

# Akram Youth

May 2016 | English

Dada Bhagwan Parivar

₹ 12



Common  
Sense

Samaran  
Speer



# Editorial

We all believe that we are wise and have plenty of common sense. But, editing this issue has made me realize that common sense is a Contronym (a word with contradictory meaning). Dadashri has given examples and explained common sense in detail. Believe me friends, it is far more different than what we've imagined so far. Let us understand the same from the gyani's perspective, in this issue.

What exactly is common sense? Dadashri has defined it in a number of ways through his real life experiences. It's all the more worthwhile to observe life incidents of Abraham Lincoln and how he applied common sense, so it worked to his advantage. Our own Aptsankul bhaios do possess rich experience that can take us to new heights.

“What is common sense and how exactly can we increase our common sense? In worldly affairs we often hear people lacking in common sense and so they tend to fight with each other in homes, offices, and in relationships. Let us venture out, read some of Dadashri's vani and do some introspection to find the correct answers to these questions.

Editing this issue, has given me a goal to want to increase my common sense. Though it is known as common sense, it is highly uncommon when we search for it. This is an effort to get the inspiration and motivation to improve upon our common sense and become that special uncommon person around.

And lastly, in star wars style... May the Common Sense be with you!

- Dimple Mehta

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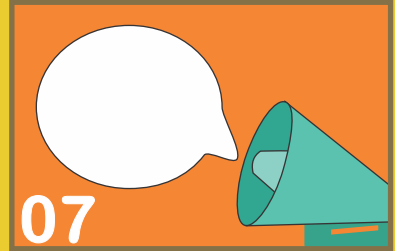
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# Puzzle

Dear Readers,

What is your idea of common sense? We have asked this question to many of our Akram Youth subscribers. Their view points are narrated below. Please give your opinion as to who possesses higher common sense amongst these 5 people.

**1**  
 High General Knowledge  
Name : Kautilya Pandit  
Age : 6 yrs.  
Class : III  
IQ : 130+



At such a small age his IQ is very high. Ask him any question, be it on Geography, current affairs, financial policies or the country's GDP, he has all the answers!

**2**  
 High IQ  
Name : Kashmira Vahi  
Age : 11 yrs.  
IQ : 162+



The persons who can be considered the most intelligent on earth are, 1) Einstein or 2) Stephen Hawking. Einstein's IQ was 160. So Kashmira's IQ is just above him. She has won many chess competitions and competitive exams.

**3**  
 Decision Making  
There is this big industrialist. He runs his factory successfully for many years, increasing his profits. But simultaneously, the expenses of the factory also have increased. In order to curtail the expenses, it is necessary to make major changes at the operational level. Before taking any decision, he reviews the details of everything, thinks of all the options, takes his employees' opinions, creates a new co-operative atmosphere, and after giving thought to all aspects, he chooses one option. Can this be termed as common sense?



#### 4 Effective Daily Routine



Here, we talk about former prime minister of U.K., Mr. W. Churchill. We are all aware of how busy the schedule is for a P.M. In spite of this busy schedule, he followed his daily routine; to get up in the morning at the same time & finish his daily routine, to attend to calls and his mail, and to answer them accordingly, then, go to the office, and attend to all necessary work and activities of all the ministries concerned, then at last, to set up an agenda for the next day. He read the newspaper, and amidst all this busyness, found the time to have lunch with the family. He always finished all his work before it was due. A P.M. is never forced to maintain his schedule. But in spite of this, Mr. W. Churchill was very effective at managing his daily routine. Can this be termed as a good use of common sense?



