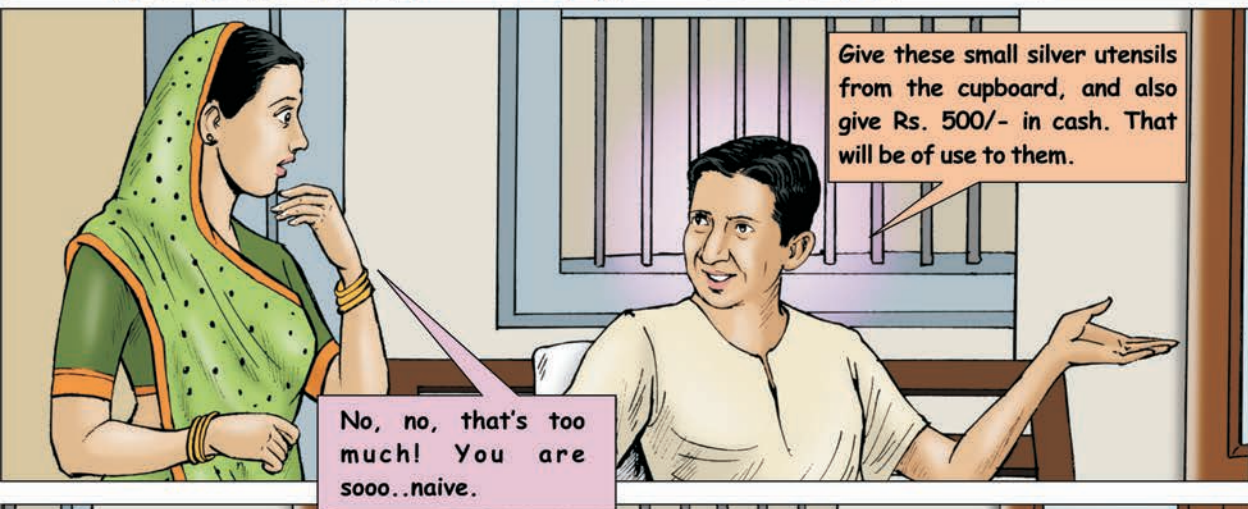
Although you have made a loss, you talk in such a manner that the other person remains at peace.

Yes, nobody should ever feel hurt because of me, but should always get peace and happiness; this is the principle of my life.

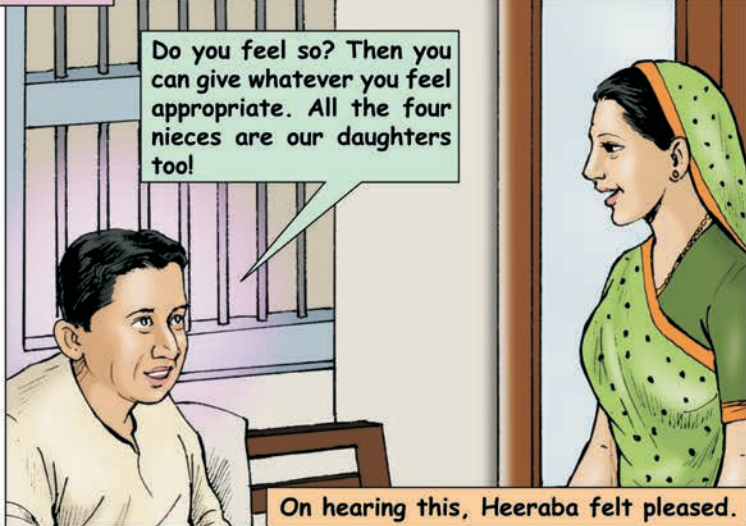
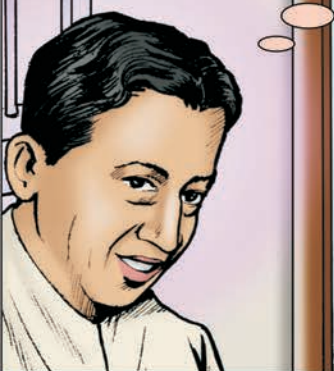
In the initial years after marriage, once, Ambalalbai got trapped into a disagreement with Heeraba.



All these thoughts raced through Ambalalbai's mind in only a fraction of second. He immediately became alert and altered the whole perception!



Phew! Now I have won! If difference of viewpoint remained, then it would have created discord in her mind. Now that I have sealed it, I am spared!



In case of any difference of opinion, Ambalalbai always used to introspect where he had gone wrong and he would immediately correct it. He was extremely careful not to allow any circumstances to result in a clash. After this incident, he never let any differences to arise in his married life.

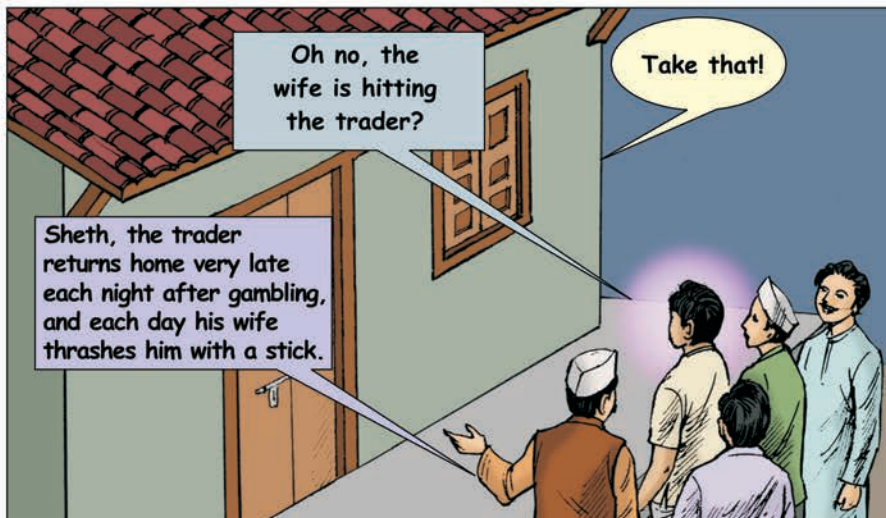
In the year 1939-40, Ambalalbai obtained the contract of bridge construction in Halol. A trader lived in that village. All day he would do business, and in the evening he would gamble, squander his money and return home very late at night. When he reached home, his wife would thrash him with a stick!

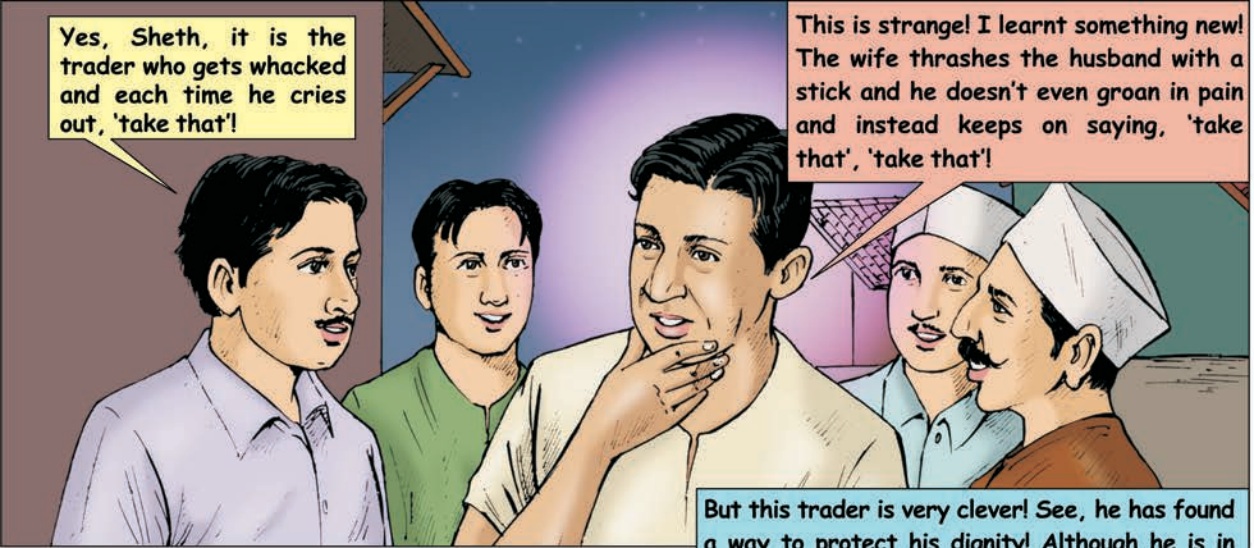


One day, the villagers came to call Ambalalbai.