#### Capacity to understand



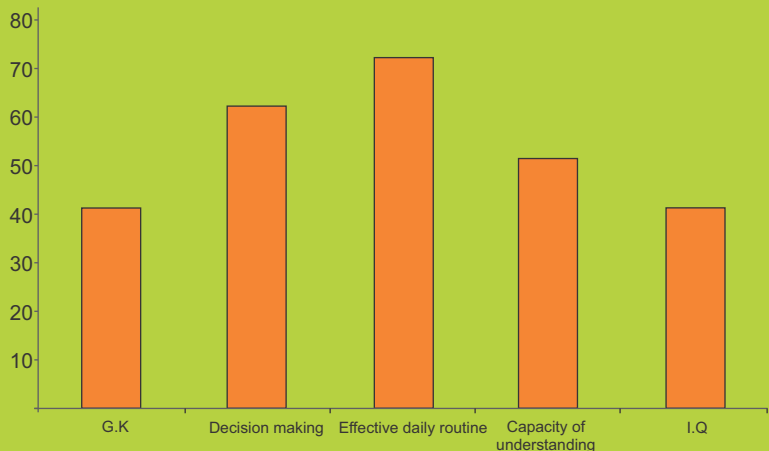
Take the example of any successful journalist. What's his/her work? To collect the information from literature, and incidences that are worthy of reporting, and verify whether they are true or not, do research on it, conduct interviews, and then, present the report. They are not supposed to present the report according to their view point, but present the real story of the incident, and reasons for its occurrence. They can understand the whole incident very minutely, and examine it from all angles and analyze it and then only present it. Can this also not fall within the ambit of "common sense"?



Please tick the answer you think is appropriate above. With the view point of social dealings, what all of you have said is correct. The answers which we've received from all subscribers is displayed graphically below.

As for what according to Dadashri is Common Sense, please turn to the next page...

Let us see Dadashri's view point on common sense.





# Feedback

I was very happy to read Akram youth. We get lots of positivity from this magazine. Many problems of life get solved after reading it, paired with Dada's gnan. At present, I travel back and forth from Nadiad. I give this magazine to my friends to read and they too enjoy it a lot. While reading this magazine, I also felt like writing a small story and I did write one. I thought of sharing it with Akram Youth. Please let me know your view point whether can I share it with your team?  
**from Ruchi Modi, Ahmedabad.**

**Re: from Akram youth Team**

*Thanks for the wonderful feedback. Great to know you want to join our team. Do send us your stories...*



Jsca,

It feels great to share all these experiences and content with Akram Youth, as I never had a chance to share with anyone before.

Thanks to Akram youth for giving me this opportunity.



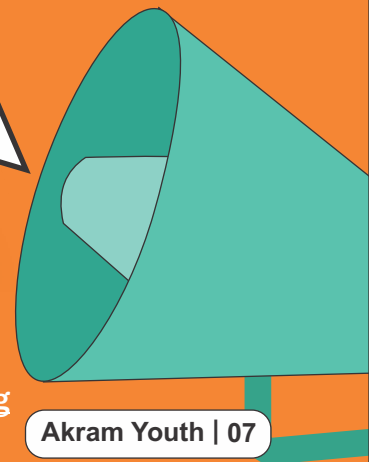
**from Heenaben Kothary, Oman**

Jay sat chit anand,

In Akram Youth of February 2016, I read about 'Aura' and I am interested in learning more about it. So, I request you to please set a detailed session on aura for 17-21 age YMHT group.  
**from Harit Bhatt, Vadodara**

**Re: from Akram Youth team.**

*Dear Harit, We have arranged for a special session on Aura in 17-21 years Summer Camp. thanks for the wonderful Feedback.*



Keep sending us your Feedback on [akramyouth@dadabhagwan.org](mailto:akramyouth@dadabhagwan.org)

# Glimpses of Great Souls

## Abraham Lincoln



### Common Sense - The Knowledge of Human Nature.

Once, when Lincoln was pleading a case, the opposing lawyer had the law in his favour. The weather was warm, and his opponent, as was admissible in frontier courts, pulled off his coat and vest as he grew warm in the argument.

At that time, shirts with buttons behind were unusual.

Lincoln took in the situation at once. Knowing the prejudices of the primitive people against pretension of all sorts, or any affectation of superior social rank, arising, he said: "Gentlemen of the jury, having justice on my side, I do not think you will be at all influenced by the gentleman's pretended knowledge of the law, when you see he does not even know which side of his shirt should be in front." There was a general laughter, and Lincoln won the case.

Gentlemen of the jury, having justice on my side, I do not think you will be at all influenced by the gentleman's pretended knowledge of the law, when you see he does not even know which side of his shirt should be in front."