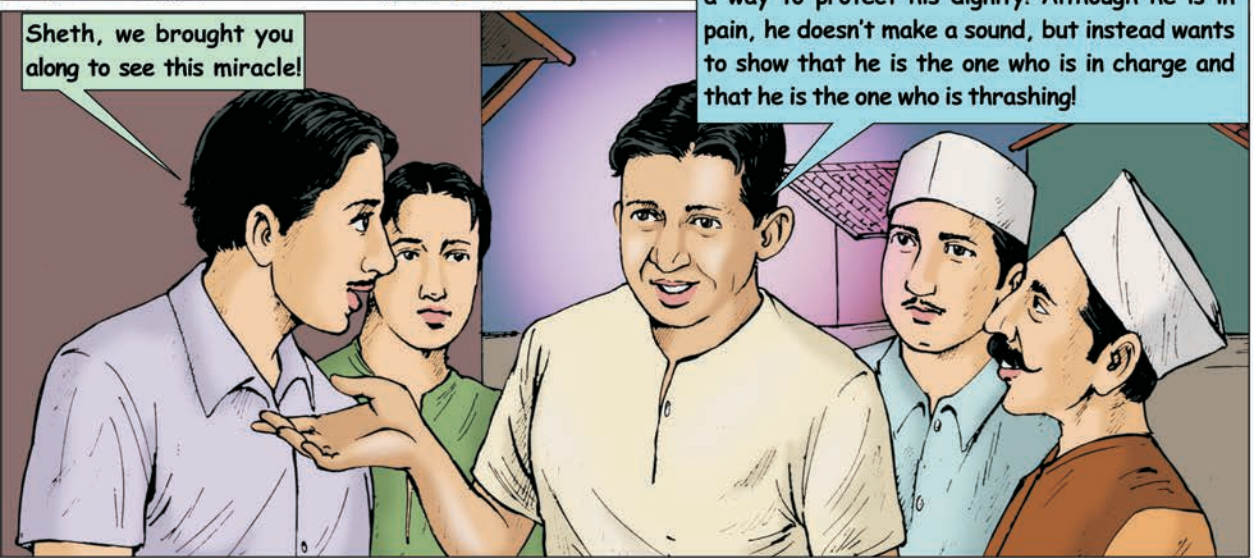
All the people led Ambalalbai to the residence of that trader. The door of his house was latched from inside. Cries of somebody being thrashed by a stick could be heard from outside. Along with that, the words, 'take that', 'take that', could be heard in the voice of the trader. The villagers, explained in detail to Ambalalbai...






Yes, Sheth, it is the trader who gets whacked and each time he cries out, 'take that'!

This is strange! I learnt something new! The wife thrashes the husband with a stick and he doesn't even groan in pain and instead keeps on saying, 'take that', 'take that'!



Sheth, we brought you along to see this miracle!

But this trader is very clever! See, he has found a way to protect his dignity! Although he is in pain, he doesn't make a sound, but instead wants to show that he is the one who is in charge and that he is the one who is thrashing!



Every household has differences between husband & wife!

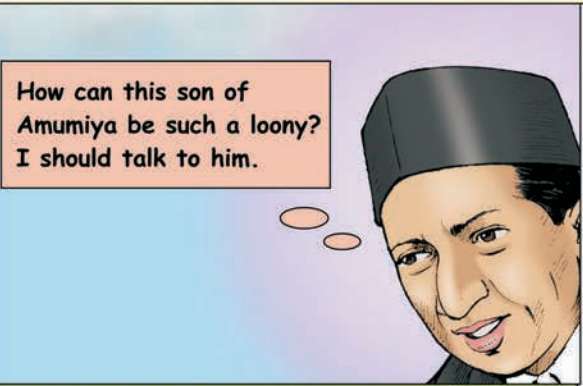
Yes, but we don't have to protect our dignity, its already there!

This world is so bizarre! Every time we see its new facet! This world is without any substance!

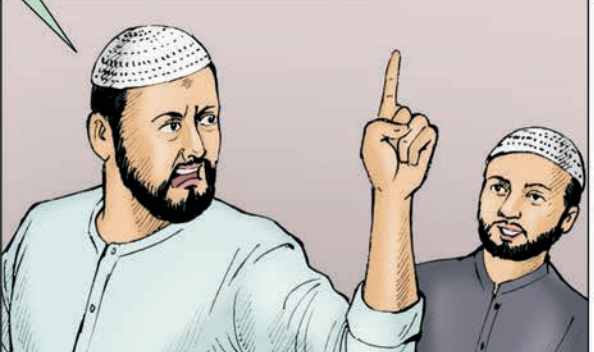
Ambalalbhai had an ongoing contract work at Borsad. Amumiya was a good natured postman. He used to address Ambalalbhai as 'sheth', but his son, Kamumiya was far reached. He was actually from Borsad, but he had connections in the entire district of Kheda. He had influenced the government, the collectors etc and as a result he administered his power over the entire city of Borsad as he pleased. He had become like a king! He was so fickle minded that he did not even hesitate to beat up people in a crowded place! People actually addressed him as completely shameless or they called him 'tiger'!



Once, Kamumiya punched an activist from Bhadran in the middle of the road. Ambalalbhai did not find his reckless behaviour appropriate.



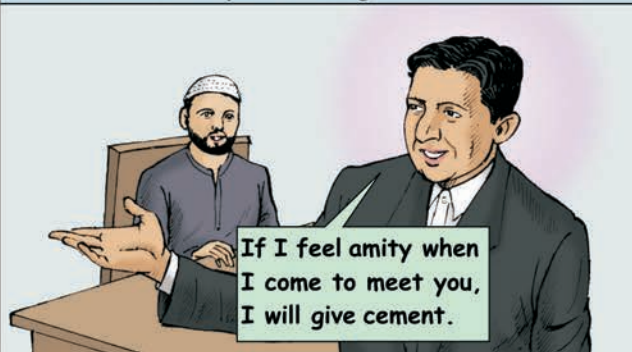
In response, Kamumiya shamelessly sent a threatening message.
I know that your carts of cement bags go to Bhadran. I will rip off the rooftops and take the cement bags if you refuse to give them to me.



When he sent a message to him for a meeting, Kamumiya demanded cement bags for him.



Kamumiya was infamously known for not listening to anyone, throughout the district. Although Ambalalbhai boldly refused initially that the cement bags should not be given to any Kamumiya, he later changed his attitude and sent a polite message....

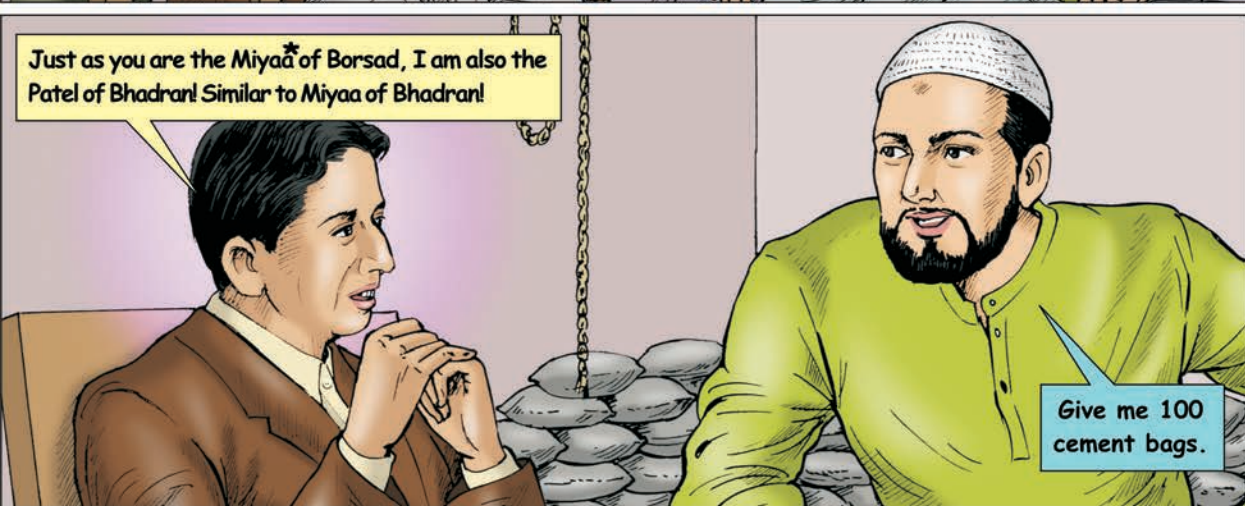


Ambalalbhai arrived at Kamumiya's place. At the mere sight of him, Kamumiya started becoming humble. Ambalalbhai's prowess started affecting Kamumiya.



First let's have tea, and then we will talk.

You will have to give cement.



Just as you are the Miyaa* of Borsad, I am also the Patel of Bhadran! Similar to Miyaa of Bhadran!

Give me 100 cement bags.



You want these bags, don't you? First tell me, whether you're going to return them to me or not?

Of course, swear upon Allah!

Then, take them.