## Common Sense – Being steadfast, inspite of insults.

Lincoln was, naturally enough, much surprised one day, when a man of rather forbidding countenance drew a revolver and thrust the weapon almost into his face. In such circumstances, Lincoln at once concluded that any attempt to debate or argue was a waste of time and words.

"What seems to be the matter?" inquired Lincoln with all the calmness and self-possession he could muster.

"Well," replied the stranger, who did not appear to be intrested in answering, "some years ago I swore an oath that if I ever come across an uglier man than myself I'd shoot him on the spot."

A feeling of relief evidently took possession of Lincoln at this rejoinder, as the expression upon his countenance lost all suggestion of anxiety.

“Shoot me,” he said to the stranger; “for if I am an uglier man than you I do not want to live.”

### Common Sense

Ability to understand common beliefs and opinions



# Experience by an Aptsinchan Sadhak

Once, Pujyashree visited Bhadran to meet the celibate brothers. They never got enough time to be with Pujyashree, so they decided to go on a picnic with him. Therefore, many questions arose: Where shall we go? How shall we go? Someone suggested that there was an 'ashram' at Vasad village, where they could have the picnic. On the instruction from an Aptputra, one of the celibates went and brought details of that 'ashram' and also said that good arrangements could be made there for Pujyashree's stay.

How many rooms were there? How many persons per room allowed? What was the tariff per room? Was there any chemist nearby? Was there a hospital nearby? If they wanted bottled water, would it be available? Was there any problem of mosquitoes? Was AC room available for Pujyashree? What were the charges for meals? Would they serve extra sweets? If so, what were the charges?

Thus, were some of the 28 questions the Aptputra put to the celibate, who was dumbfounded and remained there gaping and wide eyed at the Aptputra. Thereafter, the Aptputra explained that it was only common sense to ask these questions, and so he told the celibate brother a story that explained common sense to the celibate.

Once king Akbar's wife requested him to make her brother the minister. When Akbar sent for his brother-in-law, a caravan was passing by and kicking up lots of dust behind them. On seeing this, Akbar sent his brother-in-law to find out whose caravan was passing and what was happening. After a while he returned and informed that it was a caravan transporting rice. Akbar further asked, who were those people, where were they from, and where were they going. The brother-in-law again went out to inquire and returned saying that they were coming from



Afghanistan and travelling further. Again, Akbar sends him to find out the price of rice from them. He does so and informs Akbar. Again, Akbar sends him to find out what would be the final selling price? Thus, he goes back and forth, 3-4 times.

Just then, Birbal happens to come there. Akbar sends him to find out details of the passing caravan, which Birbal immediately does. Soon after, he returns and informs Akbar that it is a caravan coming from Afghanistan and travelling ahead. He further informs that they are trading in rice of good quality at a reasonable price, which could be purchased for their Royal Granary and stored there.

On hearing this, Akbar asks his wife, "Now do you understand as to why I did not make your brother the minister? I had sent him for this one task which he could not complete even after he spoke to them 4 times. When I handed the same task to Birbal, he made all necessary inquiries as well as completed the deal in one visit.

**Dadashri says, one who is able to complete social dealings quickly and one after another, is said to have more insight. We can say that such a person has more insight to 'unlock' every type of padlock and he does so, successfully.**

**He solves all the problems wisely.**

## **Common Sense - Everywhere Applicable.**

# Gnani - idol of astonishment





One day Hiraba said to Dadashri, “My brother has four daughters and the eldest one is getting married. What silverware should we give her?” Dadashri said, “Give away whatever we have in the house”

On hearing this, Hiraba at once said, “On a similar occasion at your maternal cousin's family, you gave them such large silver utensils!” On that day the question of 'mine and yours' arose. Until that day, such words were never used. It was always 'ours'. For the first time, on that occasion, there was a mention of 'mine and yours'. For the first time Hiraba had said 'your cousin'. Dadashri at once realised that he had made a mistake and he corrected it by saying, “what I mean to say is that whatever silverware we have in the house should be given, also Rs.501/- cash !”

Hiraba looked aghast and said, “No need to give so much money. You are still so naive!”