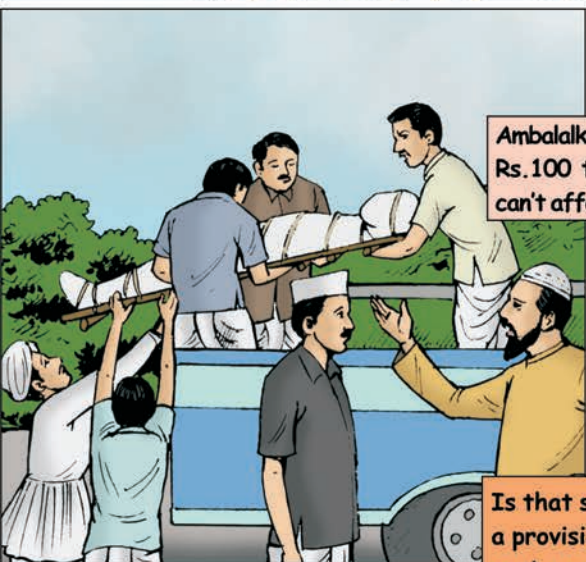
Ambalalbhai contemplated that there was no point in confronting such an oppressive person! If he had refused, then Kamumiya might misbehave and do crazy thing like breaking rooftops which might disgrace him. That is why, by engaging him in a conversation, Ambalalbhai got it clarified from the horse's mouth that those bags were not for free; but were to be paid for or returned!

*miyaa-Muslim gentleman

During that period, there were reports of firing in Ladakh. Out of those dead, there were two youths from Gujarat. Both of them were about 25 years of age. One of them was Bhadran's Ratilal Bhailalbai's son and the other one was the son of a herdsman from Dharmaj. Their dead bodies were brought to Vadodara from Ladakh.

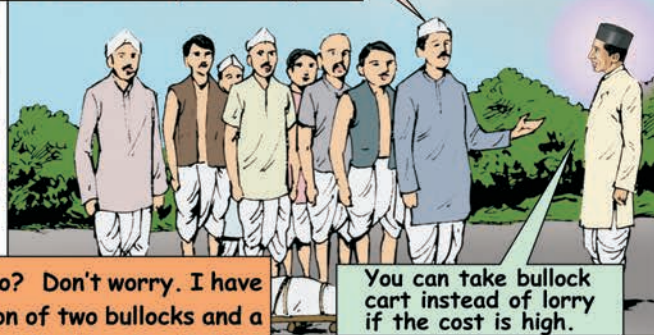


Residents of Bhadran looked for means to take the dead body to their village. They booked a lorry for 100 rupees to take body to Bhadran. It was Kamumiya who provided the lorry.



Even those from Dharmaj were trying to arrange for means to take the body. They were perplexed because, they were not in a position to afford a lorry for Rs.100.

Ambalalkaka, this Kamumiya is asking for Rs.100 to take one dead body, and they can't afford it. Is there any other way out?



Is that so? Don't worry. I have a provision of two bullocks and a cart as I'm in construction business. They are strong like elephants. Let Kamumiya say 'no'. You come and take my cart.

You can take bullock cart instead of lorry if the cost is high.

But, Kamumiya won't allow us to take a cart. And, if anyone lends a cart, he retaliates and even beats him! So, out of fear, no one is lending his cart.

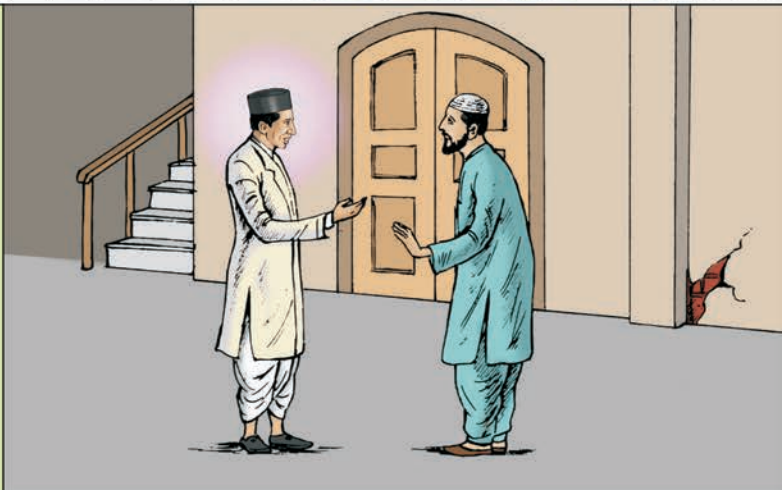


In those days, Ambalalbai had immense courage and also a very boastful ego! That's why he dared to speak like this. Moreover, Ambalalbai himself took over the responsibility of delivering the youth's body to Dharmaj. He got his cart ready. And, laid down the body of the boy and covered it with grass to keep it from being noticed.

But Kamumiya obviously found out about this. No other cart owner had the guts to offer their carts - so how could he spare Ambalabhai, who had dared to take the dead body like this in a cart? He immediately filed a case against Ambalabhai. He charged him on several pretexts and falsely accused 'this contractor' of instigating people of Bhadran, stealing government cement and many such allegations.



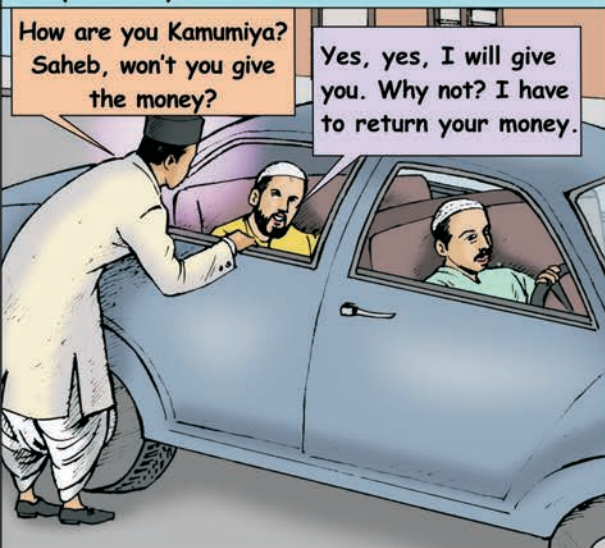
Ambalabhai neither got back the cement bags nor did he receive any payment for that amount of Rs.225/- for 100 bags. Once Kamumiya had gone to Vadodara. There Ambalabhai reminded him that he had not received the payment for the cement bags. To this Kamumiya curtly replied, 'Will send it to you', but he still did not send the money for a long time.



Once again, Ambalabhai stopped Kamumiya as he passed by in a car in Vadodara.

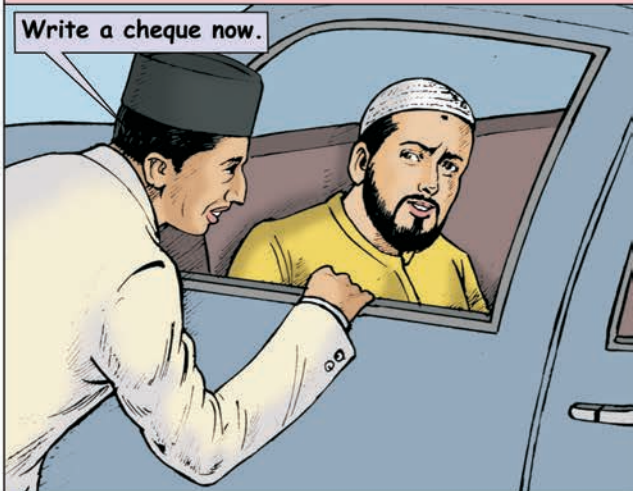
How are you Kamumiya?
Saheb, won't you give the money?

Yes, yes, I will give you. Why not? I have to return your money.



Kamumiya stopped the car as he said this.

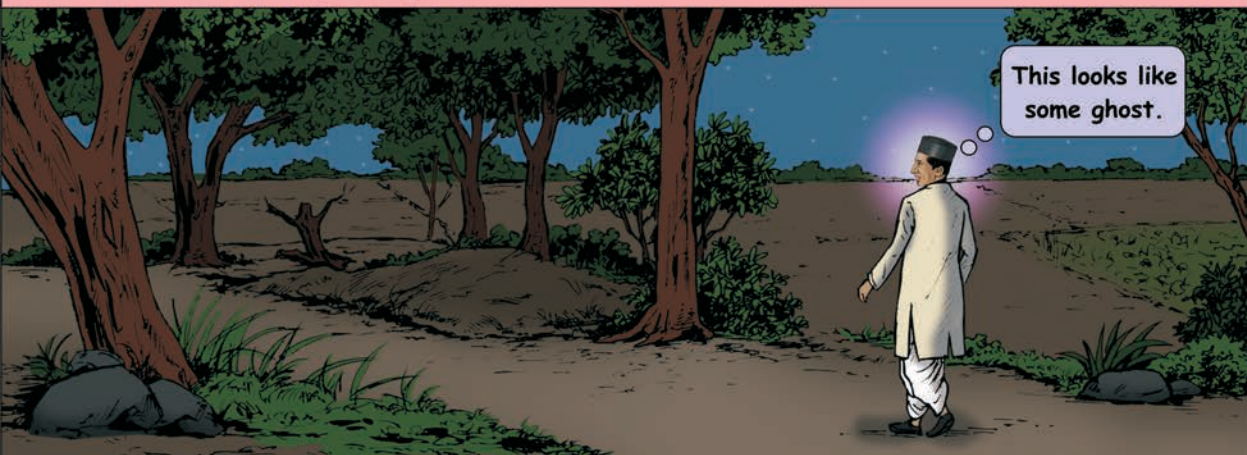
Write a cheque now.



Kamumiya signed a cheque of Rs.300/- then and there. He repaid Rs.300 instead of Rs.225 !

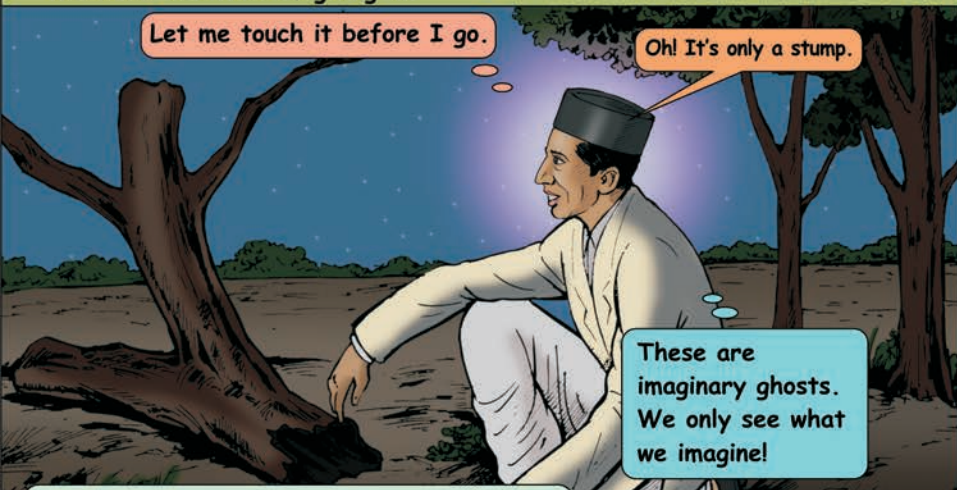
So deep was the impact of Ambalabhai's stature that, in his presence nobody could remain obstinate or cunning!

Once, construction of a small canal was going on near Palej-Bareja. One night, while he was returning, Ambalalbai saw something moving.



This looks like some ghost.

Ambalalbai by nature, had inherent qualities of a 'Kshatriya' and wasn't afraid of anyone. He did not have the habit of giving in.



Let me touch it before I go.

Oh! It's only a stump.

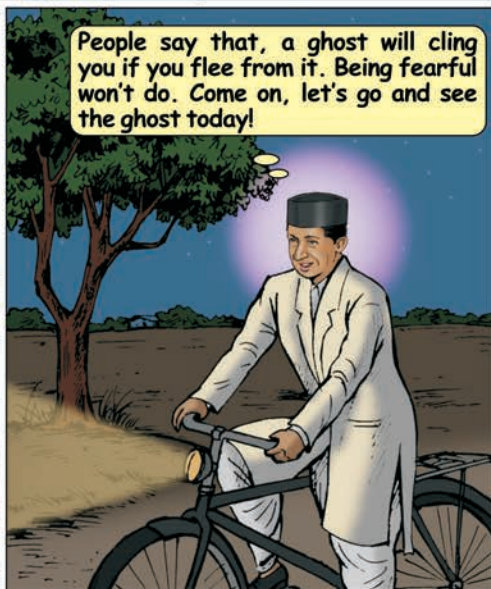
These are imaginary ghosts. We only see what we imagine!

In 1932, a bridge had been constructed on Vishwamitri river at Jarod. At that time, Ambalalbai had rented a house on the site. One dark night, while returning on his bicycle at half past eleven, Ambalalbai noticed huge bursts of flames that kept on appearing and disappearing beneath the 'Mahuda' tree.

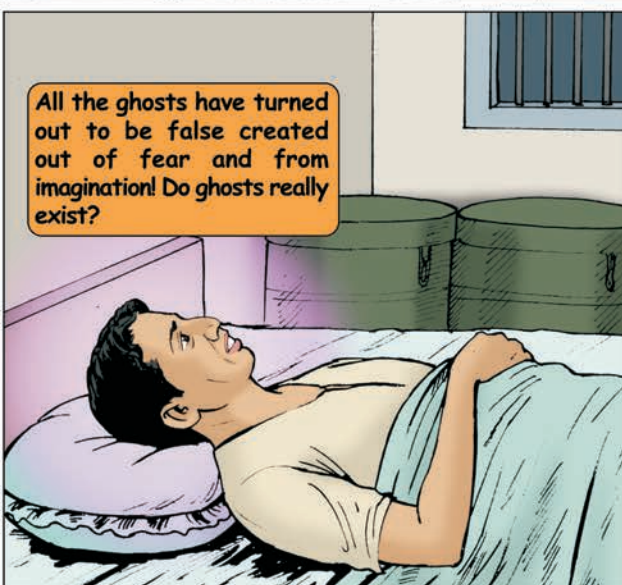
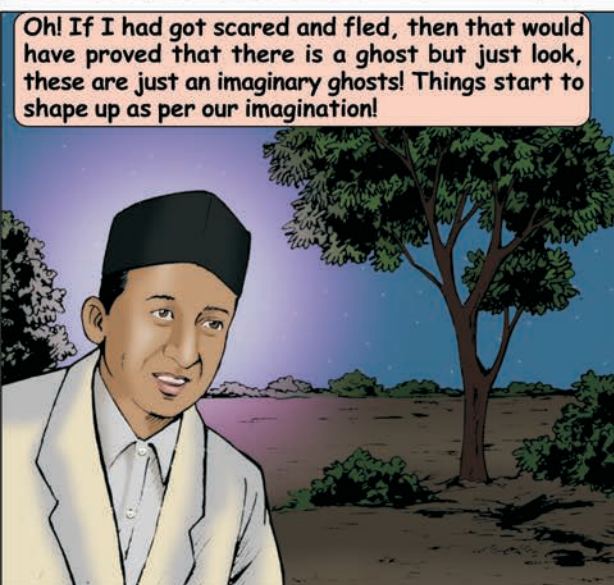
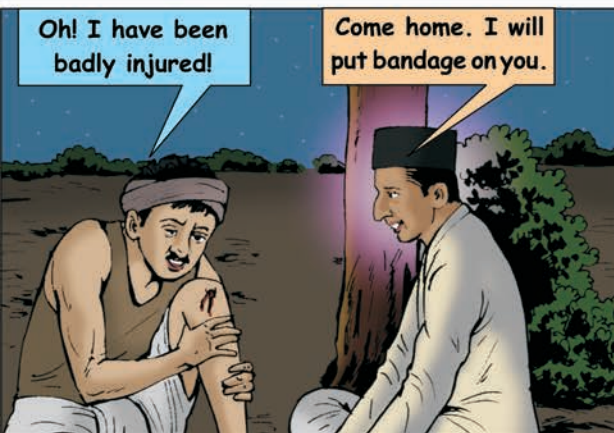
People say that ghosts live in the 'Mahuda' tree. Seems like its that. Look at all the bursts of flames.



People say that, a ghost will cling you if you flee from it. Being fearful won't do. Come on, let's go and see the ghost today!



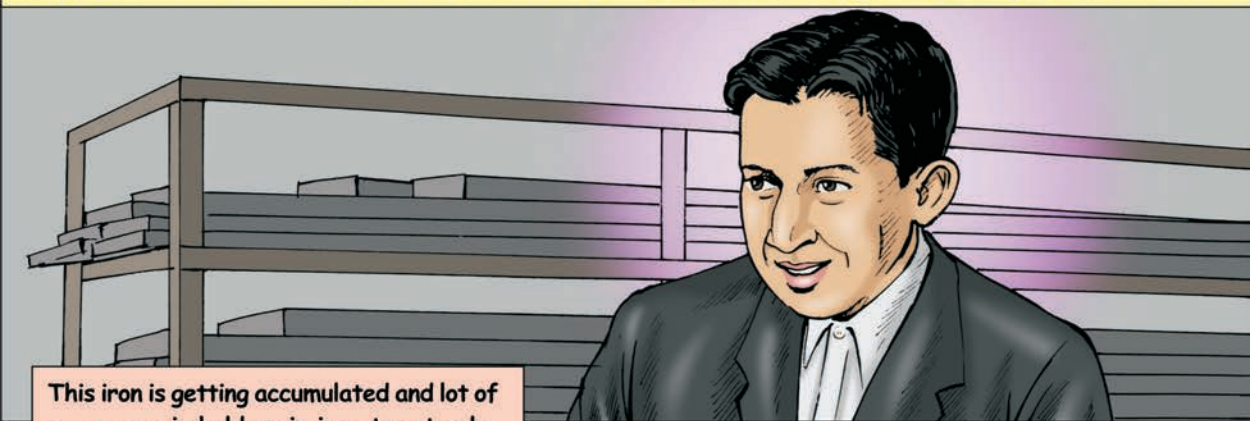
Right from the beginning, Ambalalbai never had the habit of fleeing, instead he would always confront! He increased the speed of his bicycle and threw himself directly on the ghost!