Thus Dadashri saved the situation by changing the presentation. There is no harm in changing one's presentation. Changing one's presentation is better than having a difference of opinion. Instead of feeling that less was being offered to her brother, she countered by saying, “You are a simpleton. You should not offer so much!”

With his common sense, Dadashri avoided any clash or difference in point of view.

# Common Sense

**Avoids clashes due to difference of Viewpoint.**

# How do I increase my Common Sense

Nilay and Sulay were twins, but their behavior, likes and dislikes were completely different. Nilay was doing very well with his wife Nikita, whereas Sulay and his wife Reema quarreled frequently.

Nilay had organized a surprise party for his wife's birthday. All his friends and family members came to their home at the same time and surprised Nikita by wishing her a happy birthday.

"Oh my! Thanks a ton Nilay! I really loved this surprise!" Nikita exclaimed with happiness. Right then, suddenly, Nikita's phone rang. "Wish you a very Happy birthday Nikita! You are going to be very busy today, aren't you? But please come home when you are free. We are really missing you." It was her mother, Sumitraben.

Why? Aren't you coming here today?" She asked her mom, looking suspiciously at Nilay.

"No, you spend some good time with Nilay today!" It seemed as if Sumitraben was unaware of the party.

"Okay mom! Will call you later!" Nikita put the phone down, and rushing towards Nilay, she asked, "You invited everyone, except my own parents! How could you!"

Oh no! It just completely slipped my mind. I can't believe that I did it!" Nilay immediately realized, what a major blunder he had committed!

"All you remember is your own family". Nikita was very angry.

"I am really sorry, Nikita! I made all these arrangements in a hurry and I forgot about them." He tried to peacefully sort out the matter so that Nikita's mood didn't get spoiled. The party was over, but Nikita kept on sulking. Sulay was seeing all of this. He said to Nilay, "Did you see that brother? This is how wives are. You did so much for her but she is sulking for a small thing. It is not worth doing anything for such people!"

"No, but it was my fault. I should not have hurt her today." Saying this, Nilay went to Nikita without wasting any time.

"Nikita, please help me resolve this. I am really guilty of what I did." He tried to convince her to forgive him. "Oh my dear! You know very well how unorganized I am! You can multitask so efficiently but I can't. Consequently, I make mistakes."



"Its okay! But we will go to meet mom and dad tomorrow!" Nikita had cooled down!

"I have an idea! What if we go to your farmhouse with mom and dad!"

"Really? Will you come?"

"Yes, why not? Infact, we'll spend the entire day with them."

"Oh, that's awesome! I had always wished for you to come to our farmhouse with the family."

"And we'll celebrate your birthday again, tomorrow, with your parents!"

Nilay, with his common sense, could smoothly avoid conflict with his wife before it got worse. Few days later, Sulay and Nilay were chatting when Reema called Sulay,

"Have you booked the tickets for our vacation trip to Jaisalmer?"

"I was just going to book them! And one more thing, I met my friend Rahul on the way, he and his wife want to accompany us as well."

"With Rahul and his wife...? No! I definitely do not approve of it!"

"You have never liked any of my friends!" Shouted Sulay, into the phone.

"You go, I haven't stopped you, have I?" Reema replied angrily.

"Well then, I'll go on my own!" Saying this, Sulay angrily hung up on Reema.

Nilay was listening to all this, "Why were you talking to bhabi (brother's wife) in such a tone?" He asked.

"What can I do? She never understands me! Just spoils every plan at the last minute!"

Nilay tried to explain, "Sulay, isn't it better if we understand and adjust rather than expecting it from the other person?"

"What do you mean? Should I be asking her permission for everything?"

"My Guru (spiritual teacher) has taught me that if we take care of our wife's likes and dislikes, she will definitely take care of ours!". Nilay spoke.

"So does it mean that I do all the things that she likes?"

"That's not necessary. Just find some solution, so that she is happy."

"So what should I do?"

"It is simple! You decide for yourself that who is going to be with you for a longer time, Reema or Rahul?"

"Of course its Reema!"

"So then you know the answer! Don't you?"