In 1942, Ambalalbai founded a 'Bitco Engineering Company' in Vadodara. Business of manufacturing agricultural tools was started. Arrangements for a workshop, iron smith etc. were made. They use to get 100 weights of iron from the government at the rate of Rs.11/- . His partners use to order iron pipes for business, which they use to get at a concession rate of 1.5 aana^{*} per foot from the government.



They use to get a regular quota of iron from the government. Very soon, lot of iron accumulated for the company. However, it wasn't possible to manufacture the agricultural tools at the same pace and sell them.



This iron is getting accumulated and lot of our money is held up in investment only. What can be done to recover the money?



The pipes which the government gives us at 1.5 aana, I have started selling it for Rs. 1/-

Ambalalbai was very pure at heart. He did not have any intentions of theft or black marketing, but situations arose which misled the intellect.

Saheb, you have so much stock. What is wrong in giving it to us?

I can't do such black marketing.

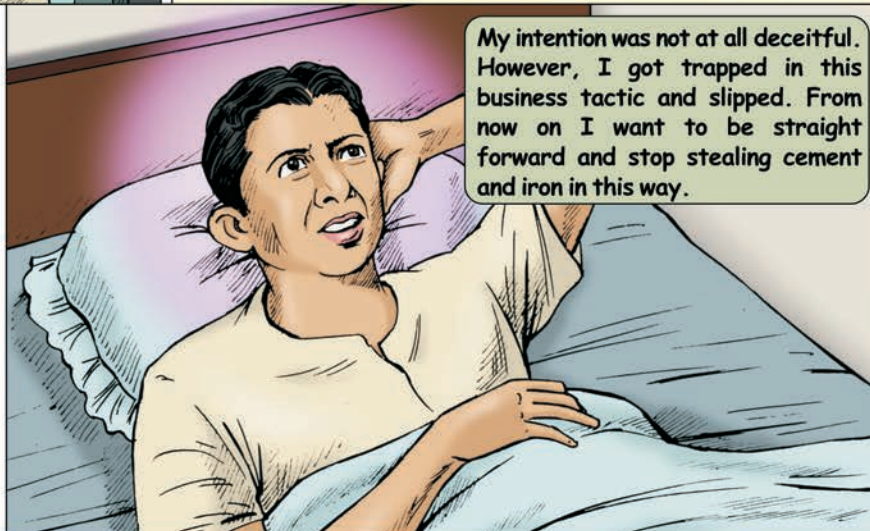
Atleast do something for my bread and butter.

On hearing his pleading, Ambalalbai was misled. At that time, the selling price of iron prevalent in the market was Rs. 32. With the intention of helping the broker, he sold it off to him at the rate of Rs. 25. Then, just see the fun! That broker proved to be so profane that he made money by selling all the iron in the market at the rate of Rs. 35!



When Ambalalbai came to know about this, he realized his mistake and felt bad. Instead of doing benifit for the people, he took pity on the broker and helped him. But, he robbed the people and turned out to be a double thief.

When a son of cultured parents steals, then how painful it is? Can his parents sleep at night? Similarly, Ambalalbai also lost his sleep over collecting wealth like this. Thus, simple and pure hearted Ambalalbai felt deeply pain stricken and sorry for slipping off like this in business. It pinched his heart deeply.



My intention was not at all deceitful. However, I got trapped in this business tactic and slipped. From now on I want to be straight forward and stop stealing cement and iron in this way.

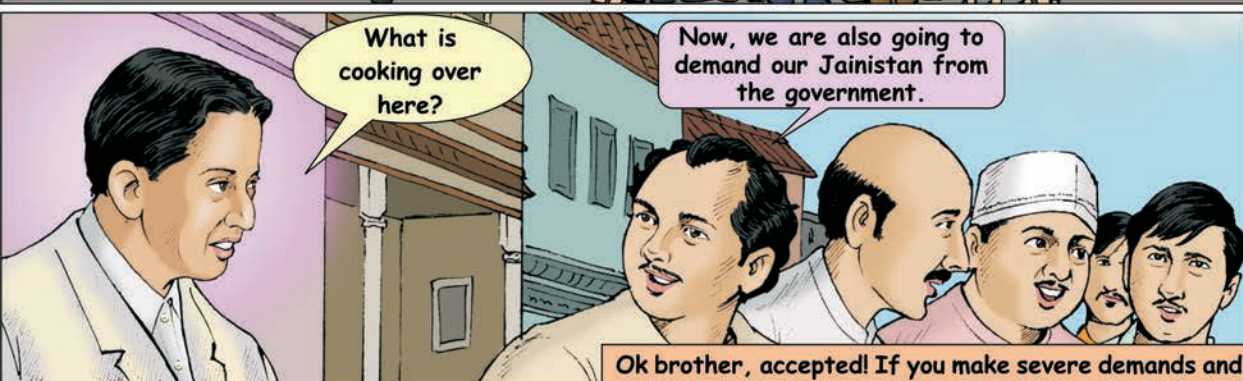
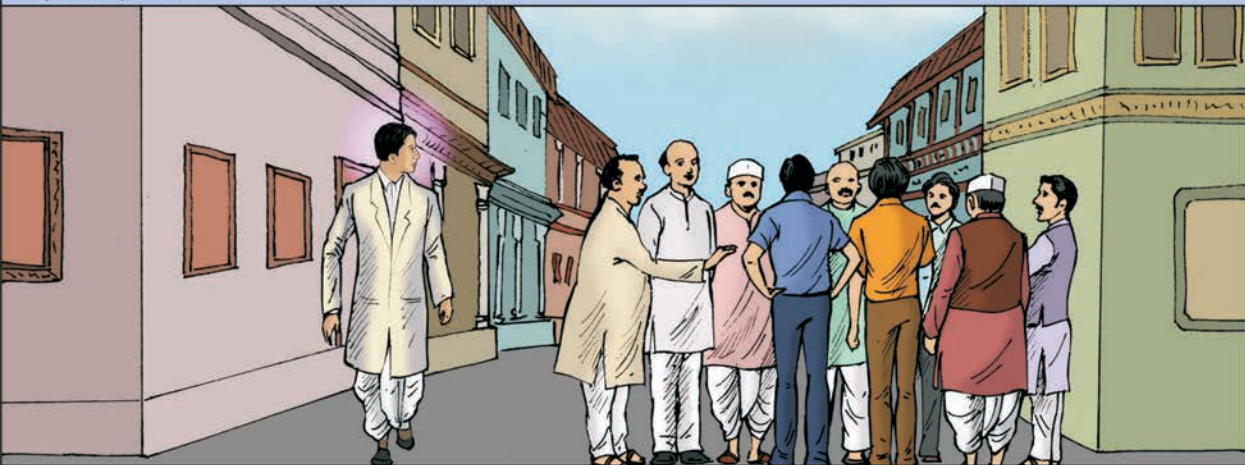
With a lot of repentance, Ambalalbai resolved to do business dealings with 100 percent purity.

Ambalalbai led a simple life even though his earnings from business were good. But, Kantibhai bought a second hand car for showing off.



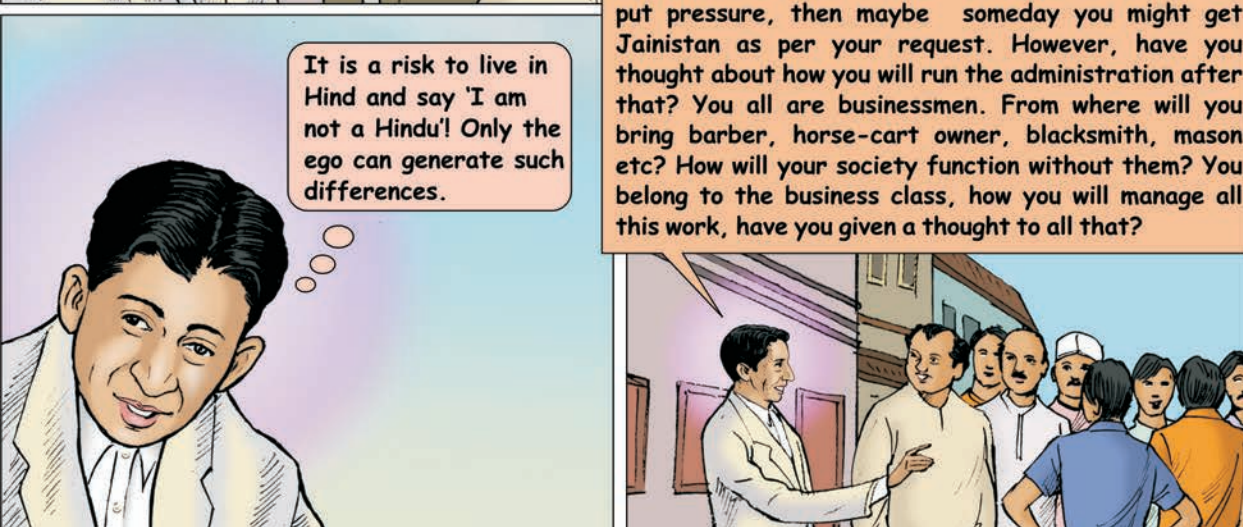
Ambalalbai used to say that the heart becomes hard when working with machinery and it remains tender if you work with living beings.