"You are so right! Thank you. But in similar situations, why don't such solutions occur to me? Why do I lack such an intuition (soojh)!"

**Let us see what Dadashri says regarding this matter...**

Let us see what Dadashri says regarding this matter...

# Gnani's Scientific Solutions

**C**ommon sense means...

**Questioner:** Does common sense mean the ability to do any (worldly) task speedily and efficiently and to be able to avoid clashes with others?

**Dadashri:** If one can complete worldly tasks speedily then that is called Soojh. He is called the one with soojh. Common sense is that which is "applicable everywhere". Even the locks which are most difficult to open are opened by it. (That is, the toughest (most difficult) of humans can be managed with common sense!)

**Common sense prevents difference of opinions (mat-bhed)!**

**Dadashri:** Do you ever have difference of opinions (mat-bhed)? What does mat-bhed mean? It means you were unable to open the locks! (One was unable to deal with others properly). But from where can he get the common sense? I mean to say that its fine if one lacks the complete common sense of 360 degrees, but one would at least have 40-50 degrees of it! What if one keeps his attention on it? If one decides to keep his attention on one auspicious thought, then when he remembers that thought, he will have awareness. Seeds of good thoughts are sown. Then that train of thought starts.

The one with common sense will not let any differences arise in the house. From where does he get common sense? It will arise if one spends time with the Gnani and remains in his service continuously. Such a person will never let any quarrels happen at home or even outside.

**Simplicity Enhances Common Sense**

**Questioner:** Does common sense increase with straightforwardness?

**Dadashri:** Yes, it increases a lot. Because of straightforwardness he does get cheated but his common sense increases a lot. The person may take more money and cheat us but in return our common sense increases. In this world, without a transaction, nothing happens. Something or the other is given in return. "

problem

solution

# Q & A

Questions  
&  
Answers

**Q**uestioner: Everybody seeks my help and expects me to support them. But I feel bored and don't feel like helping them. Is it OK if I don't help?

**A**ptputra: When we help others without any self-interest, our common sense increases. With that common sense, we can solve any problem and make adjustments easily. Life becomes easy when others don't get hurt by us. To help others is a superhuman trait. One who helps others, always lives a peaceful life. In case he has any problem, he is easily able to find the way out. He gets ahead in life and even spiritually, he is able to make progress. By helping others, we develop many good qualities in us. When we help someone, he feels so relieved, because he is asking for your help when he is himself fumbling. With your help, he feels peaceful and blesses you from the bottom of his heart! Therefore whatever power/ability you have, use it to help others and bring happiness to them. Always remember that helping others without any selfish motives will increase your common sense!



**Helping others without any selfish motives  
will increase your common sense!**

# Dada's Book Excerpt

## It is "applicable everywhere"

Not everyone requires liberation, but common sense is needed by all. It is only because of its absence that one keeps fighting at home at his own expense. Is everyone a black-marketer (where people fight and argue)? Even then, at the end of a day, just three members of a house hold would have created thirty three differences! Where is the happiness in this? So, one lives like a shameless (Naffat) person. What is the use of such a life without any self respect?

So what is common sense? It is that which is "everywhere applicable, theoretically as well as practically." Such common sense, I have not seen in anyone. The key of common sense is one that is "everywhere applicable". Even the most rusted locks will open. Otherwise, even the new locks get jammed. If you can open the locks of the most obstinate (Natharo) people, then you know, that you have common sense. Otherwise, all this talk shows lack of 'common sense'. There is no understanding there.

## Common sense brings solutions everywhere

Common sense is a very big thing. Once, a person came and started insulting a very senior person by using abusive

language. The senior person did not get affected at all. Because of the presence of common sense. So we could see an example of common sense by this senior person. Any other person would have got discouraged in the same situation. He could have got depressed, but I did not see any depression in this person, that is what I was observing, whether there was any sign of depression. This other person said so many things but still, the senior person did not get depressed. So what do I tell everybody, " Resolve your problems with common sense! A person may say anything! it all depends on his mind, and it must be some merit karma of yours because of which he is saying things like that! Otherwise without merit karma would anybody speak like this?"

## Such an understanding wins over all obstacles.

**Questioner:** Can a person with common sense solve any issue?

**Dadashri:** Yes. He can solve many types of issues, can solve all entanglements of routine life.

**Questioner:** Does he get into clashes?

**Dadashri:** He gets into clashes rarely. Common sense is the thing which prevents one from clashing with others.

**Questioner:** That means where there is a clash there is no common sense?

**Dadashri:** Not exactly, but it means common sense is low.

**Questioner:** But who can live without clashes other than a Gnani(enlightened soul)

**Dadashri:** It is purely common sense, with which, anyone can turn an adverse situation in to a positive situation. That does not take time. That only is called commonsense.

'Everywhere applicable'.

### Power of common Sense

I don't get into clashes at all. I can understand what you want to say and visualize your point of view very fast. People watching may think that other fellow is causing harm to Dada. I can understand that it is not so, be it materially, religiously, or otherwise. As far as from the spiritual angle(soul) it is totally harmless. Common sense is highly impressive and beneficial. That's why we say it is applicable everywhere.



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# Samarpan



**Question:** What should be intent at the time of 'samarpan' ceremony (offering oneself for the services dedicated to Dada's cause) that is held during month of march ?

**Pujyashri :** The intention of the person dedicating his life to serve Dada's cause should be clear in the sense that he/she has decided not only to spend the life for the cause of a wife/husband or few children, but to broaden the spectrum to ensure that Dada's Gnan is spread to the masses and they too attain the salvation.

I too will work towards my progress while attempting jagat kalyan (welfare of the society & world at large) .I surrender my mind, intellect, chit and ego to Dada. Dada in turn has surrendered his mind, intellect, chit and Ego to the world at large. Eventually my mind, intellect, chit and Ego automatically stands dedicated to the world for the purpose of jagat kalyan.

Let's listen from the celibate brothers and sisters about how they got inspired to join Dada's cause and what were their intents at that point of time:

Niruma said "Even angels and divine forces extend help and bless all those individuals who practice celibacy. They even ensure protection for their survival." So I thought that when such a platform of Sinchan group (training for celibate candidates) is made available to us by Dada then why not take advantage of it! I thought that if Niruma, being a lady could rise to such heights, why not us ? Her grace was a source of inspiration for us.

After Pujya Niruma's death, I had a dream that Niruma instructed Pujyashree "Go into the funeral pyre which is burning!" With a smile, Pujyashree walked into the fire and came out again. Niruma told me, "This is happening to the body. The soul is such that it can't be burnt by fire. We are always with you!" After this dream I became strong in my intent towards celibacy.



At first I read the book "celibacy through understanding" - the shorter version. Then I met Pujyashree for the first time. I was mesmerized to see the glow on his face and I must admit that I was highly impressed. It was then, that I developed a strong determination to shift towards celibacy.

---

Niruma told me specifically - "Come what may, never leave this place under any circumstances". "We will take care and manage everything for you". I was deeply touched by it.

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I experienced a certain degree of calmness and felt very light as if everything had been drained out of my body. Just seeing Deepakbhai changed my whole perception about life.

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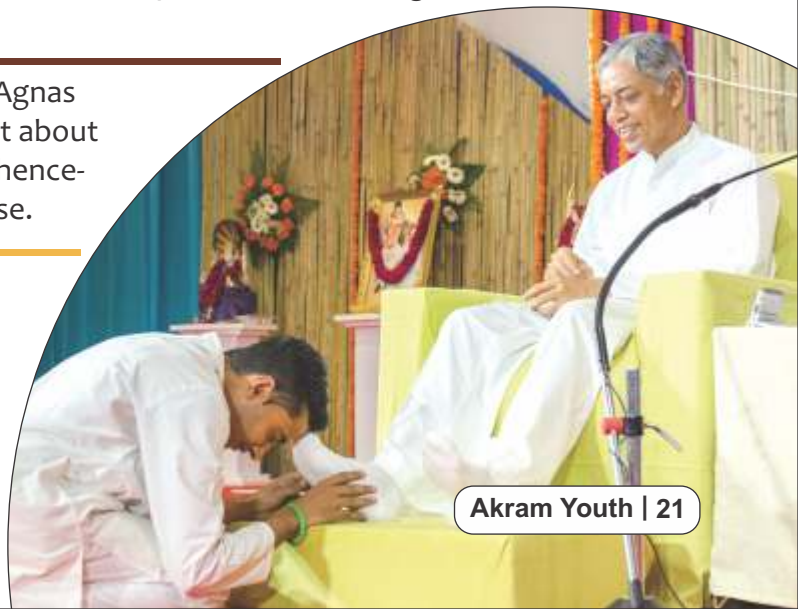
I had a total transformation from a life full of attachment to that of renouncing the material world. I developed an intent for 'samarpan' as I remained glued to Dada's gnan .