Once, a few Jain people were engrossed in an intense discussion at 'Mama ni Pol'. Ambalalbai happened to pass by and heard the word 'Jainistan'.



What is cooking over here?

Now, we are also going to demand our Jainistan from the government.



It is a risk to live in Hind and say 'I am not a Hindu!' Only the ego can generate such differences.

Ok brother, accepted! If you make severe demands and put pressure, then maybe someday you might get Jainistan as per your request. However, have you thought about how you will run the administration after that? You all are businessmen. From where will you bring barber, horse-cart owner, blacksmith, mason etc? How will your society function without them? You belong to the business class, how you will manage all this work, have you given a thought to all that?

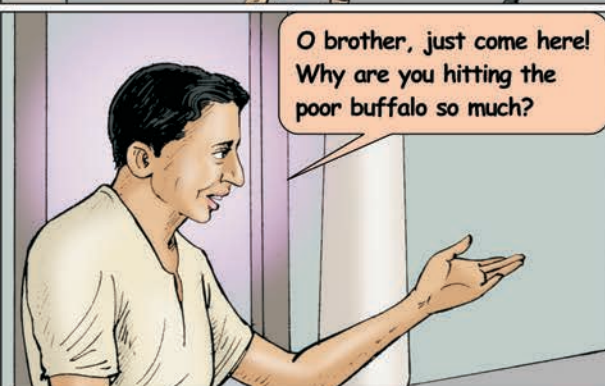
In fact, all of them are considered wise and knowledgeable people of the society. However, when he heard these thoughts of disparity, he couldn't resist from giving them the right understanding.

Ambalalbai shared his understanding with them for almost half an hour, and hence, they all cooled down. Due to the wrong understanding, they became inclined to separate themselves from Hindustan, but, thanks to Ambalalbai's reasoning, they all calmed down. They all felt grateful to Ambalalbai and admitted that they would have made a serious mistake.

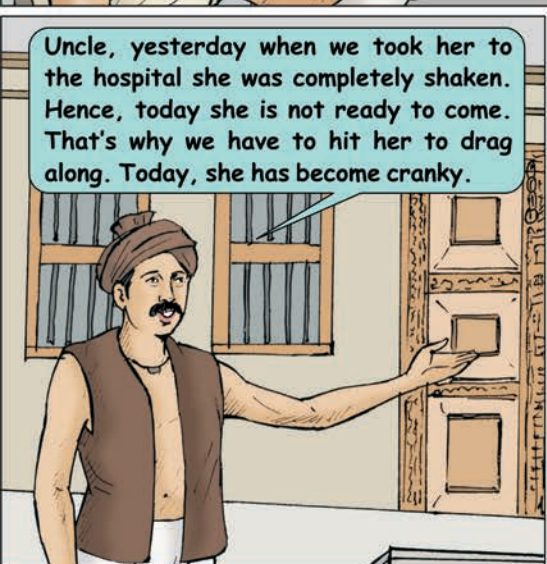
Once, Ambalalbhai was sitting outside his home in the 'Pol', when he saw two men passing by with a buffalo. One man was pulling the buffalo with a rope. The other man was hitting on its legs with a stick from behind. The pull of the rope was painful, so the buffalo was being stubborn and refused to move. And both the men had to pull her forcibly.



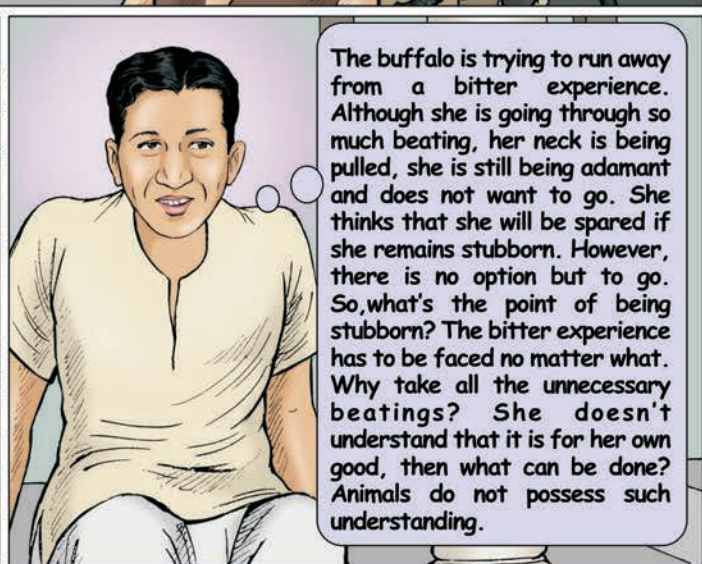
Oh! This is strange! How come these people are pulling the buffalo like this? Although the buffalo's neck is being pulled so hard and she is also being flogged, why is she still being so obstinate?



O brother, just come here! Why are you hitting the poor buffalo so much?



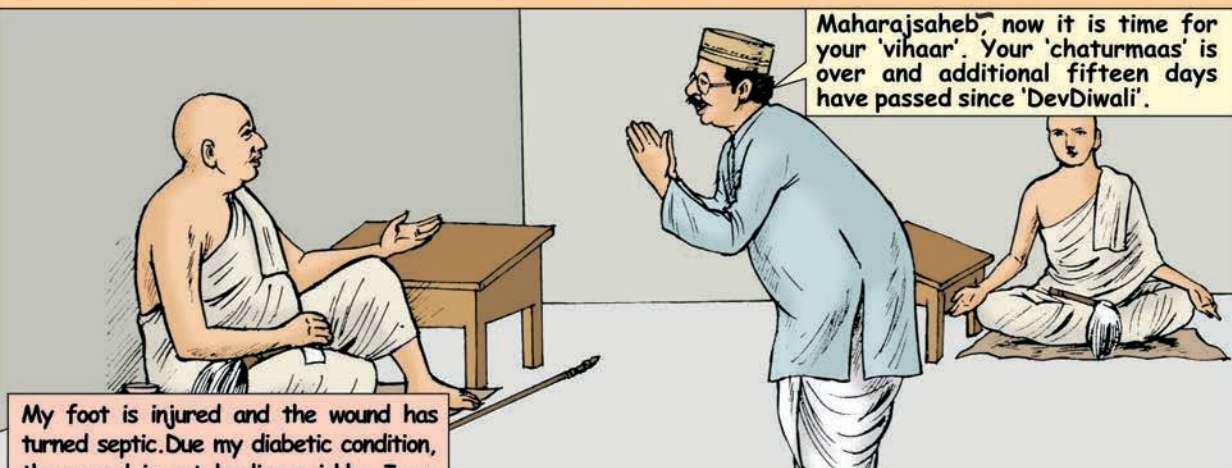
Uncle, yesterday when we took her to the hospital she was completely shaken. Hence, today she is not ready to come. That's why we have to hit her to drag along. Today, she has become cranky.



The buffalo is trying to run away from a bitter experience. Although she is going through so much beating, her neck is being pulled, she is still being adamant and does not want to go. She thinks that she will be spared if she remains stubborn. However, there is no option but to go. So, what's the point of being stubborn? The bitter experience has to be faced no matter what. Why take all the unnecessary beatings? She doesn't understand that it is for her own good, then what can be done? Animals do not possess such understanding.

He drew a beautiful conclusion from this incident that people would not have to take all the beatings if they became straightforward.

There were two Jain temples in 'Mama ni pol', where Ambalalbhai use to stay. In one of those, once a Jain monk had come to do 'chaturmaas', It was a general trend that after the completion of four months of monsoon, post 'DevDiwali', monk has to do 'vihaar' (travel).