---

I took gnan in 2010 and applied five Agnas and A A-B B in daily life. That brought about very good results. So I decided that henceforth I will work to serve Dada's cause.

---

I observed that many people encountered suffering after marriage. That prompted me to remain celibate and not to invite sufferings in my life.



# How to Learn Common Sense?

Can common sense be learned? Can you teach it to someone? Can you learn it from a course, book, coach, blog post, or some other method?

Most of us can recognize common sense when we see it. Probably more so, most of us have no problem at all pointing it out when it's missing. We usually do this by saying something like, "Chandu, what the hell were you thinking?!"

Sure, we've all had a few of those moments. I know, I sure have! I'm talking about the repeat offenders that for whatever reason, consistently seems

to make errors in judgment that most reasonable people wouldn't make.

I think the first step is to recognize there's a problem. With consistent and caring feedback – and after getting burned repeatedly – someone might have enough self-awareness to step forward and declare "I'm lacking common sense, and I need help!"

Without taking that first step, I'm afraid there's no hope.

However – IF someone is willing to step up and seek help – can we help them? Can you learn, or teach someone common sense?

## 5 Steps to Improve Your Common Sense

### 1. Admit you have a problem.

Probably the hardest step of all.

### 2. Slow down.

Many errors in judgment are a result of impulsive, hasty decisions. If you know you've got a problem with common sense, you'll need to sacrifice decision speed for decision quality. When in doubt, sleep on it. At least one night, maybe two. OK, maybe a week.

### 3. Bite your tongue.

If there is any doubt that what you're thinking of saying might be taken the wrong way or get you in trouble, then don't say it. Yes, you'll be less talkative, less funny, and find yourself bleeding at the mouth a lot, but that's a lot better than having your foot in your mouth all the time.

### 4. Get feedback from others.

Before you send that email, have that conversation, spend that money, or whatever other train you're about to wreck, seek out the advice of others. Test the decision with your friends that can give you honest, constructive feedback. Then, make sure you listen to that feedback.

### 5. Find a role model.

Find someone you admire that always seems to make the right decisions and ask how he/she does it. Walk through a number of examples of decisions they've made, and ask them to explain their thought process.



**Questioner:** What can be done to increase common sense?

**Niruma:** Common sense increases when one comes in touch with other human beings or opportunities for solving problems arise. Common sense will not blossom at all if one sits by himself. As he interacts with others or has friction with people, then his common sense increases. Common sense blossoms magnificently by being in constant service to the Gnani. Such is its (Gnani's service) importance. It is because Gnani's are full of common sense. They have both, Gnankada (the art of Knowledge) and Bodhkada (the art of intellect) and use both of them simultaneously. So, just being around the Gnani, one can learn a lot by observing Him.

The easiest way to learn is to observe and learn. One doesn't learn by lectures, but one learns by observing. Upon observing the lives of others or hearing about real incidences, we get touched by those from within and that helps us a lot. Those which are based on real life incidences, if heard or read, will touch our hearts. Baseless talks can never touch a person's heart.

**Questioner:** When a person's nature (prakruti) is completely opposite to ours, it is difficult to solve differences with him.

**Niruma:** Focus on one aspect of the other person's nature which is bothering you, take adjustment with one's own nature (prakruti) and proceed as per his wish. In this way, making adjustments, one can solve all problems based on the other person's nature (prakruti), one by one.

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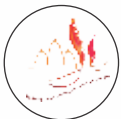
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