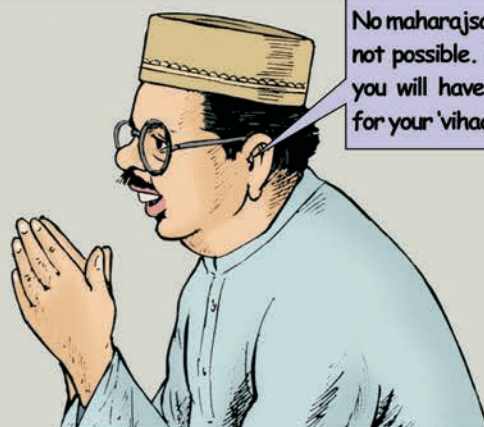


Maharajsaheb, now it is time for your 'vihaar'. Your 'chaturmaas' is over and additional fifteen days have passed since 'DevDiwali'.

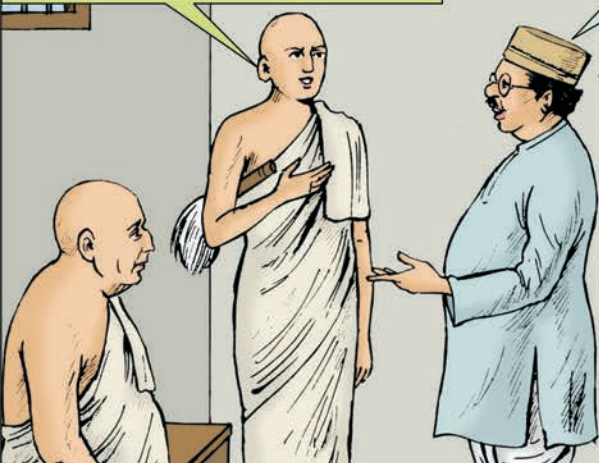
My foot is injured and the wound has turned septic. Due my diabetic condition, the wound is not healing quickly. I am finding it very difficult to walk. Please let us stay here for a few more days.



No maharajsaheb, that is not possible. I am afraid you will have to arrange for your 'vihaar' and go.



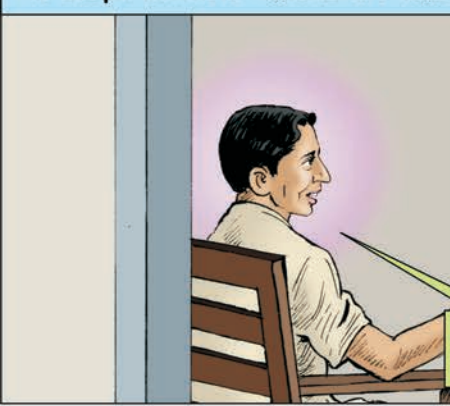
Saheb, we will do 'vihaar'. But, it will be good if you can arrange for a 'jholi' for maharajsaheb.



Forgive me, but there have never been such instances in the past where we had to arrange for a 'jholi'. Therefore, it will not be possible for us to arrange that for you.

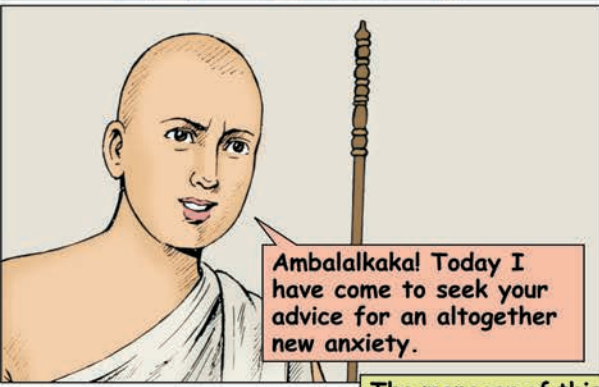


Maharajsaheb and his disciple became anxious.

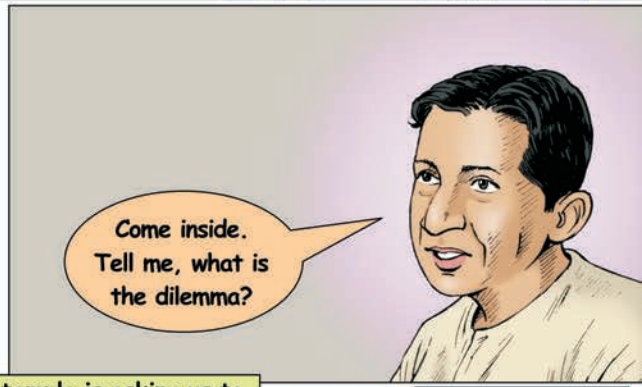


Welcome! How come you are early today? Have you come for some tea?

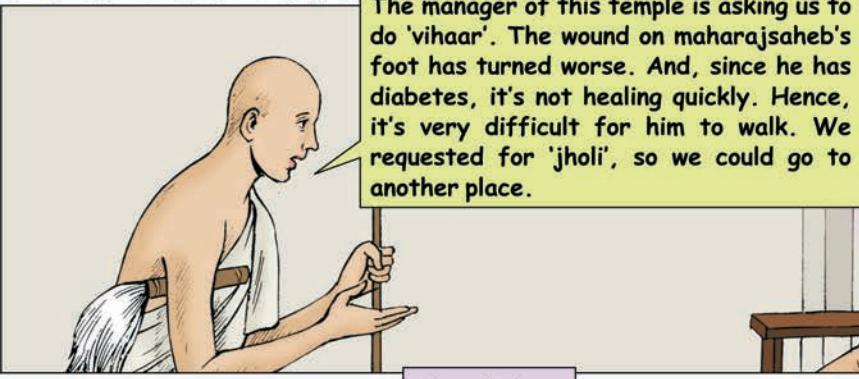
Dharmalaabh!



Ambalalkaka! Today I have come to seek your advice for an altogether new anxiety.



Come inside.
Tell me, what is the dilemma?



The manager of this temple is asking us to do 'vihaar'. The wound on maharajsaheb's foot has turned worse. And, since he has diabetes, it's not healing quickly. Hence, it's very difficult for him to walk. We requested for 'jholi', so we could go to another place.

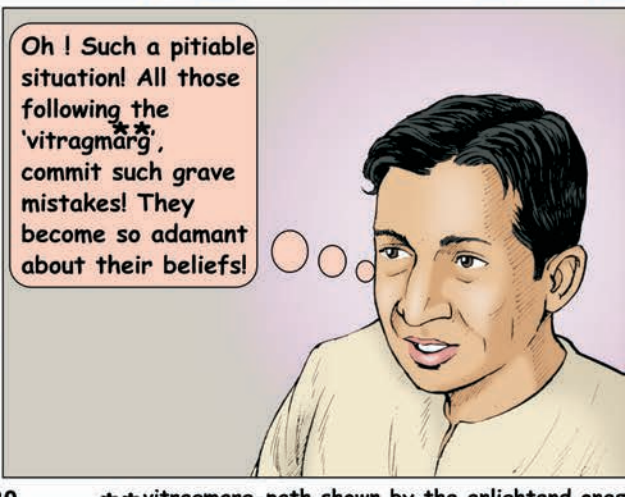


That's right! So, what did the management say?




They have refused to arrange for a 'jholi'.


Oh no! They gave such a reply! Okay, tell me, what is the expense of a 'jholi'?



Oh ! Such a pitiable situation! All those following the 'vitragmārg', commit such grave mistakes! They become so adamant about their beliefs!



They will
charge
fifty rupees.



Then do this, take
this fifty rupees from me
for hiring a 'jholi'. Now,
do not be anxious or worry
about anything.

A 'jholi' was brought under the supervision of Ambalalbai. The management team of the temple called for a music band and did nice arrangement to bid farewell to 'maharajsaheb'. The entire sangh (community) got him seated in a 'jholi' and escorted them up to the village of Chhani with a lot of pomp and show. Even Ambalalbai put on his long coat, and went to see them off!



Ambalalbai experienced dislike and helplessness towards these orthodox customs.

For the first 30 years of his marriage, Ambalalbai himself went to the street corner to buy vegetables.



In those days, 'YuvakSangh' had subscribed to a newspaper; which they all read together sitting at the Pol's corner.



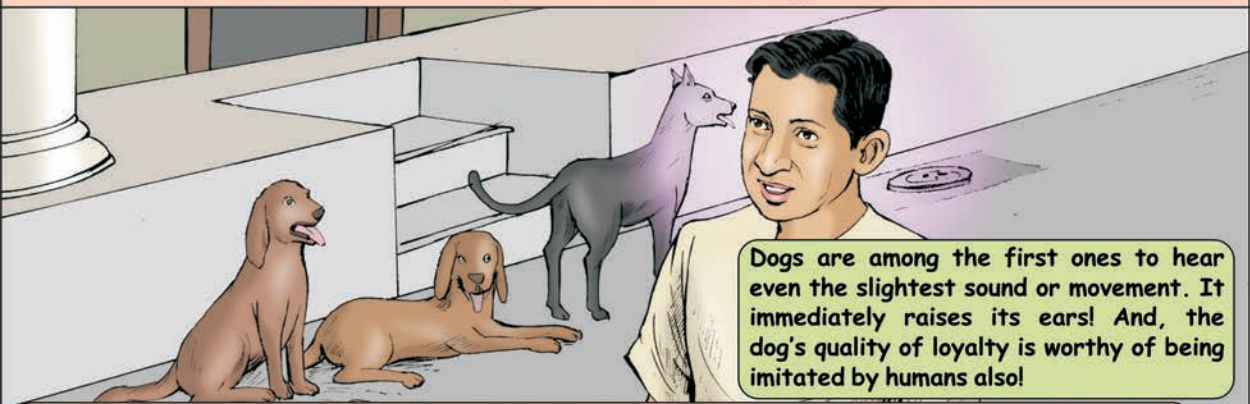
Whenever Ambalalbai wished to read the newspaper, he used to walk up to the place where others sat and would poke his head inside.



Within few moments only, Ambalalbai used to leave from there. His sense of smelling was so strong that he could immediately identify the odour.



Ambalalbhai enjoyed observing different animals closely. He was adept at recognizing their distinctive habits flawlessly and could also beautifully relate it to human beings.



Why do you keep such a strict vigilance without any purpose? You neither have a land nor a house! You are not even enrolled in the development department! You do not have a shop, a house, neither have any relation of borrowing or lending, still why do you keep howling whole night? What do they think of themselves! Do they think that all this is mine and it's my duty to look after it? Is that why they bark all night long? Oh dear, you don't eat a wholesome meal, but just a morsel of food, but still on hearing your bark, your master complains, 'You do not let me sleep' and comes to hit you. Then why are you loyal to such a master? Don't we say 'barks like a dog' when someone engages in futile talk at places where there is no need to speak. Similarly, human beings often 'bark like a dog' also.



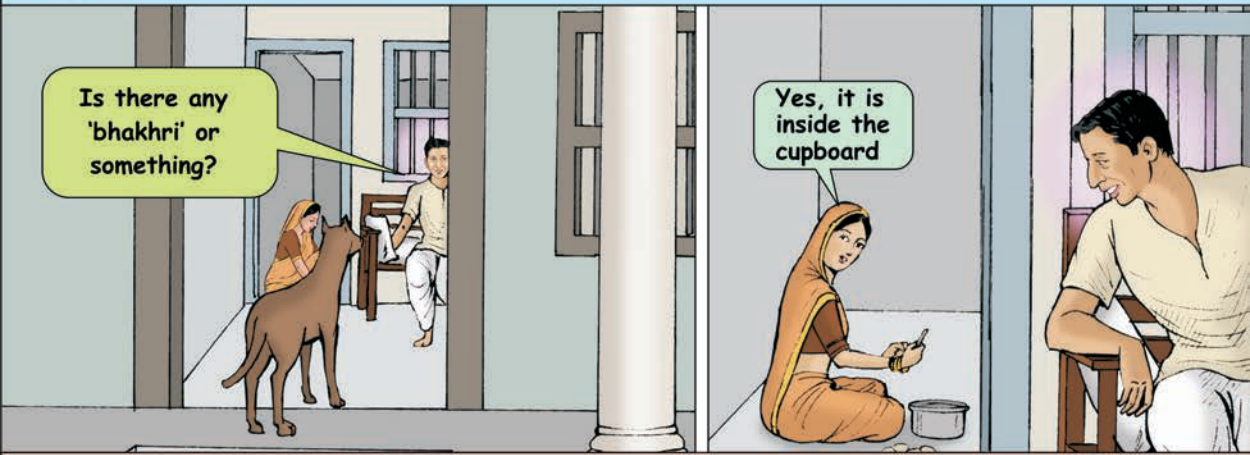
Once, Ambalal bhai saw a dog walking beneath a cart. It kept looking at the two bullocks walking ahead, then looked around sideways and continued walking under the cart.



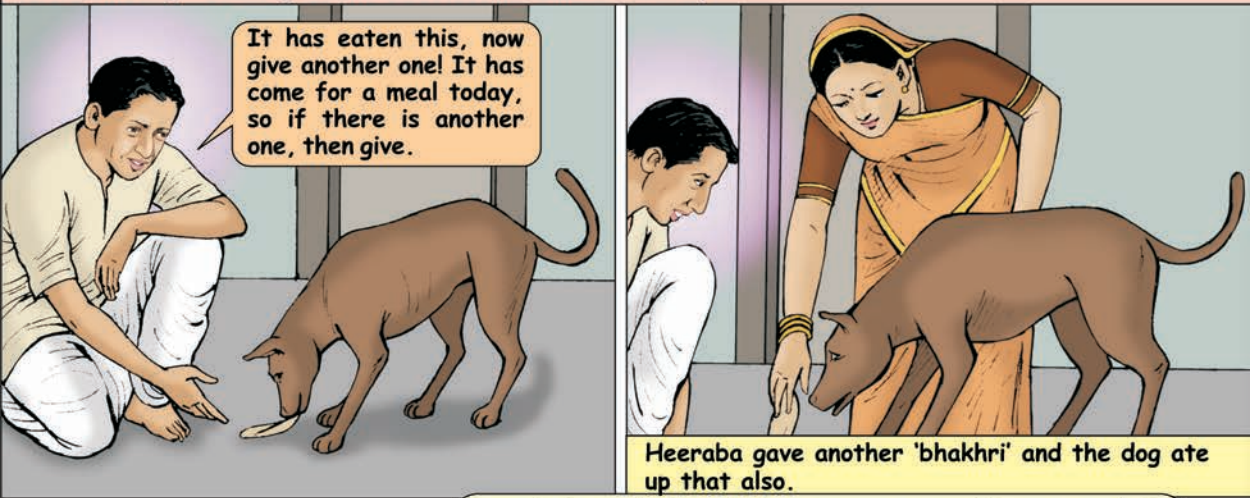
Famous Gujarati poet Narsinh Mehta has very aptly said, "the dog feels that 'I'm carrying the load of the cart'". His style of walking makes it evident that this entire cart is moving because of him! Human beings also live under the false impression that all this has happened because of me only. As a matter of fact, so many evidences work collectively to get a single work done! There is absolutely no doer ship in that. This simlie is so appropriate to understand this wrong belief of ego!



Once a dog came and stood outside Ambalalbhai's house. It was standing outside the main door with its head sneaked inside. Ambalalbhai felt lot of pity towards it and immediately thought; it must be hungry and has come for food.



Ambalalbhai removed the 'bhakhri' from the cupboard and placed it outside the door where the dog was standing. The dog finished it off there and then only.



Next day, as the morning dawned, the same dog came again and stood there.

Heeraba, today also it has come to do 'BhikshamDehi'. Give it something.

There is no problem in giving, but then it will get accustomed to it and someday it will create problems for us. There is nothing ready so early in the morning. Can't feed it with rice, can we?

Give something today since it has already come.

Thereafter, Ambalalbai realized his mistake. He had already made a mistake by feeding the dog when it had come at the doorstep for the first time. So, when the dog came again, he himself went to the 'chat' along with the dog and fed it 'bhakhri' there. After doing this for 2-3 times, the dog stopped coming to his house for food.



A dog will come again, only if we pat its back, won't he? One who wants to go to 'moksh'(attain salvation), shouldn't get involved with any living beings. Be it a dog, a cat or even a human, still he shouldn't come close. A strong attachment is created only if we increase our acquaintance with it.

Ambalalbhai remembered that he was a mischievous child, who loved to play pranks.

His father had once sent him to a 'sheth' with a letter for some work.

Oh no! I wanted to go to play!
It'll be good if this sheth
finishes the work early, else
I will miss playing!

That sheth was playing with his pet dog by stroking the
dog's face and forehead. Ambalalbhai handed over the
letter to him, however, he still did not move from there.

Oh, here I am in a
hurry and he remains
completely unperturbed.

Slowly, Ambalalbhai took hold of the dog's tail and pressed it hard. The dog shrieked in pain. It became startled and bit the sheth's hand with which he was still patting his mouth. The sheth got enraged and began hitting the dog.

Oh! Why are you
beating the
poor dog?

My dog never bites
me! And just now he
has nipped me.

Oh! Come, now
I will write a reply
to your
father's letter.

Sheth, it is not his
mistake. His tail got
pressed under my hand.

identify the real cause for the
pain and simply bites the other
apparent doer! It doesn't know who
had actually done that.

Similarly, the human beings also bite
the evidentiary instruments only by
considering them guilty or at fault.

It
is so
strange! I
pressed the tail,
still, the dog bit
his own master!
It isn't able to

So friends, we will meet again in part 5 to learn more from the crux of his experiences in the later years passing through different situations and his extra ordinary conclusions.

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Events that happen in 'gnani's' life are no different than ours, however, there is a big difference in the way in which we deal with certain situations and how the 'gnani' concludes them. From childhood his unfolding art of logical explanation and knowledge, found solutions to any confusions that arose, in a simple way without hurting anyone. We will find many such keys of understanding in this book.



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